

Prifysgol Cymru
University of Wales
Prifysgol Cymru

Growing Professional Relationships

PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS
EHC5004
WEEK 2

Module Lead – Ruth Groff

Transforming Education; Transforming Lives

Schedule for Today

Review of BACP Ethical Framework –

Why do we need to consider ethics? Or be guided by an ethical framework?

What is known?



Ethical Frameworks

- BACP Ethical Framework 2018
- National Counselling Society - Code of Ethics
<https://www.nationalcounsellingsociety.org/about-us/code-of-ethics/>
- BPS Code of Ethics – Practice Guideline and Code of Human Research Ethics
- Others?

Ethical Framework – Three Sections

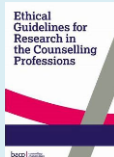
- '**Our commitment to clients**' provides a summary of working to professional standards and building an ethical relationship
- '**Ethics**' considers the values, principles and personal moral qualities that inform our work and underpin supervision
- '**Good practice**' considers applying our commitment to clients and ethics to our practice

2018 Ethical Framework (EF)

Information from - *Counselling Tutor* by Erin Stevens.

Key Points

- Commitment to Clients
- Trainees
- Gender identity and sexual orientation
- Break, Ending, post therapy relationship with clients
- Supervision
- Working with Children and Young People



Reminder

"Living Document" Tim Bond

- BACP EF is a document in **constant evolution**; it adapts to our changing profession and for this reason we can expect further updates in the years to come.

Commitment to clients



- EF a collaborative document which details the commitment that we, as practitioners have towards our clients.
- Commitment to putting our clients first, our responsibilities towards our clients, and particularly the duty to provide an “appropriate standard of service” are made explicit in the new framework.

Trainees



- EF incorporates a section outlining the responsibilities of **trainees** in their work with clients, and also when working in an academic setting.
- The responsibility to inform clients that you are still a therapist in training – ***this is about your integrity as a practitioner and the client's right to be made fully aware of the service they are receiving.***

- EF outlines recordings or case study documentation of client material should be made only with client permission, or where the details have been anonymised so as to be completely unrecognisable.
- Trainees are also reminded that they are responsible for their own practice, ***including working within their competence*** and promptly raising any issues with their placement, supervisor and/or training provider as appropriate.

Gender identity and sexual orientation

The BACP make explicit that the profession upholds the value that all gender and sexual identities are equal, and that **we reject so-called ‘conversion therapy’**, never seeking to suppress or change anybody’s sexual or gender identity.

Breaks, endings and post-therapy relationships with clients

The BACP EF provides detailed guidance around how we manage endings with our clients.

- Responsibility to discuss time-limitations at the contracting stage, give appropriate notice of breaks and changes to the therapy frame (including termination) and to manage endings empathically, in a way which minimises disruption for the client.

- Provision also must be in place for an unexpected incapacitation or death of a therapist, so the client can be informed of the unplanned ending ethically and maintaining confidentiality.
- The EF also provides guidance on exercising appropriate caution when forming relationships with former clients after termination, and avoiding harm.

Supervision

EF details around the responsibilities of both supervisors and supervisees in the supervisory process

- Supervisors of trainees are advised that they should take a **proactive** role in interacting with placement providers and ensuring that their supervisees are providing an appropriate professional service to clients.
- EF emphasises the **importance of supervisees** speaking openly and honestly with their supervisors, and not withholding in areas which feel more difficult to explore. It is through deep and honest exploration that we can highlight any difficulties, and ensure we are working in service of our clients.

Working with children and young people

New guidance around working with children and young people.

- This includes making **appropriate judgements about informed consent**, as well as having the **specific skills** and knowledge required for working with children, a sound knowledge of the **specific laws** around working with the client group, and an understanding of **cultural differences** which may be relevant to the work.

Challenges

- What are your experiences thus far?
- What may be some challenges that you will encounter?
- What do you need to know?
- What would you like to know?

<https://www.bacp.co.uk/events-and-resources/ethics-and-standards/ethical-framework-for-the-counselling-professions/developing-the-new-ethical-framework-2018/>



Next Week

Professional Practice and Confidentiality

Good Practice in Action 014 Legal Resource – BACP Website
'Managing confidentiality within the counselling professions'

Ethical Framework
Other resources