

Ethics Committee members

Key responsibilities of the Ethics Committee, person specification and terms of appointment

February 2024

Key responsibilities of the Ethics Committee

The UKCP Ethics Committee will be a forum:

- to identify and advise UKCP on matters of professional ethical interest, to advise UKCP and to comment on particular ethical developments and consultations, including as requested by the Board of Trustees
- to review and keep up to date UKCP's Code of Ethics and Professional Practice and to develop proposals in consultation with stakeholders for supplementary guidance as appropriate
- to recommend research and projects consistent with maintaining and supporting UKCP's ethical framework
- to promote ethical practice as appropriate through conferences, seminars, webinars, workshops and publications
- to work collaboratively with other UKCP Committees to embed ethical practice
- to support the effective integration of ethical standards into education and training and into Continual Professional Development (CPD) requirements
- to consult and communicate with internal and external stakeholders.

Person specifications

In your written application, please give evidence and examples of how you meet the criteria listed in **parts one, two and three** of the person specification. Specific knowledge and understanding of ethical principles as applied to psychotherapy is desirable although not essential.

Part one: Knowledge and experience

- A relevant background in one or more of the following areas:
 - people with formal training in ethics
 - a legal professional (not necessarily as a current practitioner) with an interest in ethics
 - UKCP registered psychotherapists or psychotherapeutic counsellors with relevant ethical interests or expertise
 - UKCP registered students or trainees with relevant ethical interests or expertise
 - a member of a clinical/research ethics committee.

- Appreciation of and interest in key ethical theories and approaches.
- Experience of applying ethical principles in health-related contexts.
- Experience of working as a member of a decision-making team in contentious areas, of reaching timely and well-reasoned conclusions and of accepting and supporting collective responsibility for decision-making.
- Experience of handling sensitive and confidential information appropriately.

Part two: Skills and abilities

- Strong analytical capabilities and critical thinking in relation to complex ethical matters.
- Ability to exercise independent judgement rather than acting in a representative capacity.
- Willingness to engage with diverse viewpoints which you may personally disagree with and to work towards a shared collective outcome.
- Strong interpersonal, written and oral communication skills and an ability to communicate complex information simply and succinctly and in a way that is intelligible to registrants, patients and other stakeholders.
- Demonstrable team-working skills.
- Good IT skills and able to use IT-based communication for Committee business.

Part three: Personal style and behaviours

- Open to and respectful of the viewpoints and working styles of others.
- Acts with integrity, holds self to account and takes responsibility for own actions.
- Exemplifies sound judgement.
- Comfortable with taking challenging and complex decisions, potentially in the face of strongly held feelings.
- Strongly committed to the principles and promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion.

Terms of Appointment

Time commitment

The Ethics Committee meets for a minimum of four meetings per annum. Members will be expected to commit to attending all four of the meetings each year. Members may, additionally, be asked to contribute to working groups and will also be required to respond promptly to requests to review guidance and documents.

Location

Meetings will normally take place in person at the UKCP office.

Remuneration

These roles are unremunerated although expenses will be reimbursed in line with UKCP's Expenses Policy.

Length of appointment

The term of office for members of the Ethics Committee is three years with the possibility of extension for a maximum of two terms.

Diversity and equal opportunities

UKCP aims to be an inclusive, equal opportunities organisation. Applications are open to all.