

Review of National Occupational Standards for Counselling

Summary

ENTO, as the responsible standard setting body along with professional representatives of the counselling and psychotherapy sector, is in the process of revising the Counselling National Occupational Standards.

Work has identified the competencies required of a professional counsellor and the skills and knowledge required to demonstrate those competencies. The groups have taken a generic rather than a theory specific approach to the work. This does not imply that professional counsellors work from no theoretical base, but rather that the generic NOS can encompass all theoretical approaches.

The Government White Paper "Trust Assurance and Safety" stated that the regulation of applied psychologists, counsellors psychotherapists and other psychological therapists was its first regulatory priority. It is therefore important that the profession has in place a suite of National Occupational Standards that they would wish to be used to inform the regulatory process.

There are many other uses of National Occupational Standards including:

- Inform qualifications
- Contribute to design delivery and evaluation of training
- Develop job and person specifications
- Inform skills assessment
- Inform training needs analysis
- Ensure best practice at work

ENTO is aware of the project to establish NOS for psychological therapies currently being undertaken by Skills for Health and has involved Skills for Health fully in this work. Skills for Health have also been given ENTO's permission to use these standards in their work as appropriate.

Current Status

Consultation on the draft suite of counselling standards will run until 13th April 2007. The Suite of standards will then be appropriately amended in line with feedback and submitted to the appropriate body for approval at the end of April 2007.

Thank you to all those that responded, the consultation is now closed. The Counselling Occupational Standards are now being finalised please revisit this website shortly for an update.

Last Updated

10.03.07