

National Counselling and Psychotherapy Society
& National Hypnotherapy Society
Society Council Meeting
Thursday 23rd April 2026

1. Welcome to Council
2. Conflicts of Interest
3. Update from CEO
4. Update from Head of Training Services and Professional Standards
5. Update from Head of Operations
6. Update from Head of Engagement and Development
7. Update from Head of Public Affairs and Advocacy
8. Update from Head of Communications and Marketing
9. Update from Conduct Department
10. Code of Ethics Review
11. AOB

In Attendance

Gerry Wilmore	Societies Chair
Liz McElligott	Societies Chair Emeritus
Tina Russell	Lay Council Member
Harriet Mortimer	Lay Council Member
Ted Sangster	Lay Council Member
Jyles Robillard-Day	Chief Executive
Kate Mahoney	Head of Training Services & Professional Standards
Camilla Hyland	Head of Operations
Faye Blackwell	Head of Engagement & Development
Meg Moss	Head of Public Affairs & Advocacy
Beth Keeling	Communications & Marketing Manager
Grace Simpson	Professional Conduct Officer
Sara Dyer	Professional Conduct Manager
Charys Newman	Executive Assistant, Minutes

Apologies were received from Wilson Wong (Lay Council Member).

1. Welcome to Council

The Societies Chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

2. Conflicts of Interest

No interests were declared.

3. Update from CEO

The CEO gave a summary update from their report.

- Discussed the changes that the PSA are introducing this year
 - Moving from 9 to 16 standards this year, splitting out into a better way.
 - Standards for Statutory Registers and Voluntary Accredited Registers (AR) will now be the same.
 - Creating a single search register for all counsellors and ARs.
 - Committed to do more to marketing AR scheme.
- The Council and CEO discussed how these changes could impact us.
- Mentioned that as it is our 30th anniversary year, we are going to try and develop our video media further.

4. Update from Head of Training Services & Professional Standards

The Head of TSPS gave a summary update from their report.

- The main headline is our CACE programme launching, which enables us to do extra assessment to ensure applicants have all ethical and competency requirements for column A.
 - We are looking to train up a new assessors in May to help with the increase submissions.
 - We have taken on [REDACTED] courses since the last council meeting.
 - Training Providers continue to find our online application process straightforward.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

The Council discussed how to encourage colleges and universities to place greater value on our training recognition.

5. Update from Head of Operations

The Head of Operations gave a summary update from their report.

- Our EDI strategy project is getting some traction, with lots of conversations around how we can thread it through everything we do.
- Lots of PCPB communications. The website is now live, and we were able to publish data.
- Member numbers – we have now hit over 19,000 across the two societies.

The Council discussed the best ways to go about collecting data and gave advice around dealing with D-SARs.

The Societies Chair noted that our MSO team is doing well to keep up with the quantity of new enquiries and continue to respond quickly to members.

6. Update from Head of Engagement and Development

The Head of Engagement and Development gave a summary update from their report.

- [REDACTED] A lot of our work is with organisations and that continues to steadily grow, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- We are currently updating our RCS criteria to ensure we continue to uphold standards.
 - We continue to work closely with our ambassadors, and we are hopefully about to onboard one for rural communities.

- We have started hosting in-person regional events, with two completed so far and two more coming this year. Our members get CPD for this as well as the chance to meet us in person.
- We are also hosting Lunchtime Learning webinars, with two so far and more to come this year and next year.

The Council discussed how to better predict and improve attendance to our in-person events.

7. Update from Head of Public Affairs and Advocacy

The Head of Public Affairs and Advocacy gave a summary update from their report.

- We have been working on a lot of submissions, with 8 currently ongoing.
- A lot of our other work has been around AI and mental health, where we have finalised briefing notes, submitted evidence to MHRA to help with regulation, and launched principles for relational safeguarding in AI and MH. Received well by the clinical lead for NHS Talking Therapies and was referenced in parliamentary materials.
- We are hoping for a joint report out of project with [REDACTED] around AI, with the survey going out to young people and their parents next week.
- We will soon be welcoming a new person to the team.
- We are currently designing a relaunch of our direct access to counselling campaign, and we are currently workshopping a new title.
- The Climate Minds Coalition is going well, and it is working well with other organisations across the sector.
- We are aiming to do more for rural counselling, including looking at policies and support.

The Council discussed emerging policy areas and concerns that should be prioritised over the next six months.

8. Update from Head of Communications and Marketing

The Head of Communications and Marketing gave a summary update from their report.

- Our magazines are doing well with high readership, showing a fantastic progression over time.
- Our 30th anniversary edition is upcoming, which will cover the history of the NCPS and demonstrate our growth.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Our website is new, with constant work to keep this updated.
 - Our events are recorded and put onto our portal for our members to access as a form of CPD, which has garnered a lot of interest.
 - We have had strong growth across all platforms.

9. Update from Conduct Department

The Conduct Department gave a summary update from their report.

- We have had such a diverse set of queries, which is interesting but challenging.
- We have conducted lots of reviews on the process itself and have been making changes in line with what is coming in. We focus on being compassionate and aware of what we are seeing in the world, as there is a lot of vulnerability on both sides of a complaint. We try to ensure that the cases are assigned only to one person, to keep contact consistent. We are also very open to feedback, and we always try to take this into account.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- We have employed an external mediator to provide support if a member needs it, for members who have had a complaint made against them.

The Council discussed what could be causing an increase in self-disclosures from members.

10. Code of Ethics Review

An update was given on our Code of Ethics Review

- We are not launching a new code but drafting an updated code.
- We have undertaken consultation through surveys and individual conversations. We have had a fantastic response, with a total of 664 responses to our surveys and an attendance of 256 to our Webinar.
- A large demand has been for supporting guidance around the code, including common dilemmas faced.
- The latest draft of the code has just been completed as of 23rd April 2026.
- Advised on the next steps and estimated timeline until launch.

11. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

The Societies Chair thanked everyone for attending today and closed the meeting.