

## Standards for Accredited Registers

### Introduction

The Professional Standards Authority accredits registers of people who work in health and social roles that are not regulated by a statutory regulator. This means that people choose to join these registers, they do not have to do so by law. This document sets out the standards that registers must meet to be accredited.

Our overarching role in exercising our functions as set out National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002<sup>1</sup> is the protection of the public. Our functions in relation to accreditation are set out in Section 25(2) of the Act:

- (a) to promote the interests of users of health care, users of social care in England, users of social work services in England and other members of the public in relation to the performance of voluntary registration functions,
- (b) to promote best practice in the performance of voluntary registration functions, and
- (c) to formulate principles of good governance in the performance of voluntary registration functions and to encourage persons who maintain or operate accredited voluntary registers to conform to those principles.

The Act allows for us to set accreditation criteria. This document sets out these criteria, known as our Standards for Accredited Registers (“the Standards”). We only accredit a register when it meets our Standards.

### How the Standards are used

We will decide whether an organisation meets our criteria for accreditation, through an assessment against our Standards. Accreditation will only be granted if it is compatible with our objectives:

- Protecting the public from harm
- Maintaining public confidence in the professions
- Declaring and upholding professional standards.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/17/contents>

A register will need to meet all the Standards to assure us that it can protect the public. All organisations, once accredited, will need to demonstrate that they continue to meet the Standards, through periodic assessment.

At initial application, Standard One must be met before an assessment can be carried out against the remaining Standards as it is fundamental to ensuring that accreditation would be in the public interest. We offer an initial assessment against this Standard for prospective registers - see our *Supplementary Guidance for Standard One* for more information on the process and our *Accreditation Fees Guidance* for more information on the fees.

The Standards are supplemented by further guidance and an evidence framework which describes the types of evidence we will consider and the minimum requirements for each Standard.

## **The Standards**

<p><b>Standard One: Eligibility and public interest</b></p>	<p>The organisation holds a register of people in health and/or social care roles that are not subject to statutory regulation. The activities carried out by the registrants are likely to be beneficial to the health and/or wellbeing of the public, and any harm is justifiable and mitigated.</p> <p>1a) Eligibility of the register under our legislation</p> <p>1b) Public interest considerations</p>
<p><b>Standard Two: Management of the register</b></p>	<p>The organisation maintains and publishes an accurate register of those who meet its requirements including any restrictions on their practice.</p> <p>2a) The registration process</p> <p>2b) The register</p>
<p><b>Standard Three: Standards for registrants</b></p>	<p>The organisation sets appropriate standards for competence, professional and ethical behaviour, and business practice.</p> <p>3a) Competence</p> <p>3b) Professional behaviour</p> <p>3c) Business practice</p>

<p><b>Standard Four: Education and training</b></p>	<p>The organisation sets appropriate education standards for the role(s) registered and ensures that registrants can identify when referral to another health or social care professional may be required.</p> <p>4a) The regulator maintains up-to-date standards for education and training which are kept under review and prioritise patient and service user care and safety.</p> <p>4b) The register has a proportionate and transparent mechanism for assuring itself that the educational providers and programmes it oversees or accepts are delivering students and trainees that meet the register’s requirements for registration, and takes action where its assurance activities identify concerns either about training or wider patient safety.</p> <p>4c) The register makes its education and training standards explicit and easily accessible to the public to enable all those using the register to make informed decisions.</p>
<p><b>Standard Five: Complaints and concerns about registrants</b></p>	<p>The organisation has robust processes in place for ensuring that concerns about registrants are dealt with in a transparent, timely, and fair way.</p> <p>5a) Dealing with complaints and concerns</p> <p>5b) Transparency of decisions and outcomes</p>
<p><b>Standard Six: Governance</b></p>	<p>The governance of the organisation supports public protection and promotes transparency, integrity and accountability.</p> <p>6a) Finance and organisational management</p> <p>6b) Strategic leadership and accountability</p>

<b>Standard Seven: Management of risks arising from the activities of registrants</b>	The organisation has a thorough understanding of the risks to service users and the public presented by the activities undertaken by its registrants and takes action to mitigate them.
<b>Standard Eight: Communications and engagement</b>	The organisation provides clear and accessible information to the public, its registrants and other stakeholders about itself, the role(s) it registers, and about the Accredited Registers programme. It uses engagement with relevant stakeholders to inform and enhance public protection.