

PRESS RELEASE

16 January 2015

The Professional Standards Authority supports action by Accredited Registers on Conversion Therapy.

The UK Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP) with support from the Department of Health has brought together 14 signatory organisations, including the Royal College of GPs and the Royal College of Psychiatrists. These organisations met at the Department of Health this week to launch [an agreement on actions to end the practice of conversion therapy in the UK](#), to bolster psychological professionals' training and improve the emotional support available to Lesbian Gay and Bisexual clients who seek therapeutic help.

The Memorandum of Understanding recognises that efforts to try to change or alter sexual orientation through psychological therapies are unethical and potentially harmful. It sets out an agreed framework to tackle the issues raised by the practice of conversion therapy in the UK.

Christine Braithwaite, Director of Standards and Policy at the Professional Standards Authority, said:

'The Professional Standards Authority welcomes this Memorandum. The Memorandum clarifies the positions of the counselling and psychotherapy organisations and reinforces our decision, under our equalities duties, not to accredit any register which allows this therapy to be practised'.

ENDS

Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care

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Notes to the Editor

1. The Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (previously known as the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence) oversees nine statutory bodies that regulate health and social care professionals in the UK.
2. We assess their performance and report to Parliament. We also conduct audits and investigations and can appeal fitness to practise cases to the courts if we consider that sanctions are unduly lenient and it is in the public interest.
3. We also set standards for organisations holding voluntary registers for health and social care occupations and accredit those that meet them.
4. We share good practice and knowledge, conduct research and introduce new ideas to our sector. We monitor policy developments in the UK and internationally and provide advice on issues relating to professional standards in health and social care.
5. We do this to promote the health, safety and well-being of users of health and social care services and the public. We are an independent body, accountable to the UK Parliament.
6. Our values are at the heart of who we are and what we do. We are committed to being impartial, fair, accessible and consistent in the application of our values.
7. More information about our work and the approach we take is available at www.professionalstandards.org.uk