

Accredited Registers Programme

Notification of Change

Summary of proposed changes

Notification of change from: **Play Therapy UK (PTUK)**

Once accredited any relevant changes that a register wishes to make will need to be assessed by the Authority to ensure ongoing compliance with the [Standards for Accredited Registers](#). Part of this assessment includes a review of information received from anyone sharing their experience. Below is a summary of the proposed changes for consideration.

<p>Summary of Proposed Changes</p>	<p>PTUK is a private limited company registered in England and Wales (company number 04596316). It is a professional body for 'Play and Creative Arts Therapists (Play Therapists) within the UK. It operates a Register of Play and Creative Arts Therapists, and this is published at: Register of Play and Creative Arts Therapists (playtherapyregister.org.uk). The British Council for Therapeutic Interventions With Children (BCTIWC) (Home - The British Council for Therapeutic Interventions With Children (bctiwc.org)) provides oversight of PTUK's functions and investigates complaints against PTUK.</p> <p>The Register that PTUK currently manages has 6 titles or roles, all relating to working with children, young people, and adults:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Certified Play Therapists 2. Accredited Play Therapists 3. Certified Practitioners in Therapeutic Play Skills 4. Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellors of Children and Young People 5. Filial Play Coaches 6. Certified Supervisors of Play and Creative Arts Therapists <p>PTUK reports that they have seen, since Covid-19, an increase in the number of registrants increasing their skills in relation to the title of Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor of Children and Young People. According to PTUK, their registrants have requested urgently to extend their skills base in relation to working with adults because of the increase in adult mental health issues and the need to work creatively with those clients.</p>
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Accordingly, PTUK is proposing to add to its Register the title of 'Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults'. We have been informed that the work this title encompasses is a therapeutic one, aimed at supporting the mental health and well-being of the public. Each title above has its specific competencies; therefore, PTUK has developed new competencies for the role of Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellor for Adults. Practitioners will be trained to work specifically with adults, utilising their knowledge and skills developed as accredited play therapists and play and creative arts counsellors of children and young people. It is recognised that working therapeutically with an adult using play and creative counselling skills is different from working with children and young people.

In anticipation of this new role, PTUK has made changes within their clinical team, now comprising of a Clinical Manager, a newly appointed (September 2024) Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), a Professional Conducts Officer who handles complaints, a Supervisor Support (appointed February 2024), and a CPD Lead (appointed February 2024). They get assistance with general enquiries and data management through Fortuna (their data management system).

We have further been informed that PTUK's DSL will be developing level 2 and 3 safeguarding training which will be accessible to all members. In addition, the DSL will also be providing "bespoke safeguarding training each year to PTUK members in relation to working with children, young people and adults".

Moreover, PTUK has reported that they are working with the Deputy Director of NHS England Safeguarding to develop safeguarding training, both bespoke and mandatory, for those obtaining the new title to quality assure their knowledge and fitness to practice regarding safeguarding adults. PTUK's clinical staff team, who are all qualified play therapists and clinical supervisors, will quality assure the documents and course content. Other qualifications they hold include Counselling, Systemic family therapy, Mentalisation-based Therapy for adults and parents, and Creative arts counselling for children and young people.

PTUK advises that a post qualifying course working with adults has thus been developed which meets PTUK's competencies and standards as a further development of the Certified Play and Creative Arts Counsellors for Children and Young People. The competencies have been updated and extensively researched following guidance on competencies in the UK from British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), British Association of Arts Therapists, British Association of Drama Therapists (BADth), and PTUK's existing competency framework.

	<p>PTUK has identified several goals and intended outcomes of the new role it wishes to add to the Register:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To expand the professional scope of practice, enhance recognition of specialised skills, and meet increasing societal needs for creative, therapeutic interventions for adults. • Address the growing demand for innovative therapeutic approaches tailored to adult populations, including those with specific conditions like trauma, dementia, or mental health challenges. • Expand access to creative arts counseling for underserved adult demographics, ensuring their needs are met by highly trained professionals. • Increased public confidence in the safety, efficacy, and professionalism of creative arts counseling services for adults. • To extend the qualifications and work of the registrants and establish a distinct, credible professional identity for practitioners who are trained and competent to provide creative arts counseling to adults. • Offer professional development pathways for registrants seeking to diversify their practice and extend their therapeutic expertise to adult populations. • Provide a formal structure to ensure ethical and competent practice when working with adults, guided by specific training, supervision, and ethical frameworks. <p>PTUK asserts that its governance structure ensures robust support for delivering counseling courses for adults with a comprehensive and effective framework for clinical and educational excellence. PTUK further suggests that quality assurance will be undertaken during annual revalidation, ensuring registrants work within their competency range. Apart from having a clear code of professional conduct and an ethical framework, PTUK has also considered the potential risks and has policies and procedures in place to mitigate any risks associated with the new role. For this reason, an updated Risk Register has been put in place. PTUK's complaints and concerns policy has a very clear outline of the complaints handling process, and the steps which will be taken and by whom. All complaints are handled by PTUK's Professional Conduct Officer. BCTIWC monitors and reports on the work undertaken by PTUK.</p>
<p>Main standards which may be affected</p>	<p>1</p>

**Proposed
Timescales**

PTUK aims to operationalise the new role as soon as possible, following approval by PSA.