

IPSS Policy on members who also work as psychotherapists with Children and young People under 18 years old. (May 2019)

This policy applies to members who work as psychotherapists with children and young people under 18 years old whether that is full time, part time or only occasionally and whether that is within an organisation or public authority or in private practice. The requirements within the policy also apply to accreditation candidates and those whose work is in a voluntary capacity.

An IPSS psychotherapy training and accreditation covers work with adults alone. Equally our Members' annual IPSS membership applications and associated UKCP registration documents are appraised and confirmed SOLELY on the basis of a member's psychotherapy with adults. Where IPSS members also work with children and young people below the age of 18, this work must be professionally appraised and overseen elsewhere, whether through another professional register or member organisation that is nationally recognized to do so. As example: UKCP's college CCAP. BACP etc. Alternatively this may be through their engagement or employment as a psychotherapist or counsellor by an organization that is professionally recognised for its work in this field whether in the public, private or charity sector. Deviation from this policy must be in the light of approval given by UKCP and CPJA"

Procedure on possible breaches of the IPSS Policy on work with Children and Young People under 18 years old.

It is a requirement of the IPSS Annual Membership renewal that a member informs us if they are working with Children and Young People under 18 years old. Where a member of IPSS is working with this group, the members' committee must be satisfied that the member is complying with the IPSS policy and will seek additional information and possibly evidence from that member. The member must state clearly how they comply with the IPSS requirements under the IPSS "Policy on members' who work as psychotherapists with Children and young People under 18 years old". Equally where the Members' Committee is informed that a member is working with this group then information and possibly evidence will be requested to confirm that the member is complying with the IPSS policy on work with this group.

In all cases where that information supplied to the members' committee does not support the requirements of the "IPSS Policy on members' who work as psychotherapists with Children and young People under 18 years old" then that will be seen as a breach of the policy. The matter then will be taken forward by the Chair of the Members' Committee or a delegated member of the Members' Committee, who will report the matter to UKCP as grounds for not approving the member for the annual UKCP registration or for removal of that person from the UKCP register. It may be that the UKCP will take this forward as a disciplinary issue if it is considered also that the member has breached training requirements and they are practising psychotherapy outside their expertise.

Where the Chair of the Members' Committee believes that a member's failing to meet the requirements of the IPSS policy and UKCP standards constitutes a safeguarding issue then IPSS is obliged to report the matter to Social Services.

Guidance for IPSS psychotherapists who also do Psychotherapy work with Children and Young people under 18 years old.

**For the Purposes of this document read "Children and YP" as "Children and Young People under 18 years old".*

Where a member of IPSS is working full time or solely as a Child and Adolescent psychotherapist

The position is very clear. You must as well be either a member of the UKCP College of Child and Adolescent Psychotherapies and in doing so aim to meet the professional and regulatory requirements of that college in what is now clearly identified by UKCP as a specialist field; or be a member of a similar nationally recognised body such as BACP that regularly accredits and oversees your psychotherapeutic work with "Children and YP". As such UKCP requires that you have specialist training or experience and are knowledgeable about the current legal, professional and insurance framework around work with this group. More information can be found on the UKCP website under "College of Child and Adolescent Psychotherapies".

Where a member of IPSS is working part time or on an occasional basis with children and young people under 18 years;

There has been an expectation within UKCP that all psychotherapists who work with children and young people under 18 years old must be able to demonstrate that they are experienced and trained to do so for the children's and young people's safety as well as their own safety as professionals. UKCP did introduce a "Child marker" that was awarded upon an assessment of a UKCP psychotherapist or counsellor experience and training in this field. The "Child marker" was withdrawn by UKCP in 2017; it is the case that there had not been significant numbers of psychotherapists stepping forward to engage with the process, as there was little take up. It was confirmed in an email from UKCP in January 2019 that UKCP does not have a plan to re-introduce the "Child marker".

- **IPSS is an organisation that accredits, re-accredits, registers with UKCP and supports the work of its members in the area of psychotherapy with adults, 18 years of age and over and does not and cannot have responsibility for professionally assessing or re-accrediting a member's work with children and young people under 18 years of age.**
- An IPSS member who does any work with Children and young people under 18 years of age must be professionally supported elsewhere within a professionally accredited, supported and regulated framework; as example. The UKCP College CCAP; BACP; or within a public sector or recognised third sector or private sector provision. This is clearly set out in the "IPSS Policy statement on members' who work as psychotherapists with Children and young People under 18 years old. "
- A failure to comply with the requirements within the IPSS policy statement would lead to an assessment of that member's practice in the light of "IPSS Procedure where there may be a breach of the policy on work with Children and Young People under 18 years old." This may involve IPSS seeking the advice of UKCP and that member's case being referred to the UKCP register, for consideration of sanctions and where in the extreme case of a safeguarding issue being identified a referral to Social Services.

Clarification on the UKCP Position. (January 2019)

- UKCP accredits registrants to work with the client groups they were trained to work with, so any UKCP registered therapist working full-time with Children should be accredited on our specialist 'Children and Young Persons Register.' Accreditation to the specialist register is dependent on having undertaken an accredited UKCP Child training;
- Caspari and School of Infant Mental Health are two training and accrediting OMs that have dual registration with both CPJA and CCAP. Their accredited members hold the UKCP descriptors of Educational Psychotherapist, and Parent Infant Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist respectively.
- UKCP accredits registrants to work with the client groups they were trained to work with, however this does not necessarily prevent registrants working outside of their original modality/client group – However, they should not claim (or advertise) to be a 'Child Psychotherapist,' nor should hours with child clients be counted towards their reaccreditation as a Psychotherapist who works with over 18's (no matter what their descriptor).

N.B. IPSS Psychotherapists and accreditation candidates who do not comply with the UKCP and IPSS requirements and the professional standards that are expected in this area of work, risk losing their UKCP registration, IPSS membership and may be invalidating their professional indemnity insurance.

