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Accreditation Standards for Associate Psychologists

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Accreditation Through Partnership

The Society works with education providers to ensure quality standards in education and training are met by programmes on an ongoing basis.

The Society currently accredits 650 undergraduate programmes and 200 postgraduate programmes.

We work collaboratively with programme providers through an open and constructive dialogue that allows for exploration, development and quality enhancement.





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Background

In 2016 the Membership and Standards Board approved the proposal to establish a flexible accreditation framework that supports the recognition of the broader psychological workforce.

- Under the proposal, it agreed in principle that the Society could accredit:
 - Training which supports specific practitioner roles related to a specific workforce need
 - Training for which competencies and curriculum could be clearly defined
- One of the first proposals related to training for Associates in Applied Psychology



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The role of an Associate Psychologist

Associate Psychologists are psychology graduates who undergo a one-year training at Masters level to become part of the applied psychology workforce within the UK at pre-registration level.

They deliver circumscribed psychological assessments and interventions, for specific populations and/or using specific therapies, under the supervision of a registered Practitioner Psychologist. In so doing they will enhance the skill mix within psychological services and enhance initiatives to improve access to psychological interventions.



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Development and pilot of the accreditation standards

- During 2016-2017 draft accreditation standards were piloted against education providers already delivering training, including the two Clinical Associates in Applied Psychology (CAAP) programmes in Scotland.
- In 2018 a Working Group was established to review the pilot and the standards.
- The process highlighted how the pilot arose from specific circumstances across four nations with different workforce and service development needs. The draft standards tried to capture specificity in something that, by its very nature, is generic.
- The revision sought to clarify the accreditation criteria, futureproof the standards and ensure equity of the training experience across all accredited programmes.



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Accreditation criteria

- Demonstrate and evidence the local or national workforce need for the programme
- Define the client population for whom the programme is training students to work with
- Set out the competencies and learning outcomes for the programme and how these competencies have been agreed as relevant and evidence-based for this population
- Set out how the curriculum and clinical practice element of the programme train for these competencies
- Specify how the assessments and the observed assessments of clinical competence map on to these competencies





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Consultation

- Consultation during August – October 2019
- Received 27 responses with the majority of respondents agreeing to the proposed standards
- Feedback to be reviewed by the Working Group and any final amendments made before the launch of the standards
- Themes from the consultation:
 - Further clarification of the role of an Associate Psychologist, what is in and out of scope and that the role is not regulated
 - Grade of membership for Associate Psychologists
 - How broad or specific can the population be that Associate Psychologists are being trained to work with?
 - How will Associate Psychologists be able to work with different populations over time? What further training/ supervision would be needed?



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Next steps

Launch of the accreditation standards

- Review of consultation results by the Working Group and final standards put forward to the Partnership and Accreditation Committee for approval and launch

Continued input and support for CAP Trailblazer group

- The Society has been actively involved with apprenticeship developments for PWPs and CAPs
- CAP Apprenticeship to have a mandated qualification within the training route, meaning that trainees must undertake a Masters level qualification accredited by the BPS as part of the apprenticeship



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Further developments at the Society

Registration of non-regulated roles in the psychological professions

- Oversight of training routes and maintain standards for non-regulated roles
- Demonstrates these practitioners have the required knowledge, skills and competencies
- Provides public assurance and safety
- All underpinned by robust registration, monitoring and complaints process

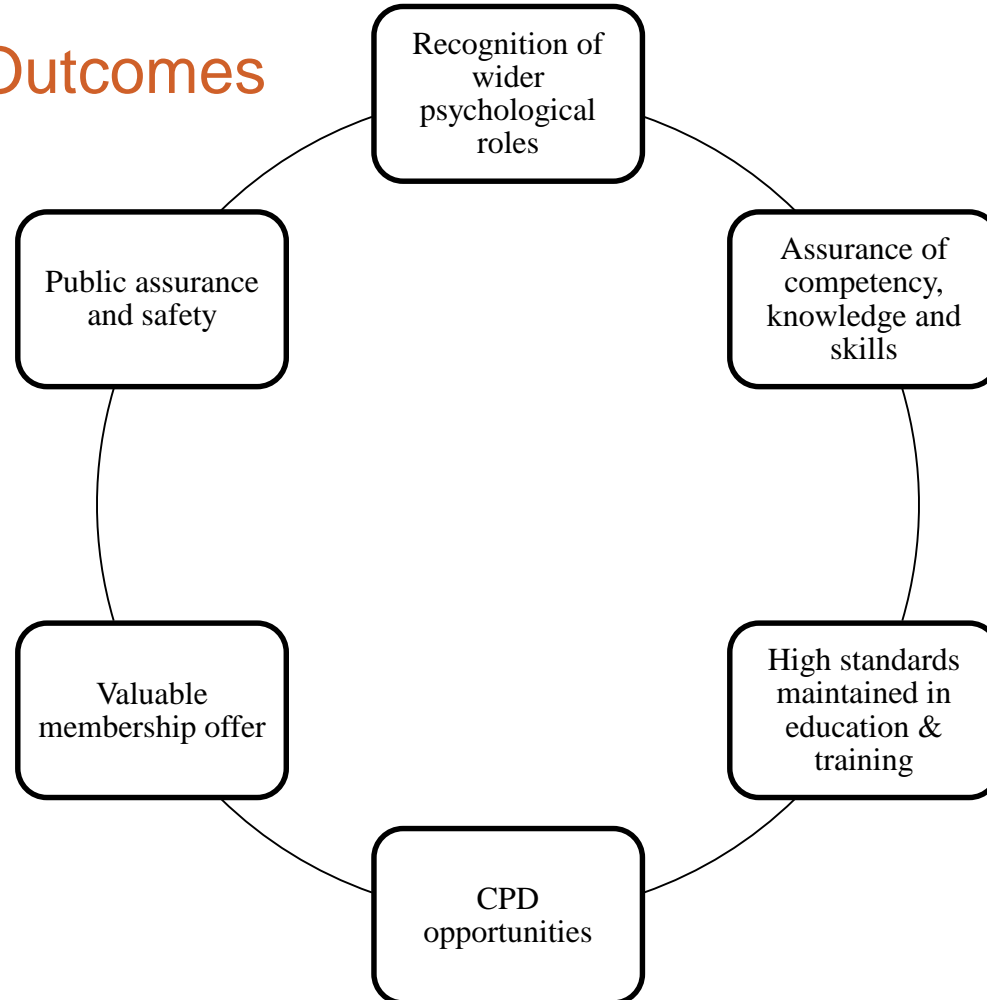
Membership offer for the wider psychological workforce

- The Society commissioned a piece of work to look at the membership value across students and professional groups
- Reviewing our membership offer and the membership journey for the wider psychological workforce



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Wider Workforce Delivery Outcomes





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Any questions?

