

GCS POST QUALIFYING YEAR PROGRAMME

FOR QUALIFIED COUNSELLORS AND PSYCHOTHERAPISTS

COURSE PROVIDER



ACCREDITED BY





ABOUT GCS TRAINING

Registered Charity No. 1109904
Company No. 4754643

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bacp | Accredited
Service

The Gloucestershire Counselling Service (GCS) was established in 1980 and since its inception has trained counsellors.

GCS provides a comprehensive training programme for diploma level trainees, working in a psychodynamic open-ended modality. Our Post Qualification Programme extends our training to encompass further professional development with the additional opportunity to work as a counsellor in our clinical service.



WHY JOIN OUR PQY PROGRAMME?

The PQY Programme includes curated workshops, time-limited training & supervision and the opportunity to apply for a paid role as a counsellor in our clinical service.

Our workshops have been designed to support and deepen further professional development. The tutorials and theory covered within the workshops are mainly rooted in psychoanalysis and supervisors work psychodynamically.

GCS provides, for PQY Counsellors, the opportunity to apply for a paid position within the Counselling Service, this would begin in open-ended work. This role provides both an opportunity to gain experience and build post-qualification hours.

BACP accreditation is supported through specific workshops and the content of the PQY Programme.

Joining supervision groups which are led by experienced and qualified supervisors alongside GCS staff counsellors provides the opportunity to develop professional practice both from supervisors and colleagues.



PROGRAMME DETAILS

WHO IS THE PROGRAMME FOR?

The Post Qualifying Year (PQY) Programme is intended for qualified counsellors and psychotherapists who wish to develop a range of skills and capacities that are important in moving towards independent practice or working in an organisation. Applicants should have achieved, or be about to achieve, a diploma-level qualification and be committed to developing their psychodynamic practice.

PROGRAMME DURATION

The programme runs for one calendar year and comprises a programme of taught workshops. It is usual to begin the programme in September. Alongside the training programme there is also the opportunity to apply for a paid counselling role within the clinical service at GCS.

ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS

Our PQY Counsellors will receive discounts on all GCS CPD workshops and short courses and become part of a community of practitioners. This experience can be invaluable in becoming established within the counselling profession and navigating the transition from trainee to independent practitioner.

PQY Counsellors are eligible to apply for additional employed positions within the service, such as intake assessment work and roles within the training team.

COURSE FEES 2022-2023

£549 for 3 termly workshops and time limited training.

£600 for 20 group supervision sessions (Individual supervision is charged in addition)

TOTAL £1149

WORKSHOPS

There are three workshops scheduled per term which take place at our headquarters in the heart of Stroud. Subjects range from complex trauma, complex bereavement, sexuality and systemic thinking. These workshops are held by a range of trained and accredited staff with experience and expertise in their area of delivery. The aim is to help develop you as a confident, autonomous counsellor post qualification, for working in private practice or an organisation.

TIME LIMITED TRAINING

As part of the PQY Programme, GCS supports PQY Counsellors in completing time-limited training. This training is aimed at individuals who have trained in open-ended psychodynamic work but wish to undertake time-limited work.

The training is held over three Saturdays and provides a qualification which enables PQY Counsellors to work for the GCS Counselling Service in a time-limited capacity.

ACCREDITATION & REGISTRATION

GCS has extensive experience in working with and supporting counsellors as they work towards professional accreditation. The PQY Programme exists so that diploma-qualified trainees can gain enough counselling and organisational experience to apply for accreditation with professional bodies and GCS will give help and support to PQY Counsellors as they apply for accreditation or registration.

The optional supervised counselling role that runs alongside the PQ training provides an opportunity for diploma-qualified counsellors to achieve the post-qualification client hours required for individual accreditation by BACP.

GCS is a member institution of BPC, recognised by BPC as a 'gate-keeper' of high professional standards. On satisfactory completion of this programme PQY counsellors who have trained in psychodynamic counselling may be proposed by GCS to BPC as registrants.

SUPERVISION

SUPERVISION ARRANGEMENTS

PQY counsellors will be in group supervision with GCS staff counsellors led by qualified supervisors. Supervision groups are held at various times during the week, and suitable arrangements will be made if you are offered a place. If there is a need or requirement for individual supervision this can be discussed at interview. Please note that a different fee applies for individual supervision. If you are offered a place, Supervision groups meet in-person, and also online depending on preference.

COUNSELLING

PQY Counsellors are expected to manage a caseload of at least five clients per week. Fortnightly counselling supervision is provided as part of the programme for 20 weeks of the year. Counselling opportunities will be available in open-ended and time-limited work (when appropriate training has taken place).

APPLICATION

PART 1 - PQY PROGRAMME

Applications should include the following:

1. CV
2. Log of client work to date
3. Log of CPD activity during the last year
4. Details of any previous involvement with GCS apart from any training courses listed in your CV
5. Letter to include:
 - Details of current counselling skills and capabilities
 - Areas you consider you need to develop
 - How you see the professional role of a counsellor and what it entails
 - Experience of working within an organisational setting, especially administration and working relationships
 - Why the GCS PQY Programme.
 - Confirmation that you wish to apply for a position as a GCS Bank Counsellor

PART 2 - BANK COUNSELLOR

A generic Bank Counsellor job description is available on our website along with the GCS application form.

REFERENCES

If you have not previously trained or worked at GCS, please provide the details of one referee (preferably a supervisor) willing to comment on your counselling capability. If you are a GCS trainee or graduate, a reference will be requested from your most recent supervisor.

Send applications to the GCS Training Team
training@gloscounselling.org.uk

SELECTION CRITERIA

PQY PROGRAMME APPLICANTS MUST:

- Have successfully completed, or be about to complete, a Diploma in Counselling and be committed to developing their psychodynamic practice.
- Have a minimum of 200 supervised client hours.
- Evidence a sound level of counselling competence and the capacity to deepen their skills.
- Evidence the ability to hold both long-term and complex clients within a caseload.
- Demonstrate the ability to use supervision to develop counselling and theoretical understanding.
- Demonstrate competence in managing the administrative tasks associated with counselling work.

COUNSELLING

- As part of the PQY programme you will have the opportunity to apply for a paid counselling role. Your weekly client caseload will be discussed with your GCS supervisor and the Clinical Services Manager. You will be offered fortnightly supervision with an accredited and experienced supervisor, working alongside peers who are staff counsellors. This is an opportunity to gain clinical hours to support your accreditation process post-qualification, and gain invaluable further experience.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

On accepting an offer of a place on the programme the Counsellor will be required to pay a registration fee of £100 which is a non-returnable deposit deducted from the course fee.

The balance is payable either in full at the start of the course or in three termly payments, payable at the beginning of each term for which a £35 surcharge will be added.

In the event of a Counsellor not taking up an accepted place the registration fee and any other fees already paid are non-refundable.

If a Counsellor withdraws from the programme part way through the year, the full fees for the year are payable.

If GCS asks a Counsellor to withdraw from the programme the fees paid up to and including that term are non-refundable.

In the event of a Counsellor anticipating or experiencing difficulty in meeting financial obligations to GCS, he/she should contact the Diploma & PQY Lead as soon as possible so that a mutually appropriate solution can be sought. An award cannot be made if there are any outstanding fees unless an acceptable arrangement for the deferred payment has been made with GCS.

GCS reserves the right to cancel a PQY Programme at any time if there are insufficient numbers of Counsellors to make the course viable.

GCS reserves the right to terminate or extend the training agreement with a Counsellor in the event of the Counsellor not meeting the requirements of the PQY Programme and/or those of GCS.

GCS reserves the right to refuse the offer of a place on the PQY Programme.

Offers of a paid counselling role are made subject to a satisfactory DBS check.

OTHER MATTERS

ABSENCES

PQY Counsellors are expected to attend at least 80% of the sessions. Prolonged absence due to illness or for other reasons may necessitate withdrawing from the programme.

IT EQUIPMENT

GCS operates an entirely paperless distribution of counselling documentation. We also make much use of our secure internal email system for communications, counselling placement and other service matters. It is therefore important that you have access to IT, Office 365 and printing facilities. Please speak to us if this will be difficult for you in order that we know what further support to offer you.

COMPLAINTS

GCS operates a complaints policy. Complaints should be in writing addressed to the Chief Executive and will be dealt with in accordance with the complaints procedure, a copy of which is available on the PQY SharePoint site or by request.

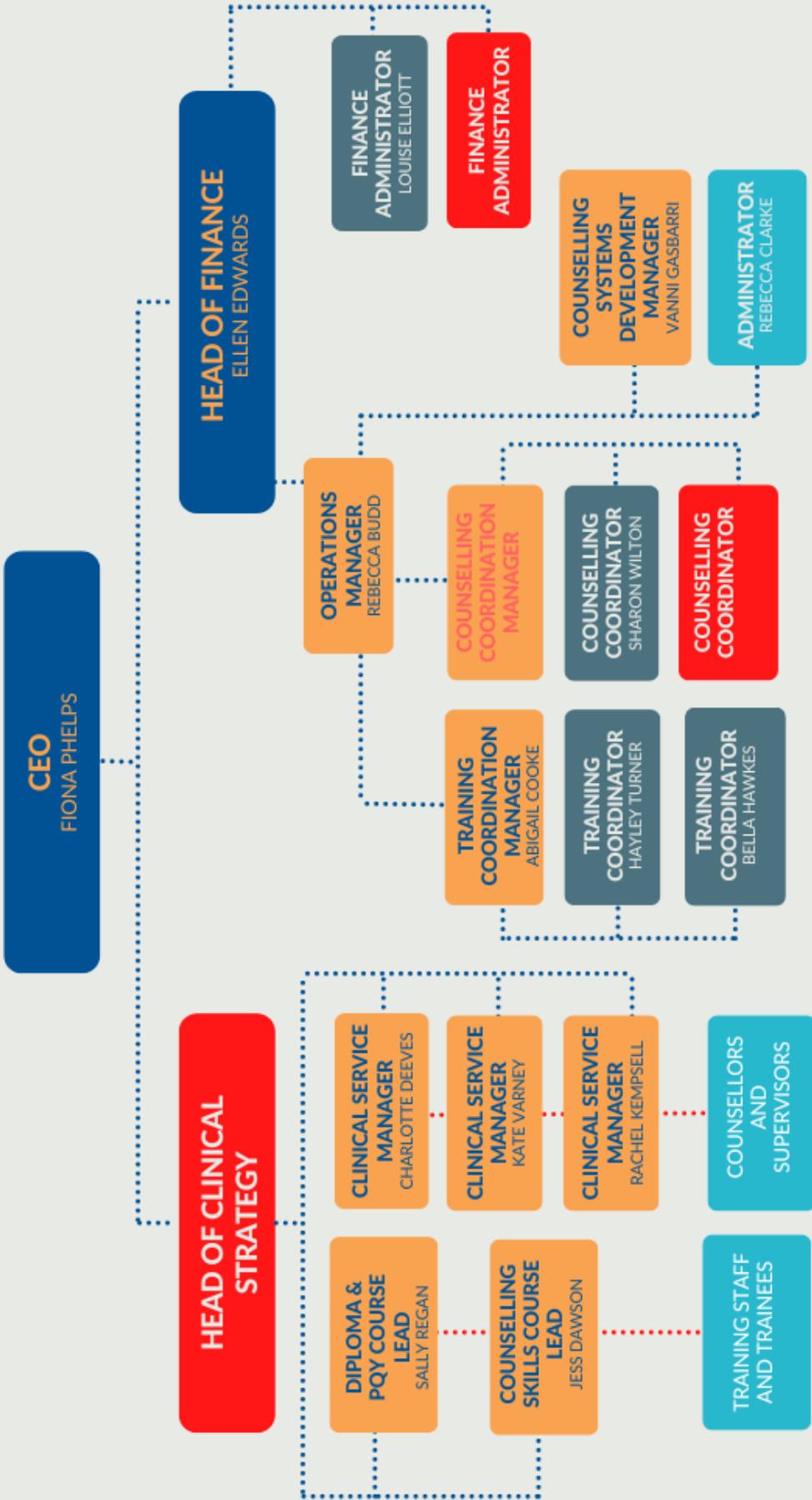
APPEALS

Anyone wishing to appeal against a clinical decision to suspend or cease work with clients can appeal. The appeal procedure is available on the PQY SharePoint site.

WORKING WITH GCS

A counsellor handbook and workplace handbook, giving details of the counselling service and administration, will be issued to PQY Counsellors.

GCS ORGANISATION CHART



- RESPONSIBILITY
- - - - - REPORTING LINE

*Those in red are currently vacant/on maternity



FIRE PROCEDURE

Upon hearing the alarm (continuous ring) please evacuate the building; close the window and door to the room you are vacating.

ESCAPE ROUTES

1st Floor

From all rooms: down the main stairs to the main entrance

Top Floor

From rooms 13 & 14: down the stairs from room 13 to the 1st floor. If stairs impassable through small Fire Door to room 9 then down stairs to the 1st floor and then down the stairs to the main entrance.

From rooms 9, 10, 11 & 12 down the stairs to the 1st floor. If stairs impassable through small Fire Door in room 9 to room 13 then down stairs from room 13 to the 1st floor and then down the stairs to the main entrance.

SESSION LEADERS/COUNSELLORS

Should make sure that:

- Attendants (trainees/clients) vacate the premises safely to the assembly point.
- YOU ensure that Windows and doors are closed when leaving the room as the last person
- Your group assembles at the assembly point and all are accounted for, no one is to leave or re-enter the building until given the 'all clear'

ASSEMBLY POINT: In the Shambles market area

STAY CALM but please evacuate the building as quickly and safely as possible even if you suspect it is a false alarm. DURING 'OFFICE HOURS' office staff will contact the emergency services. OUT OF 'OFFICE HOURS' should you discover a fire and the alarm has not yet been heard please raise the alarm by breaking a fire point (alarm button). On evacuation please contact the emergency services as soon as possible.

PERSONAL DETAILS & EMERGENCY CONTACTS

We ask that you provide some personal details including 2 people we can contact in case of emergency - these do not need to be your next of kin.

How do I complete the information?

The Personal Details Record Form (PDRF) is an electronic Form held on the Microsoft Forms App and you can complete it [here](#).

What do you do with the information I provide?

The information provided is stored within the Microsoft Forms App which is only accessible to Management Office Staff. In preparation for the new academic year, we will export all new information into an excel spreadsheet which is stored within the Management Office Staff group on Sharepoint. We do not share your information and will only use it if necessary.

What if my details change?

Please complete the form again using the link above.

Do I have to provide all the details?

No, your personal information is yours to distribute as you wish. However, please consider what information we would need should you be involved in an emergency.