



Welcome to the
National Counselling Society

www.nationalcounsellingsociety.org

Welcome to the National Counselling Society

The NCS was established in the 1990's by a wide group of talking therapists. Today, alongside our sister organisation in hypnotherapy we have 9,000 members. We were established by therapists who believed then, as now, that counselling must be seen as a vocation, not just a profession; that it can still come from the heart, and that even with all the demands of increasing professionalisation, it's still possible to protect and nurture the core of what it means to be a counsellor.

We're a non-profit professional association and we hold an Accredited Register of counsellors recognised by the Professional Standards Authority.

The NCS has a unique ethos. We're member led, which means that our members have a proper say in the fundamentals of policy, including direct referendums on key issues.

Our members are our expertise – so instead of a top-down, dictatorial approach we learn from our members' experience and ensure that all members have a voice. In addition we form a wide variety of partnerships and working relationships with organisations that can help us grow and become better at what we do. We admit that there are many things that we can improve, and get our members involved in helping us make the changes we need. It's a virtuous circle – the more members participate, the more we grow, and the more in turn we can support them.

We don't claim to represent the whole of counselling. We only claim to represent our members and ensure their voices are heard.

We treat members as individuals and work hard to ensure that we retain a personal touch with members even as we continue to grow at a rapid pace. Our application processes are straightforward and sensible, designed to assess whether

you're safe, competent and ethical to practice. We want to support you in your practice and professional development, in whatever form that takes.

We're becoming increasingly recognised nationally. Universities are seeking to have their courses accredited with us, and we have members ranging from highly qualified and experienced senior practitioners to newly qualified counsellors. We attract many members who have a private practice as well as those in a variety of employment settings. The Department for Education have also updated their information for counselling in schools, advising schools to employ trained and experienced counsellors that are on an Accredited Register, such as ours.

Many members join us because it helps them gain more clients. Some choose to belong to us as their sole professional body, and many choose to belong to us as well as another body in order to support our ethos and the way we view counselling as a vocation.

Please read on and see the many benefits you could gain from being an NCS member. We'd love to welcome you to our friendly yet professional organisation. We invite you to join your voice to ours.



"I have always found the National Counselling Society to be efficient, friendly and responsive to feedback with a focus on the needs of its members."

Leilani Mitchell. The Link Centre.

We hold an **Accredited Register**

The Accredited Register (AR) programme was set up by the Department of Health, and is administered by the Professional Standards Authority who are an independent body, accountable to Parliament.



Counsellors on our register, also known as registrants, (i.e. our Accredited, Accredited Professional, Senior Accredited, and Fellow members) will be able to display the AR quality mark, as a sign that they belong to a register which meets the Authority's rigorous standards.

The programme was created to ensure that the public are able to choose safe, ethical and competent professionals for their health and social care needs. The programme provides assurance on the standards of Accredited Registers, and is

the best way to promote quality within the field of Counselling. Clients of counsellors should now only choose a practitioner who belongs to a register which has been vetted and approved by the Authority.

Accreditation means that The National Counselling Society has met the Authority's demanding standards in the following areas: governance, setting standards, education and training, managing the register, providing information, and complaints.



"We are very pleased to accredit The National Counselling Society's register of counsellors. Bringing counselling professionals into a broad framework of assurance is good for patients, service users and the public and is the best way to promote quality. The programme offers enhanced consumer protection to anyone looking for counselling services, and gives counsellors the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment."

Harry Cayton CBE
Chief Executive of the Professional Standards Authority

'Patients need to know that health professionals are properly qualified and safe to practise. But statutory regulation is not always the best way to achieve this and in some cases could create costly red tape without making care safer. [Health and social care practitioners] can now voluntarily apply to join a register which is then independently assessed and approved. We encourage employers and patients to choose practitioners who have done this.'

Department of Health

Recognition by a Unique and Flexible Approach to Membership and Accreditation

We believe that membership of a professional association is essential as it gives confirmation of your professional standing to both your peers and clients - and gives you a voice in the future of our profession.



In recognition of the different 'life stages' of a counsellor/psychotherapist we offer the following levels of membership, with a Society member being either a Registrant or a Non-Registrant.

Unlike any other professional association, the Society clearly maps its Registrant grades against the Ofqual qualification framework - a detailed explanation of which can be found on the Society website. Registrants are listed on the Societies Accredited Register and can be any of the following:

Accredited Registrant (MNCS Accred)

A practitioner who has met the standards for registration.

Accredited Professional Registrant (MNCS Prof Accred)

A practitioner who has met the standards for Accredited membership, and has further experience.

Senior Accredited Registrant (MNCS Snr Accred)

A practitioner who has met the standards for Accredited Professional membership, and has further qualifications and experience.

Fellow Registrant (FNCS) A practitioner who has met the standards for Senior Accredited membership and has significant further experience and qualifications.

If you do not meet the criteria for registration, we offer Non-Registrant membership (who are not listed on our website) and can be:

Associate Member A non-registrant member with initial counselling qualifications which are not yet sufficient for registration and who is working towards registration.

Student Member A non-registrant member who is on a training course to become a counsellor.

Companion A non-registrant person who wishes to maintain an association with the Society unconnected with professional practice.

Honorary Fellow (HonFNCS) This Special Award may be given to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Society or the profession of counselling.

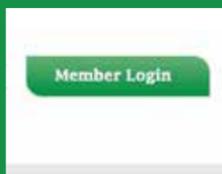


Reasons to Join

First and foremost, we seek members who agree with our ethos, who support counselling as a vocation, and who wish to join a growing professional body with a high level of member satisfaction and personal support. The NCS can offer you a wide range of benefits, such as those below. You're welcome to contact us any time to discuss becoming a member.

NUS Extra

As a student member of the Society you can apply for the NUS Extra Card to get exclusive discounts.



Cylix

Cylix currently offer all NCS members a 10% discount on Cylix online courses.



Routledge

Routledge offers all NCS members a 20% discount on all products when purchased through their website. They also have a catalogue of books especially for NCS members.



Sage Publishing Discount

SAGE are delighted to be offering 30% off on counselling and coaching titles exclusively for NCS members.



CPD Workshops/Courses

The Society produces an annual calendar of workshops across the UK which are specifically run for members. You will find a variety of topics that you can use as part of your Continuing Professional Development (CPD).



Using the Society Logo

Registrants are eligible and encouraged to use the Society logo and the Accredited Register Quality Mark logo.



Insurance

The Society has negotiated with an insurance provider to offer all NCS members preferential rates.



Dedicated members area of the website

All members have access to the members' area of our website - which is full of information to help and guide you.

Monthly members' newsletter

All members receive a newsletter via email each month. Members are welcome to write articles and share news.

Use of Society literature

Members can request Society literature to share with their networks, including: Society pens, Society Leaflets & Society Posters

'Find a counsellor' listing

All registrants will have an individual listing on the website which members of the public can search. Registrants will be able to add information to their listing.

Social Media presence

The Society is active on social media with over 20,000 likes on Facebook, growing every week.

Discounted Supervision & Counselling for Students

Student members of the Society can access a register of counsellors who are able to offer discounted supervision and/or counselling to student counsellors.

Private Practice

The NCS is well known for supporting and encouraging counsellors in private practice. Many members find a direct benefit to NCS membership which helps them gain clients. The Society is actively invested in helping all our members build a successful private practice if this is the route for them. Many members find the benefits to their private practice alone are worth the price of membership.

TV Campaign

We have produced an NCS advert to promote NCS members in private practice direct to the public. You can view our advert on our YouTube and Facebook page. This is a direct investment in seeing our members succeed and is unprecedented in the field.

Social Media & PR

With over 20,000 likes on Facebook and active engagement across the social media and PR spectrum, the NCS invests in our members' private practice. We run campaigns direct to potential clients to ensure a high number of enquiries come through to our members.

'Find a counsellor' listing

All registrants will have an individual listing on our website. In 2016 we launch a new, more responsive counsellor directory which will deliver even more results. Our Accredited Register is actively promoted by the NCS as a place to search for a safe and competent counsellor. We regularly advertise to the public on our members' behalf.

Marketing - Grow My Practice

FREE for Members of the National Counselling Society, the Grow My Practice Programme is full of support, tips, resources and tools to make marketing your practice easy, ethical and effective.

Build a Practice Workshops

Exclusive to our members, we offer a regular workshop across the UK called 'Grow Your Practice - How to Set Up & Grow an Ethical Therapy Practice' this covers marketing advice and practical tips on how to grow a successful private practice. Alongside this workshop the Society produces an annual calendar of courses across the UK for members, covering a variety of topics which could benefit you in your private practice and can be used as part of your Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Opportunities for Registrants

We are actively working with organisations and charities throughout the UK to give our members the opportunity to provide counselling sessions to eligible individuals at a reduced rate. In turn, the charities and organisations signpost their service users to our Register.

Recognition

The National Counselling Society believes that all Accredited Registers should be seen as equal. To this end, we have been working hard to gain recognition within the NHS for all Accredited Registers. As a direct result of our hard work, Accredited Registers are now explicitly listed by the NHS, and the rigour of the PSA Accredited Register programme is actively promoted.



Our central ethos is to work WITH other organisations in a framework of mutual respect and support. We're happy to admit that we can learn from other organisations which have a wide range of expertise and experience which are of great benefit to the Society and our members. We don't dictate our policies or standards - we listen, share and work together. We're stronger as a result.



"Our experience with the NCS has been very good. In collaboration and with the help of NCS, Youthshift has maintained a quality assurance training programme of our volunteers and other individuals in providing a high level of counselling education, coaching, and mentoring. All our counsellors, mentors, coaches adhere to professional and ethical practice."

Youthshift International.
Organisational Member of NCS and Training Provider (Quality Checked courses).



"We are delighted that our training programme in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy is accredited by the National Counselling Society (NCS) whose governance has been assessed by the Professional Standards Authority. The accreditation process was very professional and of a high standard. Everyone that we have worked with has been friendly, helpful and organised. We have had and continue to have a positive collaboration.

The NCS and its team of excellent staff are proactive in promoting good practice as well as keeping its organisational and individual members up to date with relevant news as well as offering a broad mix of interesting CPD events throughout the year. Our students and graduates provide us with excellent feedback about their experiences with the NCS. They feel they have joined a Society that supports them and provides high quality service."

Avy Joseph, Principal.
The College of Cognitive Behavioural Therapies.



"I have always found the National Counselling Society to be efficient, friendly and responsive to feedback with a focus on the needs of its members."

Leilani Mitchell. The Link Centre.



"We approached NCS to seek Course Accreditation because we liked the philosophy and approach as described on the website and were very encouraged when NCS gained Professional Standards Agency approval for their Accredited Register, which shows a great deal of hard work is going into staying up to date and relevant to members' concerns. It was a pleasure to work with the staff and accreditation process. The organisation is very approachable and responds well to queries. Our students have been positive about their experience too."

The Academy: S.P.A.C.E
Sheffield Psychotherapy and Counselling Education

"We were encouraged when NCS gained the Professional Standards Authority's approval for their Accredited Register. We approached them to seek Course Accreditation for our suite of programmes. Our experience of this accreditation process has been very positive, as it has been relatively quick, straightforward and professional. We are also collaborating with NCS to deliver CPD courses, and again our experiences are very positive. The staff within the organisation are approachable, professional, friendly and efficient, and respond to inquiries very quickly."

Ulster University.

"We like the fact that the NCS deal with us as a training provider in a very human and no-nonsense way. The NCS does not create unnecessary hurdles to jump through. We find that NCS supports Heartwood as a team to help support our students to become counsellors. The NCS gives recognition to the high amount of training our students have undertaken."

Heartwood Counselling and Psychotherapy

Organisational members and organisations we are proud to collaborate and work with

We are proud to have a wide variety of organisational members and organisations that we collaborate with including Cruse Bereavement Care, Pink Therapy and Mates in Mind.

- In constantly striving for good practice we meet with national charities and organisations to share our knowledge with them.
- As an early signatory of the Memorandum of Understanding on Conversion Therapy. 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. Supported by the Department of Health, the organisations signed up include professional associations, voluntary regulators, NHS England and campaigning groups. They recognise a shared commitment to protecting the public from the risks of conversion therapy. We continue to work with representatives from the other signatories on developing the Memorandum to protect transgender and asexual clients and patients.
- We are always alert to how we can improve - with our members in mind. We collaborated with Suzy Lamplugh Trust. The Society worked on a joint project with Suzy Lamplugh Trust to produce guidance on personal safety for both clients and therapists. Suzy Lamplugh Trust draws upon has many years of experience in the area of personal safety and we approached them for guidance. The resulting guidance leaflets are published on our website and training dates are shared with our members.
- We are a proud member of the 'We Need to Talk' coalition where we campaign for better access to psychological therapies for people with mental health problems. The coalition is formed of Mental Health Charities (including Mind), professional organisations, Royal Colleges and service providers. We are also a member of the developing Welsh 'We Need to Talk' coalition.
- We have a longstanding relationship with the Police Firearms Officers Association (PFOA) in relation to the provision of counselling services for Firearms officers and their families.
- The Clinic for Boundaries Studies are considered to be experts in the area of professional boundaries and conduct. Members of our team have attended some of their training days and we promote their CPD courses to members. We consider them an excellent resource to contact for guidance if required.
- Since achieving accreditation with the Professional Standards Authority we have played an active part in supporting the development of the Accredited Registers programme. We take part in PSA's meetings and events and ensure that our members are kept up to date with progress and improvements. We were delighted to be asked by the Professional Standards Authority to share our own experiences at their 2016 seminar and pleased to be included in their 2015 Accredited Register report. Our Chief Executive was asked by the Authority to share her knowledge and experience of the Accredited Register programme with the Director of the School of Public Health, from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- We attend meetings and dialogue with relevant MP's of all political parties. For example, we were actively engaged in advising the Minister in charge of mental health to support the development of counselling via the launching of the Accredited Register programme.



NCS Recognised Awarding Body



AIM Awards is an Ofqual recognised regulated awarding body offering a full suite of counselling qualifications from Level 2 to Level 6. AIM Awards is officially recognised as an accredited awarding organisation of NCS. We work with AIM Awards to ensure that our standards and grades are mapped to Ofqual RQF Levels, thus offering our members and training providers both professional and academic validation. In doing so, we also fulfil the Professional Standards Authority's requirement that our standards are mapped to a recognised national education and training framework.

What Our Members Say

The Society is proud to have members ranging from students and newly qualified counsellors, to nationally well-known, experienced and senior practitioners. We enjoy welcoming members from a wide variety of modalities, training routes and experiential paths. We aspire to be not just a professional body, but a professional home. And we acknowledge that our members are our expertise.



'A Professional Best Friend'

"Since joining the Society I have been very impressed with the friendliness, caring manner and above all professionalism of the staff. It is a delight to send off an email seeking information and getting an almost immediate response back. The Society's dedicated staff team puts members' needs to the fore in offering counsellors, supervisors and trainers a guaranteed safety net in being a professional 'best friend'.

My training organisation is proud to be a member of the Society and highly recommend membership to our students, explaining how the Society cuts through bureaucratic red tape seamlessly without losing sight of professional standards and ethics. In a nutshell in becoming a member of the Society you get what it says on the tin."

Dr Kathy Raffles. Fellow Member (FNCS)



(Photo credit: Lois Froud)

'A flexible and Committed Organisation'

"I am delighted to have worked with NCS as an active partner on the Memorandum of Understanding working group and honoured to have been made a Fellow of NCS. It's my experience that they are a flexible organisation committed to diversity issues and keen to support their members understand more about gender and sexual diversity issues."

Dominic Davies. Fellow Member (FNCS)

'An Organisation That Is Firmly Rooted In Relationship'

"My decision to choose the National Counselling Society as my primary professional body was made easy by its immediate professional yet humanistic approach. I was made to feel a valued member of the organisation from the onset. NCS is an organisation where my professional qualifications, skills and experience are both celebrated and respected. I have been a member and fellow of NCS for a period of six years and I have never been disillusioned or disappointed in their approach whether it be on an informative or supportive level. I was passionate about being part of a professional

body that not only supported the needs and protection of the client but yet the professional as well. I have felt any concerns, questions or enquiries regarding my ethical practice and continued development to be 'listened to', 'heard' and then effectively responded to. I am extremely proud to be part of the "NCS" community where my humanistic philosophies and practice are mirrored consistently by an organisation that is 'firmly' rooted in relationship."

Kate R Day. Fellow Member (FNCS)
Supervisor, Counselling and Trainer with 15 years experience



'They are pro-active in advocating counselling / psychotherapy within Northern Ireland'

"I have been a member of the National Counselling Society since 2010. As a senior therapist of 30 years experience I want to belong to a professional body of colleagues that is as passionate about my profession as I am. NCS has been immediately available to explore issues and problems which I have encountered. They are pro-active in advocating counselling / psychotherapy within Northern Ireland. On occasion I have contacted NCS to seek help to resolve an agency and employer's

limited acceptance of accredited Status. A senior member of NCS took lead responsibility to engage the employer and convince them towards NCS appropriate parity with accreditation, hallmark standards in Code of Ethics and overall professionalism. I am proud to be a Fellow member and feel galvanised to be part of a process in Northern Ireland where NCS is promoting a high clinical counselling/ psychotherapy standard; influencing stakeholders and local policy makers".

David Keenan PhD MSc. Fellow Member (FNCS).



'The NCS has been exactly what I was looking for - a friendly, personable and supportive professional body'

"The NCS has been exactly what I was looking for - a friendly, personable and supportive professional body. I did not wish to sign up with a large, faceless organisation where members

easily 'fall between the slats' when it comes to non-standard issues. However, with the NCS, when I have had a question or needed assistance with a tricky situation, my queries have been welcomed, examined and fully addressed".

Penny Parks. Fellow Member (FNCS).



'Gives Its Members A Voice As Well As Making Them Feel Valued And Respected'

"I joined the NCS because I was looking for a professional body, which would be accessible and supportive towards its membership as well as protecting the interests of the public who use their services. I have not been disappointed, the NCS, despite its continuing expansion, maintains a close dialogue with its membership via interesting monthly newsletters, offering a range of affordable and diverse CPD courses and an easy to navigate website through which members can make known the services they offer.

The NCS works assiduously in promoting the interests of its members. I particularly applaud the simplicity and transparency of its membership and accreditation processes in which each potential new member is seen as a unique individual whose qualifications and experience will be taken into consideration.

I feel that if I had any concerns or queries with regard to my client work I could pick up the phone and seek guidance and support, which I know would be delivered in a constructive and collaborative manner. The NCS's flexible, non-hierarchical approach gives its members a voice as well as making them feel valued and respected."

Patricia Furness-Smith. Fellow Member (FNCS).

'I was delighted when NCS led the charge into the Accredited Register programme'

I have been a member of NCS since 2008 and have seen it grow from being new and relatively-unknown into an influential and recognised counselling society. I joined because I was looking for an organisation with which I could feel "in touch", in both practical terms and in ethos. I was delighted when NCS led the charge into the Accredited Register programme, then with the creation of "Approved Supervisors" and the recent membership grades which reflect achievement in the real world. These are all things which are relevant to me, to my professional practice and, importantly, to my clients and supervisees.

What I like most is the "unstuffy" feeling of being a member of NCS. Whenever I've contacted them, whether with a query or when we've been asked for opinions, I've always felt as though a real person has listened to and acted upon what I've said and made that effort worthwhile. To me, the whole point of membership of any society is to feel a sense of belonging and mutual cooperation, not to just be "a number".

Tina Weston. Senior Accredited Member (MNCS Snr Accred).

- ✓ Friendly and Welcoming
- ✓ Support our vocation
- ✓ Our Members are our Expertise
- ✓ Increasingly Recognised
- ✓ Listening and Networking
- ✓ Accredited Register
- ✓ Gain More Clients
- ✓ Join NCS without leaving your current body
- ✓ Affordable Fees
- ✓ A host of benefits

Connect with us today!

www.nationalcounsellingsociety.org

T: 01903 200666

 @ncscounselling

 @ncs_media

Terms & Conditions

All information in this brochure was correct at the time of going to press. The National Counselling Society cannot guarantee that your membership application will be successful. For a full explanation of our membership criteria, visit our website at: www.nationalcounsellingsociety.org