

## **FIP Ethics Committee – an introduction for potential and/or new members**

FIP is an Organisational Member of UKCP (UK Council for Psychotherapy). We have to have an Ethics Committee as part of that.

### **What is Ethics?**

By **Ethics** we mean the consideration of what might be the right or wrong way of practicing psychoanalytical psychotherapy, based on six documents we use to guide us. We abide by these documents as they provide us with minimum standards of practice to adhere to:

- The UKCP Code of Ethics and Professional Practice
- The UKCP Complaints Policy and Procedure
- The UKCP Supervision Statement 2018
- FiP's Safeguarding policy
- FiP's Diversity and Equality Statement
- The Scope of Practice and Education (SCOPEd) framework by the Partnership of Counselling and Psychotherapy Bodies (PCPB).

As a new member you will be provided with a pack of essential documents that you can refer to when needed

### **What are we here for?**

We are here to safely get to know one another, and to guide FIP thoughtfully on ethical matters. Most times we are here to offer support to the organisation and directly to members. Sometimes we will be investigating matters arising out of ethical issues and reporting on this to the Chair of Directors

### **What is our remit?**

As a committee we are responsible for the following:

1. We will respond to and support FIP members in the event of a complaint against them about the therapy being provided. (UKCP hear the complaint and we do not get involved in it).
2. Currently, we will investigate if there is a complaint against a member about the supervision they offer. We also provide separate support. However,

where a FiP member is also a member of UKCP British Association for Psychoanalytic and Psychodynamic Supervision (BAPPS) it is likely the member will choose for BAPPS to carry out the investigation. We will be looking at this responsibility to understand the ethical dimension and how best to implement it at a future meeting.

3. We will investigate if there is a complaint made against the Applications Committee for deciding not to support someone's application to become a member of FiP.
4. We will be involved in using skills of conflict resolution if there is an internal grievance within FiP of one member with another, or of a member with a committee.
5. When we have our 5-yearly review as an organisational member of UKCP, the Ethics Committee will help draw together a report of our activities over the 5-year period, to ensure that we are meeting the criteria for re-registration as an UKCP Organisational Member.

### **How do we work as a way of meeting our remit?**

FIP's Ethics Committee is chaired by one of the Directors of FIP who has taken responsibility for leading members of the committee to do this

The Committee comprises up to 8 members who are volunteer members of FIP and the committee meets 4 times a year, or more if needed. We need a quorate of 3 members at each meeting to make formal decisions

### **What activities do we engage in**

In addition to the remit above, we enjoy commenting on news about psychoanalytical psychotherapy in the media, and in journals and workshops we have attended and think about how current psychoanalytical practice may be affected by new developments in the field, and new technology.

We discuss this as a way of getting to know one another, and also when we think FIP Directors or the Membership may need support and guidance on new issues that are arising or that we have identified as interesting and important.

Although we have not done so to date, we could consider running workshops for members on contemporary ethical issues. We are considering this, and one of our members has prepared a list for consideration.

### **What are our expected outcomes?**

The Ethics Committee is for the integrity of the organisation, and protects it, as there exists a group of people who it can turn to, when ethical dilemmas arise.

We pick up ethical dilemma and offer a recommendation as required

We are better prepared if the title of psychoanalytical psychotherapist becomes a protected one

As members we can learn about ethics together. It is part of CPD and counters the potential isolation of working alone.

It helps us with our actual practice and keeps us up to date on developments in psychoanalytical psychotherapy

### **What do we hope to achieve and how do we know when we are being effective?**

If we have a good ethics committee, this can protect the organisation by being better prepared by addressing areas of vulnerability.

We want our committee members to have an enjoyable and interesting experience that supports their CPD. A further aim is to be able to recruit a future chair for the group and hopefully this assists us being able to plan for succession in due course.

Draft 15.5.2026