



## **STATEMENT REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BCTIWC AND PTUK BRITISH COUNCIL FOR THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS WITH CHILDREN**

The British Council for Therapeutic Interventions With Children Limited (or BCTIWC) is an independent organisation established to protect the public's interest in the use of play, creative arts and related therapies when used with children, specifically when delivered by Registrants who are entered on the Play Therapy UK (PTUK) Register of Play and Creative Arts Therapists.

The BCTIWC comprises a minimum of five members; the Chair who must be an independent lay person, two play therapists and two lay people. We all have a vested interest in promoting and protecting children's physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. Our members are former and current teachers and teacher's assistants, university staff and accredited play therapists. More lay members may be recruited to ensure meetings can be quorate. A lay member is defined as anyone that is not a registered Play Therapist. Members are appointed to BCTIWC in line with our Recruitment Policy, with any vacancies advertised on our website.

We were established to ensure that the public's interests are protected and taken into account, in the advancement of the safe and effective use of play therapy and therapeutic play, in particular where children's and infants' development is impaired by social, emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties. We meet with the directors of Play Therapy UK (hereinafter referred to as PTUK) twice a year to oversee their activities and ensure that there is no conflict of interest between PTUK and Academy of Play and Child Psychotherapy (APAC).

BCTIWC oversees the activities of PTUK to ensure it is governed in a way that prioritises the safe and effective practice of Play Therapy and not the Directors' personal interests, and that all members abide by the PTUK Code of Conduct. During our meetings, the PTUK Directors update BCTIWC on any staffing or structural changes and the PTUK Registrar describes any changes in membership trends and membership feedback. Any IT System changes are also discussed, especially those concerning the PTUK Register and the re-accreditation process for Practitioners. The minutes from our meetings are published on the BCTIWC website and BCTIWC's findings are also reported to the PSA in our Annual Report, which is also published on our website.

We regularly audit the PTUK Register, approved by the UK Professional Standards Authority (hereinafter referred to as PSA), to ensure that the data is accurate, transparent, current, unbiased and provides the public with the information needed to choose a safe and effective practitioner to work therapeutically with children or infants. A member of the BCTIWC, usually the Chair, will visit the PTUK offices to ensure that the PTUK Register is being updated regularly with the correct information about Practitioners and that any Play Therapists that have ceased their practice or been struck-off have been removed from the Register.

BCTIWC review the public interest element of the competencies required for the titles: 'Practitioners in Therapeutic Play', 'Play Therapist', 'Counsellor of Children Using Play and Creative Arts Therapies', 'Filial Play Coach', 'Clinical Supervisor of Play and Creative Arts Therapies' and any others proposed by PTUK. The competencies include those required for the functions of marketing, finance and practice management as well as those of a therapeutic nature.

The BCTIWC is responsible for independently assessing PTUK's response to any complaints, on an annual basis. We act as an independent advisor to the PTUK by highlighting areas for improvement in their complaints process and we share our reports with the PSA.

Complaints against the PTUK and APAC CEO can be made directly to the Chair of BCTIWC, Helen Tozer, at [helen@bctiwc.org](mailto:helen@bctiwc.org). Please see the BCTIWC Complaints Procedure for further details. For details of how to make other complaints to the PTUK please see the following page of their website: [https://playtherapy.org.uk/complaints-concerns-procedure/.](https://playtherapy.org.uk/complaints-concerns-procedure/)]]

Members of the BCTIWC do not hold any strategic decision making role with regards to the PTUK, instead we review strategic decisions made to see whether these decisions were made in the public interest. We can, however, assist the PTUK board of directors by voting on appointments to their board in case of a split vote between the existing directors. This is in order to prioritise effective governance.

BCTIWC charges PTUK a yearly fee for our services.

<b>DOCUMENT INFORMATION:</b>	
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