

ACCREDITED PRACTITIONER REGISTER (“REGISTER”) ADVISORY BOARD (“BOARD”)

Minutes of a meeting of the Advisory Board held online via MS Teams

25th January 2025 at 18:00.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. She confirmed that automatic transcription was agreeable to all present. This was confirmed by all.

1. Update on activity with the Professional Standards Authority accreditation team

a. Notification of Change

It was reported that the PSA is expected to review a notification of change at panel by the end of the month, although the process has been slow, though this has not been confirmed. Detailed information has been prepared for the PSA to make clear what activities will be undertaken by the Register once the NoC is agreed.

There was otherwise no further update from the previous meeting.

b. Professional Standards Authority conference and Review of Standards

Update was provided into the PSA's ongoing review of standards, which aims to unify accreditation processes. He highlighted that the PSA is working on merging standards for registers and regulators, which is taking a lot of resource demand and impacting some day to day activity.

It was noted that the increasing difficulty in obtaining accreditation might deter new applicants.

It was also advised that the plan to develop of an AI-driven tool to assist with these processes.

Concern was discussed about one new application – currently undergoing a share your experience process. The Register had shared its experience around the issue that there was a potential allowing of unqualified individuals to gain accreditation. The group agreed to address these issues formally once their new titles are approved.

2.a Update on Professional Conduct Review Committee

There was nothing to update at this time. Updates will provided to the next board. A representative from the Advisory Board has agreed to join the next meeting to update on the impacts of process from the current NoC process.

2.b Update on Education and Training Committee

There was nothing to update at this time. Updates will provided to the next board. See also, note(s) below under recruitment.

3. Update on application and registration

The meeting was advised that there were now 40 members of the Register, with 3 open applications under review. It was also mentioned that this had been supported by members from TheHorseCourse and that a similar organisational approach had been requested from Sirona Therapeutic Horsemanship in Devon. Information has been provided for consideration by their trustees in their next meeting (July).

There is a need to organise an annual membership renewal audit. (10% of membership). On renewal this in though to be no more than 3 members.

The meeting discussed other registrant benefitting activities and will be considered, this includes running a poll of members to find out what they might wish to see provided, and the potential of a Register conference. This will be emailed to all members along with some general update around activity.

Also work is underway on a commissioner's letter outlining the importance of engaging with practitioners registered under the PSA accredited register programme.

4. Update from Accredited Register Collaborative (ARC)

The meeting was updated on key discussions from the most recent ARC meeting. The key themes from that being the changes in frequency of the meeting, forthcoming onsite meetings

The common data sharing agreement has been received and will be actioned.

Update from PSA – OA joined the meeting to provide an update from the PSA. The two main topics were the above-mentioned standards review and the recognised scale of work that the accreditation team is currently trying to manage through 2025-2026. There is a general feeling that some timelines are going to be extended.

Other members will be provided with details of future ARC meetings.

5. Promotional activity since last meeting and proposed activity

Insights into several international membership organizations were provided, including their origins and membership structures. They emphasized the need to understand the competitive landscape, particularly with organizations like HETI, IAHAIO, and EASP HEIR, while also considering the importance of collaboration.

The Register had recently attended the “Equine Cultures in Transition” conference in Manchester and provided a brief talk introducing the Accredited Practitioner Register. The conference been very much about potential research partnerships. The chance of doing some work with an Athena contact at the University of Birmingham was recognised.

The Register will be speaking at the British Horse Council. Though it was noted that we had been bumped off the agenda, and the new Chair of HEIR was now speaking. After strong objections we were returned to the Agenda, albeit at the very end.

The Register will be speaking at the IAHAIO conference again this summer in Amsterdam.

Outreach to multiple Children's Services was discussed to raise awareness about the register and emphasized the need for effective communication with funders and the importance of ensuring practitioners have proper insurance coverage.

6. Further recruitment to the Advisory Board, and other committees

Updates to committee memberships were discussed. It was also noted that once additional roles have been signed off new (representative) members will be required at various levels to provide support and insight into these new roles – particularly in the context of Education and Training.

A request of the option of being part of the Education Committee. This was agreed and will be advised.

7. Any other business

7.a Discussion on Alternative Provision Registration and Credibility. Discussion emphasized the need to clarify registration requirements for alternative provision with local authorities and to educate graduates on the benefits of being registered. She mentioned her outreach to various local authorities to gather information. Additional local insights was provided from experience in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, explaining that while registration is not mandatory, it significantly boosts credibility and facilitates the acquisition of work.

The conversation drew out the difficulties alternative provision providers face due to the lack of Ofsted registration. It was pointed out that despite not being Ofsted registered, a Lincolnshire organization continues to receive children from Lincolnshire County Council, which contradicts their stated policy. It was suggested that a separate framework for alternative provision is necessary to acknowledge its distinct role in education and to facilitate better commissioning practices.

7.b Agreement to create a WhatsApp group for the Committee was confirmed.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is June 16th at 10am via MS Teams.

Action Items:

- I. Follow up re scheduling a meeting for the Professional Conduct Review Committee.
- II. 10% renewal audit of member registrations over the summer.
- III. Letter to commissioners will be drafted to raise awareness about the register and its benefits.
- IV. Email on membership will be sent to the Education and Training Committee.
- V. A list of contacts for primary care networks and social prescribers to facilitate future collaborations will be produced.