

Any questions about this guideline or service accreditation in general are best emailed to accred.service@bacp.co.uk

Criterion 3

Include at least three qualified practitioners who undertake counselling or psychotherapy .

The service will need to:

- x confirm the age range of clients , practitioners are working with
- x if counsellors are working with clients under the age of 16 years, provide information as to what training has prepared them to work with this age group
- x confirm if student placements are available.
- x If student placements are available, specify the age range of the clients that the trainee counsellors are working with.

The law in England, Wales and Northern Ireland defines children as all those who are under the age of 18. However, it is accepted that those aged 16-17 years fall between the young people and adult fields, dependent on mental capacity. In Scotland, the definition of a young person varies according to legal circumstances, but in general, at age 18 a person has reached 'majority' . See GPiA resources on [legaspects of working with CYP](#) on the website.

All practitioners, whether qualified or trainee, are required to have completed some formal additional training to prepare them for working with CYP, especially if they have qualified from, or are undertaking, a training course that is preparing them for work with adults.

Students on adult client-oriented training courses may work with CYP on placement provided that, either the training provider and/or the placement service provider ensure that the student is assessed as having the basic competences to practice safely and ethically with CYP. Further information at [CYP competencies and curricula](#)

Criterion 4.1 Aims and objectives

A statement of aims and objectives, available to all staff and service users, must set out clearly: the purpose of the services provided; the type of counselling or psychotherapy offered; the ethical framework adhered to; the limits of confidentiality; the context and contracting of the work (this includes payment for services,

procedures, funding routes and governance, or if it's a specialist area extension to the existing adult counselling service.

- x If a distinct service under the main organisational umbrella - a full new application for assessment will need to be submitted and the CYP service would be awarded its own accreditation term award. Guidance for new applications can be found on the BACP Service Accreditation webpages, by clicking the hyperlink [How to Apply for Service Accreditation](#)

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