

Ethical Practice

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Exercise:
What are the key ethical issues
in a Counselling relationship?

Ethical Practice

- * Principles of ethical practice (taken from BACP guidance)
 - Fidelity
 - Autonomy
 - Beneficence
 - Non-maleficence
 - Justice
 - Self-respect

Fidelity

- * Being trustworthy
- * Acting in accordance with the trust placed in us by the client
- * Honouring confidentiality (note – some occasions on which we may need to break confidentiality – if a risk to self or others)
- * Boundaries, mutual respect

Autonomy

- * Respect for the client's right to be self-governing
- * Informed consent
- * Accurate and honest about service being offered
- * Principle "opposes the manipulation of clients against their will, even for beneficial social ends"

Beneficence

- * Commitment to promoting the client's wellbeing
- * Acting in client's best interests
- * Working strictly within the limits of competence (ensuring sufficient training, experience)
- * Engaging in regular supervision
- * Ensuring continuing professional development

Non-maleficence

- * Not doing harm
- * Avoiding exploitation of the client (sexual, financial, emotional, or any other kind)
- * Not providing services when unfit to do so (drunk, illness, personal circumstances)
- * Strive to mitigate any harm caused even when harm is unavoidable or unintended
- * Responsibility to challenge, where appropriate, the incompetence or malpractice of others

Justice

- * Fair and impartial treatment of all clients
- * Respecting human rights and dignity
- * Conscientiously considering legal requirements and obligations (i.e. note keeping, responding to disclosures)
- * Justice in distribution of services (being fair, not discriminating, accessible and appropriate services)

Self-respect

- * Self-care
- * Seeking counselling/therapy/ opportunities for personal development
- * Using supervision for appropriate support
- * Continuing professional development
- * Encourages active engagement in life-enhancing activities and relationships

Personal moral qualities

- * Empathy
- * Sincerity
- * Integrity
- * Resilience
- * Respect
- * Humility
- * Competence
- * Fairness
- * Wisdom
- * Courage



Safeguarding

Safeguarding: everybody's business

- * "All those who come into contact with children and families in their everyday work, including practitioners who do not have a specific role in relation to child protection, have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children"

(DFES 2006)

Safeguarding: children

- * Key documents:
 - The Children Act, 1989, 2004
 - Every Child Matters (2004)

Safeguarding: children

Types of abuse:

- * Physical
- * Emotional
- * Sexual
- * Neglect

Safeguarding: adults

- * A term used to mean all work which enables an adult to retain independence, well being and choice and live a life that is free from abuse and neglect
 - * A vulnerable adult is...
 - "...A person who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness"
 - * and who...
 - "...is or may be unable to take care of him or herself against significant harm or exploitation"
- (Lord Chancellors Dept. 1999)

Safeguarding: adults: categories of abuse

Types of abuse:

- * Physical
- * Sexual
- * Psychological
- * Financial
- * Neglect
- * Discriminatory

Responding to concerns

- * **DO** take what the child/ adult says seriously
- * **DO** inform the adult/ child you need to share the information with someone else
- * **DO** let the adult/ child give their own account
- * **DO** ask what, when, where and how
- * **DO** tell the adult/child what will happen next
- * **DO** make a record of the conversation, using the language used by the adult/ child – date and sign
- * **DO** inform your line manager. If your manager is not available then inform a senior member of staff/ the manager 'on call'

Responding to concerns

- * **Don't** promise to keep things to yourself
- * **Don't** ask leading questions
- * **Don't** place fault or blame
- * **Don't** ask why
- * **Don't** promise it will be alright
- * **Don't** assume someone else will take action on your behalf

Responding to concerns

- * Thank you for telling me
- * I'm sorry this has happened
- * I want to help so this is what I'm going to do next
- * I will get back to you

Exercise: Ethical dilemmas