

## **Covid-19 and the Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling**

As you can imagine we at Skills and Education Group Awards ABC are encountering an ever increasing volume of queries relating to COVID-19. Based on the updated scientific advice we are today advising that **remote supervision will be permitted until further notice whilst the COVID-19 situation escalates.**

However, it is important to state that trainees should **not** undertake client work remotely without the necessary training in this area. Details on the knowledge skills and behaviours that telephone and e-counselling practitioners need to demonstrate can be found on the BACP website via the link below.

<https://www.bacp.co.uk/events-and-resources/ethics-and-standards/competences-and-curricula/telephone-and-e-counselling/>

We would primarily advise that, wherever possible, trainees take a break in client work however, we understand this may impact on proposed course completion dates. Extensions to courses will be permitted on request.

If, for ethical reasons, it is felt unreasonable by a party to halt a pre-existing trainee/client relationship then remote sessions can be permitted **only at the centre's discretion.**

The management of remote sessions between trainees and clients needs to be carefully monitored by each individual centre. Only those trainees who have demonstrated, or can demonstrate the knowledge skills and behaviours required to undertake remote counselling should be given approval to accrue client hours in this way. Partial approval of cohorts to offer remote counselling brings its own challenges which the centre need to be aware of.

Any COVID-19 supervision or client work hours accrued remotely should be recorded and clearly identified on the client log. Supporting documentation to evidence the start of remote supervision will also assist examiners when assessing evidence for the placement unit.

In line with BACP guidance, the safety of the practitioner should be carefully balanced against the safety of the client.

We at Skills and Education Group would also suggest viewing BACP resources for counsellors and psychotherapists offering telephone counselling or working online via the following link:

<https://www.bacp.co.uk/events-and-resources/working-online-resources/>