



### Testimonials from COSCA Recognised Organisations:

*“Safe Space was delighted to receive COSCA Recognition as the process offered an opportunity to really review our practice, policies, procedures and ensure we were delivering an ethical, safe and quality service. Assessment by an external body ensures that we don’t become complacent and we work hard to maintain Recognition status, which we display with pride on all of our correspondence.*

*The Scottish base for COSCA ensures local organisations are reviewed according to National legislation and standards and they have a clear understanding of current community issues.”*

**Pauline McGee, Manager, Safe Space Dunfermline**



*“Having been through the process of COSCA’s Recognition Scheme and keeping up to date we have found this as valuable as any counsellor or therapist being accredited. It encourages and supports good ethical and fair practice for therapists, organisations and clients. We would recommend organisations to have this ‘kite mark’ as recognition of professional standards and quality assurance”*

**Angie Cameron, Managing Director, direction**



*‘It was important for Breathing Space, which provides a mental health listening service via phone and web cam to the people of Scotland, to be recognised and endorsed by COSCA as a counselling skills organisation providing a good quality service to the people of Scotland. To receive this recognition gives a message to staff and clients alike that we operate within ethical boundaries and are guided by counselling skills guidelines. This has been important to us working with over 6000 clients a month.’*

**Tony McLaren, National Coordinator, Breathing Space/NHS Living Life**



*"I am delighted the PF managed to gain COSCA Recognition, and to continue as a member of the scheme for the past 5 years. The initial application required us to review all of our policies and procedures and working practices – a daunting prospect at the outset but it was not as difficult as first envisaged, and has proved invaluable ever since. The annual reviews also help keep us on our toes, and to ensure we continue to practice in a professional manner. I would highly recommend the scheme to other agencies."*

**Alison Hampton, Director, PF Counselling Service**



*Recognised status is important as it shows that ACIS and BBCS (Banff & Buchan Counselling Service) are linked in to a governing body giving some security to individuals and Organisations who are wondering about our services. We use the COSCA Recognition Scheme logo in our advertising and it also gives some credibility to the funding bodies too.*

**ACIS (Aberdeen Counselling & Information Service)**



*Membership of COSCA has assisted in several ways:*

- *It helps our internal self-respect, knowing that we maintain basic national standards, which are checked annually*
- *The Recognition Scheme logo demonstrates to funding and other professional bodies (eg GP Practices) our continuing professionalism*
- *We have occasionally been able to put administrative operational problems and questions to Mr Magee for advice/ second opinion*

**OACAS (Orkney Alcohol Counselling & Advisory Service)**



*We do value being a COSCA Recognised Organisation. It affirms our belief that Lifeline is an ethical organisation and that clients and referring agencies can be confident that our counsellors uphold professional standards. As a small voluntary organisation we appreciate belonging to the larger COSCA family and the opportunities to meet and learn from other members. The validation process and training events helps us to focus in a systematic way on our practice and to keep up to date with new thinking, developments and debates in the counselling field.*

**Lifeline Pregnancy Counselling & Care**



*Glasgow Council on Alcohol (GCA) is delighted to maintain our status as the longest standing COSCA Recognised Organisation. COSCA supports our practice and enables us to provide our employees and volunteers with the ethical framework in which we operate. We continue to utilise the support of COSCA for advice and guidance when necessary, through this long established working relationship we have together developed and delivered best practice, GCA value the COSCA validation process as this supports GCA to maintain our high standards.*

**Gary Meek CEO Glasgow Council on Alcohol (GCA)**