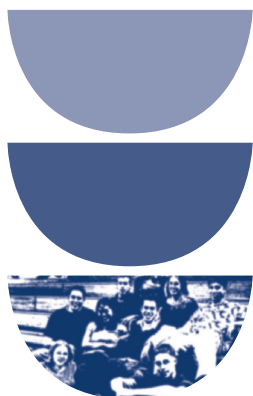


## COSCA Accreditation of Counsellors / Psychotherapists

### Introduction

As Scotland's professional body for counselling and psychotherapy, COSCA offers the counsellor accreditation process as a means by which counsellors and psychotherapists can demonstrate post training and qualification, their competence, and acknowledge their personal and professional development.

The COSCA Accreditation system requires counsellors/psychotherapists to meet specific criteria related to training, practice and supervision. COSCA considers these criteria to be reliable and dependable indicators of competence, underpinned by the COSCA Statement of Ethics and Code of Practice.



### Purposes of Accreditation

The purposes of counsellor/psychotherapist accreditation with COSCA are:

- To enable the counsellor and psychotherapist to receive professional accreditation of their competence
- To provide an assurance to the general public in Scotland that a COSCA Accredited counsellor/psychotherapist has been assessed and has attained a professional, competent, safe and ethical standard of practice
- To build up a community of accredited counsellors and psychotherapists in Scotland

### Accreditation Process

COSCA sees the accreditation process as similar to a rite of passage. Implicit in this experience is a readiness to enter into it, to be tested, and to have enhanced status as a result. Alongside this, there is an understanding that there will be support and help available during the process. Experience shows that once applicants have begun the process they find it a useful way of reflecting on their practice.

The applicant for accreditation achieves the above change of status by providing evidence for consolidation of training, practice, and supervision. COSCA supports this change of status by acknowledging it publicly, for example, through its published directory of accredited counsellors and psychotherapists.

### Accreditation Panel

The application for accreditation will be submitted to the COSCA Counsellor Accreditation Panel for assessment. To add further quality assurance, this assessment process is subject to regular external moderation.

### Application and Guidance

Please download an accreditation application form and guidance notes from [www.cosca.org.uk](http://www.cosca.org.uk) – Accreditation – Counsellor. You are eligible to submit your accreditation application once you have two years experience after the completion of your diploma level training and have Practitioner membership of COSCA. You can register your interest in applying for accreditation through the Registration Scheme – [www.cosca.org.uk](http://www.cosca.org.uk) – Accreditation – Counsellor, and also contact COSCA's Development Officer (Courses and Individuals) for advice and information.

### Accreditation Workshops

COSCA holds workshops for counsellors and psychotherapists considering accreditation. Please also see COSCA's online workshop video – [www.cosca.org.uk](http://www.cosca.org.uk) – Accreditation – Counsellor – COSCA Counsellor Accreditation System: online workshop video.

## Benefits of COSCA Accreditation

The Accreditation system:

- offers a public acknowledgement of mature responsible practice, underpinned by COSCA's Statement of Ethics and Code of Practice
- provides a formal pathway into a professional community of accredited counsellors and psychotherapists in Scotland
- changes and highlights your professional status and increases employment potential and opportunities
- increases your sense of confidence and identity as a counsellor or psychotherapist
- increases awareness of your professional skills and expertise, by opening up a vision of the depth and breadth of your counselling experience
- provides information to the public about quality assured counsellors and psychotherapists

COSCA's Vision:  
a listening, caring  
society that values  
people's wellbeing



**16 Melville Terrace  
Stirling FK8 2NE**

P: 01786 475 140  
F: 01786 446 207

**[info@cosca.org.uk](mailto:info@cosca.org.uk)  
[www.cosca.org.uk](http://www.cosca.org.uk)**

Charity Registered in Scotland No. SC018887

Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered in Scotland No. 142360

COSCA acknowledges the assistance  
it receives from the Scottish Government



**COSCA  
ACCREDITATION  
of  
Counsellors and  
Psychotherapists**

*Providing Quality Assurance to  
Counselling and Psychotherapy in  
Scotland*