



UK Healers Newsletter

January 2015

Setting the Standard
for Healing

Introduction

Welcome to this January 2015 issue of the UK healers Newsletter. UK Healers members are often asked about how UK Healers came into being and why. So for this issue we have included a short history of UK Healers as our main article as well as pieces about other developments we hope readers will find of interest.

The purpose of UK Healers is to protect the public by setting standards that its member organisations accept will allow safe appropriate and effective healing by their healer members.

A Short History of UK Healers

The first meeting of healing organisation representatives that eventually led to UK Healers took place in 1999. Five healing organisations met at the Arthur Findlay College to explore how they trained, assessed and accepted individuals into healer membership and the scope for developing some common standards that would apply in all the organisations involved.

In the event although one of the five organisations chose quickly not to remain involved, the others believed it worthwhile and continued with the work. Devising standards that all the groups could agree proved a challenge but good progress was made.

In 2000 the House of Lords issued a report on Complementary and Alternative Therapies and concluded in favour of single therapy regulation either Statutory or non-Statutory.

In the case of Healing a non-statutory, voluntary approach was considered appropriate and that became the direction for UK Healers.

As the work progressed the organisations involved reached a point when they felt able to invite other healing organisations not so far involved to sit in on one of the group's meetings to see if they would like to participate from that point onwards. In this way the number of organisations taking part gradually grew and some of the organisations that first joined at this stage have proved central to UK Healers subsequent progress.

At about this time UK Healers also began receiving some support from The Prince of Wales Foundation for Integrated Health (FIH) and a representative of FIH became a regular attendee at the group's meetings.

By November 2003 Standards acceptable to all of the organisations then collaborating in the work had been agreed and were published. The topics covered dealt with qualification of Healers and Student Healers, Training, Code of Conduct, Legal Aspects, Assessment, Complaints and Discipline.

Meanwhile FIH had been urging UK Healers to engage an Independent Chair and adopt a changed structure and FIH offered some limited funding in support. The group agreed to this arrangement but in the event it took much longer than expected to identify a Chair willing to undertake the role and although the appointee seemed very suitable initially over a period, concerns emerged within UK Healers that the momentum previously achieved was being lost as FIH attention focused increasingly on a multi therapy approach to regulation.

Consequently the decision was taken with some regret to withdraw from the Independent Chair arrangement and for the Chair of UK Healers to once again be drawn from the healing community. This arrangement has continued to the present day.

Additional groups continued to join UK Healers and the focus moved from setting standards to establishing that the member organisations (long standing and more recent) not only agreed with the standards but actually met them.

A staged process leading to accreditation began so that by 2008 all of the organisations continuing in UK Healers membership had achieved Stage 4 Accreditation and satisfied UK Healers that they not only agreed with the standards but had provided the evidence that their documentation was consistent with the required standards.

However the standards have been updated from time to time (the current issue is on the website) and most significantly UK Healers took part in work led by Skills for Health to develop a National Occupational Standard for healing. That work was successfully completed in 2011 (CNH25 issued March 2011) and further adjustments were made to the UK Healers standards so that they were consistent with the National Occupational Standard.

The initial accreditation had been on a time limited basis and as the UK Healers standards had evolved in response to external considerations the member organisations agreed it was necessary to be sure that UK Healers members' current practice was in step with the standards as they had evolved. Members agreed that a process of re-accreditation would be appropriate and this process is currently ongoing.

UK Healers Membership

It would have been surprising if over the past 15 years there had not been significant changes in membership. Over that time some UK Healers member organisations have gained more healers. Others have seen their membership reduce or in a few cases the organisations have ceased to exist and some which once affiliated to UK Healers have left while yet others have replaced them. All healing organisations large and small are welcome to apply to join UK Healers and will be accepted into Associate Membership (the normal category for new member

organisations) provided they can achieve the standard for accreditation. UK Healers will be ready to assist with advice on actions needed if the standards cannot be met at the outset.

The advantage for organisations of affiliating to UK Healers is the recognition it provides that the organisation places high value on protecting the public. Their individual healers are also able to reassure the public that they are Registered UK Healers. This individual healer registration is never direct but is always through the member organisation that affiliates to UK Healers. It offers a very economical way for the organisation and individual healer to provide evidence of high standards.

Core Curriculum

Readers may also be interested to know that for the past two years UK Healers has been collaborating with the Confederation of Healing Organisations (CHO) to develop, for the benefit of the whole healing movement, a Core Curriculum which those who develop healer training programmes can use to determine topics to cover and at what depth according to the standard at which they plan to teach. This Core Curriculum which should be finalised this year not only covers all the topics in the National Occupational Standard but also aims to provide a common curriculum that satisfies the requirements of the General Regulatory Council for Complementary Therapies and the Complementary and Natural Healthcare Council for those healers who wish to register with one or other of these bodies because a publicly funded organisation usually requires that registration.

Finally

We hope you have found this Newsletter of interest and if you have queries or comments please send them by email to admin@ukhealers.info.

Please use the same address to let us know if you would like to receive future newsletters.