

# Renewal Therapy Service

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| SOP Reference:                           | Date:            |
| <b>Confidentiality policy &amp; Data</b> | <b>June 2022</b> |
| Author:                                  |                  |
| Listening Service collaborative          | Signature:       |
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| <b>June 2023</b>                         |                  |

## Policy Statement

Renewal Therapy service is an organisational member of the BACP follows their code of ethics and practices.

Confidentiality is an integral part of the Therapy Service, the only time the service would share any information given by a client would be in a supervision team meeting when no client names are revealed and:

- If the client is involved in criminal action (following appropriate consultation)
- If a client or third party is at risk of harm especially a child or an adult with care and support needs
- At the specific request of the client (written confirmation or permission will be sought)

In all cases the therapist would, in the first instance, be encouraging the client themselves to disclose the information to the appropriate party.

In the case of a threat of suicide, the GP and Renewal Therapy Service Manager will be notified. If the client is a partner at Renewal, the Service Manager will be notified and a decision made on the basis of the client's request about who else should be notified (e.g. a Pastor).

In the case of a possible breach of the Child Protection Act, Social Services will be notified after appropriate consultation with the Safeguarding Officer at Renewal.

In the case of a criminal act, the Police may be notified, after appropriate consultation with the Safeguarding Officer at Renewal.

## **Signing in on arrival**

Clients will not be required to put their name in the signing in book in reception. For Health and Safety reasons the client will be required to sign in as 'client' in the main reception, for the purpose of safe evacuation in the event of an emergency.

## **Notes and log**

In keeping with the BACP, Therapists will be required to keep notes and a log. In order to offer confidentiality these will be only be kept on BACPAC. If therapists choose to make paper notes during sessions, these must be transferred to BACPAC before leaving the premises, and the paper destroyed in the shredder. No notes with any identifying information may be taken from the premises at any time.

## **Permission slip**

When a client wishes a Therapist to contact a third person in regard to the sessions, they will need to signed permission slip to authorise contact. When a Therapist feels there is a need to contact a GP or other professional, they will discuss this with the client and no contact will be made unless the client signs the consent form. This will be the policy unless there are circumstances as outlined above and repeated below:

- If the client is involved in criminal action (following appropriate consultation)
- If a client or third party is at risk of harm especially a child or an adult with care and support needs
- At the specific request of the client (written confirmation or permission will be sought)

A copy of the Permission slip can be seen in the appendix.

## **The room**

The room designated for therapy has a CCTV camera in the room (video only, no audio). This is for the safety of both the Therapist and client. The client will not face the camera. There will be a sign on the door to stop people from interrupting the session and the client will not be easily visible from the window in the door.

## **Supervision**

The Therapy team has one-to-one and/occasionally group supervision. Cases can be brought to supervision and confidentiality is maintained. However, in the case where a person is easily identifiable to the team, efforts will be made to keep supervision of that case between the specific Therapist and the Supervisor.

## **Meetings outside of the Therapy sessions**

As some of the Therapists attend Renewal as members of the congregation, it is even more likely that they may see clients outside of the Therapy Service (inside or outside church). In this case the Therapist will be discreet and keep acknowledgement to a minimum (for example just a smile).

If the client wishes it, the Therapist will ignore the client outside the therapy relationship. It is therefore helpful if the client does not approach the Therapist on a social basis whilst the relationship is in progress and for a period of time afterwards. Therapists do not usually work with people in a therapeutic role that they know in other types of current relationships.

## **Internal referrals**

When a person has been referred for therapy by a pastor or church member, that leader sometimes may want to check on the progress of the client. This information is confidential and the Therapist will not be obliged to share any information, unless the client wishes for a minimum of information to be passed on such as “yes I am still seeing the person you referred and we are working well together/something similar”.

The Therapist may mention to the client that a leader has asked after their progress and the client then can choose whether to contact the leader or not. If more communication is needed between the Therapist and the referring leader, a permission slip will need to be signed by the client.

## **External referrals**

We may take referrals from many sources and will only pass information about a client at their request or in the case of risk, to their GP, Social Services or the Police.

## **Training**

All practicing Therapists have to be involved in ongoing professional development (OPD) according to the BACP guidelines. Training often involves the writing of case studies or using examples from practices to illustrate points. The Therapist always protects the confidentiality of the client by changing the name and details so that the client is in no way identifiable. If a client does not wish their material to be used in such a way their wishes are upheld. In this case when the initial agreement is signed the client will cross through that section and sign by the side of it in the margin, to indicate that their material is not to be used in this way.

## **Data Protection**

The service is covered by and complies with the DPA policy of Renewal Christian Centre.