

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE APPLICATIONS

YOUR CHANCE TO INFLUENCE THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE THERAPY
PROFESSION

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COSRT IS SEEKING APPLICATIONS TO JOIN A NEW COMMITTEE

We are looking for applications from dynamic, committed professionals from both in and outside COSRT's Membership to join a new Professional Standards Committee.

This will group work with the Chief Executive to advise and report to the board, supporting key pillars of our work. This is your chance to make a difference to the development of the therapy sector in the UK. Your chance to support our ongoing development as we cement our position as a sector-leading organisation.

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

COSRT is the Professional Body for Psychosexual and Relationship Therapies. We set quality training and ethical standards for therapists. We hold two Registers of therapists who meet or exceed these standards. We accredit and deliver training. We carry out and support research. And we support the public with information.

WHAT IS THE COMMITTEE?

The Professional Standards Committee will be an oversight and advisory group linked to the Board. It will give advice on ensuring the best standards are set for individual practitioners and training courses. It will work to ensure the organisation's policies and procedures protect professionals and the public. And it will play a key role in supporting COSRT's cross-sector and wider regulatory engagement.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for people with the skills described in the Person Specifications (below). The Committees will include COSRT Members and non-Members – so we invite applications from both.

We are seeking at least one non-COSRT Member, and two COSRT Members.

To ensure our Committees are as diverse as possible we are particularly keen to receive applications from Black, Asian and minority ethnic people, people with disabilities, or who experience physical or mental health concerns; people who identify as being LGBTQIA+.

PERSON SPECIFICATION – PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

We seek applicants with some or all of the following key skills and experiences to join our Professional Standards Committee:

- Understanding of the regulatory context for therapy including the PSA and statutory regulatory bodies.
- An awareness of Psychosexual and Relationship Therapies, and the risks associated with them as well as mitigating factors and actions.
- An understanding of good practice for individual and training standards.
- Awareness of how therapy training is delivered in the UK and the shape of the sector including key organisations.
- Experience of setting and/or monitoring individual standards.
- Experience of setting, implementing and/or monitoring standards for training.
- Have no adverse professional conduct judgements recorded.
- Are free from any conflicts of interest that cannot be mitigated.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COSRT MEMBER APPLICANTS

Applicants from COSRT Membership must be able to show that they:

- Are an Accredited COSRT Member or above.
- Have at least five years' post-qualification experience in Psychosexual and Relationship Therapy and/or Relationship Therapy.

WHAT'S INVOLVED

- The Committees will meet between three and four times a year.
- Meetings will be held remotely.
- The Committee will appoint a Chair from within its membership.
- Committee members may be asked to take on specific roles, for example to attend additional meetings if necessary.
- All Committee members are expected to participate in discussions, provide opinions and make decisions as required.
- Committee members may be contacted by staff for support in their specific area of expertise.
- Committee members will serve for a term of up to two years, and no longer than four years consecutively.

RESPONSIBILITY OF A COMMITTEE MEMBER

- Keep up to date with all relevant areas relating to your area of expertise and how these impact COSRT and the wider professions it serves.
- Be a source of advice and guidance to trustees and staff on matters relating to your expertise and ensure that agreed delegations are adhered to across the organisation.
- To actively take part in meetings and lead or participate in other committees to help develop the profession.
- To be an advocate for COSRT and Psychosexual and Relationship Therapies.

OTHER INFORMATION

Committee Members are volunteers without remuneration save for reasonable expenses. The Committee will work closely with the CEO, and will provide reports to the Board. Meetings will be held remotely, with the possibility of in-person meetings if requested by members.

NEXT STEPS

Please send your CV, two professional referees and a covering letter (two page maximum) demonstrating your suitability for the role to john.dodd@cosrt.org.uk. All completed applications should be received by end of 22nd September 2023.

Following the closing date, we will shortlist applicants and arrange interviews before Committee members are confirmed in October.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity before applying, please e-mail John Dodd, Chief Executive Officer (john.dodd@cosrt.org.uk) to arrange a discussion with the Chair or CEO.

Professional Standards Committee

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the committee is to ensure COSRT's professional standards are fit for purpose and properly applied. The aim is to maintain 'Best Practice' as the benchmark for COSRT and the Register(s) it maintains. This committee reports to the Board of Trustees in an advisory capacity on standards for individual membership, accredited training, and associated policies and practices. It is also able to provide advice to COSRT senior management.

Scope

The committee will:

- Maintain COSRT's Risk Registers related to the professions it oversees.
- Advise and contribute to work relating to PSA or other regulation.
- Keep abreast of current thinking, standards, legal obligations, and general levels of professional and training standards.
- Build and maintain links to other organisations to promote knowledge exchange and mutual acceptance of standards across the sector.
- Be available to give non-binding advice on the any review of professional standards or related policies and procedures – including those related to individual membership and training accreditation - subject to request from either the Board of Trustees or the CEO.
- Be available to give non-binding advice on course accreditation or membership application processes subject to request from either the Board of Trustees or the Registrar.
- Review professional and training standards annually and propose adjustments to staff and Trustees.

Authority

The committee is advisory. It will make reports to the Board and support/advise the CEO. This committee does not have any financial authority.

Membership

Membership is expected to comprise of a minimum of:

- One layperson
- Two COSRT Members
- One COSRT staff member (ex officio)

All members are agreed by the board. Appointments last two years and are renewable once subject to Board agreement.

Meeting Arrangements

The committee will aim to meet quarterly and will meet no less than three times per year.

Reporting

The committee reports to the COSRT Board of Trustees.

Resources

The committee has administration support available to it via an ex-officio COSRT staff member or other staff member.

Review

The terms of reference of this committee will be reviewed annually and will be a standing agenda item on the first Board meeting of the new year.



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