

# HIGHGATE COUNSELLING CENTRE

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Registered Charity No: 289420

## Diploma in Psychodynamic Counselling September 2017 - December 2019 Course Outline

### Introduction

The Diploma in Psychodynamic Counselling provided by Highgate Counselling Centre is accredited by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP). Successful completion of the course fulfils part of the criteria for BACP accreditation for those wishing to acquire accredited status in the longer term. This is a part-time course.

### Course Objectives

The course focuses on three specific areas:

- Psychodynamic theory and concepts
- Counselling skills practice
- Self-awareness and personal development

This is supported by supervised clinical work, which is normally undertaken at Highgate Counselling Centre (HCC). In exceptional circumstances, an external placement may be necessary.

### Course Structure and Timetable

The diploma runs for two years and one term from September 2017 until December 2019.

- Year one (September 2017-July 2018) is divided into three terms of ten weeks duration (terms 1-3).
- Year two (September 2018-July 2019) is also divided into three terms of ten weeks duration (terms 4-6).
- Term seven (September 2019-December 2019) does not require your attendance on Monday or Wednesday evenings but is included to allow you to complete the requisite number of clinical hours and to complete the final clinical paper.

There are half-term/reading breaks each term, which are usually in line with the school timetable.

## **Timetable**

Induction First Monday 19.00-22.00 (date to be confirmed)

Seminars and  
Experiential Group Process Monday evenings 19.00-22.00

Counselling Skills Wednesday evenings 19.00-22.00

The theoretical elements of the course are delivered on Monday evenings in the form of seminars. These seminars are followed by 'experiential group process'. Counselling skills practice sessions take place on Wednesday evenings. The first part of Wednesday evening comprises a taught element.

## **Experiential Group Process**

This takes place on Monday evenings following the taught theoretical seminars. The aim of the group is to promote communication skills, self-awareness, awareness of others and awareness of the processes of group interaction. The group is run by an experienced group facilitator.

## **Time Commitment**

Students need to allow 20-25 hours per week to cover the following aspects of the course. The figures below are provided as a rough guideline, but may differ for individual students.

- Monday evening attendance (3 hours per week)
- Wednesday evening attendance (3 hours per week)
- Saturday workshop (one per term for 6 hours)
- Reading and presentations (minimum 5 hours per week)
- Personal Development Journal (up to 1 hour per week)
- Clinical work (working towards 3-4 hours per week)
- Writing up session notes (up to 2 hours per week)
- Weekly supervision (1.5 hours per week)
- Writing of academic papers (approx. 20-25 hours per paper). The final clinical paper may take longer for you to complete.

## Brief Overview of Each Term

Term One: Introduction to Psychodynamic Concepts  
Working within an Ethical Framework

Saturday Diversity Preparing for Supervision  
Workshops 1000-1600 1000-1200

Term Two: Psychodynamic Perspectives on Human Development

Saturday Medication and Diagnosis Office Induction/Working with your first client  
Workshops 1000-1600 1000-1600

Term Three: Attachment and Loss

Saturday Suicide and Risk Assessment  
Workshop 1000-1600

Term Four: Object Relations

Saturday Psychosexuality  
Workshop 1000-1600

Term Five: Time Limited Psychotherapy

Saturday Mentalisation Based Therapy  
Workshop 1000-1600

Term Six: Psychopathology

Saturday Dynamic Interpersonal Therapy  
Workshop 1000-1600

Term Seven: Completion of Clinical Paper and Counselling Hours

Saturday Assessment for Psychodynamic Counselling  
Workshop 1000-1600

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Note: the above may be subject to change

## **Clinical Work**

A major advantage of training with Highgate Counselling Centre is the provision of a counselling placement providing both clinical work and supervision for students. This forms a major part of the programme and enables students to bring together their theoretical and practical training in a safe and secure environment. Students will see, on average, up to 3-4 clients per week. A minimum of 100 hours supervised clinical work is needed to complete the course.

Clinical work is central to the training and involves working with both male and female clients of different ages and from a diversity of backgrounds. This clinical experience provides an invaluable opportunity for students to integrate their theoretical and practical training while under the supervision of experienced practitioners.

Skills practice sessions will take place during term one about starting to work with clients. An induction programme will take place in term two in readiness for you to start work with your first HCC client.

Once you are deemed 'ready to practice', you will be allocated your first HCC client in agreement with your supervisor. You will be expected to have been in personal psychodynamic therapy for a minimum of six months before starting work with clients. All clients are seen at Highgate Counselling Centre.

## **External Placement**

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for students to undertake part of their clinical work with an external organisation. This external placement must be approved by the Director of HCC.

## **Supervision**

Group supervision of clinical work takes place with a psychodynamic supervisor for one and a half hours per week for the duration of the course. Supervision is carried out at Highgate Counselling Centre or in the supervisor's consulting room. Holidays are negotiated with the supervisor. An assessment of your progress in supervision is carried out three times per year until you complete the qualification.

You will be allocated a supervision group in advance of starting to work with your first client. A tutorial will take place in term one about joining your supervision group. The cost of supervision is included in the course fees.

## **Personal Therapy**

Applicants for the Diploma in Psychodynamic Counselling must be established in personal psychodynamic therapy with a therapist approved by HCC (see below). The therapy must be at a minimum of one session per week and should ideally have started prior to commencing training with us. Fees for personal therapy are not included in the course fees and are therefore an additional cost to the student.

You will need to have been in therapy for at least six months prior to seeing your first client. This means that therapy should begin by the beginning of September 2017 at the very latest. Our view is that the earlier therapy is commenced, the more beneficial it is to both the student and potential clients.

On-going personal therapy continues for the duration of the course and throughout your placement with us. For example, if a student has successfully completed the academic papers but has not achieved 100 client hours, then therapy must be continued until these contact hours are achieved.

Therapy must be undertaken with a qualified psychotherapist or analyst who has trained with an approved training organisation, is registered with a recognised professional body and has a minimum 5 years post qualification experience. A list detailing these approved training organisations is available as a download from our website.

### **Assessment**

Assessment is continuous throughout the course with self, peer, supervisor, seminar leader and training manager elements. The confidentiality of the experiential group is held by the group facilitator who, in exceptional circumstances, may consult with the Director or the Training Manager at HCC.

Successful completion of the course with satisfactory progress in theoretical understanding, personal development and in relating theory to client work/personal experience will be necessary to receive the diploma. A minimum attendance of 80% is mandatory for each term in order to be awarded the diploma.

### **Academic Papers and Final Clinical Paper**

Students are required to complete four academic papers as part of the assessment process (3,000 words each) together with a final clinical paper which comprises a case study (5,000 words). These papers are:

1. Compare and contrast the psychodynamic model with another model of therapy;
2. Attachment and Loss;
3. Describe your philosophy of counselling and how it has developed;
4. Research a presenting issue that interests you;
5. Final Clinical Paper (Case Study).

## **Fees**

These consist of:

- A registration and interview fee of £95.00 (cheque made payable to Highgate Counselling Centre or via BACS payment). This is payable with your application and is non-refundable.
- The fee for the course is £8,280.00. This can:
  - (a) be paid up front by your employer;
  - (b) be paid by yourself as a lump sum up front in advance of starting the training course;
  - (c) you may choose to pay a place acceptance fee of £450.00 to secure your place on the course, followed by 27 monthly payments of £290.00 per month.

Should you choose option (c) above, once you have paid the place acceptance fee, if you do not start the course, you remain liable for the course fees for the first term.

- If students require additional time to complete their client hours or academic work, then an on-going monthly fee of £100.00 is required to cover administration and supervision costs. This will be applicable from the end of term seven.
- A one off fee of £52.00 to cover an enhanced Disclosure and Barring System (DBS) check. This must be completed before starting to work with clients.
- You may be eligible to apply for a professional and career development loan. If this is something you wish to pursue, please raise this with the Training Manager, Kevin Hamilton, once you have submitted your application.

## **Premature Leaving or Early Termination of Your Training**

Students who leave the course prematurely (either through choice or by termination of your training programme by the Training Committee) you remain liable for the fees of the term during which your training was terminated, plus the following two terms.

HCC reserve the right to terminate your training if satisfactory progress is not maintained. A full account will be taken of individual circumstances before a decision is reached.

HCC also reserve the right to terminate your training if you engage in discriminatory practices or engage in any other, unacceptable behaviour(s). A full account will be taken of the circumstances before a decision is reached.

## **Application**

Individuals are asked to apply in writing. The selection process consists of:

- A completed application form
- A supporting statement
- Two separate interviews by two individual members of the training team  
(The cost of the interviews are covered by the registration and interview fee)

## **Next Steps**

An application form is available as a download from our website or from the Training Manager at Highgate Counselling Centre. Telephone 020 8883 5427 or e-mail [kevin.hamilton@highgatecounselling.org.uk](mailto:kevin.hamilton@highgatecounselling.org.uk) for this information.

Please return your completed application form and supporting statement together with the registration and interview fee by 31 May 2017 to:

Kevin Hamilton  
Training Manager  
Highgate Counselling Centre  
Tetherdown Halls  
Tetherdown  
London N10 1ND

E: [kevin.hamilton@highgatecounselling.org.uk](mailto:kevin.hamilton@highgatecounselling.org.uk)