

# Formation of the NA(PQ)P

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Psychotherapists may be interested to know that there is now another contender in the field so far dominated by the UKCP and the BCP. This is the National Association for (Psychologically Qualified) Psychotherapists, more familiarly known as the NAP. It was formed in January 1996, and is restricted to those with a degree in psychology. There is, however, no mention of the British Psychological Society, which seems a little odd.

It is clearly stated to be quite distinct from UKCP, whose members may join, if suitably qualified, but not vote. It does not mention BCP in the same way, and in fact goes out of its way to say that 'the UKCP's understanding and implied definition of "psychotherapy" and "psychotherapist" as inferred by the academic criteria which may be used as a base for "psychotherapy training", are not shared or accepted by the BCP or the NAP as adequate or appropriate'. It believes that the professional practice of psychotherapy is 'the natural domain of psychology'.

In some ways the NAP are quite opposed to the UKCP, and go as far as to say

that 'to infer that psychotherapy already exists as a profession or a solely UKCP-regulated practice, and any subsequent attempt to influence FHSAs [Family Health Service Associations] and other prospective employers of psychotherapists on the basis of this is misleading and dishonest'.

So the new organization is clearly divisive, and intends to publish its own directory and register of members in 1997. It admits to membership all kinds of psychotherapists (psychoanalytic, humanistic, behavioural or integrative), so long as they are suitably qualified. It has a constitution, a code of ethics, a code of practice and a complaints procedure. It is still open to 'Founder Members'.

Its information is professionally produced and well laid out, and its statements are quite clear, whether one likes them or not. The address to write to is Joanna Price, Membership Secretary, 5 Bollans Court, York YO1 2QB. No other names are given of any of those involved, at least in the papers I have seen so far.

