



network
counselling and training

Mission Partner of the Month—February 2022

Network Counselling and Training was founded in 1986 by a group of Christians from local churches in Bristol and still maintains a strong Christian Ethos which is the motivation for all that we do.

The majority of our staff and a large number of our counsellors are Christians. Many of our clients also have a Christian faith and report that they appreciate being matched with a counsellor who understands the importance of their faith and where they can be fully themselves.

Network's ethos:

A commitment to live out God's grace, love and compassion for all human beings in everything we do, with Jesus as our example.

Latest news

Growing numbers in need

As ever, our service is under huge demand, and as a group our clients are bringing more complex difficulties.

In November 2021 we made the difficult decision to close our waiting list. Clients are experiencing extended waiting times, and it is important to prioritise our duty of care to clients who are waiting for counselling.

We are working hard to ensure clients are moved through their journey into counselling, and are hoping to re-open the waiting list as soon as we are able to do so.

A busy time in training

In September our training department welcomed a second cohort of students to our Advanced Diploma in Counselling for the first time.

The 2020 cohort of Advanced Diploma students have started their Counselling placement, and are working with clients who are carefully matched by our Counselling team.

Our courses of all levels are of an excellent standard, combining theoretical learning, skills practice and supported personal development elements. Students who qualify from our Diploma have a strong foundation for their careers!

Running a quality service

We are a small team at Network, and are all part time. This brings various challenges. The Winter has seen the team dig deep to work around staff changes and illnesses.

Our team of volunteer counsellors, as well as our part-qualified students on placement, have been patient and resilient as the team allocate clients to suitable counsellors.

We have welcomed our new Head of Counselling, Tricia Worthington, who brings a wealth of experience and a clear vision for supporting counsellors and maintaining a warm, professional experience for clients.

Client feedback

(Used with permission)

“Took some getting used to virtual counselling, but once I was accustomed I found it beneficial. I would definitely recommend Network to others.”

“I am so grateful to Network that I was able to access the counselling I so badly needed at a cost I could afford. Truly I have found the counselling I received to be life changing. The counsellor was immediately able to meet me where I was so the sessions flowed in a productive way always. That is, she 'met' the issues I was bringing swiftly and sensitively.”

“As someone from an African background, I was slightly skeptical about trying counselling. However my experience has been life changing, inspiring, encouraging.”



Please pray



For the team..

Please pray for our staff, who are working hard to maintain the service throughout changes in the team and staff sickness.

Pray that they are able to practice good self care, to find strength in each other, and to know the deep value of their work for clients and students.

For clients..

Please pray that our clients feel held, listened to and understood in their counselling.

Pray that their courage in calling out for help is met with compassion, as God meets the needs of those who ask of him, and that they find healing.

For support..

Please give thanks for God's grace in moving our many supporters to give financially and enable our ongoing work.

As the cost of simply maintaining our service rises each year, please pray that we are able to inspire funders to give generously.

St Michael's Church link: Julie Bradley

Network link: Rita Smith

www.network.org.uk

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Registered charity no. 292801

Thank you