



Press release: 28/01/14 [Updated due to rebranding: 26/11/14]

FHT Complementary Healthcare Therapist Register accredited by Professional Standards Authority

The FHT is proud to be the largest and longest standing professional association for complementary healthcare therapists to have its register approved as an Accredited Register by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care.

The Professional Standards Authority is an independent body accountable to Parliament, and oversees the UK's nine statutory health and care regulatory bodies, including the General Medical Council and Nursing and Midwifery Council. It launched its Accredited Register programme under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, to accredit voluntary registers of professionals working in a variety of health and social care occupations that are not statutorily regulated, such as complementary therapy.

FHT President, Jennifer Wayte, said: 'We are delighted the FHT's register has been approved as an Accredited Register by the Professional Standards Authority. Having independent, quality assurance of our register not only gives confidence to those seeking the services of a complementary healthcare therapist, it will also help the advancement of integrated healthcare. With the Accredited Registers programme being widely promoted to the NHS and private healthcare providers, we believe this will give FHT registrants greater opportunity to demonstrate the important role complementary therapy has to play alongside conventional medical care, particularly in helping patients to manage chronic conditions and make small but important lifestyle changes.'

Dr Michael Dixon, a GP and Chairman of NHS Alliance, said: 'Patients and GPs need to be assured about competence and safety when choosing the services of a professional complementary healthcare therapist. Anything that contributes to providing assurance is a step forward. It is therefore very good news to hear that FHT's Complementary Healthcare Therapist Register has now been accredited by the Professional Standards Authority under the new Accredited Registers programme. That is good for patients, good for professional complementary healthcare therapists, and also good for those who might want to signpost a patient towards a registered therapist.'

To view the FHT Complementary Healthcare Therapist Register, visit www.fht.org.uk/register

For more information, contact Karen Young at the FHT (T. 023 8062 4376 • kyoung@fht.org.uk)

Notes to editors:

- The complementary therapies currently represented on the FHT Complementary Healthcare Therapist Register are: acupuncture; Alexander technique; aromatherapy; body massage; Bowen technique; counselling; cranio-sacral therapy; healing; homeopathy; hypnotherapy; kinesiology; microsystems acupuncture; naturopathy; nutritional therapy; reflexology; reiki; shiatsu; sports therapy and yoga therapy.
- The Federation of Holistic Therapists (FHT) is the UK and Ireland's largest professional association for complementary, holistic beauty and sports therapists. Founded in 1962, the FHT has been promoting the highest standards in education and therapy practice for more than 50 years, and is totally independent of any external commercial interests. The FHT is a not-for-profit organisation, run by a governing council elected by its membership, comprising both professional and lay representation. The FHT is happy to advise or comment to the media on any many matters relating to complementary, holistic beauty and sports therapy, including training standards, safe and responsible practice, and regulation.
- For more information about the Professional Standards Authority and the Accredited Registers programme, visit www.professionalstandards.org.uk