

## **Ethos and values statement**

The Christian person-centred ethos of Network is the underlying motivation for all of the work we do, both as a counselling agency and as a training organisation. It is rooted in faith in God which is understood on a personal level. It rests on a commitment to live out God's grace, unconditional love and compassion for all human beings in everything we do. It also rests on the belief that people learn, grow and develop when they experience relationships which are characterised by the three core conditions of unconditional acceptance, empathy and genuineness. As a professional counselling and training organisation, whose primary purpose is the provision of a professional pastoral counselling service, our ethos is also shaped by and consistent with the core values and ethical principles of the counselling profession as outlined in the BACP Ethical Framework for Good Practice in Counselling and Psychotherapy.

In our relationships with those we work alongside, with our clients and with our students we seek to live out the core values of the Christian faith and person-centred philosophy that shape our way of being in the world. These core values are as follows:

**Equality:** we believe in the fundamental worth and equality of all human beings, irrespective of age, gender, race, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, physical and mental capability or any other attribute. This calls for an attitude of profound unconditional acceptance and valuing of each individual without exception.

**Inclusivity:** we value diversity and inclusivity and seek to embrace and live out these core values by welcoming, involving and working alongside people from all walks of life. We believe in the importance of creating a community that is willing and able to embrace all others, to offer them hospitality and to recognise and value the skills and resources they have to offer.

**Transformational learning:** we believe that there is within people a God-given potential and capacity for learning, growth and development and that we are therefore always in the process of actualising our potential. We seek to create a learning organisation in which everyone has the opportunity to realise his or her full potential and is supported and encouraged to become all that he or she can be.

**Well being:** we believe that all aspects of our human nature – body, mind and spirit - are closely inter-related and inter-dependent. We therefore seek to care for each other as whole persons and to create a community which is deeply committed to enhancing the well-being of all whose lives it touches.

**A person centred community:** as an organisation, we are committed to enabling people to experience a sense of belonging, of being accepted and valued, of being heard and understood, of being trusted and of having a voice in the process of decision-making. We are also committed to open, honest and respectful communication with each other at all levels of the organisation. We seek to deal with difficulties and disagreements between us with tolerance, sensitivity and compassion.