

Spiritual Direction - a Question of Accreditation?

England, Scotland and Wales 2018

Come and explore the potential for a national accreditation pathway for spiritual directors. This could be a further development from existing regional codes of conduct and a move towards a new organisation for supporting best practice. Whatever your viewpoint, be part of the discussion. Consultation meetings for those practising as directors/accompaniers:

Saturday 3 February 1.30 - 4.30pm: Quaker Meeting House, Friargate, York

Saturday 3 March 10am - 1pm: St Johns Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh

Saturday 28 April 2.30 - 5.30pm: Royal Foundation of St Katharine, London

Further details and booking www.reflectivespaces.org.uk/consultation
Donations welcome on the day to cover costs.

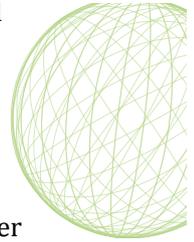
Or complete an **Online Survey** via this same webpage. This is open to directors, people who are *receiving* spiritual direction, or anyone who is interested in this consultation process in some other way.

reflectivespaces@yahoo.co.uk 01844 343 442

www.reflectivespaces.org.uk/consultation

further information overleaf

Elizabeth White and Lynette Harborne are both spiritual directors, supervisors and trainers. Elizabeth trained in the Ignatian tradition, and now offers various 'Reflective Spaces' alongside coordinating the adult learning programme for the Diocese of Edinburgh. Lynette is also a practising psychotherapist in Buckinghamshire, and has recently completed a doctoral thesis researching *What constitutes good practice in spiritual direction and what is the contribution of supervision?*



As a result of our shared interest in the development of good practice in spiritual direction, we have been reflecting on some of the issues that are raised as direction develops in the lay domain and within today's wider society. For us these include questions around accountability, ethics and safeguarding, how practice develops following training, and how we steward the gifts of the Spirit we have been given one with another. There are also questions around how people look for a suitable spiritual director; whilst various lists or contact points are available, these often do not act as 'referrals' and it may be difficult to differentiate between those with considerable and those with little experience. Alongside this, valuable ethical guidelines or codes of practice have developed in many regional areas in recent years, but around which there is not as yet a pathway for public accountability. Accreditation may be a next step to address some of these questions within today's culture.

We are considering the possibility of setting up some form of voluntary accreditation pathway for spiritual directors which would help to indicate levels of training and experience, give information about individual's styles and approaches and offer an additional benchmark for continuity and accountability of practice beyond training. We are aware of very varied viewpoints on accreditation and we wish to explore what interest there may be in this, as well as areas of concern.

The sessions will include:

- exploration of ethical dilemmas and presentation of doctoral research
- consideration of the pros and cons of a national accreditation pathway
- the value of local regional groups
- gauging interest in a new national network
- the who, how and what of possible accreditation

In the sessions we will *not* be:

- exploring accreditation of training courses, but of individuals
- aiming to introduce mandatory registration

To hear more, or be kept informed about this consultation project, please sign up for email updates using the form on www.reflectivespaces.org.uk/consultation

All practising directors will be welcome and we would warmly invite you to attend whichever date or area is suitable. Currently consultations meetings will take place in England and Scotland; Ireland already has an accrediting body. If you are part of a local network please feel free to pass on this information. Every contribution will be very welcome!