

Statement in support of UKCP vice chair nomination

William Daniel-Braham

As I conclude my rewarding term as a Trustee for UKCP, I am seeking your support to carry on my involvement and to serve as Vice-Chair.

Over the past four years, I have been privileged to lead initiatives that champion equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), including the establishment of the EDI Committee, the recruitment of the EDI Chair, and the development of the UKCP EDI Action Plan.

The EDI Committee has reflected on what we stand for and proposed a change in the acronym of the committee to better represent the current climate of diversity and inclusivity. We have adopted the term BIIDE, which stands for Belonging, Intersectionality, Inclusivity, Diversity and Equity. Internally we are known as the BIIDE Committee, but externally and in paperwork we join the acronyms so that we are discoverable in searches and are referred to as the EDI-BIIDE Committee

These foundational achievements reflect my deep commitment to fostering an organisation where inclusivity is at the heart of everything we do.

As Vice-Chair, I aim to build on this momentum, driving the EDI-BIIDE Strategy forward and embedding its principles across all levels of UKCP. This means not only championing EDI-BIIDE objectives but also ensuring they translate into meaningful practices that enhance our work, our culture, and our impact. Together, we can create an organisation that exemplifies accessibility, accountability, and fairness—empowering diverse voices and ensuring psychotherapy reaches all communities.

I bring to this role a combination of experience, vision, and determination to see UKCP become a beacon of inclusivity in the mental health sector. With your support, I am committed to advancing this vital agenda and continuing to strengthen our shared mission.

The role that I have had on the Board of Trustees has been titled the **EDI-BIIDE Liaison** for the Board and this has meant having an EDI-BIIDE overview when considering policies, procedures and practices. Through this campaign, I am proposing that the role of Vice-Chair has a more designated responsibility of supporting the **EDI-BIIDE Strategy** moving forward. This would work alongside and complement the role of the Chair driving the main UKCP 3-year strategy that was launched recently at the UKCP Conference and AGM.

I intend to focus on there being more direct engagement and involvement with members within our organisation. Most recently I have been instrumental in the setting up of a special interest group for LGBTQIA+ members of UKCP. In just a few months the group has grown to 28 members and it's only in its infancy.

After the UKCP conference in November last year, I was approached to consider the setting up of another Special Interest Group for Neurodivergent members of UKCP. These groups have come about through direct communications with members through webinars or at the conference and it indicates that when offered opportunities to be more involved and have a voice within the organisation, people are willing to put themselves forward.

For the past three years, I have been the only board member who isn't the stereotypical white, heterosexual, middle-class, cis-gendered person that is commonly representative of our profession. This demographic is not representative of either the membership of our organisation or the public we serve.

In its recent blog, 'Why diversity matters for Regulator Councils' the Professional Standards Authority states "As regulator councils set the strategic direction for the organisation, it is important that the membership of those councils reflect the wider public, the patients and registrants." My commitment would be to work with the Board, staff, the BIIDE Committee and members to ensure that this is both a commitment and an achievable goal within our organisation over the coming years.

I intend to use my own personal experience and intersectional lenses to drive this process. I am a dual heritage male practitioner, born and raised in the most culturally diverse borough in the country. I have worked with and grown from the intersectionality of my cultural selves and use this to influence who I am today as a practitioner and in my work with others.

I draw on my race, my background, my class, my gender, my sexuality, my neurodivergence and more to both make meaning of what the client brings and indeed make meaning of my own experience of the world in which we all find ourselves in with one another. I bring this overall vision of working with people to all considerations in my role as a trustee serving the board, the staff, our members and the wider public.

Thank you for your trust and consideration.