



LEVEL 4 DIPLOMA

IN THERAPEUTIC COUNSELLING

SEPT 2026- JULY 2028

AWARDED BY CPCAB
REGULATED BY OFQUAL

AN IN DEPTH INTEGRATIVE COURSE THAT PROVIDES A
ROBUST CLINICAL PLATFORM FROM WHICH NEWLY
QUALIFIED COUNSELLORS CAN FLOURISH



VENUE:

Willows Counselling & Training
The Willows Centre
Swindon - SN1 3LQ - Wiltshire

UK Charity No 1185304



Is this the course for me?

COURSE DETAILS



COURSE OVERVIEW

The Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling is a nationally regulated qualification awarded by the Counselling and Psychotherapy Awarding Body (CPCAB).

This 2 year part-time course provides students with the knowledge, skills and competencies to work as a therapeutic counsellor in an agency context in both health care and non-medical settings.

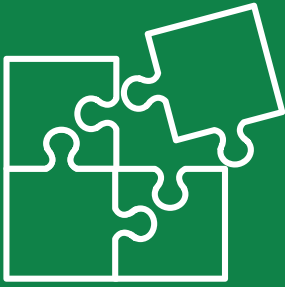
Successful completion of the course means that you will be able to provide a therapeutic counselling service - initially within the context of an agency's service framework, but later, with experience and/or further training, in private practice.

The course is taught with 3 central areas of focus; the knowledge and integration of counselling theory, the mastering of practical counselling skills, and the active enhancement of one's self-awareness and personal development in a deep and profound way.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

- Attending the training session each week
- Producing weekly reflective learning reviews of progress, self-awareness, and integration of theoretical knowledge
- Attending tutorials with a personal tutor
- Reading books from the required & recommended reading lists
- Completion of a substantial portfolio of written work including written assignments and clinical case studies
- Triad skills practice sessions and group training supervision
- Group work, presentations, and reflective exercises
- Completion of 100 hours of supervised clinical practice
- Ongoing weekly therapy is highly recommended. The minimum accepted is **30 hours per year (60 hours in total)**.
- Being assessed as proficient internally

The course will also require an additional time commitment for clinical placement, study, reading, research and written work in addition to attending the training session each week.



What theoretical model will I be taught?

THEORETICAL MODEL & LEARNING OUTCOMES



WILLOWS INTEGRATIVE MODEL

The Willows approach to therapeutic counselling uses an Integrative Model which is client centred, and can be described as:

- Person Centred at its core
- Drawing on and blending insights from 3 main counselling models; Person centred, Psychodynamic, and CBT
- Is informed by Developmental and Attachment Theory
- Holds a holistic view of human functioning
- Recognises a transpersonal world-view that is Christian, whilst respecting spirituality in its widest sense as being a resource for recovery and healing

Willows Counselling & Training is renowned for its specialism in the field of trauma. To enhance the knowledge and skill of our students as they enter clinical practice, Willows provides additional training and psycho education to support working with survivors of early life neglect, trauma, abuse, disruptive attachment, and attachment disorders.

CPCAB LEARNING OUTCOMES?

The Willows Level 4 Diploma addresses the 7 processes (or units) of the CPCAB working model.

The Learning Outcomes specified by CPCAB as the criteria for Level 4 of their working model are described as:

- Unit 1: Working ethically, safely and professionally as a counsellor
- Unit 2: Working within a counselling relationship
- Unit 3: Working with client diversity in counselling work
- Unit 4: Working within a user-centred approach to counselling
- Unit 5: Working with self-awareness in the counselling process
- Unit 6: Working within a coherent framework of counselling theory and skills
- Unit 7: Working self-reflectively as a counsellor



How is the qualification assessed?

ASSESSMENT & PLACEMENT



CLINICAL PLACEMENT

Students are required to complete 100 hours of Supervised Clinical Practice with a minimum of 5 clients during the 2 years of the Diploma course.

It is the responsibility of the student to research and secure a placement to meet this aspect of the course. Students are able to begin clinical practice once assessed as 'fit to practice' by the course tutors - typically in the spring of Year 1. Students must secure and commence a suitable placement during Year 1 or they will be unable to proceed onto Year 2 of the course.

Student placement work must be supported by a minimum of 1.5 hours of clinical supervision per month. The cost of supervision will be covered by the student if not is not provided by the placement agency.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

In order to achieve the qualification, students are required to be assessed as proficient in both the internal and ongoing assessment process.

INTERNAL ASSESSMENT

This is an ongoing process which is undertaken through a variety of methods; marked assignments, personal assessments, Peer and Tutor feedback, skills observations, and supervision reports. Tutors have an ethical and professional responsibility to assess students as proficient **only** if they meet the required standard across all aspects of the course. Students who do not meet the expected standard, will not be awarded qualification.

DEFERRAL

In exceptional circumstances, should all 100 clinical placement hours not be completed at the end of the course, students can defer their qualification for up to 12 months. The cost of deferral into a 3rd year is £425.

Willows do not offer the option to students to defer from one course group to another.



What about the training centre?

TRAINING AT WILLOWS



WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY...

"Training on the level 4 diploma course at Willows has afforded me the opportunity for the kind of atmosphere that is supportive, and a course content that is comprehensive and interesting. The smaller, more personal setting makes for a learning environment where peer friendships are formed, and have made my learning experience feel I am on a journey with friends"

LH - 2020/2022 course

"The Level 4 Diploma course at Willows has allowed me to continue my counselling journey with confidence and a strong belief that I have gained firm foundations with which to work with a variety of clients. I experienced the content of the course as wide ranging and thorough. My learning was supported by my confident and competent tutors, and I have formed relationships with my peers which I believe will last a lifetime."

MW - 2018/2020 course

WHY TRAIN WITH WILLOWS?

- We have over 30 years experience of providing high quality counselling training and are well respected in our field
- We believe that our approach to training sets us apart from other course providers. We are truly committed to the personal, professional and emotional development of our students, and to nurturing their unique qualities and attributes
- As an active Counselling Agency, we offer a unique training experience where students are exposed to the workings of an agency setting where the end goal of qualifying as a counsellor is always in sight
- Willows can offer a number of student placements
- Willows teaches an Integrative model of counselling with Person Centred theory at its core. This enables student to develop a robust and varied comprehension of the complexities of psychological issues and the most appropriate and effective ways to support
- We equip our students to work with a breadth of clinical issues, and provide specialist foundational training in trauma and attachment
- Subsidised course fees, in keeping with our charitable aims and ethos
- Our Level 4 students are eligible to apply for a Totum student discount card





What is the cost and can I apply?

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



COURSE FEE

The course fee is **£5950***

**Exclusive of books, personal therapy, supervision, membership body registration, 6x Willows Workshops and travel expenses incurred.*

The course fee can be paid in full, or by deposit of £1330 with 22 monthly instalments of £210

Upon accepting a place on the course, students commit to paying the full course fee, regardless of whether they finish or pass the course.

Refunds are only offered in line with our Cancellations and Refund Policy*
(*available on request)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

This qualification is intended for candidates who have gained counselling training qualifications up to Level 3, with a minimum of 180 Guided Learning Hours.

- Minimum age is 19 years
- Proven ability to meet the academic requirements
- Strong emotional resources and emotional resilience
- Willingness to proactively embrace and engage in a deep level of self-awareness and personal development
- Full completion of the course application form including pre-course essay
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview

The intensity of Level 4 training means that it is not advisable for those dealing with ongoing emotional issues or enduring mental health difficulties.

COURSE DATES

Dates - 10th September 2026 - July 2028

Day & Time - Thursdays, 9.30am - 3.45pm

Additions - 1x tutor led Saturday and 3x Saturday workshops each year*

*(Saturday workshop is charged at an additional cost offered at a special student concessionary rate)

A minimum of 80% attendance will be required for successful completion.

APPLY NOW

Application packs available at www.willowscounselling.org.uk

For further details, contact our Training department
email: training-enquiries@willowscounselling.org.uk
tel: 01793 426650

UK Charity No 1185304

