Ethics Protocol

This protocol sets out a set of general principles applicable to all research contexts and is intended to cover all research with human participants.

Reference will be made to ‘The Code of Human Research Ethics’ produced by The British Psychological Society and the British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy’s (BACP) ‘Ethical Framework for Good Practice in Counselling & Psychotherapy’ will be consulted in all cases where there may be conflicting interests.

The Ethics Committee is responsible for ensuring informed decisions are taken on the approval of any project which involves consideration of ethical issues. Researchers should respect the rights and dignity of participants in their research and the legitimate interests of stakeholders such as funders, institutions, sponsors and society at large. Participants in psychological research should have confidence in the investigators. Good psychological research is only possible if there is mutual respect and trust between investigators and participants.

The HE Strategy Group will act as an Ethics Committee to ensure.

1. the adherence to the concept of moral rights, including the rights to privacy, self-determination, personal liberty and natural justice;
2. individual, cultural and role differences; including those involving age, sex, disability, education, ethnicity, gender, language, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, marital or family situation and socio-economic status are respected,
3. that individuals may choose not to be involved in research;
4. that all individual’s autonomy and privacy is respected
5. that any information collected will be stored ethically and securely

*Records*

Records of Ethics Protocol meetings will be kept within HE Strategy Group minutes.

*Conflicts of Interest*

A member of an Ethics Committee must declare any personal interest, involvement or relationship with an item being assessed. The declaration should be made either in advance to the Chair of the HE Strategy Group or at the meeting before any resolutions are considered. The person concerned must leave the meeting while the item is being considered.