



THE IMPORTANCE OF NETWORKING

1. It can help you find work.

Networking is an excellent way of finding out about upcoming jobs.

Like in most professions, a lot of work is via word of mouth or a personal recommendation.

Growing your network of contacts widens the opportunity to hear about job or career opportunities.

2. It will help develop you as a professional.

Meeting new people is a wonderful way of making professional contacts and sharing differing ideas and approaches.

Meeting other like-minded individuals can help you learn new skills, gain a better understanding of theory and develop your CV.

3. It is an ethical imperative.

Working with others in terms of gaining continuous professional development is considered best practice and is referred to in the BACP ethical framework under *Working to Professional Standards*.

" When we consider satisfying professional standards requires consulting others with relevant expertise, seeking second opinions, or making referrals, we will do so in ways that meet our commitments and obligations for client confidentiality and data protection."

4. It will help you meet new people.

Counselling can be a solitary occupation. We work alone with clients and usually in supervision. It can be very easy for those who are in private practice to develop a 'bunker mentality'. Networking is not only about professional issues; it's a great way of making new friends.

5. It's easier than ever.

Social media is a brilliant way of connecting to groups or individuals in your area. They are also useful to gain a sense of what the group or individual is about before committing to a connection.

Good networking sites include [LinkedIn](#) and [The Counselling Tutor Facebook page](#).