

TCTC NEWSLETTER

Dates for your Diary!

Adventures in Therapeutic Communities

The TCTC Annual Conference

7th – 10th September 2025

High Leigh Conference Centre, Hertfordshire

The Importance of Communities and Relationships Through and Beyond Care

7th July 2025

9am – 4pm

Priory Rooms, Birmingham

Social Dreaming and Visual Matrix

with Dr Hayley Burman

19th July 2025

10am – 1pm

Beethoven Centre, Third Avenue, London W10 4JL

The Lived Experience Network

Monthly meetings on the **last Thursday** of every month, except December

10.30am – 12.00pm

Online via Zoom

The International Group

12th September 2025

10am – 1pm

Online via Zoom

*For more information about our working groups,
training and events, please visit the website
or drop us an email*

*<https://therapeuticcommunities.org/training>
admin@therapeuticcommunities.org*

Dear TCTC Community

We are thrilled to bring you the second edition of our TCTC newsletter, a vibrant reflection of the transformative work happening within therapeutic communities, across the UK and beyond.

As we continue to foster connections, share knowledge and advocate for relational and trauma-informed care, this issue highlights inspiring member stories, upcoming events and opportunities to engage with our growing network. From the innovative practices at Oberstown Children Detention Campus to the rich history preserved in the Planned Environment Therapy Archives, our members are shaping a future where relationships and community are at the heart of healing.

We invite you to explore these pages, join our upcoming events, and contribute your voice to our shared mission of promoting therapeutic practice that honors diverse identities and empowers individuals.

For the latest updates on training and events, visit our [website](#) or drop us an email.

Or to share news about your community, submit an article, a poem or a piece of art, or even write a letter to your fellow members, share your submission to the TCTC Comms Group!



Meet a Member Community: *Oberstown Children Detention Campus, Dublin*



Oberstown Children Detention Campus (Oberstown) is Ireland's national facility for the detention, care and education of young people under 18 years referred by the courts on detention or remand orders. Established under the Children Act, 2001, the campus provides individualised care through an integrated, multi-professional approach that enables young people to address their offending behaviour and return successfully to society.

Oberstown Children Detention Campus is located in rural North County Dublin. In 2024, we worked with 120 young people with an average daily occupancy of 39 across six residential units. Oberstown's capacity is set by the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality and is currently 46 young people (40 male and 6 female). Our campus spans 60 acres and operates 24/7, 365 days a year. With 250 staff, we offer care, education, health, mental health support, and structured activities.

Central to our approach is the CEHOP® framework—Care, Education, Health, Offending, and Preparation for leaving. This framework for care ensures that every area of care for each young person is addressed. The framework is participative, rights-based, and systemic. It's about unlocking potential.

Find out more www.oberstown.com

For More information on Oberstown see : A space for relational growth: The role of workplace restorative supervision in a juvenile justice setting.



Join TCTC NOW

TCTC is a membership charity for all those involved in, connected with, and interested in therapeutic communities and the delivery of group and relationship-based support and treatment across the entire human lifespan.



Benefits of Membership

1. Membership of a peer and practice network supporting, promoting and developing therapeutic practice to the wider society
2. Free online access to The International Journal of Therapeutic Communities
3. Engagement in the wider external debate with policy makers, decision makers and funders
4. External marketing and promotional activity across client sectors to promote the therapeutic model
5. Preferential access and reduced rates for the Annual Residential Conference
6. Preferential access and reduced rates for Training & CPD Events
7. Organisational members details listed and promoted on our website, www.therapeuticcommunities.org
8. Participation in research and development activity

Consultancy and Commissioning

TCTC is active in supporting its members and adding to the wider landscape to improve the governance, quality and access to relational and therapeutic practice across a wide range of settings. This work is being led by Dr Kevin Gallagher and Dr Chris Nicholson.

email: admin@therapeuticcommunities.org for more information



[linkedin.com/in/tctc-consortium-for-therapeutic-communities-5a9b33123](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tctc-consortium-for-therapeutic-communities-5a9b33123)

Meet the Board: Iwona Munia

What is your favourite image?

This is Ralph, my dachshund. When I was based in one of our communities he was coming to TC with me and was very much a part of the community. Attending community meetings was very good and his commitment to keeping the kitchen floor clean was exceptional!



What are your hopes for the future of TCTC and how would you like to see the membership grow?

I would hope to see more organisations and more staff from different levels to join the discussion and share their experience.

What is the quality you most like in humans?

Sense of humour.

Which talent would you most like to have?

Painting/ drawing.

What do you consider your greatest work life achievement?

Having the privilege of being a part of someone else's journey.

What do you like most about your therapeutic environment or a therapeutic service you have visited?

Lots, but I used to love cleaning groups. Made you feel like you belong straight away!

What do you least like about your therapeutic environment or a therapeutic service you have visited?

Lack of teaspoons. Never any teaspoons around when you need one.

Iwona is co-chair of the international group.



The Planned Environment Therapy Archives and Special Collections

The Planned Environment Therapy Archives and Special Collections is a unique, specialist repository that explores the history of therapeutic living and learning from the 19th Century to the present day. Alongside the archive of the Mulberry Bush, we are proud to be the custodians of other organisational archives in addition to materials collected from the groups and individuals who have shaped modern therapeutic practice.

The archives team works hard to preserve, catalogue, appraise and promote the physical and digital collections. Our breadth of knowledge covers working with records from therapeutic childcare, substance abuse rehabilitation settings, adult mental health settings, progressive education and personal papers of people who have founded, worked in and lived in therapeutic communities and similar settings. We also look after hundreds of digital oral history recordings which document the history of the therapeutic community movement.

Some of our most notable collections include the archives of the Cassel Hospital, Henderson Hospital, ATC, PETT, Peper Harow, The Ley Community, The Richmond Psychosocial Foundation International, The Dialectics of Liberation Congress, Libertarian Education, Wennington School, The Caldecott Association as well as the personal papers of Joseph Berke, Harold Bridger, David Wills, Dennie Briggs, Josephine Lomax Simpson, Elizabeth Tylden, David Clark, Bertram Mandelbrote, and many

others. Original material relating to Winnicott, Bowlby and Anna Freud feature in several of our collections, illustrating their relationship to therapeutic community theory and practice.



We have over 3000 case files (care records) of children and adults who have lived in therapeutic communities or similar settings. A core element of our work includes assisting people who want to view their files as adults, called a Subject Access Request. These requests require a sensitive, collaborative approach which treads the fine balance between legal requirements for redaction and someone's right to see *their* information.

Because of the nature of the archive, we often find ourselves working with records of trauma. This is especially the case with social care records and therapy records for children who have been exposed to early childhood trauma. We've found that occasionally something will resonate with us personally in a powerful way. As such, we take a trauma-informed approach to managing archives, which includes embedding the 6 trauma-informed principles in everything from recruitment to cataloguing.

If you'd like to know more about the archives and what we do, or visit us, please get in touch: ddoggett@mulberrybush.org.uk or check out our online catalogue: [Mulberry Bush archive Catalogue](#).

Debra Doggett,
Senior Archivist

The Planned Environment Therapy Archives and Special Collections are based at The Mulberry Bush Third Space, Toddington, Gloucestershire, GL54 5DQ.





Making the Case for a National Programme Intensive Psychotherapeutic Pathways

Sue Mizen

On the 2nd of April 2025 around 100 experts by profession and experience met with parliamentarians in the House of Lords to launch a report publicising the findings of a new health economic research study. The report, published by the Centre for Mental Health was commissioned by the Talking Therapies Task Force 1 . These organisations came together to make the case for a new national programme of psychotherapeutic services for people whose severe and complex mental health problems lead to multiple hospital admissions. In the absence of appropriate therapeutic help these admissions became long term either locally or out of area, often a long way from home.

The report focusses on people with multiple problems diagnosed with personality disorder along with eating disorders, unexplained physical symptoms and substance misuse as well as neurodiversity. Until now they have been overlooked in health and social care strategy which is designed in pathways designed for single symptoms for which they aren't eligible. They are too unwell to access outpatient psychological therapies. The research, found a small number of people (around 10,000 nationally), mainly in mental health inpatient services at an estimated national cost of £615m and £920m per year. The report described the experience of people receiving this inpatient care and their poor outcomes. Twelve years ago a therapeutic community opened in Devon adapted to the needs of people detained in hospital with the whole range of symptoms listed above using the Relational Affective Model. The research found that admission to hospital both locally and out of area and A&E visits reduced significantly after attending the programme, improving outcomes and cutting costs. We are campaigning to ensure the recommendations to reduce hospitalisation by setting up intensive psychotherapeutic pathways are taken up by Government.

The report and our recommendations can be found in this link

<https://tinyurl.com/yzzk9wdh>



The photo is of Sojan Joseph MP (Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary group for mental health) Baroness Sheila Hollins, Susan Mizen and Felicitas Rost (authors of the report)



You can hear Sue speak at the upcoming Conference in September. To find out more, and book tickets follow this link:

<https://therapeuticcommunities.org/adventures-therapeutic-communities/>



The International Journal of Therapeutic Communities (TC)

Submitting Your Writing!

The Therapeutic Communities Journal welcomes articles related to therapeutic communities, enabling environments and related fields. The Journal provides a forum in which those engaged in developing, managing and sustaining therapeutic cultures can publish original research, communicate evidence, consider the effects of policy in their own settings, disseminate ideas, and communicate good practice. We also welcome personal contributions from staff, current and former client members about their reflections on their experiences of therapeutic communities and/or enabling environments. Whether you are involved in mental health, addiction services, child and young people work, residential or forensic settings, the TC is a space to engage like-minded others in community and relational approaches to care and rehabilitation. Whilst articles do need to fit with the journal aims, pieces that draw on, and/or expand, therapeutic community or enabling environment principles would be very welcome.

The journal encourages a wide variety of submissions, including original research case studies, book reviews, reflective practice pieces, and theoretical articles. Our emphasis is on linking therapeutic principles to lived experiences and providing an inclusive space for staff, researchers, and clients (former and current!). One of the strengths of the journal is that pieces represent a broad range of writing styles and voices on a range of topics related to community and relational approaches. We particularly welcome submissions from emerging authors who may be writing for the first time and/or who may not have a formal or established academic backgrounds. And of course, we always appreciate articles from authors who have previously written for the journal!

If you are considering writing for the journal but are unsure where to start, we encourage you to look through the TC website for recent issues. Our word length is between 2000-5000 words, but we will consider pieces longer than this on occasion.

If you have a perspective or story to tell about relational and community approaches to care, please do consider turning it into a journal submission. We recognise that individuals often have ideas but may not be certain how to turn it in to a published piece. If this is you, please do get in contact with us and let's see how we can help. By getting your ideas out there and engaging with others, you could help shape the direction of this field!

If you would like more information, please email:

Jenelle Clarke, Editor-in-Chief
jenelle.clarke@bbk.ac.uk

Aggie Topolska, Emerald Publishing
atopolska@emerald.com

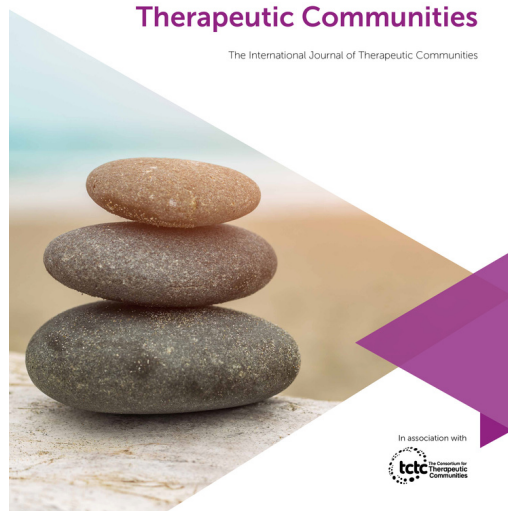
To submit an article please follow this link:
<https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/journal/tc?id=tc>



ISSN 0964-1866
Volume 00 Number 00 2018

Therapeutic Communities

The International Journal of Therapeutic Communities





Building Bridges: Therapeutic Communities for Addiction Recovery in Canada

Tony D'Amato Stortz

Canada faces significant challenges in addictions recovery. Across the country, we have gaps in accessible treatment, a toxic drug supply, overwhelmed emergency shelter supports, and few pathways to healing for individuals living with homelessness, addictions, and mental health issues. Despite substantial efforts, our recovery models often fall short, highlighting the need for innovative approaches and international collaboration.

The Therapeutic Community (TC) model, effectively established in the UK, is an exciting opportunity to strengthen Canadian addictions recovery services. By prioritizing peer-led support, mutual accountability, and holistic recovery within structured residential settings, TCs seem to offer not just treatment, but genuine recovery and growth.

BetterStreet is an organization that helps launch innovative shelters, housing, and addiction support services across Canada. We are working alongside multiple nonprofits to adapt and launch therapeutic community models nationally.

To inform this critical initiative, we will be conducting two fact-finding visits to the UK -



first from April 28th to May 3rd, and again from July 14th to July 23rd. These trips aim to identify best practices, successful program models, and lessons learned to help make sure the projects being launched in Canada are as successful as possible.

The outcome of these explorations will be a comprehensive white paper, detailing clear pathways and recommendations for effectively launching Therapeutic Communities in the Canadian context.

If you feel you have something to contribute to this effort, we are inviting practitioners, experts, and policymakers associated with UK Therapeutic Communities to connect, share insights, and explore opportunities for collaboration.

If you wish to support this initiative, please reach out directly to me, Tony D'Amato Stortz, at tony@betterstreet.ca, to arrange a conversation or Zoom meeting. Any insights you have would be greatly appreciated.

Together, we can bridge experiences across the Atlantic and enhance recovery outcomes for countless individuals and communities.





Zero-Exclusions, That's Just The TCES Way

Thomas Keaney

Founder and CEO



"When that threat of exclusion is removed you create space for the trust, attachment and sense of identity that these young people need, to open up and make significant progress educationally, emotionally and socially"

Goldsmiths University of London,
TCES research project.

At **TCES**, we operate under one simple principle: we never give up on a single child. For a quarter-century, we've adhered to a 'no exclusion' policy, and our unwavering commitment to this has fundamentally shaped how we serve the young people who come through our doors.

The idea of never excluding a pupil may sound idealistic or even impractical, but at TCES, we've seen first-hand how this approach doesn't just work—it changes lives.

Our refusal to exclude lies at the foundation of everything we do, from our teaching to our therapeutic support. It's a promise we make to every child: you belong here, and we will never give up on you.

We choose inclusion because we know that exclusion does not solve behavioural issues or support emotional development - it does the opposite.

Exclusion is damaging for the whole community, reinforcing attitudes of intolerance and prejudice, as well as maintaining a system that is inflexible and unresponsive to difference. It further ostracises young people who are already struggling with finding a place of belonging.

The focus at TCES is on creating an environment where every child can succeed. This isn't always easy, and it's never without obstacles, but the results speak for themselves, with over 90%

of our pupils continuing in further education, employment, or training, three to five years after leaving TCES.

As educators and carers, we must unlock a child's true potential by understanding their needs and building consistent, empathetic relationships that foster trust and personal growth. Every child can achieve, and it is our duty to create an environment where they are encouraged to rise to the highest standards of behaviour, learning and mutual respect.

And we never give up! We do whatever it takes, building a strong partnership with parents and carers, because we know 'it takes a village to raise a child'. We have ensured that Relational Inclusion and Therapeutic Education are forensically designed into every process across the TCES school community. Supporting them are our award-winning Pupil Leadership and LIFE programmes along with Peer Mentorship and Relationship mentoring schemes.

We also ensure our young people have a voice, encouraging our young people to be heard by contributing meaningfully to school life and learning the skills they will need to engage positively with society.

Fundamentally, the TCES way is about choosing inclusion over exclusion. It is about ensuring that every child, no matter their background or behaviour, has the chance to succeed.

Because every child deserves a positive future. And at TCES, we believe in making that future possible—no matter what.



To find out more about TCES Group visit [TCES.org.uk](https://www.tces.org.uk)





A Space for Relational Growth: The Role of Workplace Restorative Supervision in a Juvenile Justice Setting

Cara Driscoll

Oberstown Children Detention Campus cares for young people and focuses on realising their potential.

The emotional landscape of this work is complex. Young people bring with them histories that manifest in behaviours which, while adaptive in their original context, can be disruptive, aggressive, or withdrawn in care settings. These behaviours can trigger strong emotional reactions in staff – frustration, helplessness, sadness, even anger. Left unexplored, such reactions can erode empathy, lead to burnout or defensive practices and have potential for fractures in workplace relationships.

Yet, surfacing, acknowledging and addressing the impact of these feelings is crucial to successful workplace relations and the delivery of care.

Oberstown recognised this need and has implemented a model with intentional separation of supervision from line management delivery. This separation allows space for supervision to focus on emotional insight.



Delivered in fixed peer groups every five weeks –and available 1:1 by request – supervision offers a safe and contained space to reflect.

We use the 7-Eyed+ Model: a systemic, relational approach that explores multiple perspectives. It supports staff in surfacing and exploring not only what happened, but how and why—and what might change.

Supervision at Oberstown is not normative or corrective; it is developmental and restorative. Group delivery breaks silos and builds trust. Staff describe it as a place of emotional expression, honest connection, and shared learning. Anonymised themes are fed back monthly to leadership, to inform organisational learning.

This is supervision with purpose. It honours the weight of the work, supports emotional processing, and resources staff to re-engage with clarity.

One supervision participant encapsulated the power of restorative workplace supervision when they stated:

"it's great to be able to get everything off your chest up here and it's great you're able to kind of see it from a different perspective sometimes and you're able to help us look at ourselves and everybody around us..."

Reflective supervision isn't just self-care. It's system care—and it's helping us uncover potential where it matters most.

To find out more contact Cara Driscoll, Organisational Psychologist at www.Oberstown.com



TCTC Needs You!

Could you join our Board of Directors?

Secretary to the Board

- Ensure that committee meetings are properly administered.
- Ensure other meetings, such as the AGM, and events are properly administered.
- Keep membership records up-to-date (unless there is a membership secretary as well).
- Monitor committee member action points.

Specifically

- Plan and prepare the committee meetings and the AGM with others as appropriate.
- Minute committee meetings or ensure that another minute taker is available. In the case of closed meetings (with no others present) the secretary will take the minutes.
- Accurately record decisions and actions in the minutes and report to the next committee meeting on the progress of actions and the result of decisions
- Maintain accurate and up-to-date membership records, issuing renewal notices and recording subscription/membership fees together with the treasurer.
- Deal with correspondence, writing letters/emails as agreed at committee meetings
- Summarising correspondence/emails received at the next committee meetings and drafting replies as appropriate.
- Make arrangements for any necessary reporting to be done. For example the annual report to members.

Qualities

- To be organised and methodical
- Able to take good minutes.
- Able to keep accurate records.
- Has the relevant skills to organise a meeting well.

Trustee

- To ensure that the requirements of Companies House are met;
- To ensure that committee meetings are properly administered and recorded.
- To ensure that the list of Directors at Companies House (and Charity Commission) is kept up-to-date.
- To ensure that the AGM, EGMs etc are properly administered.
- To ensure that membership records are kept up-to-date.
- To ensure that annual returns are made to regulatory bodies as appropriate and in the correct format.

Specifically

- Ensure that committee meetings and the AGM are run according to the constitution and Companies House requirements.
- Ensure nominations for director are received in time and in the correct format.
- Ensure voting procedures are followed correctly.
- Ensuring that any required business is dealt with (such as appointment of auditors).
- Ensuring that committee meetings including decisions and actions are adequately minuted.
- Ensure accurate and up-to-date membership records are maintained in accordance with the constitution and Companies House requirements.
- Ensure that the annual return to Companies House is made on time.

Qualities

- To be able to delegate and/or organised and methodical.
- Have knowledge of Company law relating to the Company Secretary's role.
- Have a good knowledge of the organisation's own constitution.
- Able to give clear advice on procedural matters.

To apply or find out more please email:
admin@therapeuticcommuniites.org



Building Connections: Relational Practice and Therapeutic Communities in Transformative Care

Virtual Conference Highlights - June 4-5, 2025

This year's Virtual Conference brought together practitioners, researchers and lived experience from across the world to explore the transformative potential of Relational Practice within TCs. Through keynotes, discussions, and presentations, the event highlighted how relationships foster healing and drive improvements in mental health care.

Dr. Chris Nicholson, Chair of TCTC, opened the conference by introducing the organisation's mission and training initiatives. The first keynote, *Creating Communities to Drive Improvement in Mental Health Services*, was delivered by Peter Thompson from CCQI-College Centre for Quality Improvement. He reflected on 25 years of supporting mental health services through quality and accreditation networks, fostering collaboration between professionals and those with lived experience.

Eman Agius from Caritas Tal-Ibwar Adolescents TC in Malta presented *A Multifamily Community*, demonstrating how family activities like cooking and kayaking help adolescents with problematic substance misuse. Using trauma-informed, systemic approaches, these activities reveal family dynamics and support therapeutic change.

Jonathan Stanley and Libby Moore discussed Unconscious Bias, Intersectionality, and Social Identity Theory, explaining how these concepts shape children's experiences and advocating for their integration into therapeutic care to create inclusive, supportive environments.

Oliver, a resident at Amberleigh Care, shared his journey in *Memory Box Sure, But So Much More!*. Supported by Amberleigh staff and Jane Keenan from After Cloud, he showcased how digital platforms created by After Cloud empower children in care to capture their narratives, aiding identity formation and healing.

The day concluded with a reflective community meeting, where attendees shared thoughts and feelings, exploring how connections are forged through various modes of engagement in the therapeutic process.

Our second day started with Chris summarising yesterday's key points before introducing the keynote *Signs of Belonging: A Therapeutic Community Alphabet* by Vicky Gavin, TC Elders, in conversation with Sarah Paget. This innovative project features 27 original artworks representing an A-Z of TC concepts, promoting TC ideas through accessible, creative formats. Attendees contributed with a live "show and tell" session featuring objects like a Rubik's cube, a leaver's memory book and a community hamster.

From Queensland, Australia, Marina*, Mariana, and Dr. Shane Warren presented *My Darling, My Hamburger*, using auto-ethnography to reflect on 1980s TC experiences. Through interviews, diary entries and documents, they explored key factors in TC development and sustainability.

Members of Mosaic, an online TC in India – Surabhi, Neels, Isha, Yashika and Durga – shared *Cultivating Relational Practice and TCs Through Online Connections*. They highlighted how digital spaces foster belonging, emotional resilience and professional development, while addressing challenges posed by Western psychology in South Asian contexts, including patriarchy and colonialism. Personal narratives drew on imagery from Indian arts, culture and the displacements caused by the Partition of India in 1947.

The final presentation, *The Value of Lived Experience in Championing Change*, was delivered by Suzanne Warren and Aimee Nuttall from Sport for Confidence, UK. Their *Include to Improve* Programme leverages lived experience to increase opportunities for disabled individuals in sport and physical activity, showing how personal stories drive systemic change in community settings.

The conference underscored the critical role of relationships in transformative care, showcasing diverse approaches in TCs and Relational Practice, from the UK and beyond. From digital storytelling and online communities to creative projects like the TC Alphabet, it reaffirmed that connection is at the heart of healing and innovation in mental health.



The Second Edition of Therapeutic Childcare Standards Out Now!

Dr Chris Nicholson



In a climate in which Residential Children's Home providers are often viewed in the media as mini-capitalists making money out of the vulnerable and dispossessed, it is crucial that we continue to demonstrate a completely different version of what this sector is about – that of welcoming, caring for, and nurturing the capacities and qualities of children who were not previously offered a good and equal start to their lives.

Therapeutic communities (TCs) have a tradition of thinking long and deeply about this work with their colleagues. I remember many occasions visiting Old Jordan's near Beaconsfield with the Charterhouse Group in the late 1990s when Sheila Gatiss and others proposed we developed standards that would structure and guide our work, and together in groups we began to develop these. The collaborative approach is a long way from the marketplace economy that operates today, but in the world of TCs, this spirit of serious thinking and sharing about how our work can be enhanced is still alive.

Those original Value-Added Therapeutic Standards (in contrast for the Government's Minimum Standards 2000) were published in 2002.

Later adopted by the Community of Community (CoC) at the College Centre for Quality Improvement (CCQI), they underwent successive revisions for children and adults TCs and more recently, a version was developed in 2016 for services that wanted to adopt the values and therapeutic processes of TCs but without the obligation to be a fully-fledged TC due to their shape and size.

These Therapeutic Childcare Standards were developed at through consultation with providers, a working group, including members of TCTC, and through a literature review of therapeutic practice. I think they instil attitudes, practices and processes that should be at the heart of the best care and support children's services can offer young people. This involves constant relationally-focussed communication with children and as much democratic co-production as possible, which helps to overturn the learned negative attitudes children may have about adults in authority, paving the way for the therapeutically corrective experiences we want to make available to them.

Please share these with your colleagues and any children's services that might be interested.





TheTCTC Networks

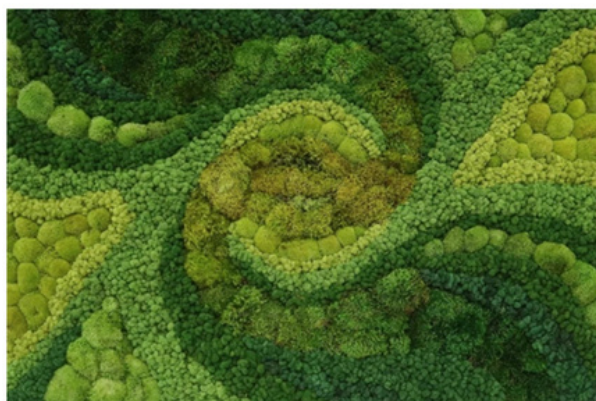
Join Now!

The Adult Mental Health Network

The Adult Mental Health TC group is a meeting of people who work, attend or live in therapeutic communities or mental health services with a social and relational therapeutic approach.

The Adult Mental Health Network had planned on meeting in January, but due to sign up numbers this event was sadly cancelled.

Excitingly, The Adult Mental Health Network have teamed up with Dr Hayley Burman to offer a "Social Dreaming Matrix" on Saturday 19th July. Tickets are still available, but hurry as there is limited capacity for this event.



Saturday 19th July 2025

10am – 1pm

**Beethoven Centre, Third Avenue,
London W10 4JL**

Next Meeting:

Social Dreaming and Visual Matrix

with Dr Hayley Burman

Saturday 19th July 2025

10am – 1pm

Beethoven Centre, London

BOOK NOW



The Children's Network

The TCTC children's network group have continued their model of in-person and online meetings. It was great to hear from one provider that they are now using The Reflective Seminar technique within their provision to help and aid thinking within their SLT.

In October we met in Birmingham to think about 'A Professional's Journey Through A Child's Experience'. We heard about the challenges, rewards and dilemma's faced by professionals.

It was great to see familiar faces from the network group at our conference in November and meet providers who may want to get more involved by joining us.

January brought us the boys from Amberleig Care, and we heard from 'A Child's Journey Through Placement' - as always, they did an amazing job relaying their experiences. It is so powerful and important to hear their voices.

In March we thought about 'Lasting Relationships, Who Makes Us Grow'. We heard about the important work that Kev from Mulberry Bush is developing in relation to Life Story work, and Birribi about a case study of a child's journey through his placement.

Coming up later on this year, we are looking forward to hearing about 'The Importance of Relationships Through and Beyond Care' from an ex-pupil of The Mulberry Bush, and from Amanda and her colleagues from 'Your Life Your Story.'

BOOK NOW





TheTCTC Networks

Join Now!



The International Group

TCTC International Group started meeting in June 2024 and have been meeting regularly since then. Our group is open to all people interested in the workings of therapeutic communities, whether they are currently working in one or have been in the past. We are welcoming everyone outside of UK, who is interested in exploring the workings of TCs in different countries and cultures.

During our first year of meetings our membership included people from Italy, Poland, Sweden, Japan, Malta, and India.

Our aim and hope is to develop our connections beyond geographical limitations, bring TC practices across the world closer together and learn from each other. Themes and topics that have been emerging so far during meetings included sharing experiences of working in TC environments, sense of isolation that some TCs might experience, especially in the current sociopolitical climate, and power of sharing and learning from others.

Next Meeting:

12 September 2025, 11.00- 12.30
Online Via Zoom

BOOK NOW



The Lived Experience Network

The Lived Experience Network (LEN) hosts a monthly online drop-in sessions.

LEN is a space where lived experience is celebrated and highly valued. The network is facilitated by Neels and Vikki.

Together we can build the network, provide peer support and gain a better understanding of ourselves. We can share paid and voluntary opportunities around training, research and publishing, support groups, activities and much more!



To join the LEN please email
admin@therapeuticcommunities.org

Next Meeting:

Last Thursday of the month 10.30 - 12.00
Online Via Zoom

BOOK NOW



'ADVENTURES IN THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES'



JOIN US

7th – 10th September 2025

High Leigh Conference Centre, Hertfordshire

Monday Focus:
Children and Young People

Tuesday Focus:
Justice, PIPE's and EE's

Wednesday Focus:
Adult Mental Health

Bookings now open

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

MONDAY

Focus: Children and Young People

Dr Deborah Judge

Blirbl

On building belonging, place and community - in Residential Care for Children and Young People.

Gemma Ditchfield

Hexagon Care

Dyadic Developmental Practice (DDP)

John Turberville

The Mulberry Bush

Learning to Live, Living to Learn
Exploring the adventure of living and leading at the Mulberry Bush

Lauren Huntley

NESTS Care

Self Development of Those Working in a
Therapeutic Community – My
Adventure

Dr Nadia Khurram and Demi Clutton

Timeout Homes

Improving therapeutic relations
between therapeutic carers and children
in residential care.

Thomas Thurlow

TCES

A Life in the Margins – Building
Therapeutic Communities for the
Excluded

TUESDAY

Focus: Justice, PIPE's and EE's

Dario Debono

tal-ibwar, Caritas Malta

A therapeutic community: how
adventure and nature therapy activities
and youth groups facilitate
understanding, connecting through
nature and change within a therapeutic
service for adolescents with
problematic substance use.

Goose Theatre Productions

Through the Looking Glass

More to be announced soon

WEDNESDAY

Focus: Adult Mental Health

**Amanda Mackenzie and Marilyn
Ruttley**

'I had skills to offer, I wasn't just a
patient'. Lived-experience research
as a psychosocial and educational
intervention and adventure

Hayden Isaac

Developing Whakamāriti: Our
adventure creating a bicultural
Therapeutic Community in Wellington
Aotearoa New Zealand

Joanne Emmens

The value of inhabiting impossible
landscapes, in the adventures of
Pinocchio and living
and working with dissociative identity
disorder; A teaching presentation

**Mariana (Mimi) Popa and Dr. Suzanne
Hodge**

University of Lancaster

Exploring the views and experiences of
staff working in democratic therapeutic
communities

Paul Stokes

Cassell

Adventures of the Cassell Hospital: why
did it survive; Is it surviving?

Plus Poetry Fest!

Special Lecture:
Dr Chris Nicholson
Sunday 7th September



**and the Medicalisation
Of Everyday Life'**

Plus live music!



<https://therapeuticcommunities.org/adventures-therapeutic-communities/>

admin@therapeuticcommunities.org