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MINDFULNESS AND COMPASSION WITH INTEGRITY



Sussex Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

Handbook

for the

Training Programme in Adapted Mindfulness-based Interventions (MBIs)

(for non 8-week programmes)

For intake in 2020

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1) Introduction

The Sussex Mindfulness Centre (SMC) (www.sussexmindfulnesscentre.nhs.uk) brings together teachers, trainers and researchers of Mindfulness-based Interventions (MBIs) in Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT). This includes a partnership of SPFT staff, experienced researchers at Sussex University, and experienced teachers and trainers in the local community. SMC has good links with local teachers with whom it aims to facilitate a collaborative network through CPD and other events, as well as with trainers and researchers in other mindfulness centres and universities in the UK. The SMC aims to draw on the high quality training, good governance and the existing research evidence to offer high quality mindfulness provision. At the same time, it aims to develop new evidence by developing and evaluating innovative mindfulness approaches, and with groups that may not otherwise have been considered able to benefit from MBAs.

SMC has been offering a year-long Foundation training in Mindfulness-based Approaches (MBCT/MBSR) since 2011. More recently, it has become clear that an ever growing number of people are drawing on mindfulness in their work and using adapted mindfulness-based approaches that are not the standard 8-week programmes, such as MBCT or MBSR. Although this adapted mindfulness work often requires great skill, practitioners have not necessarily had much training in delivering mindfulness-based approaches. This training, which was first delivered in 2016, is for people who wish to be equipped to use adapted mindfulness-based approaches safely and effectively.

For Sussex Partnership staff, completion of this training, or equivalent, will become one of a number of requirements needed to meet governance arrangements for delivering adapted mindfulness-based interventions.

2) Learning Outcomes

- To be able to teach a mindfulness-based approach in the teacher's setting.
- To be able to guide people in both formal and informal practices, adapting practices according to the relevant population and service.
- To understand the rationale behind providing different mindfulness practices and some of the learning that is likely to be derived from them.
- To be able to teach in an embodied way, drawing on the teacher's experience of their own practice.
- To be able to express the attitudinal foundations of mindfulness, such as Non-Judging, Non-Striving and Beginner's Mind; and keys aspects of the 'culture' of mindfulness-

based approaches, such as seeing issues that arise as universal aspects of the human condition rather than as pathology.

- To understand, and be able to make an assessment of, the risks of mindfulness practices with the teacher's participant population, and to be able to adapt practices accordingly.
- To have some knowledge of the evidence base for the use of mindfulness with the population being taught.
- To be able to help people explore their experience of a practice in a way that is congruent with mindfulness-based principles.

3) Who is the training for?

The training is geared towards people who use mindfulness practices in delivering:

- Individual or group based clinical work (but not the 8-week MBCT/MBSR programmes). Often this will be with populations for whom the 8-week programmes will not be suitable and need to be adapted – for example with young people, people with learning disabilities or people with developmental or neurological challenges.
- Drop in or taster sessions for staff or service users.
- Adapted Mindfulness-based interventions such as PBCT, ACT, DBT, Mindfulness for Voices groups, Mindfulness for physical health conditions and non 8-week Mindfulness groups in Recovery College.

4) Admission Criteria

The training is open to people who:

- Have completed the 8-week MBCT/MBSR course as a participant, or who can show they will have done so by the start of the training.
- Have a regular mindfulness practice (with formal practice at least 2 or 3 times per week).
- Can envisage and describe appropriate ways in which they could use the training.

In addition, Sussex Partnership staff will be more likely to secure Trust funding for the training if they:

- Have a professional mental health training
- Have the support of their manager and clinical lead to take the necessary time to do the training.
- Be in a role which allows for the delivery of a mindfulness-based approach.
- Be in a service where there is some evidence that the populations using that service can benefit from an MBA; or where there are proposals from the Trust Research department to work on innovative approaches with that population.
- work in a geographical area and service where there is currently limited provision of MBAs and/or where there are strategic Trust objectives for extending the delivery of particular MBAs.

5) Application and selection process

Selection will be by application form, and where necessary, by telephone. Selection will be based on experience, motivation, and the likely benefit of the training to the context in which the applicant intends to use mindfulness. In the case of Sussex Partnership employees, this will be affected by strategic decisions about the delivery of mindfulness in the Trust.

For more information about the course, and/or an application form, please go to:

<http://www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/mindfulness-training>.

Applications should ideally be sent to the Sussex Mindfulness Centre electronically to smc@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk, or by post at Sussex Mindfulness Centre, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Aldrington House, 35 New Church Road, Hove, BN3 4AF. **They should arrive by 15th November 2019.** For further administrative questions about the training, please contact smc@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk or call Caroline Windley on 0300 304 2057. For questions about course content, please contact Bridgette O'Neill at Bridgette.oneill@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk.

Selection decisions will be made by 13th December 2019.

6) Training in work time (for Sussex Partnership employees only)

It is expected that trainees' managers will release 'trainees' for nine and a half days of teaching and that the remaining Saturday day retreat, weekend retreat, the regular, personal mindfulness practice, the reading and reflective writing will be completed within trainees' own time. Once the training has been completed, the expectation would be for managers

and leads to release 'graduates' undertaking mindfulness-based work for periodic mindfulness supervision.

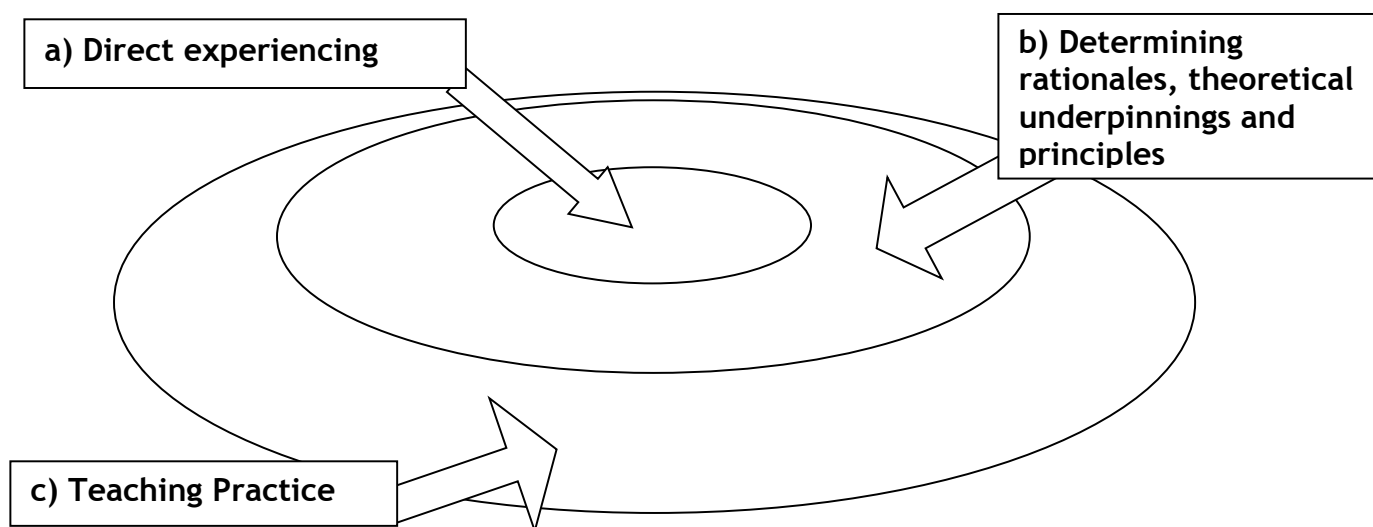
7) Fees

Twenty places are available in total. Between 3 and 5 of these are expected to be funded by Sussex Partnership. The remaining places will be open to people funded by other employers or self-funded. The fee per place for the training is £1,900. The cost of a weekend retreat is in addition. The range of cost for a weekend retreat is approximately £150 - £400.

8) Training programme philosophy and approach

The training is based on an inner core of direct personal experiencing of mindfulness. This forms the basis for the succeeding circles of determining rationales, theoretical underpinnings and principles, and learning through teaching practice:

- a) **'Direct Experiencing'**: of the most commonly used mindfulness practices. This places the direct experiencing in a personal context of understanding. Personal mindfulness practice is seen as essential for the teaching to be embodied, and this is facilitated through regular personal practice and the day retreat.
- b) **'Determining Rationales'**: linking these direct experiences to the aims of the mindfulness work. This involves placing the learning in a wider context of theoretical understanding. Reflective writing and dialogue supports the integration of theory with both personal and teaching practice.
- c) **'Teaching Practice'**: exploring and dialoguing how the learning in 1) and 2) relates to different approaches to teaching these practices and exercises. This facilitates the development of the skills required to communicate the ideas, qualities and approach of mindfulness-based work.



9) Course structure

'Trainees' will take part in:

- Nine-and-a-half days of core teaching scheduled between Feb and Nov 2020
- An all day of practice
- A weekend retreat
- Personal mindfulness practice: as a rough guide, approximately 3 or 4 times per week of 20-30 minute practice
- Reading
- Writing five 600 word reflective accounts to be submitted 2 weeks before each of the training days
- An end of training programme tutorial.

The orientation and first two modules will include trainees from this training as well as those on the Foundation Training in Mindfulness Based Approaches.

10) Course dates and venues

All dates are in 2020 unless otherwise stated:

Orientation half day:

14th Feb -morning

Core teaching days:

Fri/Sat 20th/ 21st March- Module 1

Fri/ Sat 24th / 25th April- Module 2

Fri June 5th

Fri 3rd July

Fri 9th Oct

Fri 20th Nov

Masterclass

Fri 4th Sept – John Peacock

Fri 6th November - Rebecca Crane and Clara Strauss (optional)

SMC conference

18th September (optional)

All Day of practice and weekend retreat

Dates TBC

All events, apart from the conference, are scheduled to take place at the Sussex Education Centre, Nevill Avenue, Hove, BN3 7HZ. Please bring mats, blankets, cushions and lunch to all of the whole day events based here.

11) Course content

Pre training

Do the 8-week course as a participant – establish a regular (at least 3 times a week) formal, personal practice. Attend drop ins.

Orientation

Introduction to:

- i/ The ethos and structure of the training programme
- ii/ Each other: opportunities for connecting and starting to build community.
- iii/ Practice, particularly the body scan
- iv/ Practical issues: eg the library, peer buddy groups, reflective writing etc.

Prior to module 1

Read about attitudinal foundations in Kabat-Zinn's (2013) 'Full catastrophe Living', Crane et al (2017) on the 'warp and the weft' and sections from Crane (2017) on the raisin exercise and body scan and from the SMC training workbook. Write 600 words on your practice and your view of yourselves as prospective teachers at the beginning of the training; this should be submitted by 6th March 2020.

Day 1: Deepening our Experience of Mindfulness and beginning to introduce a MBI

- i/ Orientation and Intentions:
Experiential and theoretical exploration of the importance of these
- ii/ Auto pilot and Coming to Our Senses:
Body Scan and Raisin exercise
- iii/ Introduction to the Underpinning Theories & Rationales of MBAs
- iv/ Teaching practice (raisin exercise)

v/ Reflections on beginnings of a MBI and theory and practicalities of making a start

Day 2: Living in our heads; keeping the body in mind

i/ Body scan

ii/ Perception (9 dots) and 'Walking Down the Street Exercises', +
'Everyday Mindfulness' and 'Pleasant Events Calendar'

iii/ Theory/rationales for session 2 of 8 week and application to adapted
context

iv/ Establishing the culture of teaching practice

v/ Teaching in triads (body scan)

Prior to module 2

Read Crane's (2015) reflective piece on being good, chapters 21 and 22 from Crane's (2017) MBCT distinctive series book and sections on movement, walking and breath-based practice from Teasdale, J., Williams, J.M.G., & Segal, Z. (2014) and from the SMC training workbook. Write a 600 word reflective summary on your experience of practice, study and teaching since module 1; this should be submitted by 10th April 2020.

Module 2: Opening to life: from reaction to response (Sessions 3-4)

Day 1: Mindfulness of Breath and Body

i/ Mindful movement (MM) e.g. Yoga-based or Qi Kung + Inquiry

ii/ Breath-body Sitting Meditation + Inquiry into 'Pleasant/Unpleasant Events'

iii/ Theory/rationales for Session 3 (MM, Breath-Body, Events Calendars)

iv/ Teaching Practice (triads): Mindful movement

Day 2: Returning to the Present Moment

i/ Sitting Meditation Practice: Breath/Body/Sounds/Thoughts + inquiry

ii/ Unpleasant events

iii/ Automatic Negative Thoughts Exercise + The Territory of Stress and Depression + 3 Step Breathing Space (3 SBS) + 'Pausing'

iv/ Teaching Practice 1: Short Sitting Meditation (breath and body) + Inquiry process

Prior to teaching day 5

Read part II of Treleaven's (2018) Trauma Sensitive Mindfulness.

Teaching day 5

Safe and effective practice day

This day will offer a session on identifying and working with traumatic reactions to mindfulness practice, assessing and screening for mindfulness groups, understanding the evidence base and hearing from ex service users about what they have found helpful and unhelpful in the way mindfulness has been delivered.

Prior to teaching day 6

Read chapters 4 and 5 and 13 and 14 and 28 of Crane's (2017) MBCT distinctive series. Write 600 word reflective summary on your learning from practise, study and teaching experience since module 2. This should be submitted by 19th June.

Teaching day 6

Revisiting the foundations

Body scan, movement and breath-based practice

Dialoguing about practice, 50:50 keeping the body in mind practice

Talking about practice as a practice: inquiry, insight dialogue, discussion.

Attitudinal foundations, warmth, curiosity, mutuality.

Group dynamics

Teaching practice focused on practising inquiry

Teaching day 7

Master Class: Buddhist foundations of mainstream mindfulness: deepening the dialogue.

Prior to teaching day 8

Read chapters 23, 25 and 26 in Crane 2017. Write a 600 reflective summary of themes and learning for you from practice, study and teaching since teaching day 6. This should be submitted by 25th September 2020.

Teaching day 8

How can we best take care of ourselves?

Nurturing and depleting exercise, everyday mindfulness including hardwiring happiness (rebalancing our negativity bias), brief practices (3SBS, FOFBOC etc)

Teaching practice- brief practices and inquiry

Prior to teaching day 9

Write 600-word reflective summary on issues related to delivering mindfulness-based approaches within your particular context plus complete in relation to yourself sections 2 to 6 of the final table of the MBI –TAC from Bangor, Oxford and Exeter universities - send this in by 6th Nov 2020.

Teaching day 9

Taking learning forward

Small groups based on specialities:

Mindfulness with:

Psychosis

In individual therapy

Learning Disabilities

Young people

Choosing one group

Resources- poetry, handouts, images, stories.

Group tutorials.

What have you learnt?

What are your strengths and areas to develop? MBI-TAC.

What do you need now? Supervision;

Governance.

12) Reflective writing

During the year, two weeks before each of the first two modules and the remaining teaching days (not including the all day, the Safe and Effective practice day- day 5, or Teaching day 7, master class on Buddhist foundations) you will need to email to the four trainers a 600 word reflective piece that brings together the personal practice, the theoretical learning and the experience of practising teaching, or actually teaching, that you have done in the time period between the previous and next days of the training programme.

In your reflections, you may want to ask yourself what you learned from a particular experience, and how it challenged you or changed your perspective. It would be helpful to know how you made sense of an idea or an experience, how you worked with a confusion, or how you critiqued an approach. Please include what inspired you and what sat uncomfortably with you, and why.

The detailed content of this material will be kept confidential to the core group of trainers, but the themes will be used as a basis for the group discussions.

13) Training programme completion

Awarding of the SMC certificate for successful completion of the course will depend on attendance at a minimum of 80% of the events. This means that, out of the nine-and-a-half teaching days not more than two days can be missed. Given that the course is not that long, we strongly advise planning for 100% attendance. At least 4 out of the 5 pieces of reflective writing must be submitted and the all day of practice and weekend retreat must be attended in order to complete the training.

14) Beyond the training

Sussex Partnership employees will need to meet Trust governance criteria for teaching non 8-week mindfulness interventions (see <http://sussexmindfulnesscentre.nhs.uk/practice-and-governance/mindfulness-governance/>) in order to deliver non 8-week (MBCT/MBSR) mindfulness-based interventions. Completion of this training will allow practitioners to meet a significant dimension of those governance requirements.

Other aspects of good governance for the delivery of mindfulness-based interventions In Sussex Partnership require staff to have an ongoing personal mindfulness practice, periodic mindfulness supervision, attend mindfulness CPD, and be up-to-date with the relevant mindfulness evidence base in their field.

15) Course Reading

In addition to any materials specific to particular specialist relevant areas, trainees are advised to read from the following:

Bangor, Exeter and Oxford universities (2015). Mindfulness-based Interventions Teaching Assessment Criteria (MBI:TAC).

<https://www.bangor.ac.uk/mindfulness/documents/MBI-TACMay2012.pdf>

Burch, V. (2008). Living well with pain and illness. London: Pitakus

Crane, R. (2017). Mindfulness-based cognitive therapy. 2nd ed. London: Routledge.

Crane, R. et al. (2017). What defines mindfulness-based programs? The warp and the weft. *Psychological Medicine* (2017), 47, 990-999. doi:10.1017/S0033291716003317.

Crane, R. (2015). Some Reflections on Being Good, on not Being Good and on Just Being. *Mindfulness*, 2015, 6, 5, 1226–1231. DOI 10.1007/s12671-014-0350-y.

Crane, R., Kuyken, W., Williams, J.M.G., Hastings, R.P., Cooper, L., Fennell, M.J.V. (2012). Competence in teaching mindfulness-based courses: concepts, development and assessment. *Mindfulness*, 3, 1, 76-84.

- Didonna, F. (Ed). (2009). *Clinical handbook of Mindfulness*. New York: Springer.
- Hölzel et al. (2011). How does mindfulness meditation work? Proposing mechanisms of action from a conceptual and neural perspective. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 6, 6, 537-559.
- Kabat-Zinn, J. (2013). *Full catastrophe living, revised edition: how to cope with stress, pain and illness using mindfulness meditation*. Hachette UK.
- McCown, D., Reibel, D. and Micozzi, M.S. (2010). *Teaching mindfulness: a practical guide for clinicians and educators*. New York: Springer.
- Mindfulness Initiative (2015). *The Mindful Nation report*. Report by the Mindfulness All-Party Parliamentary Group (MAPPG). On the SMC website under 'outreach and national policy'
- Rosenberg, L. (1999). *Breath by breath: the liberating practice of insight meditation*. Boston: Shambala.
- Santorelli, S. (1999). *Heal Thy Self: Lessons on mindfulness in medicine*. New York: Bell Tower.
- Segal, Z.V., Williams, J.M.G. & Teasdale, J.D. (2013). *Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy for Depression*. 2nd Ed. Guilford Press: New York.
- Teasdale, J., Williams, J.M.G., & Segal, Z. (2014). *The Mindful Way Workbook*. New York: Guilford Press.
- Treleaven, D. A. (2018). *Trauma-sensitive mindfulness: Practices for safe and transformative healing*. WW Norton & Company.
- Williams, J.M.G. (2008). Mindfulness, Depression and Modes of Mind. *Cognitive Therapy Research*, 32, 721-733. DOI 10.1007/s10608-008-9204-z.
- Williams, J.M.G & Penman, D. (2011). *D. Mindfulness: a practical guide to finding peace in a frantic world*. London: Piatkus.
- Williams, J.M.G. & Kabat-Zinn, J. (Eds.) (2013). *Mindfulness: Diverse perspectives on its meaning, origins and applications*. London: Routledge.
- Williams, J.M.G., Teasdale, J.D., Segal, Z.V. and Kabat-Zinn, J. (2007). *The Mindful Way Through Depression*. Guilford Press: New York.

All trainees on the training programme are eligible to join the Sussex Partnership library and the specialist librarian at the Sussex Education Centre, Amy Dunn, can help direct trainees to relevant resources.

16) Ethical Practice, confidentiality and safety

Trainees and trainers will be expected to work within the ethical codes of their professional bodies and to follow their employers' policies.

As a general rule, trainers will keep information shared by trainees in confidence. However, members of the training staff group will share information about trainees with each other where necessary in order to work as a cohesive training team.

17) Feedback and complaints procedure

Honest and constructive feedback is encouraged at all times. Feedback is formally collected at various stages of the training year but is welcomed informally at any other time. Feedback is used to reflect on the training and to make improvements where possible.

If any trainee has a complaint, this should be addressed in the first instance to the person who is the subject of the complaint. If this does not produce satisfactory resolution, the complaint can be addressed to the course convenor or to a member of the training team, who will then share it with other members of the training team and work towards facilitating a resolution. If this still does not produce a satisfactory resolution, the complaint will then be directed to the Trust's Mindfulness-based Interventions Practice Network group which is responsible for governance of mindfulness activity in the Sussex Partnership, and from there, if necessary, to the Trust Director of Psychology and Psychological Therapies.

18) Course staff

Training programme convenor:	Bridgette O'Neill
Trainers:	Bridgette O'Neill, Taravajra, Ruth Sequeria, Robert Marx, Heather Ball, Ines Santos and Clara Strauss plus service user mindfulness advocates
Master class guest speakers	John Peacock
Mindfulness training administrator:	Caroline Windley

19) Contact

In the first instance, requests for information about the training programme can be addressed to the Sussex Mindfulness Centre administrator on smc@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk and Tel. 0300 304 2057.

20) Biographies of the trainers

Taravajra has been teaching MBCT in Sussex since 2005. He gained a Masters degree in mindfulness based approaches in 2010 at Bangor University. Since 2011, he has been part of the core training team at Bangor, initially teaching on the Masters programme, then on the teacher training pathway (TTP) in the UK and internationally. In 2016 he was convenor of the UK Network of Mindfulness-based teacher training Organisations and led the creation of the Listing. He also holds a British Wheel of Yoga teaching diploma and is a Focusing practitioner. Taravajra has been one of the main trainers on the Foundation trainings since 2011.

Bridgette O'Neill is a mindfulness teacher and supervisor, and a consultant clinical psychologist. She previously held a leadership position within SPFT and has been involved in the development and governance of mindfulness interventions in the Trust. Bridgette now works as an associate of the Sussex Mindfulness Centre. She is also a trainer for the Centre for Mindfulness Research and Practice, Bangor University and Retreat Lead for the Mindfulness Network.

Robert Marx is a consultant clinical psychologist and lead for mindfulness training and governance in the Sussex Mindfulness Centre. He has been involved in running mindfulness groups for staff and adult service users in primary and secondary care since 2006, and in supervising mindfulness work over the last couple of years. He is also a cognitive-analytic psychotherapist and is interested in integrating relational and mindfulness approaches.

Ines Santos is a Clinical Psychologist specialising in trauma-focused work, and an EMDR Consultant. She is one of the leads for the Complex Trauma service in Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, where she supervises and teaches on Complex Trauma and EMDR.

Clara Strauss is the Research Lead for the Sussex Mindfulness Centre. She is a Consultant clinical psychologist, mindfulness teacher and clinical researcher. In her research, Clara is particularly interested in developing and evaluating new forms of mindfulness-based intervention (MBI), especially for those people who may not be willing or able to access MBCT. Along with other members of her research team, Clara has been evaluating MBIs for people experiencing depression, for people distressed by hearing voices and for people experiencing obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). This research has also included research with NHS staff, university students and the wider population

John Peacock has been both an academic and a Buddhist practitioner for nearly forty years. John was initially trained in the Tibetan Gelugpa tradition in India and subsequently spent time in Sri Lanka studying Theravada.

John has also lectured in Buddhist Studies at the University of Bristol, but at present he is Associate Director of the Oxford Mindfulness Centre and teaches on the Master of Studies programme in MBCT at Oxford University. John also teaches at the Centre for Mindfulness Research and Practice, Bangor University.

Kate Gooch holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Mindfulness Based Approaches from Bangor University (2012) and has taught Mindfulness since 2007. She teaches the general population,

clinical populations, and carers, as well as delivering courses in educational settings and the workplace. She's trained in .b, .b Foundations, and MYRIAD, in addition to being a Mindfulness supervisor for the Mindfulness Network. She also has a Speech and Language Therapy background.

Ann Pelling is a mindfulness teacher and supervisor and a Counselling Psychologist. She is an associate teacher with the Sussex Mindfulness Centre and has been involved providing supervision, teaching 8-week mindfulness groups to client and staff groups within SPFT. Ann has a particular interest in working with older adults and is currently working with the Specialist Older Adults Mental Health team in Eastbourne.

Heather Ball is a Psychiatric Nurse and CBT therapist working in secondary care adult mental health, Group Treatment Service. She is an MBCT and supervisor who teaches 8-week MBCT groups, Mindfulness for Voices, and Brief Mindfulness interventions. Heather has been involved in SPFT mindfulness research trials. She runs MBCT drop-ins for SPFT clients and staff, and at Brighton Buddhist Centre. She has particular interest and experience in mindfulness for ADHD and Autism. She gains inspiration from poetry, nature, Buddhism, walking and qi gong practice in daily life.

Ruth Sequeira is a Mindfulness Lead and Senior Primary Mental Health Worker at East Sussex CAMHS. Ruth has a longstanding interest in mindfulness and meditation and is passionate about increasing access to mindfulness courses in different populations. Ruth teaches MBCT courses to staff groups and the general public and facilitates an adapted course for adolescents. Ruth is also a Mindfulness Supervisor and supports trainee Mindfulness teachers.

Jiva Masheder completed an MSc in Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapies from Exeter University in 2013 and has taught the 8-week mindfulness course to a wide variety of people over 10 years, delivering the course over 100 times both to groups and 1-1. Jiva also supervises trainees on Exeter University's MSc programme in MBCT and with Mindfulness Network. She has been practising mindfulness since 1997 and has seen herself becoming calmer, happier and more emotionally stable over that time.

Richard Gilpin is Counsellor and Cognitive-Behavioural Therapist, who has worked for various mental health services, including Sussex Partnership. He has trained in mindfulness-based practices since the 1990s and been facilitating Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy Groups (MBCT) courses since 2007. He has also written extensively on mindfulness, including two self-help psychology books: 'Mindfulness for Unravelling Anxiety' (2016) and 'Mindfulness for Black Dogs and Blue Days' (2012).

Appendix: MBI-TAC : Brief Notes on the 6 Domains

Domain 1: Coverage, pacing and organisation of session curriculum The teacher adequately addresses and covers the curriculum content of the session. This involves creating a skilful balance between the needs of the individual, the group and the requirements of teaching the course. The teacher is well organised with relevant course materials and teaching aids readily available and the room appropriately prepared for the group. The session is well 'time managed' in relation to the curriculum. The session is well paced with a sense of

spaciousness, steadiness and lack of time pressure. Digressions are steered back into the session curriculum with tact and ease.

Domain 2: Relational skills Mindfulness-based teaching is highly relational – mindfulness practice engages us in a process of developing a new relationship both with ourselves and our experience. The qualities that the teacher brings to participants and the teaching process mirror the qualities that participants are learning to bring to themselves during the MBI programme. Mindfulness is the awareness which emerges through paying attention to experience in a particular way: on purpose (the teacher is deliberate and focused when relating to participants in the sessions); in the present moment (the teacher has the intention to be whole-heartedly present with participants); and non-judgmentally (bringing a spirit of interest, respect and acceptance to participants)

Domain 3: Embodiment of mindfulness Mindfulness practice permeates the teacher and is expressed through two interconnected aspects to embodiment – ‘present moment focus’, and bringing the attitudinal foundations of mindfulness to moment by moment experience. Embodiment of mindfulness involves the teacher sustaining connection and responsiveness to moment by moment arising (within self, within individuals and within the group) and bringing the core attitudinal foundations of mindfulness practice to all of this. These attitudes are non-judging, patience, beginner's mind, trust, non-striving, acceptance, and letting go

Domain 4: Guiding mindfulness practices The teacher offers guidance that describes accurately what the participant is being invited to do in the practice, and includes all the elements required in that practice. The guidance enables participants to relate skilfully to mind wandering (seeing this as a natural mind process, working gently but firmly to cultivate the skill to recognise when the mind has wandered and to bring the attention back). The guidance suggests the attitudes to bring to self and experience throughout the practice. The practice balances spaciousness with precision. Skilful use of language is key to conveying all this.

Domain 5: Conveying course themes through interactive inquiry and didactic teaching This domain assesses the process through which the course themes are conveyed to participants. These are at times explicitly drawn out and underlined by the teacher and at other times emerge implicitly within the process. The domain includes inquiry, group dialogue, use of stories and poems, facilitating group exercises, orienting participants to session/course themes and didactic teaching.

Domain 6: Facilitating the group learning environment The whole teaching process takes place within the context of a group, which if facilitated effectively becomes a vehicle for connecting participants with the universality of the processes being explored. The teacher creates a ‘container’ or learning environment that ‘holds’ the group and within which the teaching can effectively take place. The teacher works responsively with group process through bringing an appropriate leadership style to the teaching; through taking good care of managing group safety, trust and boundary issues; through employing a teaching style which takes account of the individual within the context of the group, and balances the needs of both; through using the group process to draw out universal learning themes; through working with and responding to group development processes by managing the various phases of group formation, development and ending. The teacher is able to ‘tune into’, connect with, and respond appropriately to shifts and changes in group mood and characteristics.