

Transformations: adapting and developing our practice & roles within today's NHS
Part II: Where do we go from here?

Monday 14th – Friday 18th June 2021, Zoom

A BADth NHS sub-committee sharing practice event

Part two of the conference brings together some sessions postponed from January due to COVID pressures, with the addition of a new Q and A session.

Monday 14th June

SESSION 1: 6 - 7pm

Adapting to the new normal - cross modality working to prepare for life after Covid 19

Facilitator: Louise Combes and Andrew Langford, CEO of BAMT

Chair: Clare Hubbard

The NHS is preparing to face a tsunami of mental health issues after Covid 19. The NHS ENGLAND 10-year plan captures a vision of wellness, identifying the importance of keeping people AWAY from MH services. Are these two positions compatible? How might we dramatherapists be part of it?

Andrew Langford CEO of The British Association of Music Therapists and Louise Combes from BADth have been working with NHS quality improvement to create a new offering. Bereavement work supporting NHS staff and the public who have been affected by the pandemic. Together they share their understanding of how Arts Therapists may contribute as arts therapists, group leaders and supervisors in the months and years to come. There will be time for discussion and sharing of ideas amongst participants.

Tuesday 15th June

SESSION 2: 12.30 – 1.30pm

A Virtual Psychosis Group – Part II

Facilitator: Cecilia Bissessur

Chair: Sarah Glickman

Cecilia trained at Roehampton and has worked as a Dramatherapist with Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust since 2010. She works one day with the acute Dementia inpatient unit team and

the other two with the Community Assessment and Treatment team in secondary mental health services. She offers group and individual therapy as well as reflective practice and case formulation for the teams.

Since the pandemic Cecilia has been adapting her work so that it can be offered virtually within community services.

(This session was originally planned for January and replaced by Clare Hubbard).

SESSION 3: 4 – 5pm

The drama of the possible: workforce opportunities

Facilitators: Dr Jane Melton MBE and Lucy Locks

Chair: Clare Hubbard

Dr Jane Melton MBE is National Clinical Adviser: Mental Health (Allied Health Professionals), Health Education England. Lucy Locks is Director of Allied Health Professions, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Beginning with their own stories of career progression as AHPs (dramatherapist and occupational therapist), Jane and Lucy will then present what they see as opportunities for dramatherapists to be involved and have a voice within the NHS and Health Education. Areas they will cover include marketing, placements, regional developments and advanced practice.

Wednesday 16th June

SESSION 4: 6 - 7 pm

Learning from support workers: can a dramatherapy group offer a community provision to support changes in care for people with learning disabilities and mental health difficulties?

Facilitator: Jane Bourne

Chair: Sarah Glickman

A focus group with a purposive sample of paid support staff was delivered to understand their experiences of Dramatherapy for people with a learning disability from those who support them to a group. The data was synthesised using a thematic framework approach.

Results: include(a) new way of supporting and (b) hospital connection. The qualitative data informed how the groups improve social interaction, friendship building, communication and self-confidence. Additional benefits include pooling support and how the group facilitates a connection with professionals that enables difficulties to be caught early.

Jane will discuss the benefits of qualitative data, running focus groups and interviews as well as applying for ethics.

Thursday 17th June

SESSION 5: 6 – 7pm

Ask the Panel

Facilitators: NHS Panel

Chair: Amy Willshire

This is a Q and A session aimed at students, newly qualified dramatherapists, those new to the NHS and anyone else who want to learn from the experiences of dramatherapists who are working in the NHS.

Friday 18th June

SESSION 6: 6 – 7pm

PPE Deface - conference closure

Facilitators: NHS Sub-Committee

Chair: Sarah Power

The meanings of a mask to Dramatherapists working in the NHS... how has this shifted throughout the pandemic?

This will be an interactive, creative and reflective session. There is an invitation to bring your NHS mask (along with any PPE/uniform). Felts or Marker pens that will be visible on screen would also be helpful to have.