



The Therapeutic Communities and Environments practitioner course.

In 1987 the Association of Therapeutic Communities and the Royal College of Nursing collaborated to run a course in therapeutic community theory and practice. It was a yearlong course, meeting weekly, and ran for three years. Although since that time there have been workshops run by various organisations, such as the Community of Communities and The Consortium for Therapeutic Communities, and the Living Learning Experience workshops have contributed to the training of generations of TC workers every year for 30 years (<http://growingbetterlives.org/living-and-learning>), there has been no formal opportunity to train in therapeutic community theory and methods since that time.

This course addresses this gap. It provides a practitioner level qualification to those working in therapeutic communities, enabling environments, psychologically informed planned environments (PIPEs), psychologically informed environments (PIEs), and other therapeutic environments. It was developed by experienced therapeutic community practitioners and ex-service users, and is aimed at anyone who is working in a therapeutic community, and at those working in an environment where providing a therapeutic milieu is central to patient care, such as an enabling environments (including Psychologically Informed Environments (PIEs) and Psychologically Informed Planned Environments (PIPEs)).

The course has been developed around the *Handbook of Democratic Therapeutic Community Theory and Practice (2017)*, which is required reading, and is included in the cost of the course. The course uses mixed styles of learning to ensure interactive participation at all levels. Expert staff deliver training and supervision. All academic papers are provided in electronic format.

The course runs over 3 residential weekends, which are 6 months apart, although some trainees may wish to extend this and complete it over 3 years. During the 6 months between each residential, students receive monthly supervision which is included in the cost of the course, and complete self-directed study as set out in a curriculum. Students who are not working in a therapeutic community or enabling environment arrange a placement of roughly 3 months full time or a day a week for a year, which will provide the experience to be supervised.

In addition to academic, experiential and practical training, the weekends offer the opportunity to spend time with staff from other EEs and TCs to network and support one another in learning.

The course is now taking applications. The application form and further details are available online at www.tcept.org , any enquiries or to apply, email info@tcept.org