

Silver Level: Developing Trauma Informed Practice

Facilitation guide

Whilst the silver level training video can be accessed individually, some organisations may prefer to participate in a group, either in person or online. The below provides a brief guide to facilitators to promote engagement and enhance opportunities for discussion and sharing learning.

BREAKS

We would recommend scheduling a break every 25-35 minutes due to the nature and intensity of the content. The training is broken down into two chapters each lasting approximately 25-35 minutes and so hopefully this offers a natural point to break.

ACCESSIBILITY

The training is designed to be flexible. If you are facing limitations in terms of time, you may consider dividing the training into its respective chapters so that they can be accessed on a weekly or even monthly basis (we would recommend no longer than monthly intervals between the respective chapters for each level). These could be integrated into regular team meetings or as short CPD sessions. Do be mindful of whether a group is in their 'window of tolerance' as this will impact on their capacity to engage with the training. It is important that the training itself does not become another source of stress and pressure. Where possible, you may wish to seek preferences from the group about when and how the training should be accessed, this in turn will likely increase engagement and help to identify what people may need to participate more fully.

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SAFETY

It is important to be mindful of the content of the training. Whilst the title and outline of the chapters provide an indication of the topics which will be discussed, it is always worth creating a 'safety' message to be delivered at the start of each level to remind participants of the importance of self-care and giving them the permission to pay attention to their own needs. I often reassure participants that if they are 'triggered' by any of the content (such as feeling distressed or overwhelmed), they should feel able to take a break and do what they need to do to feel safe and supported. During online sessions, I suggest that if they do take a break, they let the facilitator know so that they have the option to catch up on any missed material and to ensure that they are aware of their need for support so that they can check in with them. No matter what our level of experience and knowledge or in what capacity we access the training, discussions about trauma can be heart-breaking and harrowing; a trauma informed approach starts by making a commitment to look after ourselves.

QUESTIONS

Whilst there is no 'live' facility for asking questions, Nicola can be contacted directly with feedback and questions and so we advise creating a platform for generating questions such as using post-it notes, a whiteboard or flipchart paper if the session is being facilitated in person, or the chat function if it is online and downloading it after the session so that it can be shared with the group. We would also encourage you to discuss these questions and to generate your own suggestions. This will offer a useful opportunity to share knowledge and learning. It will be important to reassure participants that this is a confidential space, free from judgement so that they feel safe and supported in sharing their experiences and ideas.

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POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

At the silver level the focus is predominantly on skills and developing a trauma informed approach to practice. Several practical learning activities have been integrated into the training video. The first focuses on taking the time to 'see', 'look' and 'wonder' about an illustration and we encourage you to share your observations and thoughts at each of the three stages of this activity. The second practical activity suggests taking the time to be creative by encouraging you to craft your own affirmations and messages of support for those you work with. So often we struggle to find the time to engage in creative practice for ourselves and this is an important tool for self-care, offering an opportunity for reconnection by allowing us to pay attention to our own needs and experiences. We hope that by building in the time for this activity, it will give you the permission you need to prioritise this.

In addition to these activities, you may wish to consider the following questions:

- i. Which qualities of 'reconnection' do you currently use in your practice and how do they show up?
- ii. Has this training helped you to identify other skills which could be integrated into practice? What might you need to achieve this?
- iii. How do you already engage in creative practice? (This may be an opportunity to share ideas with others in the group).
- iv. Are there any new creative ideas which you could incorporate into your practice in the future?
- v. Are there any barriers to engaging in creative practice? How might these be overcome?

FEEDBACK

A reminder that we would very much welcome your feedback, both formally by encouraging you to complete the evaluation questions and informally, if you wish to contact Nicola directly. Our intention is to create a training programme which provides you with the knowledge and supports you to develop the skills needed to integrate this learning into your practice. In particular we would love to see your decorated 'gifts' of reconnection.

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CONTINUED LEARNING

Each level includes a reference list which provides recommendations for further reading. References annotated with an asterisk could be used for continuing professional development journal/book clubs (an initiative outlined at the gold level).

A TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH

Most importantly, the training should be an opportunity to generate discussions, share ideas, create connections, reflect on practice and validate your work. We encourage you to make it more enjoyable, by baking or buying cakes for the breaks, sourcing good quality tea and coffee and even offering lunch, if you can. For those organisations who have a training budget, you may also consider using this to create self-care kits for your staff to deliver alongside the training; this will ensure that they feel valued and appreciated, in addition to promoting engagement with the training. Ideas for self-care kits for all budgets are included at the gold level in the toolkit.

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