Advanced Professional Practice: Complexity, Risk and the Law: Facilitator Pack

THE TALKING THERAPIES UK FACILITATOR PACKS



Advanced Professional Practice: Complexity, Risk and the Law: Facilitator Pack

Teaching the course to a group

A facilitator pack · 4 sessions · for trainers

TALKING THERAPIES UK

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First edition, 2026.

This pack accompanies the course “Advanced Professional Practice: Complexity, Risk and the Law” on Talking Therapies UK Training & CPD and its course book. It is drawn from the course and is kept current with it: whenever the course changes, the pack is set again.

Revision 2. This printing was set on 3 November 2026 from the course as it stood that day.

A note on teaching from this pack. It supports qualified trainers and supervisors teaching within their competence. Running the course from it does not award the course’s CPD certificate, which participants gain by completing the course online.

Set in Poppins and Roboto, the Talking Therapies UK typefaces.

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How to use this pack

This pack is for trainers and supervisors who teach the Talking Therapies UK course “Advanced Professional Practice: Complexity, Risk and the Law” to a group: a session for each of its 4 modules, with timed plans, the points to draw out, group activities and discussion questions, the course’s assessment with answers, an attendance register and an evaluation form.

Part 1 sets out the course and how to plan it. Part 2 has a timed plan for each session, built from the course’s own modules, lessons and practice tasks; read it with the module it teaches. Part 3 holds the course’s assessment with its answers, an attendance register and an evaluation form.

What this pack covers

- Plan the course as 4 sessions
- Follow a timed plan for each session
- Draw out each lesson’s key points
- Run each lesson’s practice task as a group activity
- Check understanding with the course’s own questions
- Keep a register and gather evaluations

PART 1

Planning the course

What the course covers, who it is for, and how to run it.

CHAPTER 1

About Advanced Professional Practice: Complexity, Risk and the Law

Senior practice is defined less by clinical technique than by what lands on your desk: dilemmas with no clean answer, risk that must be formulated and carried, law that binds practice whether or not you have read it, and colleagues, complaints and a profession that need leading. This course prepares experienced practitioners for exactly that territory.

The first module works through ethically complex terrain, competing duties, third parties, courts and families, using structured deliberation that can be defended afterwards, then reframes risk as formulation: beyond checklist prediction, whose evidence base is bleak, towards understanding the mechanisms of a particular person's risk and managing them collaboratively. The second module teaches the legal frame of UK practice, capacity, safeguarding, information law, court reports and duties to warn, followed by the profession's own machinery: complaints and fitness-to-practise processes, surviving them with integrity, and the responsibilities of supervision, gatekeeping and leadership that senior clinicians carry.

Extended written lessons with key points and practice tasks at case and service level, with a study tutor available throughout. Fourteen hours of CPD, around a year of access, a final assessment, and a personalised certificate on passing.

By the end of the course, participants will be able to

- Assess and manage suicide risk clinically, collaboratively and defensibly
- Apply mental capacity and safeguarding law as it bears on therapy with adults and young people
- Manage complaints, subpoenas, notes requests and court involvement correctly
- Navigate complex ethical dilemmas with a structured decision-making method and consultation
- Run a legally and ethically sound practice: insurance, wills for practice continuity, and digital records
- Hold professional resilience: fitness to practise, burnout prevention and self-care as ethical duties

Who it is for

The course is pitched at experienced practitioners working with complex presentations, who already use the approach in their practice.

At a glance

- 4 sessions of about 210 minutes, one for each of the course's modules.
- The online course is accredited for 14 hours of CPD.
- Each participant needs the course book, or access to the online course, for reading between sessions.

CHAPTER 2

Planning the sessions

Run one session for each module, a week or a fortnight apart, so that participants can read the module and try its practice task between sessions. The sessions can also be run as a block over two or three days.

OVERVIEW

The course at a glance

Session	Module	Lessons	Time
1	Ethical Complexity and Risk Formulation	4	210 minutes
2	Dual Responsibilities and Digital Risk	4	210 minutes
3	Legal Framework and Professional Practice	4	210 minutes
4	Advanced Risk Assessment and Legal Standards	5	210 minutes

The group

- Six to sixteen participants: enough for small-group work, few enough for everyone to contribute.
- Agree ground rules at the first session: confidentiality, respect for different experience, and how participants will speak about their own clients (with nothing that could identify them).
- Ask before the course about access needs, and send any reading a week ahead.

What you need

- A copy of this pack, and the course book or the online course for each participant.
- A flipchart or whiteboard, and space for groups of three or four to work.
- Printed copies of the attendance register and the evaluation form in Part 3, which you may copy for the groups you run.

Keeping it safe

Training about psychological difficulties can bring up participants' own experience. Say at the start that anyone may step out, have someone available to talk to afterwards, and know where to point a participant who is struggling: their GP, their own supervisor or employee assistance programme, or Samaritans on 116 123.