**Groups – Barnet**

We offer a range of group therapy courses and workshops. Our groups are based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) principles and aim to equip individuals with effective techniques and strategies to manage their symptoms and improve well-being.

**Our group therapy courses may include:**

* **Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Skills**
  + Offers a comprehensive introduction to the CBT techniques, covering important psychoeducation about the psychological symptoms as well as key strategies for managing depression and anxiety.
* **Trauma Stabilisation**
  + Covers psychoeducation about the impact of traumatic experiences. Rather than sharing about difficult experiences, this group focusses on teaching coping strategies for dealing with symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
* **Managing Long-Term Conditions**
  + Covers psychoeducation about the impact of having a long-term condition, as well as strategies for accepting and learning to live with it. Also, offers key skills for challenging negative thoughts, managing relationships, improving sleep and dealing with health setbacks.

**What to expect from a group session?**

Our groups are typically one-two hours long and run on a weekly or fortnightly basis. The groups vary in size but usually do not exceed 10 people to make participation comfortable for everyone. The sessions are facilitated by the two members of staff. At present, the groups are only held remotely via a confidential online platform.

**Do I need to talk about myself?**

We keep our groups small to ensure that they offer a safe space for everyone to share their difficulties if they want to and be able to learn from other people’s personal experiences. However, participation is not necessary and you can choose how much you want to disclose and talk about yourself in group discussion. The main focus of most of our groups is about understanding and learning techniques that will help you manage your difficulties to lead a meaningful and fulfilling life.

**Are groups effective?**

Research in CBT suggests that group therapy can be as effective as individual sessions. Different studies consistently find that individuals can improve their anxiety, low mood and other symptoms by attending group CBT

Group therapy has a number of advantages:

* We run our group therapy courses regularly, meaning that the waiting time for them is usually shorter than for individual therapy, so you can get help sooner.
* Most of our groups’ sessions are much longer in duration compared to one-to-one sessions, meaning that you can get more contact clinical time with a therapist.
* Many individuals find it comforting to hear other people experiencing similar difficulties, feeling less isolated in their struggles. Also, discussing difficulties with others can not only be great for learning from each other, but also for getting a new perspective and finding new solutions to life’s problems.

**How to sign up?**

Your first assessment with the service will be to understand your current difficulties and what you want to change. If there is a suitable group course that we think would benefit you and that matches your therapy goals – you will be offered to join.