

The contributors

Gillian Chowns began her social work career in a Children's Dept in the UK, continued in Social Services Departments, and then moved into the NHS and palliative care in the late 1990s. While working for each of these major statutory organisations, she also developed a teaching career and was until recently a senior Lecturer in Palliative Care at Oxford Brookes University. Her research interests are focussed on pre-bereavement work with children and families, and on palliative care education in resource-poor settings. While working for Oxford Brookes she taught palliative care in Africa for a number of years and as a recent Winston Churchill Travelling Fellow was able to research both these aspects across East and southern Africa. The film 'No, You *Don't* Know How We Feel' which formed part of her doctoral research has been sold not only in the UK but in Iceland, Europe, Korea, Canada, the USA and elsewhere.

Dr Chowns has contributed chapters to several books on palliative care and a chapter in Reason and Bradbury's *Handbook of Action Research* (2nd edition). She currently undertakes some teaching as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Southampton.

Nigel Hartley currently holds the post of Director of Supportive Care, a Senior Management position at St. Christopher's Hospice, London. He has worked in end-of life care for the past 18 years, more recently working on the redevelopment of Day Services at St. Christopher's Hospice before taking on his current position. He has held posts at both London Lighthouse, a Centre for those living with HIV/AIDS, and also Sir Michael Sobell House, which is a large Hospice in Oxford. He is an experienced manager, counsellor, musician, and music therapist.

He is the only person to have simultaneously chaired both the Association of Professional Music Therapists (UK) and the British Society of Music Therapy. In 2002, he led the organising committee for the 10th World Congress of Music Therapy which was held in Oxford in the UK.

He has trained and continues to train in management at Ashridge Business School, England. Nigel's main interests and passions are based around how we listen in our lives, and the language that we use to articulate our relationship experiences. Nigel has a National and International reputation as a teacher in end-of-life care and he regularly publishes about his work. He is co-editor of *Creative Arts in Palliative Care* (Jessica Kingsley, 2008).

Rosanna Heal has worked for the past three years as Quality Assurance Adviser at St Christopher's Hospice where she is responsible for coordinating audit activity and user feedback. She trained as a social worker and worked in the voluntary sector with children and families before moving to the Probation Service. Here she spent the next 13 years in a variety of roles including developing community safety partnerships and managing basic skills and employment services for offenders. She spent two years in the Probation Inspectorate on auditing offending behaviour programmes before moving to St Christopher's Hospice.

Malcolm Payne is Policy and Development Adviser, St Christopher's Hospice, having previously been Director of Psycho-social and Spiritual Care at the Hospice. His social work experience includes work in probation, social work and management in social services departments, community development and development and policy director for a national mental health organisation. He was head of applied community studies, Manchester Metropolitan University, for many years, during which he was involved in child and mental health service advocacy projects and research. He is now Visiting Professor at Opole University, Poland. Honorary Professor, Kingston University/St George's University of London, and docent in social work at the University of Helsinki, Finland. He has been extensively involved in international social work, leading and working on projects to develop social work and social policy in Russia, China, and Eastern Europe. His main recent publications are: *Social Care Practice in Context* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), *Globalization and International Social Work: Postmodern change and challenge*, (with Gurid Aga Askeland, Ashgate, 2008), *Modern Social Work Theory* (3rd edn, Palgrave Macmillan 2005), *Social Work: Continuity and Change* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005); and *What is Professional Social Work?* (2nd edn) (Policy Press, 2006). He co-edited a widely-used series of social

work texts on critical social work practice with Robert Adams and Lena Dominelli. He and Nigel Hartley recently co-edited *Creative Arts in Palliative Care* (Jessica Kingsley, 2008).

Jan Smith was a Trainee Health Psychologist. At the time of running the group. Running the group provided her with valuable clinical experience for her training.

Maria Theodoratou-Bekou, Ph.D., D.E.S.S. is a clinical psychologist and scientific assistant at Highest Technological Educational Institute (A.T.E.I), Patras, Greece. She has published various articles concerning coping strategies, mental health issues, learning disabilities and youth counselling. She started working with groups during her postgraduate studies and practice in the psychiatric hospital 'Montperrin', Aix en Provence, France.

Every academic semester, since 1995, when a new class starts at A.T.E.I., she has taught psychology to a different group of young people studying for qualifications in the health and welfare professions - which she finds a fascinating experience. She hopes that more support groups will exist in our lonely world to help people cope better with their problems.

Dr Carol Valinejad is an experienced Clinical Psychologist of 13 years who has worked predominantly in the field of Complex Mental Health, in a variety of NHS Mental Health Services. The main focus of her work is to develop models of service delivery that can help to promote the recovery and well being of service users. In her spare time, she enjoys writing, and her book, *How to Have a Happy Toddler*, has recently been published.