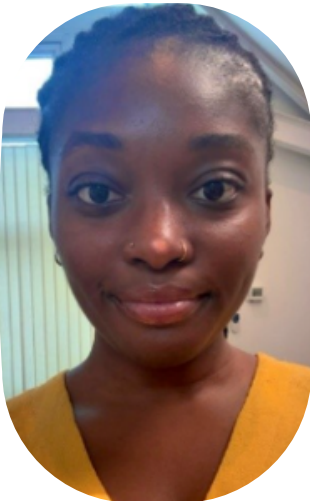


The Level 4 Diploma Team

The Place2Be staff leading the Level 4 Diploma in School-Based Counselling course across our London and Manchester cohorts have a wealth of experience in the field of children's mental health and wellbeing.

London



Ama Dankwa *Trainee DCPsych, PGDip, BSc, MBCAP (Accred), MBPsS*

Programme Leader & Tutor

Ama is a BACP-Accredited integrative Therapist and Programme Lead for the Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling. Trained in Counselling Psychology and psychotherapy with children, young people and adults, she brings years of experience from schools, community settings and private practice.

Through her therapeutic work, Ama champions anti-oppressive working, empowerment, inclusion and creativity, values she brings into the classroom to support trainees in becoming authentically skilled, curious and compassionate counsellors.



Kate Armstrong *MA, MsC, PGDip, MBACP (Accred)*

Programme Leader & Tutor

After completing a Psychology degree at the University of Edinburgh, Kate began her career in Human Resources. Following training as an executive coach, she developed a growing interest in the early experiences that shape individuals and their relationships. This led her to undertake a master's degree in Developmental Psychoanalytic Psychology at the Anna Freud Centre.

After taking a break to focus on family life, Kate went on to complete a Postgraduate Diploma at Place2Be. She subsequently developed her own therapeutic practice, working with children and their parents within primary school settings.



Charlotte Usher *MBACP*

Programme Tutor

Charlotte trained as a Psychodynamic Counsellor at the BACP accredited Counselling Centre in Tunbridge Wells. After attending a Place2Be taster day, she was inspired to work with children and young people and completed two years with Place2Be as a Counsellor on Placement before becoming a Supervising Counsellor, working for several years across primary and secondary schools in Kent and Sussex.

She also runs a private practice in Kent, supporting children and parents. Her work is informed by the Place2Be model, using an integrative approach with a strong emphasis on relationship as the foundation for safe and effective practice.



Matthew Audley

Experiential Group Facilitator

Matthew is a UKCP registered psychotherapist with over thirty years' experience in private practice with individuals, couples and groups. He has also trained as a Group Analyst with the Institute of Group Analysis as well as with the Tavistock and Portman in Consulting to Leadership and Organisations.

Matthew has worked extensively as a supervisor, trainer and group facilitator in educational, health and voluntary settings.



Kelli Swain-Cowper *MA, PGDip, BA, Supervision (Cert), MBACP, HCPC, ATR*

Head of Clinical Curriculum

Kelli is Head of Clinical Curriculum at Place2Be. Originally trained in Child and Adolescent Mental Health in New York City, she began her UK career at the school where Place2Be was founded. Over 24 years with the organisation, her frontline clinical experience has shaped both service delivery and training programmes, supporting thousands of educators and counsellors to work effectively with children.

Eighteen years ago, she established the first postgraduate training pathway for school-based child and young people's (CYP) counsellors. Passionate about equity and diversity in the workforce, she continues to increase access to CYP counselling training, most recently through her work on developing a CYP school counsellor apprenticeship and piloting the first full-time intensive training cohort. She has also played a key role in developing Place2Be's whole-school approach and is currently writing a textbook for training CYP counsellors.



Mark Rushton *MBACP (Accred)*

Level 4 Tutor

Mark is a BACP Accredited counsellor with 25 years' experience working with children, young people and adults. He is also a registered Social Worker and qualified clinical supervisor. He currently works as a trainer across Place2Be's qualifying courses.



Nazia Khaliq

Level 4 Tutor

Nazia is currently a School Counsellor in a secondary school, bringing her day-to-day clinical experience directly into her teaching. She has also held clinical roles within Place2Be, including Supervising Counsellor and Mental Health Practitioner. Through these roles, she has gained extensive experience of working therapeutically with children and young people across both primary and secondary school settings, supporting families and working collaboratively with schools to promote emotional wellbeing.

Alongside her work in schools, Nazia runs a private practice, working with children, young people and adults, and provides clinical supervision to trainee and qualified counsellors. Her experience across education, voluntary services and private practice has given her a broad understanding of therapeutic work in a range of settings.

Nazia is passionate about supporting trainees as they develop into thoughtful, reflective and compassionate child counsellors. She enjoys creating a learning environment that encourages curiosity, self-awareness and reflective practice, while helping trainees build confidence in their own therapeutic approach.

Operations



Paul Lucia

Programme Manager

Paul has worked at Place2Be since 2015 in various positions, initially working in our placements team supporting counsellors on placement, before working on our professional qualifications and most recently managing all Mental Health & Wellbeing Programmes training for schools, teacher training institutions and youth groups. He has overseen the rollout and delivery of the Mental Health Champions - Foundation programme, Senior Mental Health Leads, and Staffroom.

As Programme Manager for qualifying courses Paul holds responsibility for the operational running of the programme, working closely with the clinicians, wider operational team and external partners. Paul has an academic background in Psychology and in his own time has completed a Level 3 in Counselling Skills. Paul's professional interests are in supporting wellbeing in the workplace and increasing knowledge around mental health to better support open conversations. Paul is also a big fan of dogs, film & TV, nature and food!



Sarah Wilkinson

Programme Coordinator

Sarah is the Programme Coordinator for the Level 4 programme, supporting students and the clinical team by ensuring the smooth running of its operational delivery. She brings over five years' experience in project coordination, including work delivering and facilitating mentoring programmes across the UK and the Middle East prior to joining Place2Be.

Sarah is a qualified therapist, holding a PGDip in Integrative Counselling & Psychotherapy from the University of East London. Outside of work, she enjoys watching live music, exploring nature, and discovering new restaurants.