



Background to STORM Skills Training CIC

STORM® (Skills-based Training On Risk Management) was developed in the mid-1990's at the University of Manchester in response to frontline workers' lack of skills to effectively 'assess and manage a suicide crisis'. Whilst training was available, it was restricted to lectures in reregistration and undergraduate mental health programmes. Thus, whilst staff were knowledgeable about suicide, they lacked the 'skills' to assess the risk and to help a person stay safe.

The STORM® Training model utilises skills-based techniques proven to develop skills. Previous studies found the STORM® training model effective at building a skills-set for suicide risk assessment and safety planning (previously known as crisis management), which also increases confidence, and improves attitudes towards suicide prevention. In addition, Participants rated the training highly. They found it useful and relevant to their practice.

In 2003, Professor Linda Gask and Dr Gill Green created The STORM® Project. The Project had two aims: to research, develop and evaluate STORM® training packages, and to run a not-for-profit venture that offered STORM® training commercially. There are currently over 500 STORM® Facilitators delivering training in services in Healthcare, Social care, Criminal Justice, Education, and in the Defence Forces across the UK, Republic of Ireland, Chanel Islands, Malta and Australia.

With the help of some of our STORM® Facilitators, we have also engaged in charity work delivering training to mental health workers in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Russia. STORM® has evolved to accommodate an expanding audience. The original Suicide Prevention training package (Version 2) was adapted for a Prison environment (Prison STORM®), and for staff working in Children and Young Adult services (CYA). Two further components were later added: the 'Self-injury Mitigation' and the 'Suicide Prevention Telephone' packages.

The 'Self-harm Mitigation' package is the latest version of STORM® training (Version 3). It incorporates an understanding of self-harm and its relationship with suicide and self-injury to form a complete self-harm risk assessment and safety planning training package. A postvention 4 element has also been developed that can be added to create a comprehensive suicide prevention and postvention training strategy.

To improve on the success of the STORM® Project, it was necessary to develop a sustainable business model that would allow us to trade independently of the University. Dr Gill Green, with the help of Dr Sonia Nikolovski from UMIP (University of Manchester Intellectual Properties Ltd), began working towards setting up a Social Enterprise that would incorporate the right business model and legal framework to fit the STORM® Project's philosophy – that '**no one should profit from another person's distress**'.

In 2010, Gill won two HEFCE/UnLtd Social Enterprise awards offering business management support, mentorship and pro bono expertise. With these resources, it became possible to set up the Social Enterprise. The special relationship with Alf Hill (UnLtd Mentor), whose help and support was invaluable during this process, continues today; Alf is now a Non-executive Director of the company.

In 2012, STORM® Skills Training Community Interest Company (CIC), a Social Enterprise Limited by guarantee (not-for-profit), began trading independently of the University. It provides the STORM® training services and important social impact work. Our aim is to income generate by selling our training products and services - offering **Social Value**. The excess revenue we earn will be invested to increase the **Social Impact** work we do. We wish to be in a position to offer free or subsidised training and education to community groups that have limited or no funds for training. In addition to this, the CIC will help support the STORM® Project, which remains within the University of Manchester, to continue its research and development programmes.