

I would like to attend the Talking Mats course on 21 November 2008.

Title Name	
Company	
Address	postcode
Invoicing Details if different to above	postcode
Order No (If applicable): Date: Payment type:	

**Authorising Signature** - I understand that once a place has been confirmed my organisation is committed to payment and that you are happy to accept a substitute if the above participant cannot attend.

Signed.....  
(Please note we will give a full refund if we receive 28 days notice of cancellation.)

**Cancellation and changes**  
Cancellations must be received in writing. Cancellations made less than ten working days before the event will be subject to a 50% administration fee. After this date it is regretted that no refunds can be made. Substitution of delegates is acceptable at any time. In the event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to refund of the fees paid. It may be necessary for reasons beyond the control of the organisers to make changes to speakers, content or timing of the programme.

**Talking Mats**  
AAC Research Unit  
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www.talkingmats.com

# TalkingMats

## Talking Mats & Dementia Training

People with dementia often experience communication difficulties. Family, friends and staff in different settings may wish to find ways to communicate with them more effectively.

Talking Mats is a low-technology communication framework that was developed at the University of Stirling to help people with communication difficulties to express their views. It uses a simple system of picture symbols and a textured mat that allow people to indicate their feelings about various options within a topic by placing the relevant image below a visual scale.

The course date is 21 November 2008.

The course will be held at Stirling Management Centre, Stirling University and places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

This course is run by the AAC Research Unit, University of Stirling.

“A practical training course that ensures participants can develop and use Talking Mats in their own work environment.”



The cost of the course is £150.00 (Cheques should be made payable to 'The University of Stirling.')

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## Who is the course for?

This course is open to anyone whose work involves communicating with those with dementia.

It may be particularly appropriate to those working within a care situation, who may not have had any prior experience of using the Talking Mats framework.

The research that resulted in this training course, and in the new Talking Mats & Dementia package (available autumn 2008) was funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. The full report resulting from the research: *Communication and Dementia: How Talking Mats can help people with dementia express themselves*, by Joan Murphy, Cindy M Gray and Sylvia Cox, is published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and is available as a free download from [www.jrf.org.uk](http://www.jrf.org.uk)

## Course Format

- The course runs over one full day.
- Talking Mats is a simple tool but its efficacy lies in the communication skills of the practitioner who uses it. This course is structured to allow participants time to reflect and develop their own communication skills.
- Participants will all receive the opportunity to use Talking Mats during their training.
- During training scenarios will be used to help participants reflect on the use of the framework.
- Lunch is included in the cost of the course.

Successful participants receive a certificate recognising their attendance and the training that they have received in Talking Mats.

Talking Mats runs other courses around the UK, many of which do not have a client-specific focus. For further information on these courses please check the website at [www.talkingmats.com](http://www.talkingmats.com)

## Feedback From Previous Courses



Very useful tool to communicate at a deeper level than could be achieved by talking or questionnaires  
- Social Worker

Very useable tool that can be adapted for both assessment and therapy  
- Speech and Language Therapist

Brilliant course, I was very apprehensive at the start but this was dissipated throughout both sessions  
- Researcher

I enjoyed the levels of participation  
- Occupational Therapist

Creating mats concentrated thoughts in interesting and challenging ways  
- Teacher

One of the most interesting and valuable courses I have been on  
- Social worker