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Northern Health Futures Hub

UKRI Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

Public Showcase

13:45 | USB Events Space





Lightening Talks

Insights from Training Initiatives



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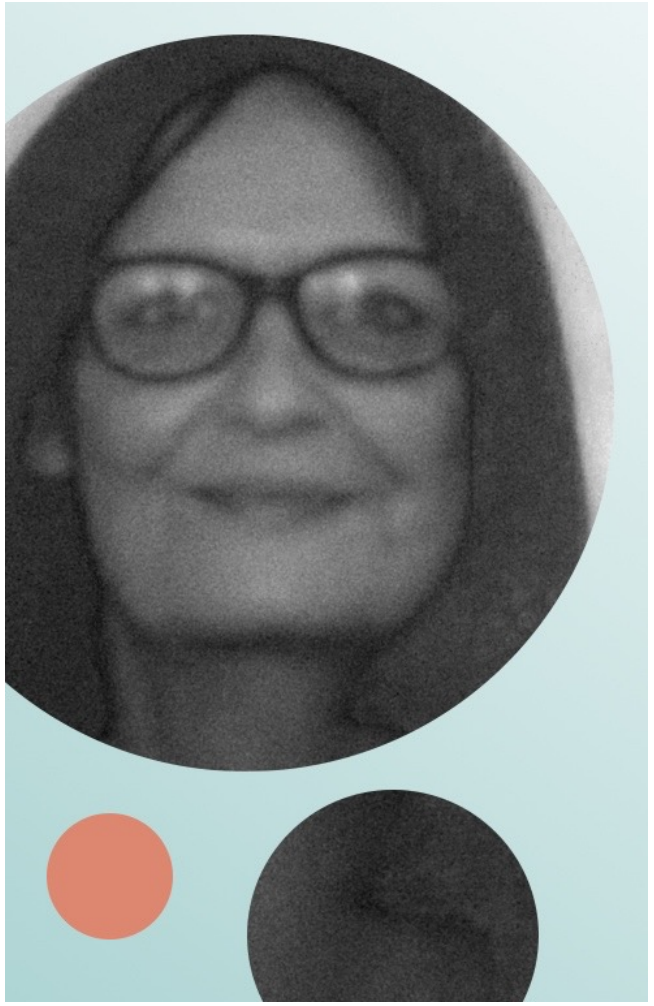
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Shirley Sunderland

On Adult Social Care Digital Skills Development Project

(she/her)



Northumberland County Council

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Adult Social Care Digital Skills development project



DIGITAL BOOST

Project Overview

- targeted programme to develop the digital confidence, skills and capability of the adult social care (ASC) workforce in Northumberland
- Provide up to 200 ASC workforce members with free access to the Skills Development Network online platform
- Free access to courses, conferences, events eLearning and Top Tips resources in a range of technical and non-technical subjects
- Free ‘Digital Boost’ development sessions in community venues across Northumberland

DIGITAL BOOST

The story so far...

Dec-25: Initial discussions between SDN, NCC and NorthFutures
Feb-26: Contract signed
Feb-26: NCC attendance at SDN Digital Conference in Gateshead
Feb-26: Planning activities and promotional materials developed
Feb and Mar-26: Initial engagement with ASC leads to define learning needs and challenges
Apr-26: Event planning and promotional activities
May-26: First 'Digital Boost' development day in Shilbottle, Northumberland

The next chapter...

- Jun-26: Second 'Digital Boost' development day in Corbridge
- Jul-26: Third 'Digital Boost' development day in Choppington
- Sep-26: SDN digital training within NCC's ASC Manager's Excellence programme
- To Mar-27:
  - Ongoing promotion of learning and events
  - Tailored training for larger ASC employers



skills development network

Digital Boost workshops

Demystifying AI - getting started with Artificial Intelligence

What AI is (and isn't); Generative AI; How AI can help you in your role and in life; Prompting basics; Risks, limitations and safe use; Live demo

Exploring the NHS App and NHS Account

An update on the features and functionality of the NHS App and the NHS account

Unlocking LinkedIn for Recruitment

Reach the right people, tell your story, recruit more effectively.

LinkedIn for recruitment; Building your employer brand; Creating engaging posts; Writing job adverts that stand out; Using staff stories and real content; Practical tips to get started quickly



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Progress so far...

Numbers of ASC colleagues registered on SDN website	**63**
Attendees at Digital Boost Session 1	**12**



DIGITAL BOOST

SDN North East and North Cumbria Team



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Catherine Grant
Regional SDN Programme Lead
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Laura Hartland-Adams
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SDN Events Coordinator
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Simon Bromhead

(he/him)

Social Prescribing: Telling the Story of your Impact using Data



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Background and rationale / challenge addressed

- Social prescribing is commonplace in the NHS, but with a multitude of models there is a need to improve our knowledge of what works.

- We need to upskill social prescribing link workers and other health and social care staff in using data to demonstrate the impact of social prescribing.

Ways to Wellness

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Aims and objectives

1 day training course: ‘Telling the story of your impact using data’.

Course content:

- Why we need to demonstrate the value of Social Prescribing
- Exploring health and care datasets and how it can strengthen your own dataset
- What else could you collect?
- Pulling it all together to tell your story
- How to get involved in wider research and how it can support your work.

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Using Fingertips to tell your story

A simple 5-step approach to turn data and insight into a compelling story

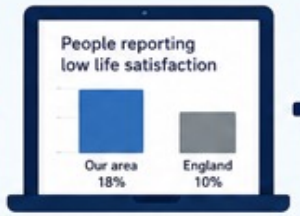
1 Start with the problem



Clearly describe the issue you are seeing in your community.

EXAMPLE
Our area has high levels of social isolation and poor mental health.

2 Add data



Use indicators from Fingertips to quantify the issue.

EXAMPLE
18% of adults in our area report low life satisfaction compared with 10% in England.

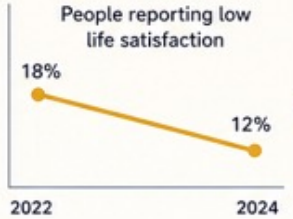
3 Add your service insight



Share what link workers are seeing and hearing from people.

EXAMPLE
Link workers are hearing people feel lonely, stressed and struggling to cope.

4 Show impact



Compare local outcomes before and after your intervention.

EXAMPLE
After our support, low life satisfaction decreased from 18% to 12%.

5 Keep it simple



Focus on 1–3 key stats to keep your story clear and memorable.

EXAMPLE
One strong stat, combined with insight and impact, tells a powerful story.

Data + Insight + Impact = A powerful story for change

Use Fingertips data alongside your experience to evidence need, show your impact and make the case for more support.

DATA + INSIGHT + IMPACT = CHANGE

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What we are doing

- Developing training materials with Dr Matthew Cooper, Newcastle University.

- 4 in person training courses (Tyne and Wear, Teesside, County Durham and North Cumbria) + 2 online courses. Aiming for a total of 100 learners, taking place June/July.



- Expressions of interest requested via local voluntary sector networks (VONNE, Connected Voice, VODA) and social media (Bluesky, LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook).

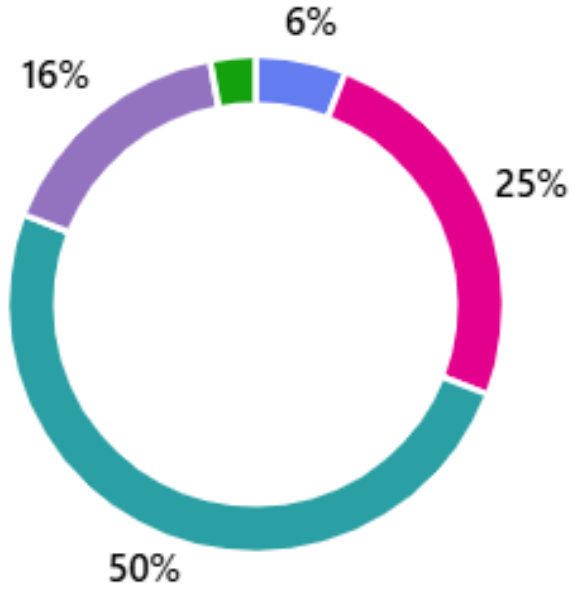
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5. How confident do you feel in your ability to use data to demonstrate the impact of your work?

Very confident	4
Somewhat confident	17
Somewhere in the middle	34
Not particularly confident	11
Not confident at all	2



What we will measure

- Audience engagement (number of trainees completing training; geographical reach; demographic and professional diversity).

- Training quality and overall impact on training participant knowledge, skills and practice (trainee feedback, willingness to be involved in future research).

- Impact (follow up survey 1-3 months after attendance – changes in knowledge, skills and practice).

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Next steps

Ways to Wellness

- Deliver training – June-September 2026.
- Explore offering more widely, including outside North East and North Cumbria.
- Learners left with increased knowledge of how data can support their work + more interested in participating in health and social care research. Work with partners on a national list?

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Alice Highet

(she/her)

Consultant

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Mobile Meditations

Digital Voice for communities

RE-CO-CO RECOVERY COLLEGE COLLECTIVE

Research Theme: NorthFutures Training and Skills

Grant number:

Project Partners:

Alice Highet
Artist/ PhD researcher
Newcastle University

www.alicehighet.com

Jan Debognies
Digital Voice
Digital inclusion charity

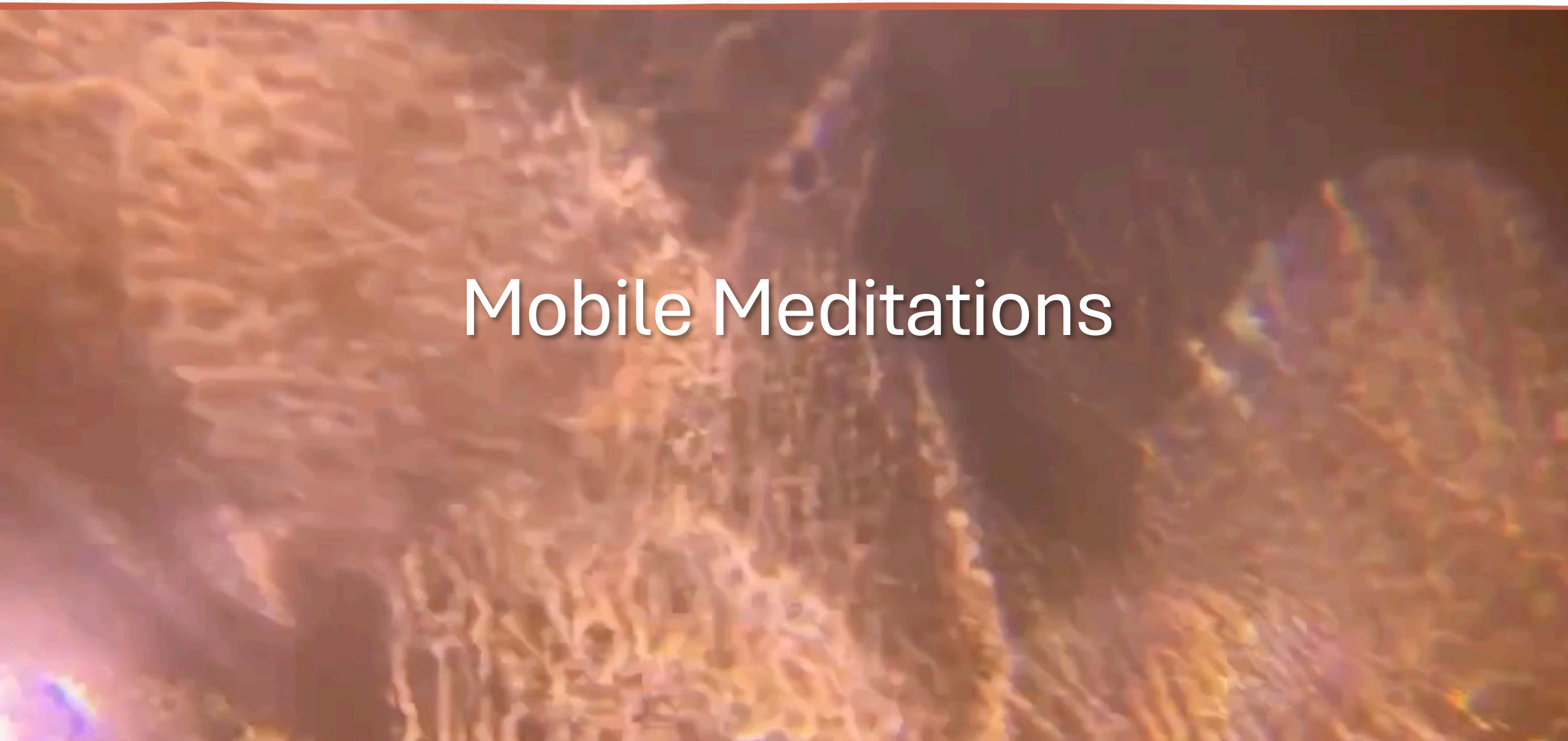
www.digitalvoice.org.uk

Alisdair Cameron
ReCoCo
Peer-led mental health charity

www.digitalvoice.org.uk

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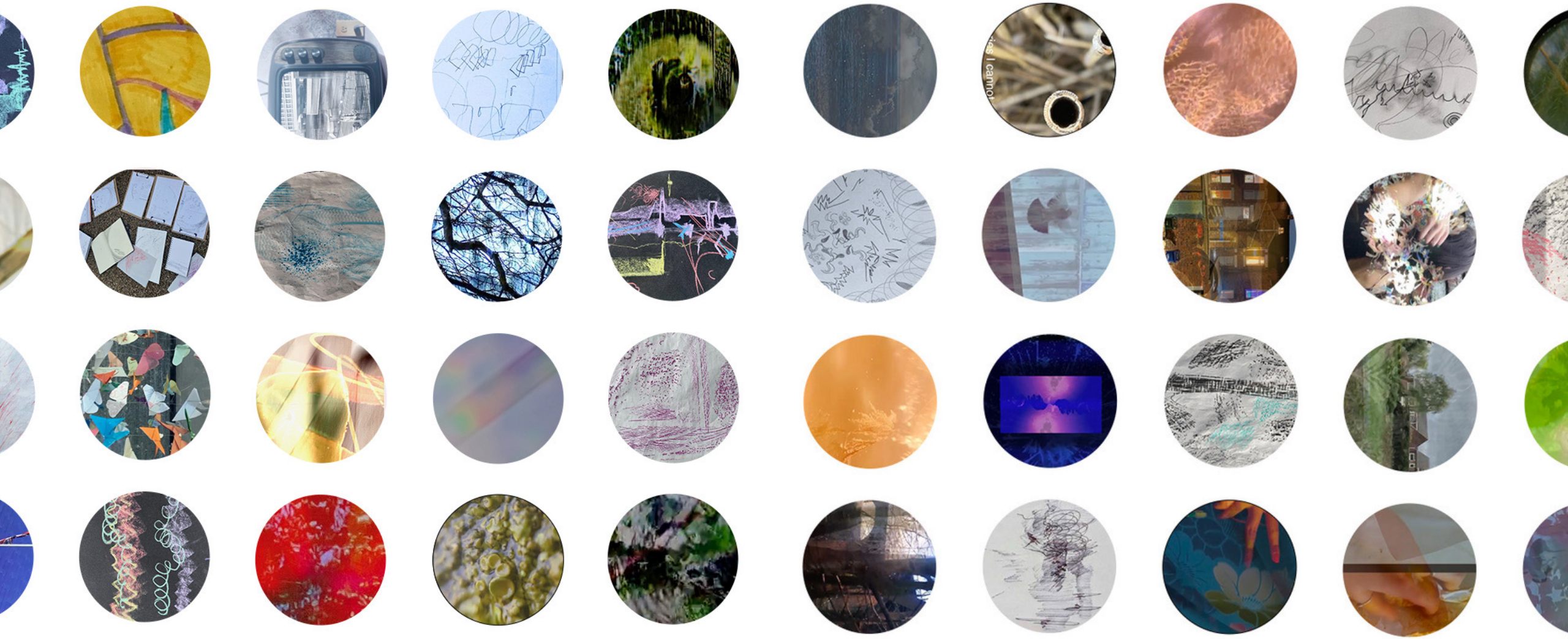
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Mobile Meditations

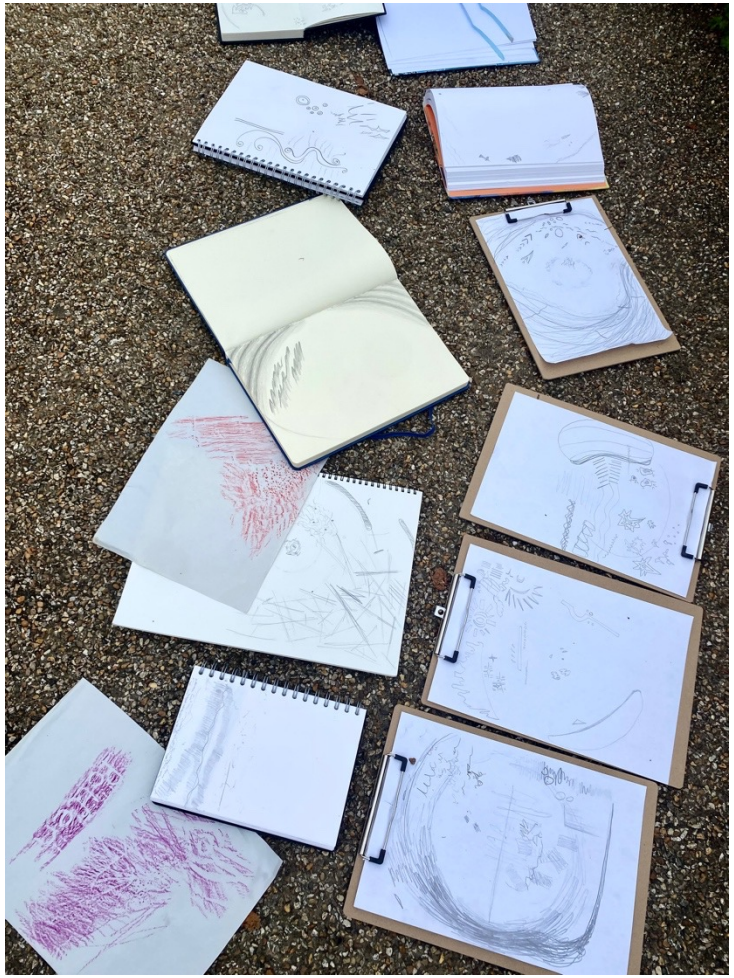
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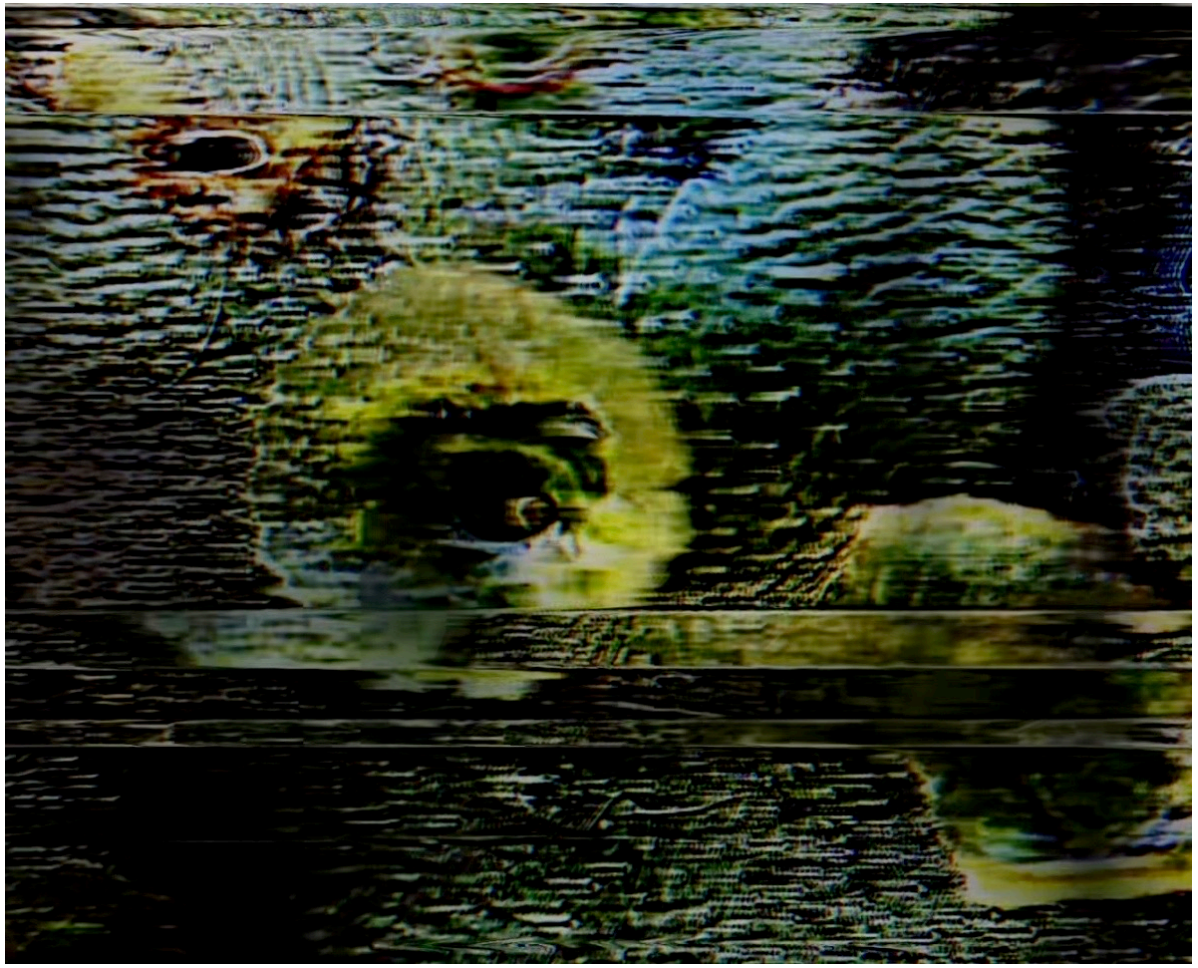
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