Guidelines for gaining IRIS Level 1 Registration
through the Grand-parenting route

IRIS Cancer Partnership recognizes that there are many highly skilled massage therapists supporting people with cancer who will be familiar with clinical issues, including the range of cancer treatments and procedures. The Iris Cancer Partnership has been offering massage training for the last four years and feels its Curriculum has features to offer, not available on most other trainings. We are hopeful that some of the above-mentioned therapists may wish to join the Register of Scottish Iris Massage Therapists so that we may each benefit from the expertise of the other. Iris is committed to an inclusive approach and to forging partnerships with as many people and organisations working in this field as possible.

The following pathway to Registration has been carefully created so that those with a wealth of experience may gain recognition of that and so that IRIS is able to uphold its professional standards.

The portfolio part of the application gives every opportunity for applicants to evidence their experience and skills.

IRIS welcomes feedback from applicants about this Grand-parenting service and will respond helpfully to all comments received.

The IRIS Grand-Parenting Pathway

1. Attendance at an IRIS 'Massage for People Living with Cancer' (MFPLWC) training, one full day. This course is condensed from the usual 3 day MFPLWC that therapist take, recognising that for the highly experienced therapist already working in a cancer support setting, there may well already be familiarity with clinical issues including the range of cancer treatments and procedures.

2. Submission of a portfolio of your work, which must contain the following:

Profile of current work. This can include both paid and volunteer work:
- Number of hours/ week worked.
- The workplace setting, either in paid or volunteer role.
- The number of clients /week.
- Are you supervised? If so, for how long? How often is your supervision?
- PVG / Disclosure Scotland checked?

What training connected with your work as a massage therapist have you participated in over the last 5 years? Please give dates of course(s), the training provider with contact details, the length of the training, and copies of any Certificates. Plus copies of:
- First Aid Certificate.
- Insurance details.
- Professional Association membership.

Please supply 2 Professional References
All references need to be on headed notepaper with address, and dated and signed by the referee. One of the 2 references must be your line manager / supervisor who can comment on your work. If you do not have a line manager or supervisor, please give the names of 2 people who can comment in depth about your work. Iris has a policy of following up references.

Testimonials
These can be from colleagues, clients, and other related cancer support service organisations who can comment on your work. Between 3-10 testimonials can be included in your portfolio.

<u>Reflective paper</u>
Please write a piece, 500-1000 words, about your reflections on what working as massage therapist supporting people with cancer means for you. Including personal experiences of being involved with cancer and any particular challenges and issues you are aware of in working in this field, is welcome in this piece as well as what nourishes and inspires you.

<u>Case study</u>
Please write up a case study of your work with a client who has had cancer. This needs to be a current client and a recent session (within the last 6 months). The suggested length, excluding the Client Consultation Form, is 500-1000 words.

Please protect confidentiality by removing the client's name.

A case study template is attached to theses application guidelines. In particular please refer in your case study to the pressure, site and position framework. Please also include the following:

- Your intake / consultation form which will include detailing the client's history
- Your reflections about how you planned to treat the client.
- How the session went, what you did, what you noticed.
- What did you tell the client after the session?
- Did you follow up with a telephone call to check how they were? What questions did you ask?
- What did the client tell you about their massage afterwards?
- You own reflections about the client after the massage
- 500 – 1000 words is suggested length.

It is alright to include more than 1 treatment session in your case study presentation (maximum 3).

3. Level 1 - Supporting the Therapist module

Your portfolio part of your application additionally requires the following to gain exemption from the 'Supporting the Therapist' module:

- Details the ways you look after yourself, to relax, restore and rejuvenate.
- Do you have a regular practice such as yoga, meditation, physical activity, whatever takes you into deep relaxation?
- How do you see your work evolving over the next years?

If you are or have attended a course aimed at those working or volunteering in a related caring role that requires self-reflection and self-examination in the last 2 years, please supply course details and certificate, training provider contact details, number of hours completed, details of the assessment methods and work required for submission by you.

4. Level 1 - Communications Skills module

Level 1 Registration requires all applying to have attended a Communication Skills 1 day course within the last 2 years.

IRIS offers these courses 3 times a year and also supports those wishing to apply for Level 1 Registration to identify additional Communication Skills courses, which include the learning outcomes of the IRIS course, which may be offered locally by cancer care organisations.

All of the IRIS training is based on Gayle MacDonald's Cancer Massage approach which is detailed in her book 'Medicine Hands'. IRIS recommends that any therapist accredited as a Level 1 Registered IRIS Massage Therapist reads Medicine Hands and checks in with the short on-line quiz Gayle provides to check their understanding.