

## Cultivate Wellbeing and Build Resilience

# We are living in an age of uncertainty and anxiety



Mental ill-health is rising - Covid-19 hasn't helped:

- Stress has increased 67%
- Anxiety has increased 57%
- More than half of us will experience mental illness at some point in our lives
- More than 50% of us are 'working-wounded' emotionally exhausted, feeling ineffective, lacking motivation, physically depleted, mentally distracted and living with little purpose or meaning
- Mental illness is a leading indicator of productivity with elevated stress hormones in our bodies, we see innovation, creativity and productivity perish

### Recognise signs of distress



- Loss of confidence in your abilities
- Trouble concentrating and decreased memory
- Changes in eating habits or stomach problems
- Problems sleeping and waking up fatigued
- Feeling tired and drained most of the time
- Muscle tension, aches and back pain
- Feeling irritable, loss of motivation or depressed
- Loss of interest in work and decreased morale
- Disappointment with yourself, sense of failure and self-doubt
- Increased emotional reactions tendency to overreact
- Lowered immunity and feeling sick a lot; frequent headaches
- Increasingly cynical and negative outlook
- Feeling helpless, trapped, defeated, detached and feeling alone
- Using food, drugs or alcohol to cope
- Taking out your frustrations on others
- Withdrawing and isolating yourself from others
- Skipping work; coming in late; leaving early
- Withdrawing from your responsibilities or things you like



#### **Reframe your mindset**

Define your purpose and find meaning Use your strengths daily to generate positive moods Practice gratitude daily - gratitude and anxiety cannot co-exist Help others - this builds your resilience, fulfillment and new skills Avoid comparing yourself to others - it leads to misery Practice STOP! - slow down, take note of thoughts and feelings, open up to your behaviour, prioritise your values when taking next steps Practice '3-Blessings' - end your day by giving attention to what went right and remind yourself why these things matter to you Beware of being emotionally hijacked - perceived threats cause a release of adrenalin and cortisol and stop you thinking rationally Negative thoughts are normal - they are not directions and they are rarely accurate

#### Resilience



A process of adapting  $\mathcal{S}$  responding to difficult  $\mathcal{S}$  challenging demands placed on us – adaptive behaviours that allow us to handle, bend, bounce and recover



#### **Tips to build resilience**

Take a digital detox - give your brain a rest
Book a massage – get rid of toxins and feel good
Make healthy food choices - you are what you eat
Get physical - release your endorphins: our natural mood-boosters
Get forty winks - rejuvenate your mind, body and emotions
Beware of isolation - find your tribe and stay connected
Develop your passion - build agency and mastery
Try something new - curiosity positively changes our brains
Learn to breathe deeply – this lowers stress and calms us
Establish rituals - stop depleting your cognitive resources
Try monotasking – multitasking is a myth and stresses your brain
Practice mindfulness - still mindless chatter and build concentration
Build 'Gap-Time' – daily micro-interventions add up to a better life

#### **To help others**



Look out for others – know the signs of distress Have a conversation - ask: "R U OK" Listen - hear them out and don't try and fix things Show you care - explain why you are concerned Ask permission - can you provide a referral to help Follow-up – stay connected and supportive



"Life is never made unbearable by circumstances, but only by a lack of meaning and purpose" - Viktor Frankl

To learn more, to discuss or to obtain references, please get in touch

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