



Dr Nigel Blagg **Chartered Psychologist & Registered Educational Psychologist**

Adult, Child & Family Assessments

Dr Nigel Blagg has more than 30 years educational and clinical experience working with adults, children and families in multi-professional settings. He is a Chartered Psychologist with the British Psychological Society (BPS), an Associate Fellow of the BPS (#001786), is registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC #PYL02660) and is DBS checked (#001765212546). Dr Blagg is also a member of the Royal Society of Medicine as an Associate Fellow and a member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

His qualifications include a BSc Honours Degree in Psychology (University of Nottingham), a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (University of Nottingham), a Masters Degree in Educational and Child Psychology completed at the Child Development Research Unit (University of Nottingham) and a Doctorate in the Clinical Psychology field awarded by The Institute of Psychiatry (University of London). Dr Blagg is a qualified registered user of a portfolio of psychometric tests and clinical procedures assessing intelligence, personality & mental health and autism spectrum conditions in both adults and children.

Dr Blagg participates in ongoing CPD related to his clinical practice as a Psychologist. For example, he has completed training in Feuerstein's Learning Potential Assessment Device; the Attachment Style Interview for Adoption and Fostering; Patricia Crittenden's Dynamic-Maturational Model of Patterns of Attachment in Adulthood; the International Personality Disorder Examination; the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory – III, the HCR-20 v3 (to assess risk of future violence); the SVR-20 (for assessing risk of future sexual offending) and the ADOS-2 and ADI-R (gold standard tools for the assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorders). He has also attended courses concerning parenting and personality disorder, the neuroscience of attachment and attachment disorders, psychosomatic illness, medically unexplained illness, Body Dysmorphic Disorder, the impact of domestic violence and substance misuse on parenting and the Resolutions approach to the development of safety plans in disputed child abuse cases. Dr Blagg recently completed BPS training in Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (recently included as a new diagnostic category in the ICD 11).

In his early career as a psychologist (1976 – 1990) Dr Blagg was responsible for the assessment, management and treatment of children and adolescents with a wide range of special educational needs including Autism and emotionally based school avoidance (school phobia). He also routinely prepared reports for the court on young offenders placed on remand. During this time Dr Blagg conducted seminal research into the aetiology and treatment of school phobia and the enhancement of thinking and learning skills in adolescents leading to the publication of a widely used modular thinking skills programme and two academic books "*School Phobia and its Treatment*" and "*Can We Teach Intelligence?*" (both reprinted by Routledge in 2017). For a number of years during the 1980s Dr Blagg was an Associate Editor with *Behaviour Change* - Journal of the Australian Association for Cognitive and Behaviour Therapy.

In 1990 Dr Blagg established Nigel Blagg Associates, providing psychological services as well as researching transferrable skills and employability issues. The latter resulted in the publication of the "*Thinking Skills at*



Work” modules, research reports and good practice guides. Nigel Blagg Associates became incorporated as NBA Solutions Ltd in 2003, although the name Nigel Blagg Associates was retained for expert witness services via a team of HCPC Registered Psychologists with specialisms in educational, clinical, forensic, counselling and neuropsychology.

Since 1990, Dr Blagg has maintained clinical work with children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Pathological Demand Avoidance, ADHD and emotionally-based school avoidance (EBSA). He has acted as a consultant to the Elizabeth Newson Centre (Autism East Midlands). He has also conducted assessments and provided advice for Child Protection Agencies at the pre-proceedings stage and to Local Authorities following court proceedings when there have been concerns about placement stability and/or sibling relationship issues.

Dr Blagg has also provided expert witness assessments since 1993 within **Family Proceedings** and **Private Law disputes**. He has acted as an expert witness in high conflict private law proceedings over many years and has developed a specialist interest in cases of alleged Parental Alienation. He has completed BPS training in assessment tools and interventions for such cases and in 2017 attended the First International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group in Washington, D.C. He has co-authored a research paper on parent-child relationships in alienated vs abused children which was published in 2018 in the peer-reviewed journal Child Abuse Review (DOI: 10.1002/car.2537). Dr Blagg accepts instructions relating to the assessment of:

- ***Placement and therapeutic needs of children in complex Residence/Contact disputes involving alleged parental alienation***
- ***Parenting ability, adult learning disability, personality disorder and mental health and impact of alcohol and drug misuse***
- ***Adult attachment style, relationship issues and family dynamics including impact of domestic violence and / or substance misuse***
- ***Harm suffered by children or risk of future harm with respect to neglect and / or abuse (including emotional, sexual or physical)***
- ***The nature of a child’s attachment relationships and sibling relationships***
- ***Therapeutic and support needs of parents and / or children, prospect of change and the likely timescale for that change***
- ***Placement needs of children following a Care Order, including whether siblings should be placed together or separately and the nature and extent of contact with birth family***
- ***Children’s special educational needs***
- ***Complex cases involving emotionally-based school avoidance (EBSA) and/or ASD***

Dr Blagg has given evidence in Court on numerous occasions.



Dr Alison Hodgetts **Registered Clinical Psychologist**

Child and Family Assessments

Dr Hodgetts graduated as a Clinical Psychologist in 2005 from the University of Plymouth and has primarily worked in Child and Adolescent Mental Health settings since. Her first child post was in a Child Development Centre where she was involved with the assessments and interventions for children with a range of developmental difficulties, including Autism and learning difficulties. During this post her interests in attachment and developmental trauma grew, and she began to work with an independent psychological practice in the Southwest. Dr Hodgetts' focus in this role was the assessment of children and their families as part of Child Care Court Proceedings and she regularly gave evidence in Court.

Dr Hodgetts uses a range of assessments for children and completed her training in the Story Stem Attachment Process at the Anna Freud Centre in 2011, with an updating course being completed in 2017 to support data collection for a research study Dr Hodgetts was associated with.

Over the seven years Dr Hodgetts was with this practice she worked therapeutically with children in care and those who had been adopted, drawing on models underpinned by Attachment Theory such as Theraplay and Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy for which she completed her Level 1 and Level 2 in 2011 and 2012 respectively. In addition, she draws on a range of different models when working therapeutically including, CBT, Systemic Therapy, Compassion Focused Therapy, Narrative Therapy and DBT.

Dr Hodgetts has over 10 years' experience delivering consultation and training to a range of professionals including social workers, trainee clinical psychologists, medical students, teachers, and carers. Her training has included the delivery of Therapeutic Parenting Courses based on the work of Kim Golding and Dan Hughes, Developmental Trauma and the impact on Brain Development, Sensory Integration, Autistic Spectrum Conditions and Managing Self Harm in Children and Young People.

Since qualifying Dr Hodgetts has been a supervisor for Trainee Clinical Psychologists and has provided lectures to Clinical Psychology Trainees on a range of topics. In 2018 she co presented on the topic of therapeutically focused integrated care to the Institute of Recovery from Childhood Trauma.

Dr Hodgetts maintains her CPD by attending training courses and conferences to keep up to date with developments in the field.

Dr Hodgetts accepts instructions as an expert witness in the family court with respect to:

- Assessment of Attachment and the impact of trauma and neglect.
- Assessment of parenting ability with respect to childhood and personal history, learning disabilities and personality disorder, mental health, substance misuse, anger management and sexual boundaries/abuse.
- Assessment of family dynamics and relationship issues including domestic violence.
- Assessment of harm suffered by children or risk of future harm with respect to neglect and/or abuse (including emotional, sexual or physical).
- Assessment of separation and loss and sibling relationships.
- Assessment of the therapeutic and support needs of parents and/or children.
- Assessment of placement needs following a Care Order, including whether siblings should be placed together or separately and the nature and extent of contact with the birth family.

Dr Hodgetts has Full Enhanced DBS Clearance (No: **001697481430**) and holds Personal Professional Indemnity and is a member of the Health and Care Professions Council (**HCPC Reg: PLYL06701**)



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Dr Hodgetts' Research Publications:

Clients with Borderline Personality Disorder: Exploring their experiences of DBT. A Hodgetts, J Wright, and A. Gough, (2007). *Counselling and Psychotherapy Research* 7 (3), 172-177

Researching Clients' Experiences: A review of Qualitative Studies. A. Hodgetts, and J. Wright (2007), *Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy: An International Journal of Theory and Practice*, 14 (3), 157 - 163

Offending and risky behaviour in community services for people with Intellectual Disabilities in one Local Authority. J. McBrien, A. Hodgetts and J. Gregory (2003), *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology*, 14 (2) 280 – 297.



Dr Bonnie Wong **Registered Educational Psychologist**

Adult, Child & Family Assessments

Dr Bonnie Wong has more than 15 years of educational and community experience working with adults, children and families in multi-professional settings. She has over 8 years of experience working in Local Authorities, delivering psychological services to children, families and educational settings. She is registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC # PYL37163).

Her qualifications include a MA Honours Degree in Psychology (University of Aberdeen), a Master's degree in Mental Health: Psychological Therapies (Queen Mary, University of London) and a Doctorate in Educational Psychology (University of Southampton). In addition, she is trained in Video Interaction Guidance (VIG), which is an evidence-based intervention that helps parents/carers become more sensitive and attuned to their child's emotional needs, regardless of the age of the child.

Dr Wong is a qualified and registered user of a portfolio of psychometric tests and clinical procedures for assessing intelligence, personality functioning and mental health in both children and adults. She has also trained to use a number of specialist assessment tools designed for children and adults with complex communication and social interaction difficulties. Specifically Dr Wong has extensive experience in assessing children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and attachment needs. She has experience assessing children and families in complex situations, including young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation and who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour.

Dr Wong has published widely on a number of topics, such as Primary school children's perspectives and experiences of Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) support (<https://bit.ly/2YI96MR>). Recently, she has also published in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders on Sex/Gender Differences in Camouflaging in Children and Adolescents with Autism (<https://bit.ly/2CLi119>), providing further evidence of increased camouflaging in autistic females, which likely contributes to delay in the recognition of difficulties and provision of support.

Dr Wong participates in ongoing professional training relating to safeguarding issues for both children and vulnerable adults. She has also attended a wide range of courses on a variety of current topics and psychological approaches, including the use of a wide range of dynamic assessment tests.

During her career as a Psychologist she has worked closely with parents, teachers, Social Workers and health professionals in the assessment, management and treatment of children, adolescents and adults with a wide range of special needs including sensory impairment, physical disabilities, learning and developmental problems, and emotional and behavioural disorders. During her doctoral training, Dr Wong undertook a specialist placement in a multi-agency specialist CAMHS service, working with children, young people who have severe and complex emotional and behavioural difficulties. These families have a combination of needs and the children or young people may be Children In Care, have other health related needs, learning disabilities or difficulty in



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accessing education. She contributed to the assessment of children's mental health needs and facilitation of risk assessment and management plans.

Prior to qualifying as a psychologist, Dr Wong was employed for two years as an assistant psychologist in a Local Authority, supporting Educational Psychologists in a wide range of assessments and delivering psychotherapeutic interventions to children and young people. She also spent two years working with children at risk of permanent exclusion, many of whom had experienced traumatic events. Additionally, she offered specialist support and guidance to vulnerable children and their families, including their legal obligation to their children's attendance at school. She also worked for 6 months as an assistant psychologist in a residential school in Scotland which provides full-time psychology input for pupils aged 5 and upwards who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences due to previous trauma (e.g., abuse, neglect).

Dr Wong is multi-lingual, speaking English, Cantonese, and Mandarin fluently.

Dr Wong has an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate (details available upon request).



Dr Chris Hobson

Chartered Psychologist & Registered Clinical Psychologist

Adult Assessments

Dr Hobson is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist with over 12 years qualified experience of working clinically with adults in multi-professional settings, and conducting clinically-relevant research. He has an undergraduate degree in Psychology from St. Andrews University, a Masters in Forensic Psychology from Kent University, a PhD in Developmental Psychology from the Institute of Psychiatry (Kings College London) and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Royal Holloway University. He is chartered with the British Psychological Society (BPS) and registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Prior to clinical psychology training in 2007, Dr Hobson had several years of research experience working on clinical trials of parenting programmes. Between 2010 and 2016, he worked with men and women in adult forensic settings (Llanarth Court medium secure hospital, and Eastwood Park women's prison). Within these roles he carried out many comprehensive assessments of risk (using structured professional judgement risk assessment tools for sexual or violence risk, such as the HCR-20 and RSVP), mental disorder (including psychosis, depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance abuse, and personality disorders) and cognitive function. He particularly developed expertise in assessing and treating those who have histories of complex trauma and early disrupted attachments, as well as those who have committed violent offences and/or offences against children (including physical and sexual abuse, and neglect). He is trained in various therapies including Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Mentalization Based Treatment and EMDR.

Between 2016 and 2021, Dr Hobson was employed as a Senior Clinical Tutor for Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust / Cardiff University in relation to the training of doctoral-level trainee Clinical Psychologists. He is currently an Honorary Senior Lecturer at Cardiff University, and the Clinical Psychologist for the Neurodevelopmental Assessment (Research) Unit at Cardiff University. He provides teaching to the South Wales Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and the Cardiff University MSc in Children's Psychological Disorders, including in the areas of mental capacity, personality, attachment and parental expressed emotion, and he also supervises doctoral-level research. He has several publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Since 2012, Dr Hobson has worked independently, which has included providing independent expert evidence in family, civil and criminal law cases, and for the Parole Board, as well as private therapy, and professional psychological consultation sessions (e.g., to the National Probation Service Wales).

Dr Hobson has participated in ongoing professional development related to his clinical, forensic and expert witness work, having attended, amongst others, the following courses: Mentalisation



Based Treatment for Families (Anna Freud Centre), Five Minute Parental Speech Sample-Coherence training (Efrat Sher-Censor); Personality Disorder and Parenting (Anna Freud Centre), EMDR Therapy (Parts 1-4; EMDR Works), Mentalisation-Based Treatment (Basic and Advanced; Anna Freud Centre), Parental Alienation (Nigel Blagg Associates), The Psychological Expert in Criminal Cases (Carter Brown), Family Court Skills Training (Ives Drucquer / Carter Brown), HCR-20 Risk of Violence Assessment Version 3 (Partnerships in Care and Nigel Blagg Associates), SVR-20 and RSVP Risk of Sexual Violence Assessments (Professors Gray and Snowdon), Hare Psychopathy Checklist- Revised (PCL-R; Professor Jane Ireland), International Personality Disorder Examination (IPDE; Partnerships in Care), MCMI-III Personality Assessment (Partnerships in Care), Child Attachment Interview administration (Anna Freud Centre), Psychodynamic Group Process Training (National Offender Personality Disorder Pathway) and the Webster Stratton Parent Training Trainers Course (Institute of Psychiatry)

Within the context of **Family Proceedings** and **Private Law Cases**, Dr Hobson takes instructions relating to the assessment of:

- ***Personality disorder, learning disability, mental illness and substance misuse and its impact on parenting and the parent's ability to protect***
- ***The impact of an adult's early experiences on their ability to meet the emotional needs of a child***
- ***Relationship and family dynamics including impact of domestic violence and / or substance misuse***
- ***The risk of domestic violence***
- ***The risk of sexual and physical violence***
- ***Mental capacity***
- ***The therapeutic and support needs of parents, their capacity to change and the likely timescale for that change***

HCPC Registered & Enhanced DBS Certificate (#001459332074)



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Dr Daniel Sheehan

Chartered Psychologist & Registered Educational Psychologist

Adult, Child & Family Assessments

Dr Daniel Sheehan has more than 20 years educational and clinical experience working with adults, children and families in multi-professional settings. He is a Chartered Psychologist with the British Psychological Society (BPS 253607), a member of the Association of Educational Psychologists (AEP 105500) and is registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC PYL32127).

His qualifications include a BSc Honours Degree in Psychology (University of Bath Spa), a Master's degree in Applied Neuropsychology (University of Bath Spa) and a Doctorate in Child, Educational and Community Psychology (University of Exeter). He is also currently undertaking post-doctoral study in Existential Psychotherapy.

Dr Sheehan is a qualified and registered user of a portfolio of psychometric tests and clinical procedures for assessing intelligence, personality functioning and mental health in both children and adults. He has also trained to use a number of specialist assessment tools designed for children and adults with complex communication and social interaction difficulties, the assessment of families with complex difficulties and children and adults in neuro-rehabilitative settings.

Dr Sheehan participates in ongoing professional training relating to safeguarding issues for both children and vulnerable adults. He has received specific training on systemic work with children and families (including working with children who are the subject of Local Authority Care Orders) and has attended a wide range of courses on a variety of psychological approaches, including the use of a wide range of dynamic assessment tests.

During his career as a Psychologist he has worked closely with parents, teachers, Social Workers and health professionals in the assessment, management and treatment of children, adolescents and adults with a wide range of special needs including sensory deficits, physical disabilities, learning and developmental problems and emotional and behavioural disorders. He has experience in working directly with troubled young people; with offenders and those at risk of offending; with children who have suffered abuse, neglect and/or substantial trauma in their lives; with young people at risk of sexual exploitation and/or engaging in sexually-harmful behaviours; and, with children and young people experiencing attachment difficulties.



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Prior to qualifying as a psychologist, Dr Sheehan was employed for five years to provide specialist support for degree students with autistic spectrum challenges at Bridgwater College. He also spent two years as part of a team in Somerset offering residential care for children and young people with complex care needs, including those who presented severe and persistent patterns of self-harm and extreme risk-taking behaviours. These children and young people had generally been brought up in chaotic and abusive settings and had experienced multiple challenges.

Dr Sheehan also worked for ten years in neuro-rehabilitation, in South Australia and in the North of England. Working with children who had experienced spinal injuries and adults with acquired brain injuries, he used a range of play-based tools and non-verbal communication resources (some of which he designed himself), to explore issues of identity, anxiety, self-determination and cognitive functioning; as well as standardized psychometric assessments, to provide additional data on speech and language functioning, literacy and numeracy skills and cognitive abilities.

Dr Sheehan has an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate, number 001 505 168 255.



Dr Dee Henderson Chartered Psychologist & Registered Educational Psychologist

Adult, Child & Family Assessments

Dee has twenty-five years educational and social care experience working with adults, children and families in multi-professional settings. She is a Chartered Psychologist with the British Psychological Society (BPS 534909), a member of the Association of Educational Psychologists (AEP 104825) and is registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC PYL30535).

Her qualifications include a BSc Honours Degree in Psychology (University of Nottingham) and a Professional Doctorate in Child & Adolescent Educational Psychology (Institute of Education, University College London).

She is a qualified and registered user of a portfolio of psychometric tests for assessing intelligence, personality functioning and mental health in both children and adults. She participates in ongoing professional training relating to her practice as a Psychologist. For example, in recent years she has completed the following specialist training: the Anna Freud Centre's assessment of children and families in care proceedings; Peter Edward's Law training around Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards; the Millon Clinical Multi-axial Inventory-IV assessment; the HCR-20 version 3 for assessing risk of future violence; sex differences in autism and gender identity. She has also attended a BPS conference regarding expert witness work and the National Trauma Conference.

Prior to qualifying as a Psychologist, Dee spent several years working and volunteering in the social care sector. This included two years as a Residential Social Worker within inner city children's homes. Her voluntary work involved mentoring and piloting a project for the Youth Offending Team with those at risk of offending. She also engaged in Floating Support work within the community for teams that supported teenagers leaving care and adults with enduring mental health difficulties. Following this, she held positions within a large Virtual School in London where she initiated and ran an after-school activities club for children in care and developed a post 16 policy for the service.

During her career as a Psychologist, Dee has worked closely with parents, teachers, foster carers, social workers and health professionals in the assessment and management of children and adolescents with a wide range of special needs including sensory deficits, physical disabilities, learning and developmental problems and emotional and behavioural disorders.

For five years she held senior leadership posts within an Educational Psychology Service, as Specialist Senior for children in care, progressing to Area Senior where she managed the Virtual School Educational Psychology commission. During this time Dee reshaped multi professional meetings for those children and young people in care who were in crisis, including those in out of authority provision. Her initiation and development of a training programme on working with traumatised children has been delivered to hundreds of professionals across both education and



social care. In addition, she collaborated in the production of a handbook on sensory processing difficulties.

Dee has extensive experience in working directly with troubled children and young people; with offenders and those at risk of offending; with children who have suffered abuse, neglect and/or substantial trauma in their lives; with young people at risk of sexual exploitation and/or engaging in sexually harmful behaviours; and, with children and young people experiencing attachment difficulties. She has worked as an expert witness in both public and private law cases, as well as at the pre proceedings stage.

She is able to offer expertise in the following areas:

- ***Parenting ability, adult learning disability, personality and mental health, impact of substance misuse and domestic violence***
- ***Family dynamics, relationship issues, parenting and capacity to change***
- ***Global family assessments in complex contact and residence disputes***
- ***Psychological, emotional development and needs in children and young people who have experienced trauma, loss, neglect and abuse***
- ***Attachment, sibling relationships and contact/placement considerations following a Care Order***
- ***Therapeutic and support needs of children and their parents or carers***
- ***The special educational needs of children and young people***
- ***Challenging and troubled behaviour in children and young people***
- ***Assessing risk of violence using the HCR-20 V3***

Her Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service Certificate number is 001708700010



Mattie Idema-Sharman (née Idema-Trehan) **Chartered Psychologist & Registered Clinical Psychologist**

Adult, Child & Family Assessments

Dr Idema-Sharman is a Chartered Psychologist with nearly 30 years experience of assessment and treatment of children, adolescents, families, and adults in the NHS. Her qualifications include a BSc Honours Degree in Psychology, an MSc in Clinical and Community Psychology, awarded by Exeter University and a PhD in Adolescent Identity Development, awarded by Cardiff University. She has also undertaken post-qualification training in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy and Supportive Psychotherapy for individuals as well as families.

Dr Idema-Sharman is Chartered with the British Psychological Society (BPS) and a member of the BPS Division of Clinical Psychology and Faculty of Child Psychology. She is also registered with the Health & Care and Professions Council (HCPC).

Dr Idema-Sharman's NHS work has been mainly in the field of Child and Family and in Learning Disabilities. In the former, she was Head of Clinical Psychology services, providing a range of individual, family and systems interventions for Paediatrics, Youth Offending Teams, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and Fostering and Adoption Services.

Dr Idema-Sharman has extensive experience of working with children who present complex challenges within the care system, as well as in assessing and supporting parents and carers to improve parenting skills, attachment bonds and family relationships. She uses an integrative approach to assessment, formulation and intervention, drawing on a variety of psychological models, theory and research as well as a range of psychotherapeutic approaches, including Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Family/Systems Therapy and Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy.

Prior to her move into full time independent practice in 2007, Dr Idema-Sharman was Clinical Psychologist in a Community Learning Disabilities Service, responsible for training, consultation and supervision to a range of professions and agencies, as well as providing an eclectic assessment and treatment service to clients and carers. She specialised in assessment, treatment and the development of multi-disciplinary community services to support clients with personality disorder, offending behaviour and persistent self-harm.



From 2013 to 2017 Dr Idema-Sharman took up a Consultant Clinical Psychology post in Shropshire, as part of an integrated Therapeutic service for young people who present a challenge to the care system. Within this therapeutic service, which is largely informed by Attachment Theory, she provided assessment, individual therapy and consultancy to staff teams.

From November 2017, she has returned to independent practice, providing Clinical Psychology services within her expertise. These include expert witness work, psychological assessment and therapy to children and families within an Acute Mental Health Hospital and consultation and interventions for Looked After Children within Therapeutic Residential Care settings.

Dr Idema-Sharman's full time clinical work between 2013 and 2018 has been within New Reflexions, a specialist therapeutic residential resource for some of the most complex, challenging and vulnerable young people in the country. The model and method of intervention are multidisciplinary and informed by Attachment Theory. As part of a small Clinical Team, she offered psychological assessment, therapeutic intervention, Team Consultancy, Training as well as evaluation of young people's progress within their home setting (both Longterm Therapeutic Homes and Short Term Crisis/Response Homes) and at the Evolution Centre School.

Since 2016, Dr Idema-Sharman has provided independent Clinical Psychology services to a range of organisations, focusing on neurodevelopmental assessment, crisis mental health intervention and fostering and adoption services, using a range of Psychological Therapies in which she is qualified and experienced. She provides supervision of Psychological Therapists (individual and group) and Psychological Therapy to children and families and adults with a range of psychological symptoms and problems.

Dr Idema-Sharman is qualified to use a portfolio of psychometric assessments and clinical procedures assessing intelligence, personality, trauma symptomatology psychopathology in adults and children. She has also completed training in the HCR-20, a structured risk assessment tool to explore factors linked to risk of future violence. Dr Idema-Sharman has acted as a single joint expert within **Family Proceedings** and **Private Law disputes** since 1994. She accepts instructions with respect to children and adults on a wide range of issues, including:

- **Assessment of parenting ability with respect to childhood and personal history, learning disabilities and personality disorder, mental health, substance misuse, anger management and sexual boundaries / abuse**
- **Assessment of family dynamics and relationship issues including domestic violence**
- **Assessment of placement and therapeutic needs of children in complex residence/contact disputes involving alleged parental alienation**
- **Assessment of harm suffered by children or risk of future harm with respect to neglect and / or abuse (including emotional, sexual or physical)**
- **Assessment of attachment issues, separation and loss and sibling relationships**



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- ***Assessment of the therapeutic and support needs of parents and / or children***
- ***Assessment of the prospect of change and the likely timescale for that change***
- ***Children's special educational needs including Autism and communication disorders and their impact on relationships and learning.***

Dr Idema-Sharman is DBS Checked. She has given evidence in court on many occasions and has attended relevant training courses to undertake this.

HCPC – PLY17173

CRB – 001346778461



Dr Jan Lyon (nee Leggett)

Chartered Psychologist & Registered Clinical and Forensic Psychologist

Adult Assessments

Dr Jan Lyon has more than 30 years clinical and forensic experience working with adults in multi-professional settings. She is a Chartered Psychologist with the British Psychological Society (BPS) (#0021476), and is registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC #PYL017075) as a Clinical and Forensic Psychologist.

Her qualifications include a BA Honours Degree in Psychology (University of Reading), a Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology completed at the Institute of Psychiatry (University of London) and a Doctorate in the Clinical/Forensic/Occupational Psychology field awarded by City University (London). Dr Lyon has also completed post qualification training in clinical neuropsychology (BPS) and has a Diploma in Healthcare Management from Heriot Watt University. Dr Lyon is a qualified registered user of a portfolio of psychometric tests and clinical procedures assessing intelligence, personality, mental health and risk assessment in adults. She is a Registered Applied Psychology Practice Supervisor (BPS).

Dr Lyon participates in ongoing CPD related to her clinical practice as a Psychologist. For example, she has completed training in the NEO-PI-3 (personality assessment); the PCL-R (for assessing psychopathy), the HCR-20 (violence risk assessment), the VERA (assessment of violent extremism). She regularly attends courses and conferences in areas including; parenting, personality disorder, neurodiversity, and risk assessment.

In her early career as a psychologist (1989-2007) Dr Lyon worked in a range of NHS and private healthcare settings with people with learning difficulties across the lifespan, adults who had experienced severe head-injury, adults with mental health problems, and offender populations. Prior to her move to independent practice, Dr Lyon spent seven years as the lead clinician for the community forensic service for people with learning disabilities based in Bristol, covering the whole of Avon. Prior to this, she was Head of Department at a private sector medium secure unit in South Wales.

Since 2007, Dr Lyon has worked on a contractor basis for a range of organisations including government departments, the National Crime Agency, and the banking industry. Such work has focused on assessing resilience and risk in staff in sensitive posts. She has also worked in conjunction with Occupational Health and Wellbeing services in those organisations. In addition, Dr Lyon has provided supervision to NHS staff working with people with complex mental health and offending issues. She has also held contracts to provide risk assessment reports for offenders within the prison system. Dr Lyon has previously been an expert panel member at the Health and Care Professions Council.

Dr Lyon has maintained clinical work with adults with a range of mental health, learning difficulties, and offending problems throughout her career. Dr Lyon has completed doctoral research in the management of violence. She provides training on a range of issues, including credibility assessment.



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Dr Lyon has provided expert witness assessments since the mid-1990's mainly within **Family Proceedings** and **Criminal Proceedings**. She has co-authored academic research papers on a range of forensic and mental health issues which have appeared in peer-reviewed journals. Dr Lyon accepts instructions relating to the assessment of:

- ***Parenting ability, adult learning disability, personality disorder and mental health and impact of alcohol and drug misuse***
- ***Adult attachment style, relationship issues and family dynamics including impact of domestic violence and / or substance misuse***
- ***Therapeutic and support needs of parents, prospect of change and the likely timescale for that change***
- ***Risk assessment across a range of issues, e.g. sexual offending, violence, emotional abuse.***
- ***Capacity assessments***

Dr Lyon has given evidence in Court on numerous occasions.



Dr Kirsty Moses

Chartered Psychologist & Registered Forensic Psychologist

Adult, Adolescent & Family Assessments

Dr Kirsty Moses has more than 14 years' experience working with males and females across the lifespan; with a specialism in forensic psychology. She is experienced in multi-agency working with young people and adults both in the care system, the community, custodial environments and psychiatric hospitals, providing expert advice as to their safe care and placement. She is experienced in working with families, utilising structural, strategic and functional family therapies and conducting individual therapy with children and adults. She is a Chartered Psychologist with the British Psychological Society (BPS), an Associate Fellow of the BPS (#185509) and is registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC #PYL31629).

Dr Moses' qualifications include a BSc Honours Degree in Psychology (Sheffield Hallam University), a Masters Degree in Criminological Psychology (University of Nottingham) and a Doctorate in Forensic Psychology (University of Nottingham) – which included a particular focus on the application of forensic psychology to family courts.

Throughout her training and career as a psychologist, Dr Moses has gained experience in issues relating to family dynamics, risk (sexual, physical, emotional) and parenting. Dr Moses is trained and able to assess a wide range of mental health, personality, learning and risk related needs via psychometric assessment, clinical interview, and forensic analysis of the evidence. She has expertise in forensic mental health, personality disorder, learning disability, addictions and risk (SVR-20, HCR-20v3, VRS, RSVP, SAVRY, SARA, VRAG and RM2000) and is able to assess mental capacity cognitive functioning and developmental disorders.

Dr Moses has worked in a variety of roles, including as a Consultant Psychologist and senior manager responsible for the provision of supervision to a team of clinical and forensic psychologist and assistant psychologists in addition to registered professionals of other disciplines such as occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, art therapists and social workers and the delivery of psychological services to each establishment. She spent 2 years working for Sheffield City Council, Families and Young People Directorate, as a Multi-systemic Therapist conducting risk and needs assessments of children, young people, their families and carers, identifying services that would best support their needs and prepared reports for child protection case conferences, the courts and statutory panels in accordance with statutory procedures and best practice. Dr Moses has direct practice and experience with structural, strategic and functional family therapies, individual therapy with children and adults using cognitive behavioural techniques, marital therapy using behaviourally-based approaches, behaviour therapy targeting school and academic performance and the implementation of interventions within and between the young person's natural environment.



Dr Moses has worked in independent practice since 2014 providing independent expert witness services for both care and PLO proceedings, as well as for parole hearings. She often works on high-profile and complex cases and frequently gives evidence in family courts where she is asked to consider neglect, child abuse, parental difficulties, families with complex mental health needs, and asked to comment on attachment, cognitive abilities, parenting capacity and contact arrangements. Each report is unique and depends on the needs of the referrer and the client.

Dr Moses has provided expert witness assessments since 2014 within **Family Law Proceedings** and specialises in instructions relating to the assessment of adults or children with reference to:

- *cognitive functioning/IQ or suggestibility/compliance (e.g. WAIS-IV, GSS)*
- *parenting assessments*
- *psychopathy or personality disorder assessment (e.g. PCL-R, IPDE)*
- *appropriateness of child placement & contact recommendations*
- *contact disputes including alleged parental alienation*
- *attachment relationships in a family (parental and sibling)*
- *impact of substance abuse on parenting capacity and to inform psychological treatment*
- *domestic violence risk assessment*
- *risk of recidivism (offences: sexual and violent)*
- *psychopathology assessments in adults and children*
- *mental health, Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD*
- *fire setting risk assessments*

Dr Moses has given evidence in Court, at Mental Health Review Tribunals and Parole Boards on numerous occasions. Dr Moses is DBS checked # 001634010537



Dr Rebecca Fisher

Chartered Psychologist & Registered Clinical Psychologist

Child & Family Assessments

Dr Fisher has a wide variety of clinical experience working with children, young people and families in a variety of multi-agency settings; especially with young people who present as 'high harm, high vulnerability and with complex needs'. She is a Chartered Psychologist with the British Psychological Society (BPS; membership no. 500372) and is registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC PYL32285).

Her qualifications include a BSc Honours Degree in Psychology and Sociology (University of Bath), a PhD in clinical psychology (University of Edinburgh) and has completed the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (University of East London).

Dr Fisher is trained in a range of psychological models and psychometric tests with attachment theory underpinning her approach. Her PhD explored the attachment, reflective function and emotion regulation strategies of young people in adolescent tier 4 services which included training for the Adult Attachment Interview (AAI) and Reflective Function Scale (RF). Subsequent CPD activity has seen her complete training in the Structured Assessment of Violence and Risk in Youth (SAVRY); AIM3 (for assessment of harmful sexual behaviour); the ADOS-2 and ADI-R (tools for the assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorders). She has also completed Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) and Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP; Level 1 and 2) and Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT).

As part of her work in the custodial environment, Dr Fisher was part of the senior management team that provided integrated care across mental and physical health and substance misuse. She also undertook Root Cause Analysis training and completed a number of serious investigations for CNWL during her time with this trust.

In her previous roles, Dr Fisher was responsible for the assessment of risk in young people in custodial and community settings. This was direct with young people and indirect work including consultation with their networks to formulate and understand their risks but also their vulnerabilities and to make recommendations mitigating these factors. Intervention and direct therapeutic work was also a key part of the role where young people had complex needs, presentations and the experiences of trauma. In her current role, Dr Fisher works with young people who are looked after children. This also entails work with their families, carers and professional systems to formulate their difficulties and develop collaborative care plans to ensure the young person receive a whole systems approach within their care.



Dr Fisher has a keen interest in research and has co-authored research papers on young people experiencing psychosis, in addition to co-writing a book chapter on the aetiology of problem gambling.

Dr Fisher accepts instructions relating to the following areas:

- ***Assessment and formulation of risk of harm by young people; violence and harmful sexual behaviour***
- ***Psychological assessment of child and adolescent mental health difficulties***
- ***Assessment of therapeutic, emotional and social needs following complex trauma.***
- ***Assessment of cognitive abilities in children and young people***
- ***Assessment of Autism Spectrum in children and young people***
- ***Placement and therapeutic needs of children in complex residence disputes***
- ***Adult attachment style, reflective function, relationship issues and family dynamics including impact of domestic violence and / or substance misuse***
- ***The nature of a child's attachment relationships and sibling relationships***

Dr Fisher is DBS checked (001675202017)



Dr Richard Budd **Chartered Psychologist & Registered Clinical Psychologist**

Adult Assessments

Dr Budd has over 20 years experience as a clinical psychologist. He currently works in full-time private practice, providing: therapy for a broad range of mental health problems (e.g. PTSD, depression, etc.) and personality disorders; training and consultation on case formulation and risk assessment; clinical supervision; expert evidence in family, civil and criminal law cases.

During his professional practise, Dr Budd has worked in a variety of settings, including: a 3rd sector organisation which supports homeless individuals and families; community mental health teams; low/medium secure psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric intensive care units; family intervention teams and psychiatric day hospitals. These roles have involved Dr Budd in: providing assessment and treatment of drug and alcohol problems, mental illness and personality disorder; assessing mental capacity and risk, and advising on risk management. This has included working with: adults with serious mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia) and their carers; adults with mild learning difficulties; single parents and families whose children are on the risk register; schedule 1 offenders; individuals who have been separated from their children due to the risk of child neglect/abuse, domestic violence, anti-social behaviour and chaotic/repeat offending.

The above roles have involved Dr Budd in: providing staff training, consultation and supervision; liaising with statutory services (e.g. the Police, Probation, Social Services, etc.); contributing to risk management, mental capacity assessment and case formulation, in: Child Protection Case Conferences; Multi-Agency Public Protection (MAPPA) meetings; Care Programme Approach (CPA) reviews.

Dr Budd is chartered with the British Psychological Society (BPS), of which he is an Associate Fellow and a full member of the Division of Clinical Psychology. He has a BSc (Special Honours) and a PhD in Psychology from the University of Sheffield, and an MSc in Clinical Psychology. He is registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC).

He is listed on the BPS Register of Qualifications in Test Use, and is registered to use a range of psychometric tests and clinical measures for assessing intelligence

and memory, personality and psychopathology in adults. He has completed training in the HCR-20 and SVR-20, structured professional judgement tools for assessing the risk of physical and sexual violence.



He has published extensively in peer reviewed journals and presented papers at academic conferences on a variety of topics, including drug use. He has developed a number of widely used psychometric tests (e.g. the 15FQ+, the Jung Type Indicator, etc.).

Dr Budd participates in ongoing professional development related to his clinical and forensic work, having attended, amongst others, the following courses: Assessing Adults in Family Law Proceedings - Ives Drucquer Associates Ltd; National Drug Conference – Health Promotion Wales; Motivational Interviewing (for alcohol problems) – Dr Tina Alwen, UWIC; Assessment and Treatment of Drug and Alcohol Problems – Jannus Training; HCR-20/SVR-20 Training – Profs Nicola Gray and Robert Snowdon; Presentation by the Chair of the local MAPPA committee on MAPPA and MAPPP; Presenting Evidence in Court – Prof R Young.

Within the context of **Family Proceedings** and **Private Law Cases** Dr Budd takes instructions relating to the assessment of:

- ***Personality disorder, mental illness and alcohol/drug misuse and its impact on parenting and the parent's ability to protect***
- ***The risk of domestic violence***
- ***The risk of sexual violence***
- ***Mental capacity***
- ***The therapeutic and support needs of parents, their capacity to change and the likely timescale for that change***
- ***PTSD, depression, anxiety and phobias in personal injury cases***

HCPC # PYL03099

DBS # 001404212800



Dr Sam White

Chartered Psychological & Registered Clinical Psychologist

Adult Assessments

Dr White is a Clinical Psychologist registered with the HCPC and a Chartered Psychologist with the British Psychological Society. He has worked in a variety of roles within the NHS over a period of nine years specialising in intellectual disability, trauma, "personality disorder" and mental capacity. Dr White has developed specialist skills when assessing individuals with presentations which may be considered complex including dual diagnoses, forensic risk, neurodevelopmental presentations and presentations arising from complex trauma. Dr White adopts an integrative, person centred approach to assessment and intervention drawing on the relevant theories and models to enable the best outcomes for the service user. This often requires integrating concepts from relational, systemic and attachment-based theories and therapies. Dr White has continued to develop professionally attending specialist training in supervision, specialist risk assessment, specialist diagnostic training amongst others. He has also completed specialist expert witness training and has completed assessments within the family courts.

Dr White currently holds a senior psychology role within the NHS in addition to conducting psychological assessment and formulation within independent practice.

Areas of Specialism:

- Personality disorder
- Complex trauma
- Cognitive assessments
- Mental health and behavioural difficulties
- Mental Capacity Act
- Intellectual Disability
- Forensic risk assessments (violence, domestic abuse, sexual risk)

Professional Qualifications:

- Doctor of Clinical Psychology – University of Leeds (2019)
- Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Practice (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) – University of Bradford (2015)
- 1st Class BSc (hons) Psychology – University of Plymouth (2011)
- Selected for the Dean's list for academic excellence – University of Plymouth
- Specialist Training and Professional Development
- Bond Solon - Excellence in Report Writing
- Bond Solon - Courtroom Skills
- Bond Solon - Family Law and Procedure
- Bradford District Care Trust - Historical Clinical Risk Management Version 3 and Structured Assessment of Protective Factors
- Bradford District Care Trust - The Assessment of Risk and Manageability of Individuals with Developmental and Intellectual Limitations who Offend



Nigel Blagg Associates

Psychologists for Adults, Children & Families

- SDS Training - Essentials and Advanced Supervision Skills
- Expert Witness Institute - Civil Litigation for Clinical Psychologists
- Expert Witness Institute - Pain and Medico-Legal Workshop
- TIOFP - Understanding and Assessing Personality disorder - The International Personality Disorder Examination
- TIOFP - SVR-20 training – Adult Male Risk Assessment for Sexual Violence
- TIOFP - Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory version 4 (MCMI-IV)
- TIOFP – Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-V (SCID-V)

Health Professions Council Registration: PYL37103

British Psychological Society Membership: 265476



Dr Samantha O'Shea

Chartered Counselling Psychologist

Dr O'Shea is a Chartered Counselling Psychologist registered with the British Psychological Society (BPS) and Health Care Professions Council (HCPC), as well as an Accredited EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitisation & Reprocessing) therapist. She has over 30 years of experience in the assessment and therapeutic treatment of children, young people, adults and families, in various settings including the school, hospital, home, office and in residential care units.

Her qualifications include a BSc Honours degree in Psychology (Surrey University, Guildford), MSc degree in Mental Health Counselling (Stetson University, Florida) and a PhD in Counsellor Education and Supervision (University of Central Florida, Orlando). Additionally, she holds a Diploma in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (Open College, Birmingham). She successfully completed the Cardiff University – Bond Solon expert witness programme, with a specialisation in Family Law.

Dr O'Shea has experience and training in the administration and use of a variety of psychometric measures, including assessment of personality, intelligence, mental health and behavioural functioning in children and adults. These include the WISC, WAIS, WASI, PAI (*Personality Assessment Inventory*), ADOS-2 (*Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule*) and ADI-R (*Autism Diagnostic Interview Revised*).

Committed to on-going professional development, Dr O'Shea is extensively trained in a range of therapeutic approaches, including those recommended by the NICE guidelines in the treatment of trauma and depression. Her integrated approach draws on her training in EMDR, Brainspotting, Systemic Family Therapy, Solution-Focused therapy and Narrative Therapy. Also she has completed the Dan Hughes' training in Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP) in the assessment and treatment of children and their families, where attachment-related difficulties are a concern.

Her professional experience has emphasised working therapeutically with trauma, complex trauma, PTSD, and the impact of adverse childhood experiences, both with adults and children. This includes support to carers/families where the children or young people present with challenging behaviours, attachment problems, and post-trauma symptoms. This included work with CAMHS, Local Authorities, residential children's homes and Foster Care agencies.

She has previously worked as a Lecturer on Masters and Doctoral Programmes at the University of Bristol, University of Central Florida and Barry University in the fields of Mental Health, Counselling and Family Therapy. Additionally, she was Director of the MSc in Counselling programme at the University of Bristol as well as a staff counsellor. Her work has been published in peer reviewed journals and presented at national and international professional conferences. She co-authored an academic text-book in the area of counselling skills.

Currently in independent practice, Dr O'Shea provides Expert Witness services in the areas of Child and Family Law and Personal Injury matters, together with a psychotherapy practice (remotely and in-person).



Dr O'Shea accepts instructions as an Expert Witness to the court in the areas of Family and Civil Law, including in Child Care Proceedings and private law disputes, on a range of issues concerning adults, families and children including:

- ***Psychological assessment of adults, young people and children***
- ***Cognitive capacity assessment***
- ***Personal Injury assessment***
- ***The nature and strength of a child's attachment relationships to parents or carers, and sibling relationships***
- ***Challenging and problematic behaviour in children and adolescents***
- ***Therapeutic and support needs of parents, adults, families and children***
- ***Placement needs of children following a Care Order including whether siblings should be placed together or separately and the nature and extent of contact with the birth family***
- ***Parenting ability and capacity***
- ***Assessment of family dynamics and relationship issues***
- ***Assessment of the prospect of change and the likely timescale for that change***
- ***Assessment of residence and contact disputes***
- ***Assessment of personal injury following physical or psychological trauma***

Dr O'Shea has Full Enhanced CRB Clearance and holds Personal Professional Indemnity Insurance.



Dr Sarah Warren

**Registered Clinical Psychologist, Registered Forensic Psychologist
Chartered Clinical Psychologist, Chartered Forensic Psychologist**

Adult Assessments

Dr Sarah Warren is an HCPC-registered Clinical Psychologist and Forensic Psychologist (registration number PYL21641) with 25 years' post-qualification experience of working with adults in a range of different settings. She also holds British Psychological Society chartership as both a Clinical Psychologist and a Forensic Psychologist (membership number 71493), is DBS checked, and is a member of the British Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies (BABCP).

Dr Warren holds a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Birmingham and a First Class BSc Honours Degree in Psychology from the City of London Polytechnic. She is a trained EMDR therapist (Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing) and is trained and experienced in the use of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT).

She undertakes CPD to maintain her clinical practice. This has included the following Bond Solon training courses: Excellence in Report Writing; the Civil Procedure Rules Expert Witness Certificate; Certificate of Medical Reporting, part 1; Witness Familiarisation; Cross-Examination. She has also been trained to use a number of structured risk assessment tools (HCR20, for assessing risk of violence; SVR20, RSVP and Risk Matrix 2000, for assessing risk of sexual offending; PCL-R, for assessing psychopathy) and the NEO-PI-3 personality assessment. She has attended courses and conferences covering a diverse range of issues, including personality disorder; psychosis; the neurobiology of trauma; foetal alcohol syndrome and the effect of alcohol on parenting; and safeguarding vulnerable adults.

Dr Warren spent 20 years working in forensic psychiatric hospitals in both the NHS and the independent sector, working with adult men and women with a range of mental disorders, including trauma, anxiety, mental illness, personality disorder and mild learning disability, and those with a history of offending behaviours and of substance misuse. She was Clinical Lead for the outpatient anger management service at Reaside Clinic in Birmingham from 1997 to 2001, and was Head of the Psychological Services Department at Llanarth Court Hospital near Abergavenny from 2009 to 2011. She has also had a private therapy practice, assessing and treating individuals with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). She is highly experienced in conducting assessments (using a range of psychometric measures and clinical interview), as well as therapy, risk assessment, report writing and consultancy work. She is an experienced supervisor of the work of other clinical and forensic psychologists.

Dr Warren has been a specialist lay member of the Mental Health Tribunal for England since 2013, sitting on three-member panels reviewing the cases of patients detained under the Mental



Health Act. Since 2017, she has also been providing consultancy services to a Government department, evaluating psychological vulnerability, resilience and risk in employees.

Dr Warren is a very experienced expert witness and has provided over 200 reports for the Family, Criminal and Civil Courts and for Local Authorities. She accepts instructions for the assessment of the following:

- ***Factors associated with parental risk, e.g.***
 - ***mental health issues;***
 - ***attachment history;***
 - ***substance misuse;***
 - ***trauma;***
 - ***personality disorder;***
 - ***violence, including domestic violence;***
 - ***sexual offending;***
- ***Capacity assessments in family or criminal law cases, including assessment of cognitive functioning and suggestibility;***
- ***PTSD and anxiety disorders;***
- ***Risk assessment, including the use of structured risk assessment tools for violence and sexual violence, e.g. HCR20, SVR20, RSVP, PCL-R, SARA, Risk Matrix 2000;***
- ***Formulation of offending;***
- ***Personality assessment.***

As well as assessing adults, she observes contact sessions where appropriate. She has given evidence in Court on many occasions.



Dr Sian Hughes **Chartered Psychologist & Registered Forensic Psychologist**

Adult Assessments

Dr Hughes is a Forensic psychologist with over 8 years of qualified experience of assessment and treatment of adults within the field of mental health. She has worked in medium and low secure mental health units, as well as locked rehabilitation wards and in the community. She also has experience in working with adults with learning disability both in secure and community settings.

Her qualifications include a BSc in Psychology, a Diploma in Clinical Aspects of Psychology, and a Doctorate in Forensic Psychology Practice. She has furthermore undertaken substantial post qualification training in the areas of psychological therapies, namely intensive and advanced training in Dialectical Behaviour Therapy, but also other models including Cognitive Behaviour Therapy and Compassionate Focused Therapy. She has attended numerous courses concerning complex trauma, and the neuroscience of trauma and attachment.

She has trained and utilised a range of structured risk assessment tools including the HCR-20 (to assess risk of future violence), RSVP (for assessing risk of sexual violence), and the SARA (assessing risk of spousal assault/domestic violence). She has experience of using actuarial risk assessment tools such as the Risk Matrix 2000 to assess risk of future violence. She has also attended training and utilised the ADOS-2 (for the assessment of Autistic Spectrum Disorders), and on the revisions to the Mental Health Act 1983 and the Mental Capacity Act. She is qualified to use a portfolio of psychometric assessments and clinical structured tools to assess for intelligence, personality, risk, mental health, emotional difficulties, attachment difficulties, trauma symptomology, and autistic spectrum conditions in adults.

Dr Hughes is Chartered with the British Psychology Society (BPS) and is also on their Register of Applied Psychology Practice Supervisors. She is a member of the BPS Division of Forensic Psychology. She is registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC). Her professional work has mainly been in the field of Forensic Mental Health and Personality Disorder. She has a wide experience of providing training, supervision, and consultation to a range of professionals working in health and social care settings.



Dr Hughes worked as a Forensic Psychologist in a low secure mental health unit for adults for over 12 years, consulting on the development of multi-disciplinary services for clients, and providing comprehensive assessment, consultation, and treatment to clients with complex and challenging needs. She currently works in the community with clients with mental health problems, personality disorder, past complex trauma, offending behaviour, and persistent self-harm/suicidality. She uses an integrative approach to assess, formulate, and intervene, drawing on a variety of psychological models, theory, and research, as well as psychotherapeutic approaches. These approaches are further integrated with structured clinical assessments of risk.

Dr Hughes accepts instructions in the Family Court on a wide range of issues including:

- Adult mental health, personality, and learning disability
- Complex cases around the impact of past/current trauma on an individual
- Assessment of risk of future harm with respect to abuse and/or neglect (including emotional, sexual, or physical abuse)
- Assessment of risk of violence, including sexual violence, fire setting, and/or domestic violence
- The impact of the learning disability and/or mental health concerns on risk or future treatment
- Assessment for suitability/need for a (specific) treatment programme
- Assessment of psychological presentation of adults
- Assessment of the prospect of change and the likely indicators of change

Dr Hughes has recently completed training on the writing Expert Witness Reports and Family Law and Procedure Training with Bond Solon (the UK's leading provider of expert witness training).

Health Professionals Council Registration Number: PYL28993

British Psychological Society Registration Number: 142797



Hilary Andrew (formerly Tobin) Psychologist & Integrative Psychotherapist

Adult Assessments

Hilary Andrew is a Psychologist and Integrative Psychotherapist with more than 20 years clinical experience in working with adults and families within multi-professional settings.

Her qualifications include a four year BSc Honours Degree in Applied Psychology (University of Wales), four years training as a psychotherapist (Advanced Transactional Analysis in Clinical Application) and a Diploma in Supervision and Mentoring (accredited by the European Association for Supervision and Coaching). Hilary Andrew is also fully trained in Eye Movement Desensitisation and Re-Processing (EMDR) therapy which is increasingly recognised as a highly effective treatment for post traumatic stress and other trauma related psychological symptoms. Hilary Andrew is a Graduate Member of the British Psychological Society (BPS), a Member of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) and a Member of EMDR UK.

Hilary is trained in the administration and use of a wide range of psychometric measures, including assessments of intelligence, anger pathology, personality, trauma symptomatology, mental health and behavioural functioning in adults. She has also recently completed training in the HCR-20, a structured risk assessment tool to explore factors linked to risk of future violence.

Hilary Andrew initially trained as a counsellor specialising in short term crisis counselling and has continued to work in this capacity on a sessional basis within the NHS. For 5 years she worked full-time with the Avalon Health Trust as part of the Learning Disabilities Team where she administered psychometric tests and specialised in psychotherapy and the development of programmes for people with learning disabilities focusing especially on sex education and relationships. She was also part of a multidisciplinary Family Therapy team.

On leaving the NHS, Hilary Andrew managed a residential unit for adults with mild to moderate learning disabilities before establishing a private therapy practice offering counselling and treatment for individuals, couples and

families. She has considerable experience of working with women who have been sexually traumatised in their child or adult years and has co-authored a book for women survivors of sexual abuse.

Hilary Andrew uses an integrative approach to assessment, formulation and intervention, drawing on a variety of psychological models, theory and research as well as a range of psychotherapeutic approaches, including Transactional Analysis, Family/Systems Therapy and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.



Hilary Andrew participates in ongoing professional training related to Child Protection issues and therapeutic intervention. For example, in recent years she has attended courses concerned with parenting and personality disorder, the impact of childhood trauma on adult attachment relationships, the impact of new developments in neuroscience on psychotherapy, working with patients who have a learning disability, the impact of domestic violence and substance misuse on parenting and the use of risk assessment tools in disputed child abuse cases.

Since joining Nigel Blagg Associates in 1997, Hilary Andrew has jointly undertaken more than 250 clinical assessments of parents within **Family Proceedings** and **Private Law disputes** on a range of issues including:

- ***Psychological assessment of adults – with respect to learning disability, personality & mental health, substance misuse***
- ***Assessment of parenting ability and capacity - with respect to childhood and personal history, learning disabilities, mental health, misuse of alcohol and / or illegal substances, anger management, family dynamics, domestic violence, sexual boundaries / abuse***
- ***Assessment of family dynamics and relationship issues including domestic violence***
- ***Assessment of the therapeutic and support needs of parents***
- ***Assessment of the prospect of change and the likely timescale for that change***

Hilary Andrew has given evidence in Court on many occasions. She is DBS Checked and holds Personal Professional Indemnity Insurance. DBS – 001486554766



Julia Long **Chartered Psychologist & Registered Forensic Psychologist**

Adult, Child & Family Assessments

Julia Long has extensive clinical and forensic experience working with adults, children and families in multi-professional settings. Her professional career as a Psychologist has spanned over 30 years and during this time she has assessed and treated adults and adolescents in the context of her work with the Home Office/Ministry of Justice. She has also worked in High and Low security settings and in the community and for the last 10 years, has undertaken complex assessments of adults, children and families within family proceedings.

Julia Long is Chartered with the British Psychological Society (BPS), an Associate Fellow of the BPS and is also a member of the BPS Division of Forensic Psychologists and the International Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology. She is fully accredited by the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) as a Forensic Psychologist Practitioner (#PYL06050) and is DBS checked (#001423564460).

Her qualifications include a B.A. Honours Degree in Psychology and a Master of Science in Applied Criminological Psychology. She has completed post-graduate training in Group Analytic Psychotherapy and in the delivery of a range of Cognitive Behavioural Treatment interventions. Ms Long is a qualified registered user of a portfolio of psychometric tests and clinical procedures assessing intelligence, personality & mental health and autism spectrum conditions in both adults and children. She is also an accredited user of the PCL-R for the assessment of psychopathy and is trained in the use of a range of structured clinical assessments of risk for future harm including the SVR-20, HCR-20, VRS, RSVP, SAVRY, VRAG and RM2000.

Her work with the Ministry of Justice centred on the provision of defensible and reliable risk assessment reports and the delivery of treatment/rehabilitation interventions for a range of offenders (males, females and adolescents). She has historically specialised in providing psychological therapy to personality disordered and other complex offenders. She has also provided consultancy and advice on risk assessments and psychological treatment needs to Ministers with respect to these issues in her role as a Head of Casework within the National Offender Management Service of the Ministry of Justice. She has produced over 400 risk assessment reports and has been instrumental in the development of a widely used structured clinical judgement tool for sexual offenders within H M Prison Service. She has also represented the Secretary of State in adversarial legal proceedings on over 50 occasions. Ms Long was commended for her work in producing a risk assessment framework for the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) Board, which is now used nationally to make decisions about whether individuals who have no known history of convictions should be permitted to work with children and vulnerable adults. She has worked with individuals in the community and provided specialist independent psychological reports to the ISA Board. Issues of child protection and work with vulnerable adults have formed a key element to this work and she has undertaken additional training in this respect.

Ms Long has worked in private practice since 2009/10. Throughout her career as a Psychologist she has maintained ongoing CPD related to her clinical practice. This has included training in the assessment of domestic or intimate partner abuse, the assessment of personality disorder, assessments of children, parents and family dynamics in cases of alleged parental alienation and/or in cases of alleged emotional, physical or sexual abuse. She has also completed ADOS-2 and ADI-R training which are the gold standard tools for the assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder in children and adults.



Over the past 10 years Ms Long has completed more than 100 complex psychological assessments of children and adults involved in proceedings in the Family Court. During this time she has completed instructions concerning:

- ***Placement and therapeutic needs of children in complex Residence/Contact disputes involving alleged parental alienation***
- ***Assessment of risk of harm in cases of non-accidental injury***
- ***Assessment of risk of harm in cases of fabricated illness***
- ***Assessment of impact of substance abuse on parenting capacity***
- ***Assessment of appropriateness of child placement in care proceedings with contact recommendations***
- ***Assessment of attachment in a family (parental and sibling) with disclosure of reported family perpetrated abuse***
- ***Parenting assessments***
- ***Ability to protect a child from domestic abuse***
- ***Assessment of risk of future abusive relationships***
- ***Parenting interventions and suggestions including mother and baby placements and timescales for change***
- ***Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder in both adults and children***
- ***Psychopathology assessments in adults and children***
- ***Risk of recidivism (offences: sexual and violent)***

Ms Long has given evidence in Family Court proceedings on many occasions.



Kate Saward
Chartered Psychologist &
Registered Forensic Psychologist

Adult Assessments

Ms Saward is a Registered Psychologist Practitioner with the Health Care Professions Council (HCPC). She is Chartered with the British Psychological Society, is an Associate Fellow of the Division of Forensic Psychology (DFP) and Committee Member of the Wales DFP. She is also a Chartered Scientist. Her qualifications include a BA (Hons) in Psychology (University of Swansea), MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology (Leicester). She has also undertaken a wide range of professional training.

Ms Saward has over 20 years experience in the assessment and treatment of adults. She has expertise in risk assessment of those who pose a risk of violence towards adults and children, risk of sexual violence towards adults and children and risk of domestic violence. She also has expertise in the assessment of trauma, substance misuse, cognitive functioning, parenting risk, personality disorder and psychopathy.

Ms Saward is experienced in the treatment of individuals presenting with concerning sexual or violent behaviour, poor coping, problem solving and trauma. She has a specialist interest in trauma and personality disorder.

Ms Saward worked for the Prison Service for 12 years undertaking custody, community and area based roles at Clinical Lead level. She has provided consultancy services to the Probation Service and Social Services. Ms Saward has written comprehensive risk assessment reports for these agencies and appeared as an expert witness in Parole Board Hearings and Family Court Hearings.

Ms Saward held a ministerial appointment as a psychologist member of The Parole Board for 10 years until 2021. This appointment involved assisting the board in evaluating the risk posed by violent and sexual offenders and their suitability for progression and potential release. She also provided a 3-year consultancy service to Northern Ireland Prison Service relating to the treatment and management of males who pose a risk of serious violence.

Ms Saward is currently appointed at a Consultant grade within the NHS as Clinical Lead for the Wales Offender Personality Disorder Pathway. She also engages in trauma therapy with adults.

Ms Saward has undertaken extensive training in the assessment and treatment of sexual and violent behaviour, in addition to other areas such as personality disorder, and trauma. She is trained and experienced in the use of functional assessment, structured risk assessment and psychometric testing to inform comprehensive risk assessments. Her professional training includes SVR-20 and RSVP (for the



assessment of sexual risk); HCR-20 (violence risk); SARA (domestic violence risk); PCL-R (psychopathy – Gold Standard Inter-Rater Reliability); IPDE (Personality Disorder); psychometric assessments; suicide and self-harm prevention; Trauma Therapy (EMDR levels 1-3); CBT for Prevention of PTSD and Expert Witness Training.

Ms Saward accepts instructions relating to adults involved in family or criminal court proceedings on a range of issues including assessment of:

- ***Risk of sexual violence***
- ***Risk of violence / aggression***
- ***Risk of domestic violence***
- ***Risk of abuse / neglect***
- ***Cognitive functioning***
- ***Trauma***
- ***Personality Difficulties***

Ms Saward has an Enhanced DBS certificate and Professional Indemnity Insurance.
HCPC – PYL18616



Keith Howie

Chartered Psychologist & Registered Educational Psychologist

Adult, Child & Family Assessments

Keith is an Educational Psychologist with more than 25 years of educational and clinical experience working with adults, children and families in multi professional settings. His qualifications include a B.A. Honours Degree in Psychology (University of Nottingham), a Certificate in Education (University of London) and a Master's degree in Educational Psychology (University of Nottingham). He has a Post Qualifying Certificate in Residential Social Work (University of Bristol).

He is registered with the Health Professions Council as a practising educational psychologist (Registration Number PYL00540) and is an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society and a Chartered Psychologist (BPS Membership Number 078988). He is a qualified and registered user of a portfolio of psychometric tests and clinical procedures for assessing intelligence, personality functioning and mental health in both children and adults. He has also trained to use a number of specialist assessment tools designed for children and adults with complex communication and social interaction difficulties and the assessment of families with complex difficulties.

He participates in ongoing professional training relating to safeguarding issues for both children & vulnerable adults. He has received specific training on systemic work with children & families and on multi-modal practice with hard to reach children & families. He has attended a wide range of courses on a variety of psychological approaches and is qualified to use a range of dynamic assessment tests. He has had approved training in the administration of specialist autism assessments, including the ADOS-2 and the 3Di.

During his career as a Psychologist he has worked closely with parents, teachers, Social Workers and health professionals in the assessment, management and treatment of children, adolescents and adults with a wide range of special needs including sensory deficits, physical disabilities, learning and developmental problems and emotional and behavioural disorders. As Director of Professional & Clinical Services for a national provider of care services he was responsible for a multi-disciplinary team of clinicians, which included Speech & Language Therapists, Educational & Clinical Psychologists & Psychiatrists. He has substantial experience in working directly with young people who are exceptionally troubled & troublesome, with offenders and with children who have suffered abuse and substantial trauma in their lives and with

children and young people with attachment problems. He has had over twenty years' experience as a specialist practitioner with children, young people and adults with autism and he is a consultant to services run by the National Autistic Society. He has spoken nationally on working with autism and has particular interest in the emotional challenges faced by people with autism and their carers.



Nigel Blagg Associates

Psychologists for Adults, Children & Families

Keith carries out assessments of parenting ability and capacity - with respect to childhood and personal history, learning disabilities, mental health, misuse of alcohol and / or illegal substances, anger management, family dynamics, domestic violence and sexual boundaries/abuse.

Prior to qualifying as a psychologist, he was employed for eight years by the Department for Health and Social Services, initially as a Groupworker-Teacher and subsequently as Head of Education based at St Charles Youth Treatment Centre, one of the two centres run directly by the Department to provide care and therapy for children and young people with the most severe and complex care needs, including young people who had been convicted of offences such as murder, manslaughter and rape and children who presented severe and persistent patterns of self-harm and extreme risk-taking behaviours. These children & young people had generally been brought up in chaotic and abusive settings and had experienced multiple challenges. In his work he was involved in undertaking therapeutic work with the young people and their families. His work was informed by psycho-dynamic and systemic practice and included the use of attachment theory.

During the early 1970's he spent 4 years working as a probation officer, based in Liverpool and in Western Australia.

Keith has given evidence in Court on many occasions.

He has an Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service Certificate, number 001444799309.



Lisa Hutchinson

Chartered Psychologist & Registered Counselling Psychologist

Adult & Adolescent Assessments

Lisa Hutchinson has more than 16 years clinical experience working with Adults, young people and their families in a variety of multi-disciplinary settings. She is a Chartered Psychologist and an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society (membership number 037792). She is a member of the Division of Counselling Psychology within the Society. She is registered with the Health Care Professions Council (HCPC number PYL16684).

Lisa's qualifications include a BSc (Hons.) Degree in Psychology (Middlesex Polytechnic), an MSc in Counselling Psychology (City University, London) and a post MSc Diploma in the practise of counselling psychology (City University, London) and a post graduate certificate in service transformation and clinical leadership (Exeter University).

Lisa's clinical work has centred on the assessment and treatment of a range of clinical disorders in both adults and young people. Her most recent post was Consultant Psychologist in Tier 4 (inpatient) CAMHS in Devon for young people (12-18) with significant personality and mental health problems. Alongside direct clinical work, she advised other professionals and families on adjustments and interventions that would support the young people in the community. Previous positions with Kneesworth House Hospital involved psychological and risk assessment and treatment interventions with adults with offending histories and mental health diagnoses. In the same provision Lisa was the Lead Therapist for the substance misuse programme across the secure service. Working within an inpatient environment has provided her with a good knowledge of the Mental Health Act, Mental Capacity Act and the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children.

Lisa is trained in a range of standardised assessments for assessing, personality, intelligence and mental health issues, including the WAIS-IV, NEO and Millon personality inventories. She is also trained in the ADOS-2 and ADI (gold standard tools in the assessment of Autistic Spectrum Disorder). Lisa has extensive experience in the assessment of personality and risk behaviours and has been trained in the use of a number of structured risk assessment protocols, including the HCR-20 and SVR-20.

Lisa has trained in a range of therapeutic models (CBT, Systemic and Psychodynamic) and has developed a good understanding of attachment issues across the lifespan. She has also completed intensive Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) training and was instrumental in setting up a DBT treatment programme within a medium secure women's service. She presented this work at The Delivering Effective DBT conference in 2010. More recently she has used this approach to inform the care and treatment of young people in a Tier 4 CAMHS service. She is recognised as having expertise in the delivery of both Individual DBT and DBT skills groups. Her extensive work in this area has enabled her to develop skills in assessing and working with clients who present with behaviours indicative of Borderline Personality Disorder.



As an expert witness in the family courts Lisa accepts instructions relating to the assessment of:

- ***mental health difficulties and/or learning disabilities***
- ***parenting and the impact of mental health issues and/or substance misuse***
- ***parenting ability, adult learning disability, personality disorder and mental health and impact of alcohol and drug misuse***
- ***family dynamics and the nature of sibling and attachment relationships***
- ***adults and young people with developmental and behavioural problems***
- ***Autistic Spectrum Disorders in adults and young people***
- ***sexual risk in adults and young people***
- ***risk of future violence in adults and young people***
- ***therapeutic, emotional and social needs following complex trauma***
- ***cognitive abilities & mental capacity***

Lisa is DBS checked number 001600048746.



Nigel Blagg Associates

Psychologists for Adults, Children & Families

Madeleine Dunham

Chartered Psychologist & Registered Clinical Psychologist

Adult, Child & Family Assessments

Madeleine Dunham is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist with 25 years experience in the assessment and treatment of children, adolescents and their families in the NHS both in multi-professional teams and individually.

Her qualifications include a BSc Honours Degree in Psychology/Biology, a Diploma in Clinical Psychology awarded by the Manchester Training Course in Clinical Psychology, an MSc in Psychotherapy from the University of Warwick, a Certificate in Further Educational Training, a Certificate in Consultation from the Tavistock Clinic and an MBA from Bristol Business School.

Madeleine Dunham is Chartered with the British Psychological Society and registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) as a Clinical Psychologist. She is a member of the British Psychological Society Division of Clinical Psychology and Faculty of Child Psychology.

Mrs Dunham is a qualified registered user of a portfolio of psychometric tests and clinical procedures assessing intelligence, personality, trauma symptomatology and psychopathology in both adults and children. She regularly attends training courses and conferences to keep up to date with developments in the field. She has also recently completed training in the HCR-20, a structured risk assessment tool to explore factors linked to risk of future violence.

She has worked with children and families in a wide variety of settings dealing with children with learning disabilities, developmental delay, children and adolescents with emotional and mental health difficulties as part of a child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) and developed a paediatric service at Bristol Children's Hospital for children with long term physical conditions. She has particular interests in neuro psychological conditions, ADHD and ASD.

She has extensive experience of working with children within the care system, both as a psychologist and foster carer, in supporting parents and families in dealing with children's difficulties and developing parenting skills. She employs an eclectic approach to assessment and therapy drawing on key psychological approaches including cognitive behaviour therapy, family therapy, solution focussed therapy and other psychotherapeutic approaches.

Prior to her move into full time independent practice, Madeleine Dunham was most recently employed as Head of Child & Adolescent Clinical Psychology at Bristol Children's Hospital, which provided a service both to child and adolescent mental health, learning disability, forensics, substance misuse and paediatrics.



Madeleine Dunham has over 20 years experience as an expert witness in public and private family law and has accepted over 200 instructions as a single joint expert on a range of issues including:

- ***Assessment of parenting ability with respect to childhood and personal history, learning disabilities and personality disorder, mental health, substance misuse, anger management and sexual boundaries/abuse.***
- ***Assessment of family dynamics and relationship issues including domestic violence.***
- ***Assessment of harm suffered by children or risk of future harm with respect to neglect and/or abuse (including emotional, sexual or physical).***
- ***Assessment of attachment issues, separation and loss and sibling relationships.***
- ***Assessment of the therapeutic and support needs of parents and/or children.***
- ***Assessment of the prospect of change and the likely timescale for that change.***
- ***Assessment of placement needs following a Care Order, including whether siblings should be placed together or separately and the nature and extent of contact with the birth family.***
- ***Assessment of residence and contact disputes.***
- ***Assessment of personal injury following physical or psychological trauma.***

Madeleine Dunham has given evidence in court on many occasions and has attended relevant training courses in order to undertake this.

Madeleine Dunham has Full Enhanced DBS Clearance and holds Personal Professional Indemnity Insurance.

HCPC – PYL05301

DBS – 001389981621



Mary Holba

Chartered Psychologist & Registered Clinical Psychologist

Child & Family Assessments

Mary Holba has more than 30 years clinical experience working with children, young people and families in a variety of multi-agency settings. She is a Chartered Psychologist and an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society (membership number 018890), a member of the Division of Clinical Psychology and the Faculty for Children and Young People. She is registered with the Health Care Professions Council (HCPC number PYL06228)

Mary's qualifications include a BSc Honours Degree in Psychology (Bedford College, University of London), a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (University of Bristol), an MSc in Clinical Psychology (University of Plymouth 1987), a Masters Degree in Consultation and the Organisation (Goldsmiths College in collaboration with The Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust) and a Post Graduate Diploma in the Management of IAPT Services (University of Reading).

For the last 9 years Mary was the Lead Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychologist for Gloucestershire 2Gether NHS Foundation Trust. She oversaw the development of the Clinical Psychology team, from 3 members to 11 by the time she left, in a range of specialist areas within the service and provided consultation and supervision to a wide range of groups and professions within the county. She participated in strategy development and was also the Governance lead for Children and young Peoples services within the Trust.

Mary's NHS Clinical Work centred on the assessment and treatment of a range of clinical disorders within Child and Adolescent Mental Health with a particular emphasis on the Psychological assessment of cases where the diagnosis was unclear, for example Autism Spectrum versus Attachment disorder. She completed the Oxford Child Clinical Neuropsychology Course and is trained in the use of ADOS-2 a gold standard tool in the Assessment of Autism Spectrum. She is trained in a range of psychological models including cognitive behaviour therapy and psychodynamic approaches as well as attachment theory. She uses these to assist in her assessment and understanding of a young person's needs.

Mary has also developed expertise in the assessment and treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) ranging from single episode PTSD to complex trauma work using a range of CBT techniques including Prolonged Exposure therapy.

Mary was instrumental in setting up a Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) service for young people with a history of repeated complex self-harm in Gloucestershire. She completed the DBT training (British Isles DBT trainers) and is recognised as having expertise in leading DBT skills groups and also individual work with DBT clients. She also managed the multi-disciplinary service for the assessment of Young People who presented at hospital with serious self-harm in the county. Her extensive work in this area has enabled her to develop skills in assessing and working with young people who present with behaviours indicative of Borderline Personality Disorder. Mary is recognised as a highly skilled trainer being able to bring theoretical perspectives and approaches to life with case material and interactive approaches. She has provided training to



professionals and associated workers in Health, Social Care and Education. Mary also developed a Core Competencies training course for Clinicians in Child and Adolescent Mental Health who do not have a core training with Children. The course had just completed its' first iteration when she left the service in March 2016 and was considered to be highly successful.

Mary is able to offer expertise in the following areas:

- ***Child and adolescent mental health difficulties***
- ***Psychological assessment of Children and Young people with complex learning and developmental difficulties.***
- ***Assessment of Autism Spectrum in children and teenagers.***
- ***Assessment of complex repeated self-harm in children and teenagers.***
- ***Assessment of therapeutic, emotional and social needs following complex trauma.***
- ***Consultation to groups and teams on their functioning and development.***

Mary has given evidence in court on a number of occasions. She is DBS checked (number 001491127200).



Shannon Ownhouse Registered Clinical Psychologist

Adult Assessments

Shannon Ownhouse has 9 years clinical experience working with adults and adolescents in mental health and forensic settings. She is a Clinical Psychologist registered with the British Psychological Society (BPS) and the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC # PYL38153) and is DBS checked #001689426196 (06/02/2020).

Her qualifications include a BA Honours Degree in Psychology (Rhodes University) and a Master of Social Science Degree in Clinical Psychology (University of KwaZulu-Natal). Shannon Ownhouse is a qualified registered user of a portfolio of psychometric tests and clinical procedures assessing intelligence, personality & mental health conditions in both adults and children.

Shannon Ownhouse participates in ongoing CPD related to her clinical practice as a Psychologist. She has completed training in the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory – III; the HCR-20 v3 (to assess risk of future violence); Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory – II and the Rorschach test. She has also attended courses concerning attachment, personality disorder and substance misuse.

In her early career as a psychologist (2011-2014) Shannon Ownhouse was responsible for the assessment, management and treatment of adults, children and adolescents with a wide range of mental health, educational and forensic needs including learning disability, trauma, psycho-social crises, mental disorders, medical conditions, adjustment problems, etc. She also routinely prepared reports for the court on young offenders to assess a child's capacity to testify in court following alleged sexual abuse and criminal capacity of children and adults.

In 2014, Shannon Ownhouse established Shannon Ownhouse & Associates, providing psychological services via three clinical outpatient practices across two regions in South Africa, employing two sessional psychologists to assist with case load. In addition to consulting with clients at her clinic, she consulted at two sub-acute psychiatric facilities daily providing psycho-diagnostic assessment and therapeutic interventions for a range of clinical presentations including mood disorders; personality disorders; addiction/dual diagnosis; psychosis; adjustment disorders; anxiety disorders and childhood/adolescent disorders.

In 2015, Shannon Ownhouse collaborated on a research project with the Department of Behavioural Medicine at the University of KwaZulu-Natal called Project Care. Shannon participated in the administration of a battery of neuropsychological assessments designed to analyse risk and resilience in youth in Durban, South Africa.

Since relocating to the United Kingdom in 2019, Shannon Ownhouse has worked in Low and Medium Secure hospitals assessing, diagnosing and treating offenders convicted of violent and sexually violent



offences. She is experienced in administering risk assessments such as SVR-20 and RSVP (for assessing risk of future sexual offending); SARA (Spousal Assault Risk Assessment); HCR- 20 v3 (for assessing risk of future violence) and a variety of personality assessments.

Shannon Ownhouse has provided expert witness assessments since 2012 and within the Family Court accepts instructions relating to the assessment of:

- ***Adult learning disability, personality disorder and mental health and impact of alcohol and drug misuse***
- ***Adult attachment style, relationship issues and family dynamics including impact of domestic violence and / or substance misuse***
- ***Therapeutic and support needs of parents, prospect of change and the likely timescale for that change***
- ***Risk of recidivism (offences: sexual and violent)***
- ***Psychopathology in adults***
- ***Parenting***