

# Curriculum Vitae

(updated July 2015)

## Jeffrey Robert Hughes

CertEd, BA(Open), BA(Hons), MSc, AFBPsS, MBCS, CPsychol, CSci, CITP

**HPCP Registered Practitioner Psychologist, Chartered Scientist**

**Chartered Information Technology Professional**

UK citizen born 26 July 1948 in Liverpool, England

**psychologist.uk / Lucem Assessment, Box42 Group,  
St Helens. WA10 3BF**

**Tel: 0844 357 8309 Fax: 0844 357 6642**

**Email: [jrh@psychologist.uk](mailto:jrh@psychologist.uk) Website: [www.psychologist.uk](http://www.psychologist.uk)**

### **Profile**

A highly qualified Health and Care Professions Council (HPCP) Registered Practitioner Psychologist, Chartered Educational Psychologist, Assistive Technologist and teacher with extensive and varied experience in the public and private sectors. Excellent skills in investigating, assessing, reporting and advising on on psychological, disability, educational, learning, parenting, relationship, sexual and other behavioural issues in children, young people and adults. A wealth of knowledge of health, education, social care, disability, voluntary and community services. Able to motivate and inspire, train, inform and coach, report to challenging time-scales and create innovative solutions. Excellent problem solving, facilitating and training skills with a high level of dedication, commitment and insight into wider issues.

## **Teaching and Psychology Experience**

In ten years as a teacher I gained extensive experience of teaching children, many from deprived backgrounds, in a variety of urban settings in Merseyside. Subject teaching experiences encompass science, physics, maths and pastoral care at secondary level in Comprehensive and Selective Schools both mixed and single sex, with the full curriculum in all-age Special School settings and as a home tutor. Having obtained an Open University Degree and an Honours Degree in Psychology while teaching, I was seconded to Manchester University's MSc. Educational Psychology Course and, on qualifying, worked as an Educational Psychologist and Assistive Technologist with three Local Authorities, Granada Learning and in Private Practice. Throughout my training, teaching and work as a psychologist I have had extensive experience of working with children, young people and adults including those who have learning and physical disabilities and with adults who have learning disabilities and their families in a variety of settings, educational, social, residential and work.

Under successive Education, Children and family legislation advice has been given to schools, Local Authorities, Courts, Tribunals, families and other professionals. Advisory, training, and therapeutic services have been provided for children, families, young people and staff in communities of schools and units including specialist provision, such as Child Development Centres, schools catering for children with Moderate Learning Difficulties, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties, Severe Learning Difficulties, Speech and Language Difficulties, Sensory and Physical Disabilities including Hearing Impairment, Dyspraxia, Cerebral Palsy, Attention Deficit, Autism and Dyslexia. Work and experience with children and young people has been a valuable base for extended working with Further and Higher Education Institutions and in work settings, assessing, and advising on, the needs of adult students and employees.

As a specialist psychologist I have extensive experience of providing assessment, advice and direct services in the management, placement and treatment of children, young people and adults in settings such as mainstream and specialist provision, residential and secure placements and at home, with families, adoptive and foster carers. I have specialist experience of therapeutic and advisory work gained within multidisciplinary settings in Local Authorities, independent settings and in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (CAMHS), extending my experiences of Social Care, home, school and secure settings. My work with adults who have learning disabilities began when I was a trainee teacher and has continued, and developed continuously, especially through my work as a psychologist in Assistive Technology to cover wide ranging involvement in assessment, care, education, training and support in many and varied settings.

## **Assistive Technology**

I have been closely involved with local, regional and national computer-related initiatives always seeking to promote the uses of computers for those who have special needs and disabilities. My skills as both a Psychologist and an Assistive Technologist are used to help people who have disabilities. This includes both "indirect" uses, such as data handling and record keeping, as well as "direct" methods which enable learning, communication and leisure together with uses of computers for assessment and therapy. I have a particular interest in identifying high quality, but low cost, equipment and software to encourage the wider use of computers. While I was at Granada Learning I was closely involved in the development of innovative software for young people especially those who have disabilities. The clinical audit software for Child Psychiatry which was developed to my specification is now marketed internationally and software I helped develop received awards and public recognition.

Dissemination of information and good practice through developing and publishing resources, writing articles, giving lectures, and delivering training, especially when this develops the skills of carers and practitioners and improves access and involvement for children, families and carers is an essential component of my activities. I founded SNUG: the Special Needs User Group and organised its local and national activities for over ten years, editing Special Needs Computing, its Newsletter & Journal, and providing a telephone Help Line offering information and advice about uses of computers for people who have special needs.

While working for SEMERC, a division of Granada Learning, I edited a special needs web site within BT Campus, was founding Head of the SEMERC Information Service which provided a range of advisory, assessment, consultancy and training services for special needs and ICT. I was Director of the Special Needs Learning Network, SEMERC's New Opportunities Fund ICT Training programme in the use of computers, software and Assistive Technology hardware for teachers of children with special needs.

I have worked with many Further Education and Higher Education Institutions undertaking diagnostic and needs assessments for the Disabled Students' Allowance for students . I offer assessment and support advice to employers to ensure provision of reasonable adjustments for those employees who have disabilities, such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, attention difficulties and autism spectrum disabilities.

## **Expert Witness Court Reports**

My Expert Witness work has for many years involved providing Court reports for Family, Criminal and Personal Injury matters and for the Special Educational Needs and Disability and Employment Tribunals. My work for such cases requires me to read and analyse extensive documentation in order to extract key issues and facts to help in diagnosis and identifying the individual's profile of characteristics, skills and abilities, responding to specific questions, recommending courses of action and giving opinions.

In recent years I have undertaken an increasing amount of Expert Witness work in Criminal matters and provided advice to the police and solicitors about interviewing children, young people and vulnerable adults. This has engaged my interest in the whole process of criminal justice. I have interacted with the legal profession, police, probation service and others, finding that the skills and knowledge I built up as an educator, psychologist and assistive technologist have been highly valued for informing Courts, Tribunals and those working in the Criminal Justice System and have made a positive and significant difference.

Having a sound knowledge of current research and practice across disciplines including Psychology, Health, Education, Employment, Social Care, Disability, Information Technology and Assistive Technology, with wide experience and skills in assessing, advising, supporting and training for many purposes I am in a strong position to bring to bear a range of pragmatic skills and experiences which can inform decisions. Through analysis and evaluation of the available information, in conjunction colleagues with different perspectives, I am able to make a positive and successful contribution to the work of the Court by informing decisions and helping to shape the future of the individuals involved. I have given testimony in Court and Tribunal in Family, Personal Injury, Employment, Education and Criminal cases.

Recent cases include: ICT provision for a child injured in a road traffic accident; assessment of children, young people and adults, understanding of events, actions and documents in criminal matters; understanding of charges; Ability to give instructions and fitness to plead; understanding of Police interviews including the Police Interview Caution; need for an appropriate adult; intellectual ability and emotional state; effect of dyslexia, dyspraxia, attention deficiency and asperger syndrome on behaviour and decision making ability; psychological and educational needs of individual children in care, social and family proceedings; parenting skills and understanding of the needs of children; appropriateness of placement to meet a child's social, mental health and educational needs; ICT and Assistive Technology needs, provision needed for children with Special Educational Needs including general learning difficulties, visual difficulties, physical disabilities, speech and language difficulties, autism and specific learning difficulties, including dyslexia, dyspraxia, attention deficit and Asperger syndrome.

## **Consultancy**

I have provided Consultancy Services to a range of other professionals and organisations, including analysis of ICT provision in Special Schools and Units with recommendations on changes in resourcing and the need for training and support, the approaches to be taken by the Police in interviewing vulnerable children, young people and adults who have disabilities; including dyslexia, dyspraxia and asperger syndrome; awareness and need for training of businesses and organisations which would aspire to hold 'Dyslexia Friendly' status.

## **Professional Associations:**

Having served in various national and local posts in NASEN (National Association for Special Educational Needs) and its predecessors. I have served on the Liverpool and St Helens Committee of the National Union of Teachers and on the National Union of Teachers' National Soubury Advisory Committee. I am Chair of the British Computer Society's Disability Group and am a member of the BCS Digital Access Specialist Group, have been a member of the British Dyslexia Association's New Technologies Committee and the Management Group of the IT Can Help Network, I am a Befriender for the St Helens and District Dyslexia Association, have been Chair of the British Dyslexia Association Local Associations Board and a Trustee of the British Dyslexia Association. I have been a member of the BDA steering and advocacy group including Government funded projects on digital assessment and awareness training for Youth Offending Teams.

I am an individual member of the National Children's Bureau, the NASEN, the Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health, the Association of Educational Psychologists, the Society of Forensic Interviewers, Intermediaries for Justice, NOTA and the Association of Child Psychologists in Private Practice (AChiPPP). I am a Registered Practitioner Psychologist with the Health and Care Professions Council. I hold a Practising Certificate as a Chartered Educational Psychologist and Chartered Scientist and am an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society (BPsS). I am a member of the BPsS Division of Educational and Child Psychology, the Developmental Psychology Section and the Special Group for Coaching Psychology. I am a Coaching Psychologist and have Chartered Status as an Information Technology Professional (CITP Assistive Technology). I am listed in a number of Expert Witness directories

## **Professional Development**

I have continually developed my professional skills by frequent attendance at a wide range of courses and conferences. These have included Assertive Discipline, BAT Pack (Behavioural Approaches to Teaching), Brief Therapy, Common Assessment Framework and Master Practitioner in Neurolinguistic Programming (NLP), Multidisciplinary approaches to Safeguarding, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy together with a wide variety of regionally and nationally organised courses, seminars, and meetings.

## **Current Interests and Developments:**

My development work is based on the interface between information technology and psychology, especially the use of computer systems to help people who have special needs and disabilities. I am working on analysis of the "cognitive load" of information and communications including the development of computer software to analyse and support adjustment of the "reading difficulty" of text based information. With this I am developing practical measures of understanding and functioning under various conditions. I hope that this will lead to evidence based materials to support and identify vulnerable people, so they are better able to take part in stressful activities, such as examinations, assessments and interviews. I am examining how the Police Caution can be better explained to ensure full understanding and how parents can better prepare for, and record, meetings about their children who have special needs. I am leading a team of colleagues in developing a tool for assessing Capacity to Participate at the various stages of a criminal matter, from offence through questioning and trial to sentence.

## Qualifications

CITP	BCS: the Chartered Institute for Information Technology	2007
CSci	British Psychological Society, Applied Psychology	2007
MBCS	British Computer Society, Assistive Technology	2004
CPsychol	British Psychological Society, Educational Psychology	1989
AFBPsS	British Psychological Society, Educational Psychology	1988
MSc	Manchester University, Educational Psychology	1982
BA(Hons)	Liverpool University, Psychology	1981
BA (Open)	Open University, Maths & Computing	1980
Cert Ed	Edge Hill College, Physics & Chemistry	1971

## Career Experience

2001 - present	Principal Practitioner, psychologist.uk / Lucem Assessment
2001 - present	Assistive Technologist, Special Needs Computing
2001 - 2007	Director, Box42 Ltd / Lucem Ltd
1999 - 2001	Head of SEMERC Information Service, Granada Learning
1996 - 1999	Private Practice, Hughes&Co.
1996 - 1999	Editor of SENSOR/Consultant, SEMERC (Part-time)
1996 - 1997	Educational Psychologist, Wigan MBC (Part-time)
1989 - 1996	Educational Psychologist, St Helens MBC
1981 - 1982	Educational Psychologist, Liverpool City Council
1981 - 1982	Trainee Psychologist, Hounslow BC
1979 - 1981	Teacher: Various part-time and supply posts during University courses.
1974 - 1979	Teacher: Anfield Comprehensive School, Liverpool
1971 - 1974	Teacher: Ruffwood Comprehensive School, Kirkby