

**DR GEMMA PARKER
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST**

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Summary of experience

I have been working in mental health settings in various capacities and across different settings since 2004, after completing an MSc in Investigative Psychology. Since completing the clinical psychology doctorate in 2008, the majority of my experience has been working in secure services and community forensic services for people with mental health difficulties who present a risk to others or to themselves.

Alongside this work, I have worked closely the local authority as an independent practitioner for approximately 10 years, with a focus on risk assessment and treatment of individuals presenting a risk of sexual and physical abuse. I have worked in a self-employed capacity as a consultant to CAFCASS for over 5 years, consulting on private and public law cases involving high-conflict relationships, parental alienation, parental mental health issues, and cases where parents present a risk to their children. I have worked as an expert witness for a number of years, providing reports to family and criminal courts. I have been in independent practice since leaving the NHS in 2018, working with families struggling with their relationships.

Family court:

- High conflict relationships and domestic violence
- Mental health difficulties and personality disorders
- Substance misuse including alcohol
- Parental alienation
- Risk assessments: sexual, physical and emotional harm
- Cognitive assessments

Criminal court:

- Mental health
- Exploitation / compliance
- Maturity
- Failure to provide a specimen

Qualifications

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, University of Liverpool (2005 - 2008)

MSc Investigative Psychology (distinction), University of Liverpool (2002 - 2003)

BA Experimental Psychology (2:i), Oxford University (1998 - 2002)

Current post: Director of Raising Relationships (2018 onwards)

Raising Relationships is a Community Interest Company (CIC) that aims to provide psychological services to families who are struggling with their relationships, which might feature significant conflict, domestic abuse or parental alienation, or the risk of sexual, physical or emotional abuse towards the children.

Self-employed as an expert witness (2010 – 2018)

In addition to employed posts, I have completed court reports and consultation work over a number of years. I have given evidence at parole hearings and mental health review tribunals, as well as family court. I have been part of a small team of clinical psychologists who have provided consultation and training to the Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) over the past 5 years, in order to enhance their ability to apply psychological theory and thinking to their formulations and risk assessments.

Clinical Psychologist, Low Secure Services (April 2016 – November 2018)

This role consisted of working in a multidisciplinary team with inpatients who struggled with their mental health and offending behavior.

Lead Clinical Psychologist, Offender Personality Disorder pathway, Band 8b (April 2013 - April 2016)

My previous post was as the lead clinical psychologist working on a partnership project between the NHS and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) known as the National Offender Personality Disorder Pathway (OPD pathway). I was also the Clinical Lead for a Psychologically Informed, Planned Environment (PIPE) in an approved premise.

Clinical Psychologist in medium secure setting, Band 8a (Nov 2009 - 2013)

See current post for more information about the role of a clinical psychologist in medium and low secure settings.

Clinical psychologist, Band 7 (Sept 2008 - Nov 2009)

This post was based across two sites: a medium secure hospital and a community forensic psychology service with Mersey Care NHS Trust.

Trainee Clinical Psychologist, Band 6 (Sept 2005 - Sept 2008)

Clinical training involves 6 monthly placements in core disciplines (working with adults, older adults, children and adolescents and people with learning disabilities), and elective placements. I chose to work in a high secure environment and a community forensic psychology service.

Assistant Psychologist, Band 5 (April 2007 - Sept 2008) Working within a medium secure hospital with Lancashire Care NHS Trust.

Associate Practitioner (April 2006 - April 2007): A newly created post on an admission and assessment ward in a medium secure hospital.

Additional training

I have received training in the following:

Skills:

- Bond Solon training in court skills, report writing skills and expert witness skills.

Therapy training in 2018:

- Emotion Focused Therapy for Couples
- Acceptance and Commitment Therapy

Therapy training before 2018 included Motivational Interviewing (Advanced), Non-Violent Resistance Training, Group Analysis Introductory Course, Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR), Narrative Therapy Level 1, Introduction to Cognitive Analytical Therapy (CAT), CBT for Psychosis.

Assessments

I have previously trained in a number of risk assessments and clinical assessment methods including using the HCR-20 to assess the risk of violence, the RSVP for assessments of sexual violence, the PCL-R to assess psychopathy, the SCID-I to assess DSM disorders (mental health), and the IPDE to assess personality disorders.

Awards, bids, conferences and publications

The non-offending partners group I co-facilitated won the “Creativity and Innovation” section of Mersey Care NHS Trust’s “Positive Achievement Awards”. After moving to Greater Manchester West NHS Foundation Trust, I put together a successful bid for resources to implement a pilot group for non-offending partners, which has now been completed and evaluated in order to inform future service plans.

I have presented at the following conferences and networking days:

- North OPD pathway networking day, 2014: Formulation within the OPD pathway - an update on current thinking.
- Forensic Footprint Conference, 2009: Working with men with a history of sexual offending and non-offending partners, with Simon Duff, forensic psychologist.
- British Psychological Society, Division of Forensic Psychology, 2009. Symposium presentation: “Improving the ability of non-offending partners to protect their children from potential sexual harm” with Dr Lisa Wright, clinical psychologist.

Publication:

- Charlene, H., Parker, G., and Duff, S. (2013) Treatment implications arising from a qualitative analysis of letters written by the non-offending partners of men who have perpetrated child sexual abuse. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 22 (6), 720 - 741.