

Dr Sarah Hartley BA (Hons), D.Clin.Psych., AFBPsS
Chartered Clinical Psychologist



Health Professions Council Registration: **PYL02608**
British Psychological Society Membership: **080836**

Dr Sarah Hartley is a Clinical Psychologist and expert witness specialising in adult mental health, personality disorders, developmental trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, non-accidental injury and failure to thrive. She has worked in forensic services for nine years, and during this time conducted numerous assessments of risk including sexual and violent risk as well as offending. She has also worked therapeutically with male sex offenders. She has lectured and published about the subject of parent's capacity to change within the child's timescale.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Clinical Psychologist in the NHS for 11 years, working in a women's specialist community and forensic service, a psychotherapy service, and a community mental health team
- Experience of working with families in an adult mental health setting, with people with learning disabilities, and with people with a diagnosis of personality disorder
- Independent expert to the Family Proceedings Courts and Criminal Courts for over ten years
- Expertise in medical negligence and personal injury cases
- Expertise across all aspects of parental capacity and risk including neglect, emotional harm, violence, parental alienation, domestic violence and abuse, particularly in the context of parental mental health issues
- Special interests in trauma, failure to thrive, and non-accidental injury
- Training in various forms of psychotherapy including EMDR
- Trained in MIMs
- Trained in Mentalisation-based treatment

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

1994	Nottingham University: BA (Hons) Psychology: 2.1
1999	Surrey University: MSc Research Methods and Psychological Assessment: Distinction
2002	Salomons Centre, Affiliated to University of Canterbury: Psych.D in Clinical Psychology
2003	Chartered by the British Psychological Society
2004	Institute of Family Therapy: Postgraduate Diploma in Systemic Practice with Families & Couples: Merit
2009	Registered by the Health & Care Professions Council
11/13	Two years training as a Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist at the Guild of Psychotherapists.
2015	Completed training with EMDR Works to obtain registration as practitioner in Eye Movement Desensitisation Reprocessing treatment. I am a member of EMDR Association UK & Ireland.

WORK HISTORY

2020 – Present Lead Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Bramley Health

Currently the Lead Psychologist in a forensic service for men and women with complex needs

2015 – Present Expert Witness – Private Practice

Director of a private practice, which was set up to provide good-quality and timely assessments and treatment of adults. Areas of special interest in psychological treatment are trauma, and is trained in EMDR. Registered with BUPA and AXA. Was until recently the Treasurer for the British Rorschach Society.

Continue to provide assessments for the Courts, and her particular areas of specialty in this regard are assessing people with personality disorder, trauma, and within child protection cases I have a particular interest in non-accidental injury and cases involving domestic abuse. Has completed over three hundred reports in family cases which have related to child protection and completed many global family assessments since beginning this work in 2007.

Has also completed many assessments in private law cases involving parental alienation.

Prepared over ninety reports in personal injury cases including medical negligence, accident compensation claims, and other cases where an assessment of post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms is required.

Acted as expert in many criminal cases including those concerning fitness to plead/stand trial. Has given evidence in Court many times, including at the High Court.

2007 – 15

Expert Witness – Independent expert for the family and criminal courts, providing specialist assessment of parental mental health problems, personality disorder and developmental trauma. She has submitted over one hundred reports in child protection cases with a particular interest in non-accidental injury and failure to thrive. She has also prepared over sixty reports in personal injury cases including medical negligence, accident compensation claims, and other cases where an assessment of post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms is required. She has acted as expert in several criminal cases concerning fitness to plead/stand trial.

2005 – 12

Women's Services Sussex Partnership NHS Trust - Senior Clinical Psychologist in a Specialist Women's Service, which spans forensic and specialist care. The women referred to the service have complex mental health needs, often including a diagnosis of personality disorder, and they present a significant level of risk to either themselves or others.

2005 – 12

University of Sussex - Providing lectures to undergraduates in psychology at the University of Sussex.

2005 – 12

CMHT/Psychological Therapies Services - Clinical Psychologist for Community Mental Health Team and Psychological Therapies Service offering intervention for depression, anxiety, OCD, trauma, eating difficulties and personality difficulties.

2002 – 03

The Dene Secure Services for Women - Clinical Psychologist in a specialist medium-secure forensic unit for women specialising in the assessment and treatment of severe trauma and personality disorder.

SPECIALIST TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2021	Completed training in assessing Autistic Spectrum Condition using the ADOS
2019	Completed Mentalisation-Based Treatment: Basic Training.
2017	Trained in using the Marshak Interaction Method
2016	Introduction to Mindful Compassion, Paul Gilbert
2015	EMDR Training
11/13	Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Training
2013	Being an expert witness in family cases: a psychodynamic perspective, Portman Clinic
2012	Two-day training in Cognitive Analytic Therapy
2012	Rorschach Administration, Scoring and Interpretation
2012	Training on PCL-R and HCR-20
2010	Training to use the MMPI-2, James Butcher
2007	Bond Solon Course: "Giving evidence for Expert Witnesses".
2006	Supervisors training and advanced supervisors training

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2018	Carstairs, K., Hartley, S., Peden, A., McCarthy Woods, J., van Graan, A., Andronikof, A. & Fontan, P. (2018) A normative study in England with the Rorschach Comprehensive System. <i>Rorschachiana</i> , 39. 105-134.
2015	Birch, S. (2015) Workshop presentation: Assessing the adult's capacity to change. Presented at a study day entitled "assessing a parent's capacity to change in the timescales of their child". St Catherine's College, Oxford, 14 th October 2015.
2015	Birch, S. (2015) Factors that demonstrate change or potential change in parenting capacity. In Bryn Williams, Emma Peart & Roger Young (Eds.) <i>Understanding and assessing a parent's capacity to change within the timescales of the child</i> . London: Jordan Publishing.
2015	Carstairs, Kari & Birch, Sarah (2015). Assessing a parent's capacity to change in psychotherapy: The use of the Rorschach and the MMPI-2. In Bryn Williams, Emma Peart & Roger Young (Eds.) <i>Understanding and assessing a parent's capacity to change within the timescales of the child</i> . London: Jordan Publishing.
2014	Birch, S. (2014). Why I use the Rorschach in court reports. <i>Your Witness</i> , 29, 37-38.
2013	Birch, S. (2013). A therapist's responses to self-harm. <i>Clinical Psychology Forum</i> . No 248, pp12-15.
2013	Birch, S. (2013), What makes a good quality psychological report. <i>The Expert Witness Journal</i> , Vol.1, (4), 64-66.
2013	Birch, S. (2013). Using an interpreter when conducting cognitive evaluations in parenting assessments. <i>The Expert Witness Journal</i> , 1, 56 – 59.

- 2012 Birch, S. & Carstairs, K. (2012) Poster presentation: Assessment of personality in parenting capacity cases. Presented at the annual conference for the Society for Personality Assessment, Chicago, 16th March 2012.
- 2012 Birch, S. (2012) The See-Saw of Recovery in Women's Secure Care. In *Secure Recovery* (Ed) G. Drennan & D. Alred.
- 2011 Birch, S. (2011) I want you to be able to see it. *Diogenes and Pathological Hoarding. Psychodynamic Practice*, Vol.17, (3), 331-334.
- 2011 Birch, S., Cole, S., & Hunt, K. (2011) Self harm and Positive Risk-Taking. Can being able to think about the possibility of harm reduce the frequency of actual harm? *Journal of Mental Health*. 20 (3) 293-303.
- 2010 Birch, S. (2010) Conference presentation: Pathological Hoarding. Presented at the Association of Forensic Psychotherapy Conference, March 2010.
- 2003 Birch, S. & Lavender, T. (2003) The physical healthcare experiences of women with enduring mental health problems. Status versus stigma. *Journal of Mental Health*. Vol. 14, No. 1, pp 61-72.
- 2003 Dunstan, F. & Birch, S. (2003) What Makes a TC? A Comparative Study of Ideal Values. In *A Culture of Enquiry. Research Evidence and the Therapeutic Community*. J. Lees, N. Manning, D. Menzies, & N. Morant. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
- 2002 Blount, C., Birch, S., Evans, C. & Warren, F. (2002) A qualitative evaluation of outcome measures of personality disorder. *Journal of Medical Psychology*. Vol. 75, No. 2. pp 151-164.
- 1999 Birch, S., Dunstan, F. & Warren, F. (1999) Democratisation, reality confrontation, permissiveness, and communalism. Themes or anachronisms? An Examination of Therapeutic Agents Using Factor Analysis. *Therapeutic Communities*. Vol. 20, No. 1, pp 43-59.