



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.

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WORK HISTORY

- 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

- 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

- 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. *Rorschachiana*, 39. 105-134.

- 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, 14th October 2015.
- Birch, S. (2015) Factors that demonstrate change or potential change in parenting capacity. In Bryn Williams, Emma Peart & Roger Young (Eds.) Understanding and assessing a parent's capacity to change within the timescales of the child. London: Jordan Publishing.
- 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.) Understanding and assessing a parent's capacity to change within the timescales of the child. London: Jordan Publishing.
- Birch, S. (2014). Why I use the Rorschach in court reports. *Your Witness*, 29, 37-38.
- Birch, S. (2013). A therapist's responses to self-harm. *Clinical Psychology Forum*. No 248, pp12-15.
- Birch, S. (2013), What makes a good quality psychological report. *The Expert Witness Journal*, Vol.1, (4), 64-66.
- Birch, S. (2013). Using an interpreter when conducting cognitive evaluations in parenting assessments. *The Expert Witness Journal*, 1, 56 – 59.
- 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.
- Birch, S. (2012) The See-Saw of Recovery in Women's Secure Care. In *Secure Recovery* (Ed) G. Drennan & D. Alred.
- Birch, S. (2011) I want you to be able to see it. *Diogenes and Pathological Hoarding*. *Psychodynamic Practice*, Vol.17, (3), 331-334.
- 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.
- Birch, S. (2010) Conference presentation: Pathological Hoarding. Presented at the Association of Forensic Psychotherapy Conference, March 2010.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.