



Dr Gemma Parker BA, MSc, DClinPsych
Chartered Clinical Psychologist



Health Professions Council Registration: **PYL24154**

Dr Gemma Parker is a clinical psychologist with 13-years of experience of working in the NHS, probation and forensic settings. She specialises in the assessment of adults where personality, mental health and substance misuse issues are linked to the risk of harm to others, including children. She also provides assessments of parental capacity to protect children from harm, particularly in relation to sexual abuse. She is experienced in the assessment and treatment of trauma and PTSD and regularly assesses the impact of catastrophic events giving evidence in cases of personal injury or medical negligence.

She has experience of providing risk assessments and psychological assessment reports that have been used in criminal and family proceedings and multi-agency decision making processes, including court reports, parole hearings, mental health review tribunals (MHRTs) and multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA). She has also given oral evidence at MHRTs and parole board hearings.

FAMILY LAW EXPERTISE

- Dr Parker regularly provides evidence within Children's Act proceedings assessing parental risk and capacity
- She is a specialist in forensic risk including the risk of violence and physical harm to children.
- She assesses the dynamics within parental relationship and the risk of abuse or domestic violence.
- She undertakes specialise sexual offender risk assessments and the capacity of safe carers to protect from sexual harm
- She assesses parental protectiveness where a child is at risk within the family
- Psychological factors that contribute to the risk of offending or parental risk
- She specialises in the assessment of personality and personality disorder and the impact that this can have on parenting.
- She offers assessments of severe and enduring mental health problems including psychosis, depression and anxiety.
- She assesses an individual or family's capacity for change and suitability for therapy

CRIMINAL AND PRISON LAW EXPERTISE

- Dr Parker undertakes complex evidence based assessment of risk for the Criminal Courts and Parole Boards
- She assesses violent and sexual risk in offenders, mentally disordered offenders and sexual offenders.

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- She has expertise in working with women with complex forensic and mental health needs.
- She can undertake assessment of capacity under the mental health act and mental capacity act.

CIVIL LAW EXPERTISE

- Dr Parker regularly undertakes assessments in cases of personal injury, medical negligence and employment difficulties.
- She undertakes assessments of the impact of catastrophic and traumatic events and diagnostic assessments of PTSD, distinguishing these difficulties from pre-existing conditions.
- She presents evidence of the impact of work-related incidents and abuse, and the psychological affect this has on workers.

WORK HISTORY

- Dr Parker has been working in the field of forensic mental health in various capacities and across different settings since 2004, after completing an MSc in Investigative Psychology. Whilst she has worked in high and low secure settings, the majority of her experience has been working in medium secure settings, which also offer community forensic services for people with a history of sexual or violent offending.
- Since 2008, Dr Parker has worked as a clinical psychologist within medium secure environments, with men and women detained under the Mental Health Act (1983, amended 2007) because of mental health difficulties and the risk of offending. As part of this role, she has completed numerous comprehensive risk assessments using structured clinical judgement tools relating to physical and sexual violence. She has also been required to carry out assessments of mental disorder, including mental illness, personality and psychopathy. In addition to this, she uses numerous psychometrics to support assessments of mental health difficulties including anger, anxiety, depression, psychosis, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and complex trauma. Dr Parker has a specialist interest in the impact of traumatic events on adult life, including post-traumatic reactions, complex trauma and personality. She has completed individual therapy and group therapies with men and women within these settings, including offence focussed work in order to address risk issues.
- Within these settings, a significant proportion of her time has been allocated to community forensic psychology services, providing risk assessments, formulations and consultation to community services regarding individuals with complex forensic histories, personality difficulties, and additional difficulties such as substance misuse, traumatic histories and mental health difficulties. She has experience of multi-disciplinary and multi-agency working, including working closely with the police, probation and children's services in order to increase multi-agency understanding of the risks present in certain cases and work collaboratively towards effective risk management, as well as completing assessments within prison settings and for parole board hearings. She has developed and facilitated a group package for partners of men who have sexually offended and provided reports regarding group progress and group members' capacity to protect their children from sexual harm.
- Since 2013, Dr Parker has worked as the lead psychologist on a partnership project with the probation service, helping probation staff to work psychologically with individuals with complex personality needs.

During this period she has also worked as a psychological consultant to the Children and Families Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS).

- Dr Parker has provided teaching and training on the forensic modules of the clinical psychology courses in the North West, as well as the forensic psychology doctorate in Nottingham. She has also provided training to probation officers, trainee probation officers and presented at career conferences in schools.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

2005 - 2008 Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, University of Liverpool

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

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

SPECIALIST TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Assessing the risk of violence, including the use of the HCR-20
- Assessing the risk of sexual violence, including the use of the RSVP
- International Personality Disorder Examination (IPDE)
- Psychopathy Checklist, Revised (PCL-R)
- Structured Clinical Interview for DSM disorders, axis 1 (SCID-I)
- Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR)
- Narrative therapy, level 1
- Introduction to cognitive analytical therapy (CAT)
- CBT for psychosis, working with dual diagnosis and substance misuse (Association of Psychological Therapies)
- Motivational interviewing (Advanced Level)
- Non-violent resistance coaching

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Parker, G., Duff, S. and Kinderman, P. (in preparation). A dimensional approach to psychiatric classification: a multidimensional study.

Cahalane, H., Duff, S. and Parker, G. (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), 720-41.

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.