

**Dr Ashley Francis**

B.Sc., M.Sc., D.Clin.Psy

**Chartered Clinical Psychologist**



Health Professions Council Registration: **PYL33429**

Dr Francis is a Clinical Psychologist specialising in adult mental health services and chronic pain management services previously in the NHS and now in his own private independent practice. He specialises in the assessment and treatment of trauma; PTSD; complex PTSD; anxiety, depression; panic disorder; OCD; attachment and interpersonal difficulties; medically unexplained symptoms and complex pain syndromes.

He has gone on to complete further training in psychotherapy including Intensive Short-Term Psychodynamic Therapy (ISTDP) and Eye Movement Desensitisation & Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy. Both of these models have strong evidence bases for a broad range of clinical presentations, including the treatment of trauma and PTSD that typically follow personal injury and clinical negligence.

#### **CIVIL LAW EXPERTISE**

- Dr Francis works therapeutically with adults with complex mental health problems, personality difficulties, physical disability and chronic pain.
- He specialises in the assessment of adults who have experienced traumatic road traffic accidents, industrial accidents or other forms of acute adult trauma and PTSD.
- He has completed the Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate, accredited by Cardiff University Law School, to be recognised as an expert in assessing and reporting on personal injury, data breaches and clinical negligence cases for the Civil Courts
- He currently works with chronic pain sufferers and offers clear, concise assessments of the intervention pathways for patients
- He is trained in EMDR and ISTDP therapies, which are suitable and evidence-based treatments for chronic and acute trauma and PTSD.

#### **CRIMINAL LAW EXPERTISE**

- Dr Francis has undertaken assessment and reports for the criminal courts on defendants. This work has centred on assessing the presence and degree of psychological disorders, and determining the mediating role such disorders have played in the defendant's crime
- Dr Francis has undertaken mental health assessments and reports in immigration and asylum cases, helping to determine the presence and degree of psychological disorders, and the impact that any extradition from the UK would have on such disorders
- Dr Francis holds a Master's Degree in Investigative and Forensic Psychology, and prior to clinical training worked as an Assistant Psychologist with offenders sectioned under the Mental Health Act

## **PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

- 2016**            Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (D.Clin.Psy) - University of Nottingham
- 2009**            M.Sc. Investigative and Forensic Psychology, Distinction - University of Liverpool
- 2007**            B.Sc. Psychology, 1<sup>st</sup> class honours - University of Liverpool

## **SPECIALIST TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 2020**            Intensive Short-Term Dynamic Psychotherapy (ISTDP), Core Training: Boston, USA
- 2019**            Eye Movement and Desensitisation Reprocessing (EMDR) Therapy (Part 1,2 & 3)
- 2018**            Experiential Dynamic Therapy, Core Training: Birmingham, UK
- 2019**            Bond Solon Civil Expert Witness Certificate (Civil Courts): Cardiff University, UK

## **WORK HISTORY**

### **2018 - Present    Independent Private Practice - Clinical Psychologist**

- Providing assessments, written reports and private psychotherapy services for clients presenting with a range of common and complex mental health problems, as well as physical health problems that are linked to emotional stress such as chronic pain fibromyalgia, IBS, migraine headaches and dissociative seizures
- Undertaking assessments and report writing for the Civil Courts around personal injury and clinical negligence cases
- Undertaking assessments and report writing for the Criminal Courts around mental health
- Duties also include the development and running of a small business, including administration, advertising, setting up referral streams, liaising with insurers and third-party providers of clinical services, and writing reports clinical reports for employers and insurers

### **2018 – 19    Chronic Pain Management Service, NHS Birmingham Community Healthcare Trust - Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist (Band 8a)**

- Working with patients presenting with complex pain syndromes and medically unexplained symptoms typically within the context of historical and ongoing psychological trauma.
- Duties include: 1:1 assessment and psychotherapy treatment alongside MDT colleagues in pain clinics; preparing reports and psychological formulations for patients, medical staff and where necessary the Department for Work and Health in relation to Personal Independence Payment (PIP); facilitating pain management group programs; supervising Trainee Clinical Psychologists, Assistant Psychologists and MSci students; training and consultation for MDT staff in psychological ways of working with pain; and implementing and evaluating a pilot program for psychotherapy services embedded within local GP practices

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**2017 – 18 Adult Mental Health Service, NHS Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership Trust - Clinical Psychologist (Band 7)**

- Working with adult and older adult patients in secondary care services presenting with anxiety, depression, complex trauma, PTSD, personality issues, risk and social care needs
- Duties included 1:1 assessment and psychotherapy treatment with a particular focus on trauma models; conducting risk assessments and developing safety care plans; training and consultation for MDT; and supervising Trainee Clinical Psychologists

**2013 – 16 Trent Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology, Nottingham - Trainee Clinical Psychologist**

- This role involved undertaking clinical, academic and research components stipulated by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and the Division of Clinical Psychology (DCP) to become a qualified Clinical Psychologist. Clinical work was undertaken across four core placements in Adult, Older Adult, Child, and Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (IDD)

**2012 – 13 Locked Rehabilitation for Males with Intellectual Disabilities, Cambian Group - Assistant Psychologist**

- Working in a locked rehabilitation service for adults with intellectual disabilities, Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and forensic histories.
- Duties involved: 1:1 clinical work under supervision addressing working to address challenging behaviour, anger, anxiety, depression, psychosis and antisocial personality disorder; conducting risk assessments and coordinating risk assessment meetings with the MDT; attending Care Program Approach (CPA) meetings and Tribunals representing psychology, preparing reports and disseminating feedback to on client's health and wellbeing and making recommendations of future plans for care and risk management.

**2011 – 12 Older Adult Mental Health Services, NHS Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership Trust - Assistant Psychologist**

- Working in a community mental health service for older adults presenting with anxiety and depression, cognitive impairment and neurodegenerative conditions (e.g. Alzheimer's disease)
- Duties included: 1:1 individual therapy informed by CBT for people with anxiety, depression, bereavement and loss; facilitated an anxiety and depression management group; offering consultation to care staff at a day-care centre looking to improve their psychological knowledge and understanding of client's presentations, particularly around dementia and challenging behaviour.

**2010 – 11 Neuropsychology & Older Adult Mental Health Services, NHS North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust - Assistant Psychologist**

- This was a split between the older adult mental and neuropsychology services:
- Duties involved Neuropsychological assessment/report writing with adults with traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) and with older adults with suspected onset dementia; 1:1 clinical work informed by CBT for issues around bereavement, depression and anxiety; developing cognitive rehabilitation interventions for patients with TBI; service auditing and evaluation.

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**2010 – 11 Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services, NHS North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust - Assistant Psychologist**

- Working in a community Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) with presentations including anxiety, depression, challenging behaviour, Autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Duties included: conducting structured observations of children at school, undertaking semi-structured interviews with teaching staff and reviewing school reports and documentation relating to the child's performance and conduct at school; writing and disseminating reports; 1:1 clinical work largely informed by CBT and systemic therapy for issues such as anger, anxiety, challenging behaviour and neurodevelopmental disorders.

**PUBLICATIONS**

- 2020** Koch HCH, Fulford L, Parmar B and Francis A (2020). *Legal Thoughts: How to Improve Lawyer Wellbeing Post-COVID-19*. Expert Witness Journal. Summer, 2020.
- 2020** Koch HCH, Jansen F, Crowther-Green H and Francis A, (2020). *PTSD in Road Traffic Accident: A review of key medico-legal issues*. Expert Witness Journal. Spring, 2020.
- 2019** Koch HCH, Mushati D and Francis A, (2019). Legal Mind Case & Commentary No.21. *To convince or deceive? The analysis of reliable or realistic evidence*. PIBULJ. July, 2019.
- 2016** Francis, A. W., Dawson, D. L., & Golijani-Moghaddam, N. (2016). *The development and validation of the Comprehensive Assessment of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Processes (CompACT)*. Journal of Contextual Behavioural Science.
- 2010** Goodwill, A.M., Alison, L.J., Lehman, R., Francis, A. & Villejoubert, G. (2010). *The impact of outcome knowledge, role and quality of information on the perceived legitimacy of lethal force decisions in counter terrorism operations*. Behavioral Sciences & the Law, 28, 337-350.