



Dr Christopher Hobson
MA, MSc, PhD, DClinPsy, CPsychol.
Chartered Clinical Psychologist



Health Professions Council Registration: **PYL25922**
British Psychological Society Membership: **176214**

Dr Christopher Hobson is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist with over 13 years post-qualified experience of working clinically with adults, and conducting clinically-relevant research.

He has an undergraduate degree in Psychology from St. Andrews University, a Masters in Forensic Psychology from Kent University, a PhD in Developmental Psychology from the Institute of Psychiatry (Kings College London) and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Royal Holloway University. He is chartered with the British Psychological Society (BPS) and registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Dr Hobson is the Academic Director for South Wales Doctoral Programme in Clinical Psychology (employed by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, and based at Cardiff University). Further, he is the Clinical Psychologist for the Neurodevelopmental Assessment (Research) Unit at Cardiff University which conducts research into understanding and intervening in children with emotional and behavioural difficulties and their families (including researching novel parenting interventions). As part of these roles, he is required to be very up-to-date with the main developments across the broad field of Clinical Psychology. Further, he provides teaching and/or conduct research into areas relevant to family court work, including the impact of environment and parenting on children's development, personality and complex trauma, and mental capacity. He has several publications in peer-reviewed journals in the areas of child and parental mental health, and working with complex/traumatised populations.

Since 2012, he has also worked independently, predominantly conducting assessments of parents involved in childcare proceedings or at the pre-proceedings stage. He has also conducted assessments in criminal court cases, for the Parole Board, provided private therapy, as well as professional psychological consultation sessions (e.g., to the National Probation Service Wales).

Prior to Clinical Psychology training in 2007, Dr Hobson had several years of research experience working on clinical trials of parenting programmes. Between 2010 and 2016, he worked with men and women in adult forensic settings (Llanarth Court medium secure hospital, and Eastwood Park women's prison). Within these roles he carried out many comprehensive assessments of risk (using structured professional judgement risk assessment tools for sexual or violence risk, such as the HCR-20 and RSVP), mental health/personality difficulties and cognitive/neuropsychological function.

Across employed roles and his independent work, he has particularly developed expertise in assessing and treating those who have histories of personality difficulties related to complex trauma and early disrupted attachments, as well as those who have committed violent offences and/or offences against children (including physical and sexual abuse, and neglect). He also has experience with working with a wide range of other difficulties including recurrent anxiety and depression, OCD, psychosis, bipolar disorder, autism, ADHD, cognitive

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impairment and brain injury. He is trained in various therapies including Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Mentalization Based Treatment and EMDR.

Dr Hobson has prepared more than 325 reports mainly for the **family courts (including pre-proceedings assessments), but also for the criminal court, parole board, and mental health review tribunals**. These reports have covered the following areas:

- Assessments of mental health (including substance misuse) in adults
- Cognitive/Capacity issues (e.g., to instruct a solicitor)
- Risk assessment
- Impact of the above on parenting

AREAS OF SPECIALISM

- Assessment of adults
- Personality difficulties and complex PTSD, including impact on parenting
- Mental health (including depression and anxiety), and impact on parenting
- Attachment and relationship history
- Drug and alcohol use
- Neurodevelopmental disorders (ADHD, Autism-Spectrum Disorder)*
- Learning difficulties
- Cognitive /Neuropsychological Assessment
- Capacity issues
- Parental risk assessment (including assessment of risk of violence and domestic violence)
- Ability to protect
- Ability to prioritise the needs of the children
- Ability to work with professionals
- Capacity to change

*Please note, he does not conduct formal diagnostic assessments of Autism or ADHD, but is experienced with working with already-diagnosed individuals and considering the impact of their diagnosis on issues such as parenting and relationships.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

2007 – 2010 Doctor of Clinical Psychology – Royal Holloway

2004 – 2007 PhD in Child and Adolescent Psychology – Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College London

2003 – 2004 MSc Forensic Psychology – Kent University

1998 – 2002 MA Psychology – St. Andrews University

TRAINING

As well as continuing to conduct psychological research and be a provider of training (which is considered CPD) Dr Hobson has participated in ongoing professional development related to his clinical, forensic and expert witness work, having attended, amongst others, the following training relevant to psychological risk assessment reports and parenting:

- Using the Power-Threat Meaning Framework in Forensic Reports (BPS, 2023)
- Mentalization Based Treatment for Families (Anna Freud Centre, 2019)
- Speech Sample - Parental Coherence training (Efrat Cher-Sensor, 2017)
- Parental Alienation (NBA, 2017)
- HCR-20 Version 3 (NBA, 2017)
- Psychodynamic Group Process Training (National Offender Personality Disorder Pathway, 2016)
- Personality Disorder and Parenting (Anna Freud Centre, 2015)

- Mentalization-Based Treatment (Basic and Advanced; Anna Freud Centre, 2013-14)
- EMDR Therapy (Parts 1-4; EMDR Works, 2013-14)
- International Personality Disorder Examination (IPDE; Partnerships in Care, 2013)
- The Psychological Expert in Criminal Cases (Carter Brown, 2012)
- SVR-20 and RSVP Risk of Sexual Violence Assessments (Professors Gray and Snowden, 2012)
- MCMI-III Personality Assessment (Partnerships in Care, 2011)
- Family Court Skills Training (Ives Drucquer / Carter Brown, 2011)
- Hare Psychopathy Checklist- Revised (PCL-R; Professor Jane Ireland, 2010)
- Child Attachment Interview administration (Anna Freud Centre, 2005)
- Speech Sample - Expressed Emotion training (Institute of Psychiatry, 2005)
- Webster Stratton Parent Training Trainers Course (Institute of Psychiatry, 2004).