

Ms Gemma Pearson

BSc, MSc, CPsychol

Forensic Psychologist



British Psychological Society Membership: **225982**

Health Professions Council Registration: **PYL26437**

I have over fifteen years' experience of writing high quality expert witness reports. This includes extensive experience conducting psychological assessments for family courts. I am skilled in administering cognitive assessments and providing detailed recommendations based on the findings. I have a specialist interest in the interplay between complex trauma, attachment, mental health and parenting. I am also trained in capacity to protect assessments for non-offending partners. I have completed the Bond Solon Cardiff University Family Court Expert Witness Certificate.

I prepare reports in criminal settings, including parole boards and criminal courts. These reports focus on assessing the risk of reoffending using structured professional judgment tools. I am trained in the assessment of personality disorders and psychopathy using validated instruments, including the International Personality Disorder Examination (IPDE) and the Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R). Additionally, I can evaluate mental health issues using the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-5 Disorders – Clinical Version (SCID-CV). I am able to assess psychological vulnerability to exploitation in adults.

I have held leadership roles within the prison service and the NHS, working as part of senior management teams and implementing psychologically informed services. My assessment expertise is complemented by over twenty years of clinical experience completing interventions with individuals in the criminal justice system. In my career to date, I have worked with male and female clients, people with intellectual difficulties and autism, male life-sentenced prisoners and adolescents. I have worked in settings including prisons, inpatient mental health units, secure children's homes and in the community.

I am an experienced therapist working with individuals with complex trauma, PTSD and Personality Disorder. I also offer therapy to individuals with a range of mental health needs including anxiety, depression, OCD and anger issues. I am trained in Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT), Schema Therapy and EMDR.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Assessment of adults and adolescents in family proceedings, criminal proceedings and parole boards.

I have a wide range of experience of assessment and report writing in the following areas:

- Children and family matters
- Criminal matters
- Mental health
- Forensic risk – including violence, domestic violence, fire setting and sexual offending.
- Cognitive and capacity assessment
- Capacity to Protect assessment
- Substance misuse
- Personality disorder and psychopathy
- Self-harm/ suicidal ideation
- Trauma, PTSD, complex trauma and abuse

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- 2011** Chartership in Forensic Psychology. British Psychological Society
- 2006** MSc, Applied Forensic Psychology. University of Leicester
- 2001** BSc, Psychology. University of Leicester

WORK HISTORY

2018 – Present Independent Practice

- Offering expert witness services in family court cases, cognitive and capacity assessments and forensic assessments
- I also run a therapy service for adults offering a range of therapeutic interventions including CBT, Schema therapy and EMDR

2018 – 20 Highly Specialist Forensic Psychologist – Oxford Health NHS Trust

- My role involved the assessment and treatment of individuals with Mental Health needs in both inpatient and community teams.
- I worked with individuals with mental health issues who had been perpetrators and victims of sexual and domestic violence.
- I prepared assessment reports for CPA meetings and Mental Health Tribunals. I completed cognitive, mental health and forensic risk assessments regularly.
- I also offered consultation into Probation offices as part of the Offender Personality Disorder service.

2018 – 18 Lead Forensic Psychologist – Lincolnshire Secure Unit

- My role was to offer Psychological oversight of interventions, assessment and reports to a secure children's home, and implement SECURE STAIRS which is a psychologically informed initiative

2014 – 18 Principal Forensic Psychologist – St Andrews Healthcare

- Lead for Personality Disorder and implementing the Behavioural Family Therapy project in the Men's service. Oversight of the implementation of the DBT intervention. • I completed mental health assessments and risk (sexual and violent) reports for individuals across the service. Other responsibilities included intervention work with individuals on a Transitional Service who have Emerging Personality Disorder and other mental health issues. Facilitating individual and group based offending and mental health treatment

2012 – 14 Clinical Lead, Psychologically Informed Planned Environment – HMP Gartree

- Senior Psychologist secondment involving clinical oversight and management of the PIPE– a pilot project that is part of the Personality Disorder pathway in NOMs. Included the management, supervision and training of Prison Officers and psychology staff to be able to run 1:1 and groupwork sessions with the men on a 60 bed wing.

2011 – 12 Chartered Forensic Psychologist – HMP Gartree

- This role involved completion of risk assessments and intervention work with life sentenced prisoners, as well as attending parole boards as an expert witness. I was Treatment Manager for the Domestic Violence Programme. I completed risk assessments using the VRS, HCR-20, PCL-R, IPDE and ability assessments using the WAIS IV and WASI on a variety of violent life sentenced prisoners

2006 – 11 Forensic Psychologist in Training – HMP Gartree

- This role included report writing, facilitation and supervision on a Domestic Violent programme as well as completion of risk assessments for life sentenced prisoners. Presentation of these at Parole Boards. Individual interventions around substance misuse and violence.

SPECIALIST TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2025	EMDR practitioner training and accreditation
2025	Mental Capacity Act training
2025	The Capacity and Ability to Supervise and Protect training
2024	Capacity to Protect training – Lucy Faithful Foundation
2022	Training and accreditation in Schema Therapy
2022	Structured Clinical Interview for DSM V Disorders (SCID CV)
2022	Bond Solon CUBS certificate
2018	Mentalisation Based Therapy Training (2 days)
2017	Behavioural Family Therapy training (8 days)
2016	Dialectical Behaviour Therapy training (10 days)
2015	BPS accredited Supervision Training (4 days)
2014	Attachment and Psychopathology training (3 days)
2013	Violence Risk Scale Training 2 days – HM Prison Service
2011	IPDE administration training – 2 days – BPS
2011	WAIS IV training – 1 day
2008	Expert witness Training (FPP Associates) – 3 days
2008	WASI/ WAIS training – 3 days
2007/10	PCL-R training – initial three days and three further days for inter rater reliability

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES

- Chartered member of the British Psychological Society and full member of the Division of Forensic Psychology – BPS no 225982
- Member of the Register of Applied Psychology Practice Supervisors (RAPPS)
- Registered Forensic Psychologist with the Health and Care Professions Council - PYL26437

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

- I hold personal professional liability & indemnity insurance.
- A full work chronology is available on request.