

# **Resume of Qualifications and Experience**

## **Dr Sharna Lewis**

B.Sc. (Hons); M.Sc; Clin.Psy.D.; C.Psychol.  
HCPC Registered Practitioner Psychologist

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### **Qualifications**

I am a Chartered Clinical Psychologist with the British Psychological Society (membership number 078286); and Registered Practitioner with the Health Care Professions Council (PYL16615); and a member of the British Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Psychotherapy and a EMDR Europe accredited practitioner. I have a BSc (Hons) degree in Psychology and Biology (1996), an MSc in Health Psychology (2002) and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Birmingham (2007).

### **Expert witness experience**

Since 2009 I have specialised in providing expert witness reports for court. I have extensive experience of providing psycho-legal reports in personal injury and medical negligence claims (80/20 claimant/defendant ratio, providing a detailed assessment of psychological symptoms; commenting upon areas of disability/trauma; impact on functioning; pre-existing vulnerability, causation, prognosis and recommendations regarding treatment) and of conducting assessments of mental health and Mental Capacity (MCA 2005) in relation to employment, housing and immigration matters. In addition, I am experienced in preparing reports for criminal proceedings including assessments of mental health, fitness to plead/stand trial, criminal responsibility, mitigating circumstances, failure to provide. In particular, I have specialist expertise and knowledge of assessing individuals with neurodevelopmental conditions e.g. learning disabilities/learning difficulties, attention deficit (ADHD/ADD) and autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and undertaking assessments of cognitive functioning/IQ. I also I have completed the British Psychological Society's expert

witness training Level 1 and 2 and have experience of presenting oral evidence in court. I am a vetted member of the UK Register of Expert Witnesses. On average I prepare around 50 court reports per year.

### **Clinical/ research experience**

I have been employed as a Psychologist in the NHS since 1998 and gained extensive clinical experience in the area of learning disabilities, brain injury, child and adult mental health and offending behaviours. I have specialist skills in neuropsychological and psychometric assessment and of conducting assessments of risk. Since 2009 I have worked independently in private practice both as an expert witness and treating clinician. I assess and treat individuals presenting with a range of mental health and psychological difficulties including; phobias, anxiety, trauma, victims of abuse, chronic pain/disability, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, personality disorders, autistic spectrum disorders and ADHD. In addition, I undertake therapy within a medico-legal context including rehabilitation of clients involved in an accident or injury and parents undergoing court proceedings. I have been trained in a broad range of psychological therapies and my preferred treatment approaches are, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and trauma-focused therapy, I am an EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing Therapy) Europe accredited practitioner. Over the course of my career, I have published a number of research articles in national and international peer-reviewed journals and presented research at conferences.

### **Employment**

#### **2019 to present – Honorary Youth Justice Advisor – National Autistic Society**

#### **2011 to present - Dovehouse Psychology Services Ltd. (Director and Consultant Clinical Psychologist)**

- Provision of psychological services to the general public/rehabilitation companies/solicitors
- Expert witness in civil, criminal and family law
- Psychological assessment and intervention
- Recognised treatment provider for major private health insurers

#### **2009 to 2011- Phoenix Psychological Services- Associate Clinical Psychologist**

- Expert witness in family and civil proceedings
- Capacity assessments for Court

#### **2009 to 2010 - South Birmingham Community Health NHS Trust Specialist Clinical Psychologist (Learning Disabilities/Forensic Mental Health, Band 8a)**

- Specialist psychological assessment and intervention in learning disabilities
- Complex mental health/challenging behaviour/personality disorder
- Assessment and management of risk/ offending behaviours

**2007 to 2009 South Birmingham Primary Care Trust, Specialist Clinical Psychologist (Learning Disabilities, Band 7)**

- Assessment and intervention
- Individual and group therapy
- Staff training / supervision
- Audit / research

**2002 to 2007 Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust**

- Trainee Clinical Psychologist

**2000 to 2002 University of Birmingham,**

- Research Assistant

**1998 to 2002 South Birmingham Primary Care Trust**

- Assistant Clinical Psychologist (Learning Disabilities and Traumatic Brain Injury)

**Continued Professional Development**

2021	EMDR for chronic pain (6 hours CPD)
2021	EMDR with people on the autistic spectrum (6 Hours CPD)
2020	Neurodiversity and mental health, ADHD Foundation (12 hours CPD)
2020	Autism Professionals Conference, National Autistic Society (12 hours CPD)
2019	EMDR Association UK & Ireland Annual Conference (6 CPD credits)
2019	Working with offenders with neuro-developmental disabilities (12h CPD)
2019	CBT with adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (6 hours CPD)
2018	Eye Movement Desensitisation Reprocessing (EMDR) Part 1, 2 and 3
2017	Unfitness to Plead- Law Commission Volume 1 and 2
2016	PTSD and the Sensory Nervous System (6 hours CPD)
2015	Stress in the workplace (6 hours CPD)
2014	Compassion Focused Therapy (6 hours CPD)
2014	Teaching clients to use mindfulness skills (12 hours CPD)
2013	Working with Chronic Pain (6 hours CPD)
2013	Impact of domestic violence on children
2012	Schema Therapy Training (12 hours CPD)
2011	Court Skills, Psychology Associates
2011	Expert Witness Training, British Psychological Society, Level 1 and 2
2010	Introduction to Personality Disorder's and Dialectical Behavioural Therapy
2009	Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Training
2008	Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

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