**Dr. Nici Grace Clinical Psychologist**

**BSc(hons), PGCert, ClinPsyD**

HCPC registered Practitioner Psychologist PYL33534

Areas of expertise

▪ Learning disabilities

▪Risk assessment: sexual offending, physical violence, fire-setting

▪ Risk formulation and consultation

▪ Therapeutic offence-focused support

▪ Attachment theory

▪ Assessment of suitability for hospital transfer/detention (gatekeeping)

▪ Non-offending partner/parent assessment

▪ Parents with learning disabilities

▪ Collaborative risk assessment

▪ Neuropsychological assessment and interpretation

▪ Personality difficulties / disorder (relational trauma)

▪ Positive Behaviour Support

▪ Mental Capacity

I am a HCPC registered Clinical Psychologist with nine years of experience working in both NHS and private sector organisational settings. I am currently the lead psychologist with responsibility for the learning disability pathway within a medium secure setting. In addition to my primary role, I also provide support for other service-user groups within the hospital as well as related local and national services such as HM Prisons etc. The breadth of my experience has allowed me to develop skills in assessment, formulation and intervention with a wide range of individuals and groups who often have complex needs. This can be in a direct therapeutic sense, or in the consultation and support of care teams. Working in such a diverse range of services has also required me to be aware of and draw upon both local and national policies and guidelines, which ensure that I adhere to best practice.

**Qualifications**

* BSc (hons) Psychology, University of Sheffield (2008)
* PGCert Criminal Psychology, Nottingham Trent University (2013)
* Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, University of Liverpool (2016)

**Training**

* Mentalisation Based Therapy (3 day introduction) – Anna Freud Centre, September 2015
* SCID II Personality Disorder assessment – Anna Freud Centre, January 2016
* Fitness to be interviewed / plead – Andrew Sims Centre, May 2016
* HCR20 v3 – Andrew Sims centre, February 2017

**Previous Experience**

* October 2016 – Present - South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
  + Clinical Psychologist (Secure Learning Disability and Mental Health services)
* September 2013 – September 2016 - Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust
  + Trainee Clinical Psychologist (specialist placements including Low and Medium Secure hospitals, Category C Prison, Forensic Community Psychology Service)
* March 2010 – August 2013 – Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
  + Assistant Psychologist (Learning Disability services – clinical and research roles)
* February 2009 – March 2010 – Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust
  + Assistant Psychologist (Learning Disability services)

**Skills**

I am passionate about working with people with a learning disability and/or mental health difficulties, individuals convicted of (or concerns relating to) criminal behaviour, and those with personality and attachment difficulties. I have experience in using a range of psychological approaches to inform both direct and consultative work. This includes training and experience in using a range of psychometric measures to assess for the presence of mental health difficulties, personality disorder and learning disability.

My areas of expertise lie predominantly in supporting people with a learning disability, and the assessment and management of risk. This includes more specialist areas such as managing offending behaviour in community settings, and assessing non-offending partners’ and parents’ ability to protect children from harm. I have extensive experience working within community and forensic learning disability services, utilising learning disability-specific models of care and considering the impact of learning disability on daily functioning.

Therapeutically, I draw particularly from relationally-informed approaches, and place emphasis on the importance of relational security in understanding and mitigating risk. I have experience of using developmental approaches and attachment theory to provide collaborative assessment and therapy for individuals with a range of violent and sexual offending histories. I also have experience of delivering structured offending behaviour programmes including sex offender treatment programmes and fire-setting interventions. In a consultative capacity I provide training around supporting people with personality disorder, shaping services to incorporate the Positive Behavioural Support approach, and provide recommendations for services to assist in creating therapeutic environments.

I am also a visiting lecturer on the Leeds Clinical Psychology Doctorate programme, where I have provided teaching on working with individuals with learning disabilities in forensic settings.

I have extensive experience in selecting, administering and interpreting a number of standardised neuropsychological assessments in both forensic and community settings. This includes (but is not limited to): The Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (Third and Fourth Editions); The Wechsler Memory Scales (Third and Fourth Editions); Behavioural Assessment of the Dysexecutive Syndrome (BADS); the Hayling and Brixton tests of Dysexecutive syndrome and the Delis Kaplan Executive Functioning System (DKEFS). I am particularly interested in the impact of neuropsychological difficulties on daily functioning, and have experience of providing interpretative reports and recommendations to inform clinical, family and legal processes.

I am experienced in writing and disseminating professional reports pertaining to the above, in a range of health and legal settings.