



The Family Justice Council

Experts Committee

How hot IS the water? Tips for dipping a toe into Family Court work as an expert witness

Wednesday 16 November 2022, 17.00 – 18.00

Via MS Teams

Speakers' Biographies

Dr Alison White

Dr Alison White is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist who has been working in the field of psychological assessment and intervention with children and adults since 2000, both within the NHS, HM Prison Service, Independent Sector and in private practice. Dr White has worked with an array of individuals across the lifespan who experience extreme psychological distress. She has experience of working with individuals presenting a wide range of mental health problems such as anxiety, depression, post traumatic stress disorder, substance misuse, psychosis and personality disorder. She specialises in working with people who have very complex psychological presentations which might include attachment difficulties, deliberate self-harm, suicidal ideation and challenging behaviour. She has worked with many families whose difficulties included issues of neglect, physical and sexual abuse including those perpetrating such abuses and she also has a wealth of experience in assessing and treating violent and sexual offenders. Dr White holds a Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate issued by Cardiff University Law School, she is a member of the Experts Cymru Committee and she also sits as a lay member on the Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales. She is skilled in undertaking a range of

assessments and regularly writes expert witness reports in Child Care Proceedings and Private Law Proceedings heard before the County and High Courts.

Dr Mair Edwards

Dr Mair Edwards is a Clinical Psychologist who initially specialised in assessing the impact of parental mental health on parenting skills and in turn child behaviour and development. Earlier in her career she was employed within NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health teams in north Wales before concurrently being appointed a Teaching Fellow in the School of Psychology, Bangor University in 1999 where she was responsible for clinically relevant undergraduate and postgraduate modules as well as developing and promoting the teaching of psychology through the medium of Welsh. Since 2000 Dr Edwards has accepted instructions as an Expert Witness, primarily in the Family Court (including in the High Court and also in The Royal Court of Jersey) where she is recognised as being thorough, committed, and fair in her assessments and reports and with an ability to provide clear oral evidence. For the last four years she has been on the Children's Commissioner in Wales Adult Advisory panel and is currently a member of the FJC Expert Witness Cymru Committee. In her independent practice Dr Edwards also offers therapeutic services to children, young people, and adults, and is called upon on a regular basis to contribute to news and factual radio and television programmes on psychological issues - particularly those relating to children's emotional and behavioural health and development.