

Dr Katherine Donnelly
BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, DClinPsy
Senior Clinical Psychologist



Health Professions Council Registration: PYL33157

Profile:

Dr Donnelly practices as a clinical psychologist and expert witness, producing reports for the family and criminal courts. She has been working in the field of mental health since 2011. After qualifying as a clinical psychologist, she has worked in the field of children, adolescents, and families. Dr Donnelly has particular expertise with attachment, looked after children, families on the edge of care, youth offending and safeguarding, and works with the most severe and complex difficulties routinely in an NHS attachment service. Dr Donnelly uses a range of specialist assessment methods and interventions to work individually with children, adolescents, and parents, and also provides consultation to a range of professionals within the social care, health, education, and youth justice sectors. She has also completed research on parenting and attachment-based interventions. In addition to her clinical commitments, Dr Donnelly undertakes expert witness assessments and reports in the family and criminal courts.

Areas of Expertise:

- Fostering and adoption
- Care proceedings
- Youth offending
- Mental health assessments of children of all ages
- Assessment of attachment
- Developmental trauma (impact of abuse)
- Assessment of parents/parental risk assessments
- Parental mental health and substance misuse and the impact on children
- Cognitive assessments of children, adolescents and adults
- Placement and treatment recommendations

Employment History:

2018 – Present: Senior Clinical Psychologist – Gwent Attachment Service.

- Senior position in service supporting better outcomes for young people who have experienced early adversity and trauma
- Training, consultation and service development within social care, health, education and youth justice sectors
- Strategic lead in development of pan-Gwent residential provision for children and young people with the highest levels of need across the five boroughs
- Communication of complex psychological theory/formulation to a wide variety of audiences

2017 - 2018: Senior Clinical Psychologist – Action for Children.

- Therapeutic lead for the MYST project in Caerphilly, offering assessment, consultation, training and intervention for young people, families and social care professionals
- Psychological assessment and risk management planning for children who are at risk of being placed out of county due to the level of complexity of their needs
- Supervision and oversight of clinical practice within the team, managing three lead therapeutic practitioners and three youth practitioners
- Liaison with service leads across Gwent, coordinating and facilitating regular multi-agency meetings while making sure the voice and needs of the child and family are heard and understood

2015 - 2017: Clinical Psychologist (CAMHS) - North Bristol NHS Foundation Trust.

- Plan and deliver psychological assessment and interventions for individuals and families identified through the Troubled Families programme with complex mental health needs.
- Provide consultation and training to the Local Authority team on adult and child mental health issues arising in preventative social service work.
- Regular dissemination of psychological information to the multi-disciplinary team (MDT), stakeholders in the Troubled Families programme and clients' family networks.
- Case formulation and report-writing for clinical and non-clinical audiences.

2015 - 2017: Charity Trustee – Avon Counselling and Psychotherapy Service.

- Develop strategy to ensure that the Service meets its charitable objectives.
- Monitor and maintain the vision, mission and values of the organization.
- Liaison with local clinicians and mental health workers to develop CPD opportunities and promote the organisation.
- Work with other Directors to maintain proper fiscal oversight, ensure compliance with stakeholders' terms and legal obligations as a charity.

2011 - 2015: Trainee Clinical Psychologist – Exeter University (Taunton and Somerset NHS).

- *Year 1:* Community Adolescent and Child Mental Health Services (CAMHS) North Bristol & Community Learning Disability Services, Bath.
- *Year 2:* Liaison and Later Life Complex Mental Health Team, North Somerset & Community Mental Health Services, Central Bristol.
- *Year 3:* Thinking Allowed, Specialist CAMHS consultancy for looked after and adopted children & Recovery (community-based adult mental health) service, Central Bristol.

Personal Qualifications:

2015	Doctorate in Clinical Psychology – Exeter University.
2011	PhD Developmental Psychology – University of Bristol.
2010	MSc Research Methods in Psychology – University of Bristol.
2009	BSc (Hons) – Experimental Psychology (First Class) – University of Bristol.

Other Personal Qualifications:

- **DDP Level 1 and 2**, The Family Place, Hay on Wye.
- **Behavioural Activation for Depression** - Dr. Christopher Martell, Oxford.
- **ACT for Physical Health Problems** - Dr. Ray Owen, London.
- **Accredited facilitator of Circle of Security - Parenting and Circle of Security – Classroom**

Continued Professional Development:

2019 - **An evaluation of the impact of attachment and trauma training for pupil referral unit staff** – *Developmental Child Welfare*, 2(2), 75-91 Greenhalgh, R., Fflur, S., Donnelly, K., Kirkcladie, H., & McDonnell,

2017 - **Parenting intervention outcomes for children’s long-term mental health: A Systematic Review** - *Child: Care, Health and Development*, 345, 11-16, Donnelly, K

2015 - **Group-based mindfulness practice training for individuals with a learning difficulty: A pilot study** - *Clinical Psychology Forum*, 266, 7-11, Donnelly, K., James, K., & Walz, L.

2013 - **When pictures lie: Children’s misunderstanding of photographs** - *Cognition*, 129(1), 51-62, Donnelly, K., Gjersoe, N., & Hood, B.

2011 - **Moral Contagion and the Horns effect: Attitudes towards potential organ transplants** - *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 11(3), 269-286, Hood, B., Donnelly, K., & Byers, A.

2010 - **Arousal reveals an implicit belief in sympathetic magic.** *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 10, 391-399, Hood, B., Donnelly, K., Leonards, U., & Bloom, P.