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### **Areas of Expertise**

I have experience of providing oral evidence within prison adjudications and have provided oral and written psychological reports for a mental health review tribunal in a complex criminal case. I routinely use valid and reliable psychometric tests as part of the assessment process. During the past year as an Expert Witness I have gained experience of completing 12 Medico-legal reports and offering psychological rehabilitation for those involved in personal injury claims following accidents or injury. I would be interested to assist with civil proceedings where the following psychological requirements or issues are prominent:

- Psychological trauma including PTSD following accident, injury, rape, traumatic childhood and other life events
- Mental health
- Social and Behavioural functioning
- Adult Survivors of Abuse
- Cognitive impairment and assessments
- Violence risk assessment
- suicidal risk and self-harm
- Psychopathology
- Personality
- Mood disorders: Depression Anxiety, Anger
- Psychological assessment of adults and older adults

### Relevant Qualifications:

Introduction to Counselling Skills & Theory Certificate

## **Dr. Maria R. Thompson**

*BSc (Hons), MSc, Post-MSc Dip. DCounsPsych. C.Psychol, CSci. AFBPsS.*  
HCPC Registered and BPS Chartered Counselling Psychologist

BTec Professional Development Certificate in Counselling  
BSc (Hons) Psychology & Social Policy 2.1 Degree  
Masters in Counselling Psychology  
Post-Masters Diploma in Counselling Psychology (2005)  
**Doctorate in Counselling Psychology (2010)**  
EMDR Trained Practitioner  
BPS Qualification in Counselling Psychology, Approved Supervisor  
Essentials in Clinical Supervision (BPS approved, conferring eligibility to join RAPPs The Register of Applied Psychology Practice Supervisors)  
Level A Testing – BPS Test Users Register and Certificate of Competence  
Level B Intermediate Testing – BPS Test Users Register and Certificate of Competence  
BPS accredited MSc Neuropsychology: CPD in Stroke  
BPS accredited MSc Neuropsychology: CPD in Neurodegenerative Conditions  
BPS accredited MSc Neuropsychology: CPD in Brain Injury  
MSc Neuropsychiatry: CPD in Acquired Brain Injury  
CPD in Psychometric Testing for Older Adults  
CPD in Psychometric testing: WAIS IV, WMS IV, PAI, MEAMS, ACE-R, DKEFS, BADS, TEA, MCMI III, Doors and People, Bender Visual Motor Gestalt Test, KGV(M)  
Plus use of others for HD (Problem behaviours in HD), Cognitive Function/Dementia (MMSE, Montreal, RBANS) Executive function (BRIEF, DEX) Parkinson's, Mood (BDI, ADS, SDS, BAI, HADS) pain, (Brief Pain Inventory, Abbey field) and suicidal risk (Becks), evaluation (CORE)  
CPD in Risk Assessment: HCR-20 version 2.  
CPD in Writing Court Reports (2005)  
Master Class Expert Witness Presenting Evidence in Court (2008)  
BPS Becoming An Expert Witness (2014)  
BPS Expert Witness Level 1 Essential Knowledge of being an Expert Witness (2014)  
BPS Expert Witness Level 2 Report Writing (2014)  
BPS Expert Witness Level 3 Presenting Court Room Evidence (2014)  
BPS Expert Witness Level 4 Use of Psychometric Assessments for Court (2014)  
EWI certified Medico-Legal Report Writing (Core Skills) (2014)  
Single Session Integrative – Cognitive Behavioural Therapy  
Continuing Professional Development – various attended each year, see CPD Portfolio.

Affiliations: Health Care Professions Council Registered (HCPC)  
Chartered Member / Chartered Scientist / Associate Fellow of the BPS  
Full Member of the Division of Counselling Psychology  
Associate Member of the Division of Neuropsychology  
Facility for the Psychology of Older People (FPoP/PSIGE)  
Faculty of Psychosis and Complex Mental Health  
Faculty of Clinical Forensic Psychology  
British Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapists (BABCP)  
EMDR Association UK & Ireland  
UK Psychological Trauma Society

Relevant Experience:

Director / Consultant Counselling Psychologist (FT) - Desideratum Psychological and Counselling Services Ltd. This role has involved maintaining a limited company as a private

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practice for the assessment and treatment of adults and older adults, professionals, employees and trainees. Referrals have been received from a range of sources such as businesses, charities, Insurance companies, care co-ordinators, case managers, solicitors, medico-legal and rehabilitation agencies along with self referrals. Clients have been seen in a number of locations and outreach settings and have presented with a range of trauma related issues such as PTSD, adult survivors of childhood abuse, dissociation, self-harm, brain injury, personality and relationship difficulties. Presentations have included chronic pain, sleep disturbance, loss and adjustment, stress, challenges with workplace bully, time management and return to work issues, identity and mood issues such as anger, depression and anxiety. Work has involved the completion of progress reports and assessments: clinical, personality, anger, mood, functioning, dissociation. As part of my work for The Online Rehab, I have provided online assessments and comprehensive reports for alcohol and drug addiction. Reports for Human Resources and Expert Witness reports for civil claims have also been completed. Currently, at least 60% of my caseload involves the assessment and rehabilitative treatment of adults presenting with PTSD and trauma related symptoms. I have provided clinical supervision and presented a lecture for the Undergraduate Careers Programme at the University of Wolverhampton. (Dec 2013 – to date).

Consultant Psychologist Band 8c (0.5 then FT from March 2012) – Ludlow Street Health Care, (Llanbedr Court, Low Secure Private Hospital). I engaged primarily with older adult and forensic patients on the three units. I adopted an integrative approach as suitable to client need, but draw particularly on humanistic, CBT, psychodynamic and systemic approaches. Patients presented with enduring and complex neurological, psychological and physical health needs and were detained under section 2 and section 3 of the MHA. I worked with, and provided psychological consultation for clients presenting with multiple and complex mental health conditions often with enduring personality disorder, learning disability, neurodegenerative and physical health conditions. Challenging behaviour was also common. I

have delivered line-management, staff support and training that included reflective practice, 1:1 and group defusing and critical incident group debriefing as well as clinical supervision to experienced, trainee and assistant psychologists. I have supervised undergraduate and postgraduate university students from the University of Wales on research and placement associated activities ranging from several weeks to the full academic year. I completed a range of psychological, risk assessment (HCR-20) and psychometric reports for various purposes and have assisted in audits, evaluation and service development initiatives. I aimed to improve the psychological mindedness of allied professionals and have worked extensively through staff teams offering consultation and liaised with Inspectors, allied professionals and family members. I contributed to a variety of multi-disciplinary meetings (e.g. Clinical Governance, 117 Meetings, Best Interest Meetings, MHRTs, Unit MDTs, Emergency MDTs, CPAs, Morning meetings, pre-admission meetings, POVA and purchaser meetings) primarily to provide psychological perspectives in the presentation, management and care of service users. I was regularly called upon to deal with situations as they arose and worked in a flexible, approachable and accommodating manner to effectively meet the needs of a variety of stakeholders. (July 2010 – Dec 2013).

Senior Lecturer in Counselling Psychology (0.5 post) – University of Wolverhampton. I was involved in teaching on the postgraduate (3 modules) and undergraduate streams (9 modules) for psychology and counselling psychology and was part of the management team for the doctoral programme in Counselling Psychology. I was assigned the Course Director for the MSc/PGDip in CBT and was also involved in external collaborations in the development of an MSc level module

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for Educational Psychologists wishing to incorporate CBT into their child & adolescent work. The role included other duties associated with an academic post such as marking, preparing website material, administration, marketing, admissions tutor, Module / Course development, leadership and management, student tutorials and research supervision for undergraduate to doctoral level projects. (1<sup>st</sup> March 2010 to May 2011).

Consultant Psychologist (Band 8a) at HMP EWP, Gloucester. A female prison with a potential for 362 adult clients, this remand prison has a transient population and also offers an inpatient ward, a mother and baby unit and caters for adolescents aged 15-18 years. Therapy involved crisis intervention and short to medium term work with clients presenting with severe and enduring difficulties within the specialist unit for challenging and vulnerable prisoners, particularly those who self harm or who were actively suicidal. Counselling psychology within the K-unit (RES 4) was announced within the Chief Inspector of Prisons EWP Inspection Report 2008/2009 as an example of best practice for other prisons to emulate. I tended to integrate CBT and Integrative approaches with this client group who often presented with complex and enduring co-morbid axis I and axis II conditions along with significant abuse histories and challenging current personal circumstances. Consequently I have experience of working with organic and trauma based psychosis, dissociation, a range of disorders such as bi-polar depression and personality disorders, particularly BPD, ASPD and those with psychopathic traits. I have also provided various staff support interventions (1:1 staff support sessions, Staff support groups, formal supervision, debriefing, mediation, self help initiatives). I have also managed and clinically supervised the psychology team (counsellor, psychotherapist, counselling psychologist trainees), provide consultation, advocacy, and psychological management reports as well as develop and implement services and contribute to various committees and prisoner reviews in this multidisciplinary setting. I progressed rapidly from **Crisis Team Manager** (10 months) to **Psychology Team Manager** (5 months) and to **Head of Psychology** (from Sept. 2009). I was tasked upon appointment to develop a crisis service to reduce self-harm by 5%. In the last year the service contributed to the reduction in the self harm levels across EWP by over 50%. The PCT went on to adopted a stepped care approach to mental health within EWP where I formed part of the CMHT as the Consultant Psychologist. In this adaptation to my role I continued to see those with the most severe difficulties on RES 4 as well as provide staff consultation, practitioner/staff supervision and therapy to allied professionals as required (May 2008 – May 2010).

Counselling Psychologist within The Wolverhampton Counselling Service, St. Peter's Square, Wolverhampton. I saw clients referred by the Council, GPs and public self referrals for mild to moderate issues. Therapy tended to be short to medium term using CBT and integrative approaches. I also provided domiciliary visits for GP referrals within the Wolverhampton area for Older Adult clients. (Dec 2006 – Jun 2008).

Senior Lecturer & Placement Co-ordinator in Counselling Psychology – University of Wolverhampton. This role has involved arranging and coordinating placements for the 50 trainees on the **MSc/Post MSc and Doctorate Counselling Psychology Programme** while liaising with clinical supervisors and other members of the team. It has included assisting in the development and delivery of the course, administrative duties, dealing with placement issues and various aspects associated with an academic post such as teaching on the undergraduate Psychology and postgraduate Counselling Psychology Programmes, personal tutoring, marking, midterm review meetings, conducting a supervisor's workshops, placement visits, open day presentations and so on. (Jul 2005 – Jul 2008).

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Counselling Psychologist within **Sandwell Older Adults Psychology Dept., Edward St. Hospital** working with 'functional' clients in one-to-one therapy at the Day hospital and within the client's home. I also **developed a CBT Life Coping Skills Group** on numerous aspects of older adult mental health. This included 17 session plans, topic outlines, local contact numbers, materials and handouts. This was implemented within the Hillcrest Day Hospital as well as incorporated into other group work programmes. (Nov 2004-Nov 2006).

Counselling Psychologist providing **service development** in devising, promoting and delivering at primary care level, **The Sandwell Elderly Outreach Counselling Service** for people over 70 years. Clients with a variety of difficulties were seen on a one-to-one or couple basis within their home or current residence. This initial pilot has been used to evidence the need for the incorporation of specialists within PCT teams and a permanent NHS funded Outreach Counselling Service for this population across the Borough. (May 2004-May 2005).

Counselling Psychologist in Training with the **Rape & Domestic Violence Unit** within The Prison Service (**HMP Brockhill**) providing therapy for female inmates with moderate to severe difficulties on a one-to-one basis. I also co-facilitated a drama group for 15-18 year olds. (Feb 2003-Dec 2003).

Counsellor/Counselling Psychologist in Training within primary care offering therapy within GP Surgeries for patients with mild to moderate psychological difficulties for **Rowley Regis and Tipton Counselling Service**. Sandwell Mental Health NHS and Social Care Trust. (Oct 2002-May 2005).

Counsellor/Teaching Assistant befriending and working with moderate to severe registered mental health service users within secure and non-secure units (Dove House and Halesview) for **Dudley MIND based at Bushy Fields Hospital**. I facilitated in the day and evening drop in sessions as well as training service users computer skills for the Learning Direct Computer Club. (May 2002-Oct 2002).

Telephone Counsellor for **Crysis/Serene** – offering crisis intervention telephone counselling for parents with demanding babies and children. At a minimum, I would be on call for two weeks of each month from 8.00 am to 11.00 pm. Service records were kept and calls were followed-up with written support and information. (Nov 1997- Feb 1999).

Counsellor/Counselling Psychologist in Training at **Cancer Support Dudley**. As a therapist in this setting I was given experience of providing telephone, group and individual counselling for the recently bereaved and terminally ill. Later, I provided crisis intervention work covering wider issues 'for individuals walking in off the street.' (Jul 1995-Aug 2003; 8-20hpw flexi-time).

### **Professional Activity & Publications**

**Oral Presentation:** Thompson, M. (2015) From student to professional life after Wolverhampton University. Institute of Psychology, University of Wolverhampton, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015. A one-hour lecture to undergraduate students (all years) as part of the Careers in Psychology Programme.

**Poster Presentation:** Thompson, M., Darby, R., Primrose, Y., & Crawford-Docherty, A. (2011). Engaging the Asian faith community and counselling psychology perspectives in the

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development of older adult services in the UK. At *The International Council for Psychologists 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention*: Integration of health and mental health in the context of culture: Providing comprehensive services in partnership with allied professionals. Washington DC, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2011 - 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011.

**Presentation:** Thompson, M., & Crawford-Docherty, A. (2010). *Engaging the Sikh community in older adult mental health services*. Presentation delivered twice at The Old Age Psychiatry Annual Conference, in Edward Street Hospital, West Bromwich. Sandwell Mental Health and Social Care Trust. 3rd November, 2010 and 10th November, 2010.

**Doctoral Research:** Thompson, M. (2010). Engaging Asian faith communities and counselling psychology perspectives in the development of older adult psychology services. *Unpublished manuscript, University of Wolverhampton PG Portfolio*.

This is a mixed methods design utilising thematic analysis informed by IPA and quantitative statistics. It has identified that which those aged 45-65 years of Sikh faith would prefer from older adult services. A number of publishable papers are planned from this work; further research is also possible in the area of religion and counselling psychology perspectives, service development and working psychologically with older adults.

**Service Development:** *Self harm and Suicide* in HM Chief Inspector of Prisons (2009). Report on an announced inspection of HMP Eastwood Park 13 – 17 October 2008. London: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons.

**Workshop:** Rose, J., & Thompson, M. (2009). Management of self harm and suicide within prisons. Held twice during the 'Outside In' Conference in Kennford, Exeter. *HMP Service, DoH, NOMS, Home Office, South West NHS, Ministry of Justice and National Probation Service*. 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2009.

**Service Development:** Thompson, M., & Packwood, D. (2005). *Pilot project for older people*. In *Reaching towards a more positive future: annual report 2004/2005*. Sandwell Mental Health NHS and Social Care Trust.

**MSc Dissertation:** Thompson, M. (2004) Translating theory into counselling psychology practice within the NHS: a grounded theory model with 'self-efficacy, happiness & health' as exemplar. *Unpublished manuscript, University of Wolverhampton PG Portfolio*.

Qualitative research study, utilising grounded theory. Findings outlined the research process and the numerous aids and obstacles in applying theory to clinical practice. I received an A grade for this work.

**Literature Review:** Thompson, M. (2004). A role for counselling psychologists within neonatal intensive care units. In E. N. Adamson-Macedo (Ed.), *Expanding Frontiers of Neonatology. Special Issue of Neuro Endocrinology Letters*, 25, Supplement 1, pp. 103-109.

**Oral Presentation:** Thompson, M. (2004) '*Counselling Psychology Contributions*' for professionals and caregivers involved in the care of the preterm baby, held at **The Royal Society of Medicine, London**. Conference: '*Expanding the Frontiers of Neonatology*' for the Society of Neonatal Health Psychology and Allied Disciplines (20 Oct 2004).

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**Poster Presentation** Thompson, M. & Adamson Macedo, E. (2002) *Self-efficacy, happiness and health* at the **Annual BPS Health Psychology Conference**, Sheffield, 4–6 Sept. 2002.  
Thompson, M. & Adamson-Macedo, E. (2003) Self-efficacy, happiness and health. *Proceedings of The British Psychological Society*, 11, 1, p.141.