

Mark Chesterman

Director of Post Qualifying Programmes

Applied Social Studies

Contact details

Telephone [+44\(0\)121 414 5731](tel:+44(0)121 414 5731) (tel:+44 121 414 5731)

Email m.chesterman@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:m.chesterman@bham.ac.uk>)

School of Social Policy, Institute of Applied Social Studies
Muirhead Tower, Room 823
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TT, United Kingdom

About

Mark Chesterman is Director of PQ Programmes and leads the PQ children and families programme.

Biography

I joined the Institute in 2002 after more than 20 years post qualifying experience in direct practice, management and consultancy. During that time I held a number of practice appointments that included working in a specialist child sexual abuse team and work as a children's guardian.

As a manager I occupied a number of positions including that of Head of Performance Review for a large local authority. This job involved unit and service reviews as well as responsibility for career progression amongst practitioners, running the Staff Counselling Scheme, coaching and mentoring and managing a group of principal officers. Later I was appointed as a Special Projects Manager - a post that was essentially concerned with organisational change, but also came with a brief to develop the user involvement agenda. During this period I continued to maintain a foothold in direct practice through co-working cases with colleagues in the field.

Immediately prior to moving to the University, I worked as a freelance consultant combining work as a children's guardian with organisational development commissions. This latter work included a range of service reviews in the public sector. During this time, I was also able to undertake 15 projects that enabled me to develop my skills in using the Future Search Conference methodology; and complete postgraduate studies in organisational psychology. As a children's guardian I took appointments covering the full range of applications but was especially interested in applications involving infants and toddlers.

Throughout my career, my thinking has been particularly informed by firstly, what I have learnt from the children and young people and families that I have worked with; and secondly, what I have learnt from various courses and colleagues. From an academic perspective systemic thinking, narrative practices, attachment theory and psychodynamic ideas have all been particularly influential. I have also been fortunate to attend a variety of training institutes to code various attachment measures.

Teaching

I lead on the following modules:

Undergraduate:

- BA1: Psychology

PQ:

- Consolidation
- Law (part two)
- Assessment and Risk
- Change and transitions
- Coaching for managers
- Leading for effective safeguarding: train the trainers

I also contribute to teaching on the Child Centred Practice module and to a module on the Adults PQ programme.

Other activities

Examples of consultancies, commissions and presentations since 2000:

2000 – 2001: Various Future Search Conferences (with Steve Gosling) for a variety of public sector agencies.

2000 – 2006: Various appointments as a Children's Guardian.

2002: Review of a local authority emergency duty team.

2002 – 2005: Four linked Future Search Conferences for one local authority aimed at promoting user involvement in service development.

2006 (various dates): Consultancy aimed at developing attachment minded practice within a family support team.

2007 (various dates): Practice standards training, multi-site public sector organisation.

2008 – 2011: PQ seminar series for local authority managers.

2008 (March): Cafcass research conference presentation – Promoting Attachment Minded Practice (with David Black). NEC Birmingham.

2008 (March): Worcestershire County Council conference presentation – Promoting Resiliences in Children. Worcester.

2009 (June – October): Developing attachment minded practice (Local Authority commission).

2010 (June): Seminar for EPD practitioners: Using Research to Promote Attachment Minded Practice. CWDC: West Midlands.

2010 (July): JSWEC conference workshop: Using Coaching with NQSWs and Practitioners in Training. University of Hertfordshire.

2011 (January): Skills for Care Presentation: Coaching Skills. Skills for Care West Midlands: Birmingham.

2011 (May): PQ Seminar for practitioners and managers: Deliberate Practice. University of Birmingham.

2011 - 2012 (various dates): Attachment Minded Practice and Attachment Minded Supervision (two separate LA commissions).

2012 (May): PQ Practitioner conference organiser and chair – Contemporary Risk Assessment and the Signs of Safety Approach. University of Birmingham.

2012 (July): PQ Seminar: Does the Signs of Safety approach have anything to offer adults safeguarding work? (Delivered with Matthew Gibson). University of Birmingham.

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