



CURRICULUM VITAE

Erica Tucker

Independent Social Work Assessment and Consultancy Limited

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Current Enhanced DBS

Member of CoramBAAF

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Profile:

Erica is an experienced Social Worker and Team Manager who specialises in working with Children and Families, specifically Child Protection and work within Public Law Outline, Private Law and Care Proceedings. Erica has 13 years post qualifying experience. Erica works with families using effective family resilience and motivational interviewing whilst maintaining her focus on the needs and voice of the child. Erica prides herself on her clear and effective communication skills with families and professionals. Erica completes balanced and analytical assessments within set timescales.

Erica has provided assessments for a range of local authorities within the greater London area and further afield.

Erica is experienced in working with families with complex needs, including parents and children with autism, ADHD, learning difficulties, physical disabilities, and mental health difficulties including personality disorders. Other issues have included sexual

abuse, fabricated illness, domestic abuse, non-accidental injury, child gang affiliation and a variety of addictions, including alcohol, substances, gambling, gaming and a sex addiction.

Erica works within the private and public law arena and has given robust evidence in person to the Courts on many occasions. She has arranged for bespoke support packages with an element of teaching that meets the needs of the children and parents/carers. This has included intensive relationship work where there have been ingrained and complex family dynamics, some of which have resulted in incestuous relationships, severe domestic abuse and controlling and coercive behaviour.

Erica continues to work with many families whose first language is other than English, working with interpreters to fully understand the needs of the children and family.

Social Work Career:

Erica qualified as a Social Worker in 2008. Prior to this, she was working as a Community Support Worker with adults who were diagnosed with severe and enduring mental illness.

Since qualifying, Erica has worked in a number of Children and Families teams working within the Court, CP and CIN arena. Erica also has a wealth of experience working with families in Private Law and has prepared numerous reports for the Courts in respect of Residence and Contact arrangements, removal from jurisdiction and other specific issue cases. Consequently, Erica has completed a range of assessments that have required detailed analysis.

Erica is proficient at giving oral evidence both as a Social Worker and Team Manager. She has also been part of the Quality Assurance Team to ensure high standards of Court Statements, Court reports and all types of assessments produced by the Local Authority. She has also delivered joint training with the Police to a range of professionals on safeguarding issues.

Erica now specialises in Child Protection and Court Proceedings. Erica has worked primarily with complex cases, including parents who have learning disabilities, prolific substance and alcohol addictions, domestic abuse, children and parents with mental health issues, complex cases of long-term neglect and children who have experienced serious non-accidental injuries. Erica also has experience of working with children who have experienced sexual abuse, children who display sexually harmful behaviour, Child Sexual/criminal Exploitation, and Honour Based Violence.

Erica has worked in cases which have required Fact Finding Hearings and Adoption. Erica has significant and proven experience within the Public Law Outline and Care Proceedings and can consistently work within these timescales and deadlines.

Erica has developed extensive experience of a variety of assessments, including risk assessments, parenting assessments of both resident and non-resident parents, Local Authority evidence, Section 7 reports, section 37 reports, sibling assessments, 'together and apart' assessments, SGO assessments, viability assessments and is also experienced in providing oral evidence, she is able to provide analytical and clear answers which reflect how situations and experiences impact on the child. Erica is highly respected in her field by other professionals.

As an Independent Social Worker Erica demonstrates an excellent understanding of the individual needs of the child of all ages; she can evidence this through detailed but succinct assessments. Erica can provide detailed analytical assessments, recommendations for safety planning, support plans and is able to deliver further support as an additional service if required.

Qualifications:

- Certificate in Solution Focused Brief Therapy (2016)
- Degree in Social Worker BA (Hons) 2004-2008
- Certificate in Adult Community Mental Health (2003).
- C&G Skills and perspectives on health care (2003)
- C&G computer skills (2001).
- Counselling skills person centred, Farnborough College (2001)
- Certificate in couple counselling (2001)
- Transactional analysis (1998)
- C&G counselling skills and theory (1998)
- Diploma in attachment theory (2021)

Training:

Erica has completed a range of additional training courses to enhance and strengthen her practice. These include:

- Motivational Interviewing
- ParentAssess
- PAMS
- Signs of Safety
- Supervision Skills
- Care Proceedings

- Court Skills
- Assessing Parenting & the Family Life of Children (using home inventory and family pack of questionnaires and scales).
- Life Story Work.
- Making Section 47 Enquiries/Investigation of Significant Harm.
- Working Together to Protect and Safeguard Children.
- Carer's Assessments.
- Domestic Abuse including DASH risk assessments.
- Safeguarding Assessment and Analysis Framework (SAAF)
- Sexualised Behaviour in Children.
- Adult Community Mental Health.
- Positive Parenting.
- Drugs and Alcohol.
- Solution Focused Brief Therapy.
- Evidence based decision making.
- Child exploitation and resilience.
- Expert witness conference (2021)
- NAGALRO training on Trauma Informed Practice (2021).
- NAGALRO training on working with parents and understanding how out of court processes and communication learning styles can inform practice (2023).
- NAGALRO training – Understanding neurodiversity when working with children in the social work and legal system (2024).
- ParentAssess monthly training sessions from December 2023 to present.

The above is not an exhaustive list; further details of training dating back to 1996 can be produced on request.

Employment History:

2020 to date Independent Social Worker

- Erica completes Independent Social Work assessments for Local Authorities in Court proceedings, Private Law, PLO and Child Protection cases.

2008 to 2020 Various roles as a Social worker to Team Manager for Surrey County Council.

- In these roles Erica has worked in a number of teams from CIN to proceedings. She has worked with children and families who have a number of varying needs and issues.
- The families Erica has worked with have of presenting issues including learning needs, neurodivergence, domestic abuse, NAI, disability, mental health needs, substance misuse and cultural needs including working with the travelling community.

1996-2008 Community Support Worker Move to Independence Project.

- Providing support to adults with severe and enduring mental health difficulties with the aim of achieving independent living.

As part of her social work training Erica undertook two placements. The first was in a local children's centre providing practical, emotional, and educational support to children aged 0-5 and their families. The second was as a Primary Mental Health worker in CAMHS where she worked with children and adolescents aged 0-18 years. This was providing assessment, care planning and interventions for individuals and groups regarding their mental health. Erica also worked as a volunteer for Relate and provided couples counselling.