



CURRICULUM VITAE

Sarah Cockley

Independent Social Work Assessment and Consultancy Limited

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Current Enhanced DBS
Member of Nagalro and BASW

Profile:

Sarah is an experienced Social Worker who specialises in working with Children and Families, specifically Child Protection and work within Public Law Outline, and has 19 years post qualifying experience. She is able to work pro-actively with families and professionals, maintaining her focus on the needs and voice of the child. Sarah uses clear and direct methods with families to ensure transparency and successful working relationships. Sarah completes balanced and analytical assessments within set timescales.

Social Work Career:

Sarah qualified as a Social Worker in 2003. Prior to qualification she worked within residential settings caring for young people with varying needs, including challenging behaviour and learning disabilities.

Since qualifying, Sarah has undertaken a variety of statutory roles within Local Authorities including Child in Need, Child Protection and Looked After Child. Consequently, Sarah has completed a range of assessments including Initial and Core Assessments, Pathway Plans and other statutory documentation including reports and evidence for the Courts.

Sarah worked as part of an Emergency Duty Team for 7 Years. This was a generic team and her role was varied and included chairing S47 strategy meetings for both children and adults (under POVA), supervising staff and student social workers, and allocation of work within the team. This role also enabled Sarah to complete initial age assessments, and frequent work with the police to undertake Achieving Best Evidence interviews. Sarah contributed to policy and procedural development within the organisation and promoted multi-agency working by continually fostering relationships with partner agencies.

Sarah has been a locum Social Worker since 2011, specialising in Child Protection and Court Proceedings. During this time Sarah has worked primarily with complex cases, including parents who have learning disabilities, substance and alcohol addictions, domestic abuse, children and parents with mental health issues, complex cases of long-term neglect, children who have a diagnosis of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome and children who have experienced serious non-accidental injuries. Sarah has worked in cases which have required Fact Finding Hearings and International Adoption. Sarah has significant and proven experience within the Public Law Outline and is able to consistently work within these timescales and deadlines.

Sarah's has developed extensive experience of assessment a variety of assessments, including parenting assessments of both resident and non-resident parents, Special Guardianship Assessments including Viability Assessments, Section 7 reports, sibling assessments, 'together and apart' assessments, and is also trained in the use of Parenting Assessment Manual (PAMs). Sarah has extensive experience in providing oral evidence, she is able to provide analytical and clear answers which reflect how situations and experiences impact on the child.

As an Independent Social Worker Sarah demonstrates an excellent understanding of the individual needs of the child and is able to evidence this through the assessment. Sarah is able to provide detailed analytical assessments. She regularly attends Court to give evidence as an expert witness, both in person and virtually.

Sarah has worked on a number of cases providing reports where there are complex family dynamics, including parental gang affiliation, assessing sexual harm within families, parents with complex needs and vulnerabilities such as Tourette's Syndrome, Autism, Adult ADHD, mental health needs and learning disabilities. Sarah has worked on a number of private and public law cases which feature domestic abuse, she is able to recognise the needs of the child and appropriate ways to safeguard them within these difficult situations.

Sarah has assessed parents and other significant adults within complex cases including where there have been allegations of fabricated illness and parents imposing a factious disorder imposed on another. Sarah has worked on a number of cases where there have been serious non-accidental injuries inflicted on children. She has also worked in cases where she has assessed one parent when the other is considered a risk, (including sexual) of harm to the children. Sarah has organised bespoke packages of support and teaching that assess a parent's ability to understand risk and how to protect their child.

Sarah assesses parents and family members who have been identified within the pool of perpetrators and considered by the local authority and Courts to have caused these injuries. Sarah also works with parents who have been found by the Courts to have caused harm to their children.

As an Independent Social Worker Sarah has completed a range of assessments where a parent's first language is not English, jointly working with interpreters. During the COVID-19 pandemic Sarah continued to provide robust and analytical assessments both in person and remotely. Sarah continues to work with families who have a range of difficulties and issues within the family. She completes both private and public law cases.

Qualifications:

1994 G.C.S.E's achieved, Uxbridge High School

1996 Nursery Nurse Examination Board, Uxbridge College

2001 Access to Higher Education Social Work Studies

2003 Diploma in Social Work, Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College

2004 BSc Social Work Studies, Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College

2006 Achieving Best Evidence Interviewing, Thames Valley Police

2006 Post Qualifying Award in Social Work (PQ1)

2017 Parenting Assessment Manual (PAMs)

2020-2021 Attachment Training with Patricia Crittenden using the DMM Model (Tavistock and Portman)

November 2021 Bond Salon Expert Witness Conference

November 2022 Nagalro Disguised Compliance Training

November 2023 ParentAssess Training

December 2024 CUBAS Training

Training:

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

- Signs of Safety, strength based approach
- Domestic Abuse
- Child and Adult Attachment theory and interviewing
- Child Abuse understanding, assessments and supporting families
- Mental Health in relation to children and adults
- Risk Assessments
- Child Development
- Child Attachment DMM Model
- Disguised Compliance

Employment History:

April 2017 to date Director ISW Assessment and Consultancy Ltd, completing independent Social Work assessments for Local Authorities, Court proceedings and instructing solicitors.

February 2012 to July 2018 Senior Locum Social Worker Child Protection and Proceedings Team, Surrey County Council.

June 2011 to February 2012 Senior Locum Social Worker in Referral and Assessment Team Surrey County Council.

2005 to 2011 Senior Social Worker within Berkshire Emergency Duty Team. During this time Sarah completed other specific pieces of work and short-term assignments for Wokingham District Council, Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council and Bracknell Forest Borough Council within their locality children's teams.

2003 to 2005 Student Social Worker Bracknell Over 11's Team. Sarah remained working in this team once qualified. Working with children and families in under the auspices of CIN, CP, LAC and children subject to care proceedings.

2001 to 2003 Various roles within residential establishments working with young people who have challenging behaviours and/or learning disabilities. Some support offered in the community to young people developing independence skills to live alone. This work was part-time during Sarah's Social Work training.

1996 to 2001 Daily Nanny having sole charge of three children of pre-school age.