

Alan R Finer C Psychol AFBPsS
Consultant Psychologist

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Work Experience

1962 - 1975 Held teaching posts in Nottingham and Notts - including Head of Department, Deputy Head, before moving into lecturing - Education and Psychology - eventually becoming Head of Psychology Department in a large Institute of higher Education in Doncaster - teacher training.

Teaching experience included specific input into a special children's home providing for young psychotic and autistic children, children with severe emotional problems/trauma. Experience covered a period of five years. Advised on the integration of autistic children/children with challenging behaviour into mainstream primary school.

Lecturing experience included modules on abnormal psychology/special needs/personality and cognitive assessment, statistics and research methodology; the issue of autistic spectrum disorders - problems of identification and assessment, modifying curricula and teaching styles. Assessment of babies and young children - emotional/intellectual/motor development.

1976 - 1978 Senior Educational Psychologist Derbyshire. Area Team Leader, undertaking wide range of psychological work across a large geographical area; specific input to establishments providing for deaf; assessment of specific learning difficulties(Dyslexia); assessment of young offenders/advising on post custodial provision; psycho-legal work - assessment of children with post accident psychological damage; adults with cognitive/personality difficulties. Assessment of adults in prison - identifying learning/personality problems; trauma in young children - following abuse.

Provided specialised psychological advice/assessment in respect of autistic children placed in both mainstream and special schools. provided out of county advisory service in respect of placements of children with complex special needs eg autism/challenging behaviour. Advised mainstream primary schools on providing for children with autism and specific learning difficulties (Dyslexia). Assessment of students in tertiary phase of education.

1978 - 1982 Assistant Director (Special Services)! Principal Educational Psychologist. Appointed to develop new service - Time allocated, consultative and problem solving. Inspected by HMI and model used to demonstrate efficacy for other services. Undertook range of psychological work - SSD, pre-school, multi disciplinary, inservice training, sensory

impairment, Sp L D. Responsible for assessment of complex cases eg autism, specific learning difficulties, all out of district cases.

With Senior Assistant Director, Special Services, responsible for establishing residential special school within the authority, providing for variety of special needs, including autism. Responsible for re- assessment of all out of borough placements and the integration of children with complex needs into an appropriate within LEA special education curricula.

Founder member and Honorary Secretary National Association of Principal Educational Psychologists.

1982 - 1987 Principal Educational Psychologist. Head of Psychological Service, Member of Educational Officers Group . Responsible for the work of 21 psychologists, 12 Specialist Teachers and 11 Specialist Social Workers. Appointed to transform a child guidance service into a consultative, time allocated and problem solving service. Provided input to Observation and Assessment Centre (SSD), pre-school assessments, complex cases, deaf individuals. Advised Education Committee on assessment and provision for Dyslexia and Autism. Provided assessments of adult offenders placed at Leicester Prison.

1986 - 1987 Acting Chief Adviser. Responsible for co-ordinating and directing the work of the advisory service (38 Advisers); leading school inspections and reporting to governing bodies and Education Committee.

1987 - 1990 Director of Special Services, Leeds City Council Head of Psychological Services, special education provision - pre school through to tertiary, hospital schools, special schools. Inspection and evaluation of residential provision for all out of district placements; developing, implementing and maintaining special needs programme including the introduction of the first full time inservice staff development programme and lecturing posts within the university, including dyslexia; specific training for teachers in mainstream schools - re specific learning difficulties; behaviour management; autistic spectrum disorders (including Asperger's Syndrome); early assessment of young children.

Responsible for authorising placement of children in the independent sector; reviewing and re-assessing SEN with particular reference to autism and SLD.

Provided assessment facility for University of Leeds/Leeds Metropolitan University - dyslexia/personality problems.

Responsible for the development and implementation of audit of need across the authority and the coordination of subsequent implementation of provision and policy changes affecting all aspects of special need. Included the development of a new service for hearing impaired - within a total communication philosophy - with the establishment of specially resourced mainstream schools across the authority; the establishment of lecturing posts within the university - audiology and total communication - with a course designed to enable LEA teachers to gain further qualifications; the appointment of deaf instructors to work in education establishments in all tiers of education. (Awarded an internship at NTID Rochester NY in order to study administration issues in providing facilities for deaf people.)

Developed specialised psychology expertise in order to enable the LEA to meet complex special

needs - specifically autistic spectrum disorders. Member of small team of EPs specialising in this field.

Responsible for control and expenditure of £16m annual budget, covering all tiers of education within special needs.

Responsible for over 600 full time staff, including 100 generic and specialist social workers, psychologists, advisers, education welfare officers, administrative personnel, special school staff.

1990 - 1991 Consultant Psychologist and lecturer - National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester, New York. Awarded a second internship at NTID.

Responsible for teaching Thinking Skills to profoundly deaf undergraduate students across all faculties in the university. Working with hearing faculty members in developing and modifying course programmes.

Involved in the development and introduction of a specialist psychology programme aimed at developing expertise of professional psychologists from across the US in working with deaf students in all tiers of education and with specific reference to additional problems such as psychosis/schizophrenia.

Presented papers at International Conference for the Deaf in Rochester, NY - on the development and implementation of Thinking Skills for hearing impaired students; issues in providing for deaf people, New Orleans.

1991 - 1992 Full time Lecturer A level Psychology and Physical Education, Sixth Form College and FE College

Senior Examiner A Level Psychology AEB (for 19 years)

1992 - 1995 Care Manager, Sunningdale Residential Care Home providing for people with mental health problems - primarily schizophrenia and autism.

Consultant Psychologist Henshaw's College Harrogate. Advising on behaviour management programmes, assessment of visually/hearing impaired students/clients and those with additional complex needs such as autism, advising on curriculum modification for groups of students; profiles for students and clients; specific learning difficulties and autistic spectrum disorders including Asperger's Syndrome.

Consultant Psychologist Crowthorn Residential Special School - specific responsibility for developing and implementing policy on behaviour management/assessment of specific learning difficulties/assessment of autistic behaviours and Asperger's Syndrome.

1994 - 1997 Joint Person in Control, Pembroke House Care Home (Mental health problems). Provided psychological input for small group home providing for individuals with mental health problems and learning difficulties, with associated problems of sexual and physical abuse.

1995- 1998 Care Manager, Bethany House Residential Care Home(Mental health problems combined with challenging behaviours). Responsible for developing a resource for local authorities wishing to place clients with multiple problems, including challenging behaviours, autism and personality disorders.

1998 Established specialised provision in East Riding of Yorkshire for adults and young persons with complex needs arising from autistic spectrum disorders/severe challenging behaviours/severe personality disorders. Philosophy includes enabling development of independent living.

General Manager and Consultant Psychologist, Franklin Homes Ltd. Involved in the assessment of clients with complex needs (personality disorders, autism, brain injuries and their aftermath), providing a range of psychological services across the group homes including counselling, behaviour management programmes, individual programmes, specific risk assessments and provision/management approaches for people with autistic spectrum disorder.

Court and Tribunal Experience

Have appeared as expert witness at Tribunals, magistrates, county and high courts across the country. Currently involved in a number of complex cases due to be presented in court in various parts of the country over the next six months.

Member of UK Register of Expert Witnesses - providing single joint expert testimony.

QUALIFICATIONS

Diploma in Physical Education - St Paul's College, Cheltenham 1962

Diploma in Education - Nottingham University 1967

Diploma in Educational Studies - Nottingham University 1968

M Phi! (Education) Nottingham University 1971

MSc Developmental Psychology - Distinction - Leicester University
1974

MSc Educational Psychology - Manchester University 1976
(with clinical training in psychopathology and abnormal psychology)

About to complete Doctorate in Psychology - Department of
Psychology, Hull University.

Associate Fellow British Psychological Society
Chartered Psychologist BPS

Membership Number BPS 2686

Areas of special interest

Assessment of psychological effects of brain damage on skill learning and functional competence, personality constructs

Behaviour management within organisations and application of psychological principles as an alternative to use of aversive techniques.

Assessment of complex problems - psychosis, sensory impairment, autistic spectrum disorders and development of appropriate provision and management within natural environments.
Attention Deficit Disorders - implications for management of behaviour and learning.
Post traumatic disorders in children and adult - counselling.
Movement problems, skill acquisition amongst clumsy children.

Assessment and provision for children, young people and adults with dyslexia.
Assessment of mental health problems in adults and providing for needs within normal society, developing a philosophy of inclusion rather than exclusion.
Skills analysis - learning, social competence, occupational.
Functional needs assessment.
Personality disorders.
Assessment of babies and young children - motor/development problems.

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Revised July 2001