

**Dr John O'Connor**  
**CPsychol, ClinPsyD, Gdip (Clinical Neuroscience), BSc**

**Consultant Clinical Psychologist**

**Membership of Professional Bodies**

Health and Care Professions Council – Practitioner Psychologist (PYL 19059)

**Employment History**

April 2018 – Present *Head of Dept of Clinical Psychology*

**St Magnus Hospital, Haslemere.**

St Magnus Mental Health Hospital for Older Men provides specialist assessment, care, support, and treatment delivered by skilled and qualified members of – multidisciplinary care teams (MDTs). The hospital cares for patients aged 55 years and above with functional illness (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder etc.). Cases often have co-morbid organic syndromes, personality disorders, as well as substance misuse disorders.

July 2011 – Present *Consultant Clinical Psychologist*

***Working in private practice***

*Jan 2016 – May 2016*

*Locum Consultant Clinical Psychologist*

**East London NHS Foundation Trust – Oakley Court, (Luton)**

Oakley Court is an acute inpatient psychiatric unit, providing care to working age male adults from Bedfordshire. My role was to provide tailored and focused assessments, individual therapy and service development initiatives. The service aims to provide short and focused admissions in a 24 hour, seven day a week supportive and safe environment.

*Sep 2015 – Jan 2016*

*Locum Consultant Clinical Psychologist – (CAMHS)*

## **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust**

The Cambridgeshire Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service provides assessment and treatment for children and young people up to the age of 17 living in Cambridgeshire who are experiencing emotional and behavioural problems and eating or neurodevelopmental disorders, and support for their families. As Clinical Psychologist I had responsibility for my own caseload within the context of a busy multidisciplinary team.

*May 2015 – Sep 2015*

*Locum Consultant Clinical Psychologist*

### ***CAMHS – Royal Berkshire NHS Trust, Reading***

Assessment, treatment and service development role within Child and Adolescent Mental Health Department.

*Sep 2014 – May 2015*

*Locum Consultant Clinical Psychologist*

### ***Huntercombe Hospital, Newmarket***

As lead clinical psychologist I had clinical responsibility for the assessment, treatment and monitoring of approximately 25 males with a variety of diagnoses including autism, learning disabilities and personality disorder. I also have responsibility for guiding an assistant psychologist. This was initially a 3-month contract and was extended to 6 months

*Dec 2013 – April 2014 Locum Consultant Clinical Psychologist*

### **The Priory Hospital, Southampton**

As the Priory's only Clinical Psychologist, I had responsibility for assessing and treating young people aged between 13 and 17 years, who presented with a variety of psychopathology ranging (but not limited to) psychosis, self-harm, eating disorders and trauma resulting from abuse. I facilitated individual and group therapy programmes including DBT, psycho-education, anger and anxiety management. My approach was necessarily integrative with a strong focus on CBT and cognitive mindfulness. I was also involved in family therapy on a weekly basis. I lead and advised MDT colleagues including medical professionals, Social Workers and Occupational Therapists and developed a policy of having nursing staff act as co-therapists in individual therapists (with clients' permission). This initiative was to teach staff as well as to include them in sessions in order to foster a strong team dynamic. I also contributed to CPA meetings, initiated a behavioural reward ceremony for achievement and performance and participated in monthly clinical supervision.

June 2010 – July 2011 Locum Clinical Psychologist

**Dudley and Walsall NHS Trust**

*I worked in an NHS Clinical Health Speciality, delivering Assessment and Therapy to individuals whose primary difficulties were related to physical disorders I also provided clinical supervision and training to colleagues as required.*

April – June 2010 Locum Consultant Clinical Psychologist

**Essex County Council – Children’s Services**

*I was responsible for providing Parental Capacity Assessments and therapy in the context of Looked After Children. This culminated in submission of Court reports providing expert opinion based on psychometric testing and clinical observation, liaising with social workers, solicitors and outside agencies. I also provided counselling for Foster Parents.*

Oct 2009 – March 2010 Locum Consultant Clinical Psychologist

**Huntercombe Hospital, Staffordshire**

*I was responsible for Psychological Intensive Care Services for young people who have been detained under Section. This involved assessment and treatment of individuals who presented with a variety of mental health/ Neuropsychological difficulties – most of whom had suffered physical and/or emotional trauma. I also managed and supported more junior Psychologists within the service and provided Consultation to MDT colleagues.*

April 2009 – Aug 2009 Locum Consultant Clinical Psychologist & Acting Head of Therapies

**Milton Park Hospital, Bedfordshire**

*I had responsibility for the development and provision of psychological services to inpatients at a specialist Autistic Spectrum Condition hospital. In my capacity as member of the Senior Management Team I organised and chaired Clinical Governance Case Conferences, initiated systems such as Critical Incident Debriefing and developed a culture-shift toward staff reward for achievements with challenging clinical cases. I was consulted by other Heads of Departments on issues relating to the Care Quality Commission and led the supervision of psychologists within the hospital.*

Feb 2009 – April 2009 Locum Consultant Clinical Psychologist

**Cygnethospital, Stevenage**

*I combined clinical and managerial roles to lead an established therapies department within a medium – low secure forensic hospital. The post involved strategic, managerial and*

*supervisory functions for the psychology, occupational and arts therapies and social work professionals. In addition I held my own clinical caseload of individuals presenting with severe and enduring mental health problems, personality disorder and risk behaviours.*

Sep 2008 – Feb 2009 Locum Consultant Clinical Psychologist

### **The Ministry of Defence (British Forces, UK)**

*This post involved psychological assessment and treatment of serving personnel, training and supervision of mental health professionals, provision of consultation and advice to the military chain of command and MDT management. The post was split between two Garrisons, in each of which I steered the development of service initiatives such as peer support groups and management liaison meetings. As in Germany (see below), much of my clinical work involved the psychological treatment of post-traumatic stress resulting from operational tours. Psychometric and risk assessment was a significant feature that was used to assist in occupational screening for troops both pre and post deployment.*

July – Sep 2008 Locum Consultant Clinical Psychologist

### **The Isle of Man Department of Health and Social Security**

*This was an adult mental health outpatient post based in Douglas where prior to my arrival, the waiting period for a Clinical Psychology appointment was one year. I reduced this to eight months by introducing triage screening and taking on a substantial clinical caseload. I was also involved in teaching, promotional outreach and clinical supervision. Clients' presenting problems were various and included substance misuse, psychosis, relationship difficulties and trauma following physical and sexual abuse.*

April – July 2008 Locum Consultant Clinical Psychologist

### **The Ministry of Defence (British Forces, Germany)**

*I established a Clinical Psychology mental health service for serving personnel, their dependants and allied civilian professionals. I was the only Clinical Psychologist working for the MoD in Germany serving a catchment population of approximately 50, 000 of whom 38,000 were adults. As well as holding my own case-load I provided supervision and training for other mental health professionals and psychological advice to the military Chain of Command on occupational matters. Much of the work involved addressing familial issues resulting from personnel deployment and screening / treatment for post-traumatic stress.*

Oct/Nov 2007 Locum Chartered Clinical Psychologist

### **Working on Medico-Legal Private cases**

Oct/Nov 2007 Locum Chartered Clinical Psychologist

**Ealing Primary Care Trust**

*I was responsible for the assessment and psychological treatment of adults with learning difficulties, many of whom displayed challenging behaviour and all of whom had complex needs. I also provided advice and consultation relating to clients' care to clients, their families and other involved professionals.*

June 2007 – Sep 2007 Locum Chartered Clinical Psychologist

**States of Guernsey Health and Social Services Department**

*I provided a psychology Service to Children and their families as part of an MDT CAMHS team. I also planned and promoted a service for children with learning and developmental difficulties including ADHD and the Autistic Spectrum disorders.*

March 2003 – June 2007 Chartered Clinical Psychologist

**St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton**

*I had responsibility for the assessment and treatment of a specialist forensic unit of young people detained under section. The programme now offers a range of therapeutic modalities, combining psychiatric, educational, recreational, family systems and cognitive behavioural perspectives. As Boardman ward's first clinical psychologist I had the challenging task of designing its therapeutic milieu to compliment the prevailing medical model with psychological ones including solution focused communication and dialectical behaviour therapy. As an adjunct to monthly psychology business meetings, I also initiated a service-wide "Clinical Forum" as a learning curve relating to theory-practice links*

*I have assessed and treated private clients presenting with a range of psychological difficulties both nationwide and abroad. I am listed as an Expert Witness in various specialities with The British Psychological Society, having completed many assessments demanding psychometric expert opinion. I am trained in EMDR and am registered on the BPS national Directory of Expert Witnesses.*

Sep 1999 – March 2003 Clinical Psychologist in Training

**Camden and Islington Community Mental Health Services NHS Trust and The University of East London.**

*I am fully trained in the psychological assessment and treatment of individuals and families across the lifespan with a particular emphasis on multi-cultural issues, the pros and cons of diagnosis and medication and the virtues of identifying strengths as well as challenges. Among my clinical placements I completed a psychometric secondment at Gt Ormond St Hospital.*

## Education

Jan 2011 – present **Cardiff University Law School Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate (completion 2012)**

Sep 1999 – March 2003 **Doctor of Clinical Psychology (ClinPsy D)**

The University of East London

Sep 1997 – July 1999 **Graduate Diploma in Clinical Neuroscience**

The University of Surrey

Sep 1992 – July 1995 **BSc (Upper Second Class Hons) Psychology**

The University of Westminster

## Research

March 2002 – March 2003 ClinPsy D Thesis

### **“Constructing Trauma: The Discourse of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Diagnosis”**

*This research explored the constructions of trauma and the diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder among clients referred for specialist treatment of PTSD.*