

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **Independent Social Work Consultant and Children's Guardian**

#### **+ Children's Guardian and Reporting Officer**

*Self employed Contractor to the Children and Families Court Advisory and Support Services (CAFCASS) from its inception in 2001, Member of the West Sussex Panel of Guardians ad Litem and Reporting Officers 2000 - 2001.*

#### **+ Independent Social Work Consultant**

*I am frequently instructed (and have been since 2002) within family court proceedings to perform the following tasks: Assessments of parenting, family relationships, risk, and contact in public and private law; Assessment of children's emotional welfare and needs; Sibling relationships assessments; Assessment of Care Plans (e.g. Long term fostering or Adoption); Assessment of foster carers; Facilitation of contact and mediation in private law proceedings. I have a specialist interest, together with expertise and training, in the assessment of adult and child attachment in the context of family court proceedings.*

#### **+ Trainer (in assessing attachment in family court proceedings)**

*I have conducted training for CAFCASS, and Local Authority Social Workers, and spoken at the 2004 World Conference on Child Psychotherapy and Play therapy, on attachment related matters. I am currently training for NAGALRO on the subject of assessing Adult Attachment (see [www.nagalro.com](http://www.nagalro.com)) together with Dr Stephen Farnfield of Reading University*

#### **+ PHD student. I am conducting a research study in the field of adult attachment for a doctorate in Social Work.**

#### **+ Member of the Forensic Committee of the International Association for the Study of Attachment (IASA)**

### **Qualifications**

#### **+ MA in Social Work with Distinction, (Warwick University), 1997**

#### **+ Diploma in Social Work (CCETSW), 1997**

#### **+ BA (Honours) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Oxford University) 1992**

#### **+ I am registered on the GSCC's register of Social Care Workers, no. 1013511**

### **Previous Employment**

#### **+ Hampshire County Council**

*Children and Families' Social Worker for the team that covered the busy Leigh Park area*

#### **+ Hampshire's Adoption Panel**

*I served on North Hampshire's panel. The panel is responsible for the approval of prospective Adopters and plans for Adoption in Hampshire*

#### **+ Hertfordshire Autistic Community Trust**

*Residential Social Worker for autistic young adults*

#### **+ Member of the NAGALRO Council, and Company Director of NAGALRO**

*NAGALRO, The Professional Association for Family Court Advisors and Independent Social Work Practitioners and Consultants, works to promote a high quality service to children subject to Court proceedings, and looks to support its members in achieving this.*

#### **+ Member of the editorial board of the family court journal 'Seen and Heard'.**

### **Professional Associations I am a member of :**

#### **+ NAGALRO**

#### **+ British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) and the BAAF Legal Group**

#### **+ The International Association for the Study of Attachment (IASA)**

### **Contact Details**

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*Delete parenthesis in email address*

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

I am committed to providing independent, thorough, and well-evidenced assessments of risk, parenting and attachment. My work is thoroughly integrated with an up to date knowledge of research in Social Work and related disciplines. I have a particular understanding and specialist training in the field of attachment, and my work is thoroughly integrated with knowledge gained from this field. I use a wide variety of methods and measures drawn from social work and its related disciplines, for which I have appropriate expertise and training, where necessary. My work recognises and respects the perspective and unique knowledge of a child's parent(s), together with the ways in which court and child protection proceedings impact upon the family as a whole. However, my focus is on the best outcome for the child or children involved, and how parenting, contact, and other issues impact or are likely to impact on the experience and development of the child.

**Court Experience**

I have had considerable experience in Care, Adoption, and other Children Act proceedings, as a Children's Guardian, former Local Authority Social Worker, as well as a Social work consultant. I have written 100's of reports and statements in County and Family Proceedings Courts, and am experienced in giving evidence to the Court at all levels. I have been trained in the Human Rights Act, and its implications, as well as the issues regarding the Adoption Act 2002. I have dealt with a wide range of applications under the Children Act 1989 and Adoption legislation in public and private law proceedings.

**Assessment of Parenting and Risk**

My career in Social Work has primarily been in Children and Families. I am familiar with Child Protection and Looked After Children Procedures, and have taken part in numerous Case Conferences, Reviews and Planning Meetings. As a Guardian and Social Worker I have assessed the care provided to children in many families. As a Guardian in Adoption Proceedings, and former member of Hampshire's Adoption Panel, I have a good awareness of issues relating specifically to assessing carers in adoption and fostering. I have experience of the use of the BAAF forms F and E. My experience and training in working with children and adults with disabilities ensures that I am aware of issues in assessment with families where there is a disability. I have particular interest and training in issues relating to Autism. I am familiar with the Department of Health's Framework for Assessment of Children in Need.

I also incorporate a wide range of measures and assessment tools into my work, drawn from the body of research into parenting, emotional and cognitive functioning in children and adults, and child protection. These include:

- ✚ The Home Inventory (Cox and Walker 2002)
- ✚ The Family Assessment (Bentovim and Bingley Miller 2001)
- ✚ The Family Pack of Questionnaires and Scales (Bentovim and Cox 2000)
- ✚ The Parenting Assessment Manual (McGraw et al. 1999)
- ✚ The Achenbach System of Empirically Based Assessment (ASEBA), Achenbach and Rescorla (2001)
- ✚ The Parenting Stress Index (Abidin 1995)
- ✚ Draw a Person: Screening Procedure for Emotional Disturbance (Naglieri et al. 1991)
- ✚ Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (Briere 1996)

### **Assessment of Attachment in Children and Adults**

I have specialised in the application of recent developments in attachment theory and research to assessment of children and their families. Incorporated into my work are measures of attachment such as:

- ✚ **The Adult Attachment Interview** (*an assessment of an adult's current self protective strategies in close relationships, based upon an interview of their early childhood relationships*)
- ✚ **The Attachment Story Stem Completion Task** (*an assessment of a child's attachments, self protective strategies, and expectations of care and protection based upon the completion of attachment related story beginnings, assisted by doll play*)
- ✚ **The School Age Assessment of Attachment (SAA)** (*a projective based assessment of the attachment of school age children*)
- ✚ **The Care Index:** *A standardised measure of infant attachment and parental sensitivity based on video tape observation of a parent playing with their child.*

I have been trained in coding and administering the Adult Attachment Interview by Dr Patricia Crittenden of the International Association for the Study of Attachment (IASA), an international authority in the field, who has developed the Dynamic Maturational Model of Attachment and adaptation, and the particular coding procedures I use. I am certified by IASA to administer the AAI including with clinical and troubled adults. I am in the process of becoming reliable according to an internationally accepted standard of coding the AAI, and I use reliable coders to provide an external classification of the interviews I do to ensure the validity of my work. I have also been trained to administer and code the CARE index and the SAA (see above) but similarly use external coders to ensure the highest possible standard of accuracy in these assessments. All these procedures require extensive training and continued reliability testing to ensure accuracy and international agreement in these measures, which I have undertaken and continue to undertake.

My work is innovative in its integration of this work with the requirements of assessment in Court proceedings as well as other relevant Social Work research and practice. In this I am assisted by the use of audio and video recording where appropriate, and the preparation of interview transcripts to allow for detailed and accurate observation at a 'micro' level, allowing the interpretation of information otherwise overlooked or hidden.

### **Publications**

- ✚ Grey, B (1997), *'Just Therapy'*, Social Care Association, an examination of the use of therapeutic methods in Social Work
- ✚ Grey, B (2001) *'On the wrong side of the law'*, Community Care, 18th November, concerning CAFCASS and the role of Children's Guardians
- ✚ Grey, B (2001) *'Called to Account'*, Family Law Journal, No. 12, December
- ✚ Grey, B (2002) *'Turning the Clocks back – Could CAFCASS' current crisis have been avoided?'*, Representing Children, Vol. 14, No. 4
- ✚ Grey, B (2003) *'Can CAFCASS change? Reflections on the Report of the Inquiry into CAFCASS by the House of Commons Select Committee of the LCD'*, Seen and Heard, Vol. 13, no. 2
- ✚ Grey, B (2005) *'Attachment Theory – A Family Court Practitioner's Tool? Foundations'*, Representing Children, Vol. 18, no. 1
- ✚ Grey, B (2005) *'Long Term Fostering or Adoption? A Research Review'*, Seen and Heard, Vol. 15, no. 4
- ✚ Grey, B (2006) *'Attachment Theory – A Family Court Practitioner's Tool – Developing an Attachment Minded Practice'*, Representing Children, Vol. 18:2
- ✚ Grey, B (2007) *'Attachment in Adults: A Useful Concept in Family Court Proceedings'*, Seen and Heard, Vol. 17, no. 3