

Dr Will Curvis

BSc (Hons), MSc, D. Clin. Psychol.
HCPC Registered Clinical Psychologist



Clinical Neuropsychologist

I have substantial experience in neuropsychological assessment, rehabilitation and therapy with adults and older people. I have a particular interest in neuropsychological assessment, Mental Capacity Act (2005) assessment, and neuropsychological therapy with people who have experienced an acquired brain injury or are living with a neurological condition.

I qualified as a clinical psychologist in August 2015. I have worked across a range of clinical health and neuro services including A&E, Major Trauma, stroke and acute inpatient neurosurgery wards. Within these environments I have provided direct psychological assessment and intervention for patients presenting with complex and often co-morbid physical and psychological needs, in addition to working alongside medical, nursing and therapy colleagues. I have worked in acute and long-term inpatient rehabilitation settings, in addition to outpatient neuropsychology services. This has provided me with substantial experience of providing neuropsychological assessment and therapy for people at all stages of the rehabilitation journey to support optimal clinical outcomes and psychological wellbeing. I particularly value working with clients, families and multi-disciplinary professional teams, using a biopsychosocial framework to help people affected by a brain injury or physical health condition cope with and adjust to the psychological, emotional, cognitive and behavioural problems that can be caused.

Relevant Qualifications

PGDip Clinical Neuropsychology

Glasgow University – 2020

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology

Lancaster University – 2015

MSc Advanced Practice Interventions for Mental Health in Primary Care

Manchester University – 2011

BSc Psychology

University of Central Lancashire – 2007

Membership of Professional Bodies

- Registered Clinical Psychologist - Health Care Professions Council (HCPC)

Professional Experience

Consultant Clinical Psychologist

November 2020 – present

Priory Highbank Centre, Bury

The main focus of this role is to provide a specialist clinical neuropsychology service to the various wards at Priory Highbank. This includes slow-stream neurorehabilitation wards (specialising in supporting people with extremely severe acquired brain injuries) and mental health rehabilitation wards.

Clinical Tutor

October 2017 – present

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, Lancaster University

My role as a clinical tutor is to support the training pathway for people on the clinical psychology doctorate programme. This includes line management responsibilities for trainee clinical psychologists. I lead on the coordination and delivery of learning around the cognitive and physical health aspects of the course, as well as aspects of clinical skills assessments. I oversee clinical placements and supervise thesis projects, and I am an experienced viva examiner.

Clinical Psychologist in Neuropsychology

Sept 2018 – Nov 2020

Clinical Psychologist in Neuropsychology, Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust

The main focus of this role was to provide a specialist clinical psychology service to the neurosurgery wards, to support the assessment and cognitive rehabilitation of people in the stages of acute recovery from neurosurgical intervention - including psychological, emotional, cognitive and behavioural issues. The role also involved providing neuropsychological assessment, rehabilitation and therapy on an outpatient basis to people with a neurological problem including acquired brain injury, multiple sclerosis and epilepsy.

Clinical Psychologist

October 2016 – present

Newby Psychological Services Ltd.

In independent practice (on an associate basis), I specialise in completing mental capacity assessments and providing neuropsychological rehabilitation for clients who have experienced a brain injury or neurological condition.

Clinical Psychologist

September 2015 – 2018

Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

A&E: This role involved supporting identification of psychological issues underpinning frequent A&E presentations through direct psychological assessment and intervention, alongside consultation with medical/nursing/therapies colleagues within A&E and acute wards to support case management, care/discharge planning, and cognitive rehabilitation. The focus of this role was to support the

psychological needs of people presenting at A&E with complex or poorly managed pain or long-term physical health conditions, within a biopsychosocial framework.

Major Trauma: This role involved providing psychological assessment, intervention and rehabilitation to patients following polytrauma injuries and/or traumatic brain injury; often following a consultation model, aiming to primarily support patients on the ward through formulation, advice and MDT care planning in relation to the psychological, emotional, cognitive and behavioural issues that might be seen following a major trauma incident. This included providing an interface with Trauma Network services (for example, mental health and rehabilitation services and other relevant agencies/services) to support best care and treatment planning.

Trainee Clinical Psychologist

September 2012 – August 2015

Lancaster University/Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust

Clinical placements included:

- Tier 3 CAMHS, where I worked with young people (5-18 years old) and families.
- Adult inpatient mental health service supporting people who were admitted voluntarily or under a section of the Mental Health Act.
- Community neurological rehabilitation team, supporting people with a range of acquired brain injuries and neurological conditions.
- Community learning disability team, which involved 1-1 work (adapted CBT and CAT techniques) and systemic working through families and staff teams.
- Specialist placement, across two acute neurological rehabilitation and trauma assessment hospital wards.
- Innovative placement in Uganda, contributing to various projects including helping facilitate workshops for professionals and mental health service users in Uganda to explore how recovery is conceptualised and what factors might help or hinder the process.

Relevant academic/research interests include work on professional identity, including issues around use of effort/symptom validity tests in neuropsychology settings and cognitive rehabilitation. I have published research examining the use of the Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire in young children. My thesis research explored self-esteem and social anxiety following acquired/traumatic brain injury, and two papers were published in a high impact international peer-reviewed academic journal.

Locality Lead Primary Care Mental Health Worker March 2011 – August 2012

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, Preston

Alongside a PCMHW clinical role, I was responsible for providing line management and supervision to the PCMHW team. In addition to overseeing service provision and conducting routine audit I led the locality in service development, liaising with service managers and local GPs. I was also responsible for the development and introduction of psychoeducation groups around anxiety and depression, in addition to mental health promotion.

Primary Care Mental Health Worker

October 2008 – March 2011

5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Wigan

I delivered guided self-help interventions and brief psychological therapy based on cognitive-

behavioural principles, supporting people with common mental health problems (e.g. anxiety and depression). I was also the service lead for older adults, which contributed to my decision to examine barriers facing older adults in accessing mental health services for my masters dissertation.

Publications

Curvis, W. & Methley, A. (2021). *Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and Brain Injury: A Practical Guide for Clinicians*. Routledge.

Curvis, W. (2020). *Chapter 87*, in Reuber, M., Rawlings, Gregg, & Schachter, Steven C. (2020). *Non-epileptic seizures in our experience : Accounts of healthcare professionals (Brainstorms series)*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Curvis, W. (2019). *Professional Issues in Clinical Psychology*. Routledge. ISBN-10: 1138482986

Curvis, W. (2019). *Brief Interventions in Hospital Settings*, in S. Parry (Ed.), *The Handbook of Brief Therapies: A practical guide*. Sage Publications Ltd.

Curvis, W., McNulty, S., & Qualter, P. (2014). The validation of the self-report Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire for use by 6- to 10-year-old children in the UK. *British Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 53(1), 131–137. <http://doi.org/10.1111/bjc.12025>

Curvis, W., Simpson, J., & Hampson, N. (2016a). Factors associated with self-esteem following acquired brain injury in adults: A systematic review. *Neuropsychological Rehabilitation*, 1–42. <http://doi.org/10.1080/09602011.2016.1144515>

Curvis, W., Simpson, J., & Hampson, N. (2016b). Social anxiety following traumatic brain injury: an exploration of associated factors. *Neuropsychological Rehabilitation*, 1–21. <http://doi.org/10.1080/09602011.2016.1175359>

Voluntary Projects

#ClassClinPsych Collective – I lead on a working group delivering projects around improving diversity and inclusion in clinical psychology, with an emphasis on supporting aspiring clinical psychologists from disadvantaged/working class backgrounds.

Sharing Stories Venture - I am a member of the Sharing Stories Venture, a collaborative venture promoting mental health in the UK and Uganda. My role has involved sourcing funding and setting up projects in UK and Uganda to support shared learning and skill development, working collaboratively with the Recovery College at Butabika Hospital and Makerere University (<https://www.sharingstoriesventure.com/>)

Festival Medical Services – FMS is a 'not for profit' registered charity staffed by volunteers, delivering professional medical services at events throughout the country. I lead the Volunteer Wellbeing Service and have established resources/pathways to support members following

traumatic incidents, and worked to support people to cope with providing medical services in an unusual and high pressure environment.

Beyond the Therapy Room & Clinical Psychology Fringe Festival – The Beyond the Therapy Room conference features third sector/service user led organisations, community groups, psychologists, academics and writers speaking about ways in which mental health and wellbeing can be supported by taking a social and community approach to distress, instead of seeing mental health as being individual problems addressed by individual solutions. The festival aims to take big ideas to different public spaces, exploring what mental health and wellbeing mean in the 21st century by way of the arts, including music, art, photography, dance and much more. Each year, these two events combine to offer a diverse range of inclusive and innovative opportunities to provoke thought, reflection and discussion. I have been involved with these projects since their inception in 2015 and have a lead role in the planning, organising and delivery.

Covid-19 – Providing staff support, developing resources for professionals/patients to support recovery and exploring research opportunities around neuropsychological consequences (featured on www.supporttheworkers.org).

References available on request.