

# **CURRICULUM VITAE**

**DR. NEIL PETER HARRIS**  
**M.A., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.Psych.,**  
**U.K.C.P. Registered Psychotherapist**

## **CURRENT POSTS:**

**Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Family Futures Consortium, London.**

**Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in private practice.**

**Gestalt Psychotherapist registered with United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy**

**Vice-chair: iadopt Adoption Panel, London.**

**Chair of the Board: Gestalt Publications Limited.**

**Clinical Director: Dorset Child and Family Counselling Trust**

**Practicing Privileges: Priory Hospital Southampton**

**Practicing Privileges: Nuffield Hospital, Bournemouth**

## **EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING:**

**9/1984 – 8/1985:** House Officer in medicine, Southmead Hospital, Bristol. House Officer in surgery, Yeovil District General Hospital.

**9/1985 – 8/1986:** Senior House Officer in general medicine, Newport, Gwent.

I refined my medical skills and knowledge prior to moving, as I had planned, to a general psychiatry training rotation.

**8/1986 – 7/1990:** Senior House Officer and Registrar, Bristol Rotational Training Scheme in Psychiatry.

**1989:** Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

8/1990 – 11/1990: Travelling in India and Australia

**11/1990 – 11/1991:** Registrar in psychiatry, Auckland, New Zealand.

I took full advantage of an opportunity to experience working as a general adult psychiatrist in another Health Service. Then I decided that my interest, and future career lay in child and family psychiatry. I returned to the UK to obtain the best possible training in this speciality.

11/1991 – 1/1992: Travelling in Thailand

1/1992 – 10/1992: Locum SHO in psychiatry, Bristol

**10/1992 – 5/1996:** Senior Registrar, Wessex Rotational Training Scheme in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Left to take up a consultant post.

While training in child psychiatry I also trained for five years to qualify as a psychotherapist.

**1998:** Registration as a Gestalt psychotherapist with the United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy

**5/1996 – 9/2002:** Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist with Dorset Healthcare NHS Trust, based at Shelley Clinic, Boscombe.

I led a multidisciplinary team of junior medical staff, family therapist, social worker, nurse therapist, child psychotherapist. This was the Shelley Clinic Child, Adolescent and Family Consultation and Therapy Service. We delivered a high quality assessment and treatment service for the whole range of childhood mental health problems. We also refined proposals to develop specialist teams to address ADHD and eating disorders, in addition to the family therapy team that already exists.

I was one of two consultants co-ordinating and developing an intensive out-patient service for adolescents with severe mental health problems in Dorset, from its inception in 1996 until 2001. This service developed a wide and positive reputation and is known as the Maple Young People's Service.

A full time Consultant was appointed to replace my half time post when I left the service.

I left the service because of my dissatisfaction at the lack of development of needed resources, and the consequent severely compromised service that we were offering children and families.

**9/2002 – 4/2004:** Locum Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist to the Board of Health, Guernsey, and Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in private practice in Dorset and Hampshire.

**5/2004 – 11/2013: Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist to the Board of Health and Social Services, Guernsey.**

This post was for four sessions, for nine years.

I worked with the generic CAMHS team, focussing on Looked-After Children for six years and then moving to lead the service for children with attention deficit disorder, overseeing assessment and management, and consulting to team members in complex cases. I also delivered treatment for trauma using EMDR as a therapeutic model. I was part of the family therapy team, and also facilitated a reflective supervision group. This post ended when cost-cutting measures meant that my annually renewable contract was not continued because of the additional costs of flights and accommodation.

I also work as a psychotherapist and supervisor in private practice, having developed a private practice which occupies three days a week.

I have been preparing reports for the court in family proceedings for the last eighteen years, and also make assessments in compensation proceedings which involve children.

**9/2005 and continuing: Consultant Child Psychiatrist to Family Futures Consortium, Islington, London.** Family Futures offer intensive assessment and intervention services to adoptive and foster families in which the children have experienced severe early abuse, trauma and neglect. I contribute to the assessment from the child psychiatry perspective. Contemporary theories of neuro-developmental damage caused by early trauma and neglect inform these assessments.

## **FURTHER TRAINING:**

1989: Introductory year training in family therapy. University of Bristol.

1992 to 1998: I trained in psychotherapy, achieving a Diploma in Gestalt Psychotherapy and registration with the United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy. I have undertaken a one-year training in family therapy and have wide experience in couple therapy, cognitive-behavioural therapy, groupwork; and also in supervision of a variety of therapies provided by the multi-disciplinary team.

2000 – 2001: I undertook further training in psychotherapy supervision and hold a Certificate in Supervision from the Gestalt Centre, London.

2008 – 2010: Completed training in Eye-Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR).

2009: Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy, Introductory Course. Oxford Centre for Cognitive therapy.

I have attended additional training courses in brief solution focussed therapy, small group dynamics, and many relevant conferences in the fields of child psychiatry and general psychotherapy.

I am in good standing with the Royal College of Psychiatrists with up to date Continuing Professional Development.

## **SPECIAL INTERESTS:**

I have had a particular interest in the identification of early problems in the infant-caregiver relationship and in interventions to ameliorate the effects of early trauma and neglect. I primarily use an attachment theory perspective in this work.

In my role developing services for looked-after children in Guernsey I focussed on the children with the most severe backgrounds of early abuse and neglect. Understanding how new knowledge of the neuro-developmental consequences of such experience illuminates the child's difficulties, and the implications for how we intervene with them and their carers, is a developing area of my interest which grows naturally from a combination of my psychotherapeutic work, and my interest in attachment. This is equally valuable and appropriate as a perspective in my role as consultant in the ADHD service in Guernsey CAMHS.

With Family Futures Consortium, I am part of a cutting edge organisation working with deeply traumatised children whose life trajectories are very troubled and troubling. The team provide high quality assessment and multi-dimensional intensive intervention, that is not available in the statutory services.

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

Harris, N. (1992) On Being Shadowed. *Psychiatric Bulletin*, 16 (12) 782 - 784.

Harris, N. (1994) A Practical Consideration. How Many Words Do I Need? A Clinical Vignette. *British Gestalt Journal*, 3 (2) 114 - 116.

Harris, N. (1996) Attachment Theory - Some Implications for Gestalt Therapy. *British Gestalt Journal*, 5 (2) 103 - 112.

Harris, N. (2001) Process, process, process. A review of: A session of Gestalt Family Therapy, a video by Sonia March Nevis and Cynthia Harris. Produced by the Center for the Study of Intimate Systems at the Gestalt International Study Center. British Gestalt Journal, 10 (1) 59 – 61.

Harris, N. (2002) Is Security Mortal's Chiefest Enemy? An extended review of: The Search for the Secure Base, Attachment Theory and Psychotherapy - by Jeremy Holmes. British Gestalt Journal, 11 (1) 53 – 58.

Harris, N. (2004) A Review of: A Child's Eye View by Ruth Lampert. British Gestalt Journal 13 (2)

Harris, N. (2007) Renegotiating the Life Space: Gestalt Therapy with Adolescents. Counselling Children and Young People, BACP Publications, June 2007.

Harris, N. (2011) Something in the air: Conditions that promote contact when meeting young people who have stories of early trauma and loss. British Gestalt Journal 20, 21 – 28.

Lee, R. & Harris, N. (Eds) (2011) Relational Child, Relational Brain. Development and Therapy in Childhood and Adolescence. Gestalt Press. Routledge, Taylor and Francis, New York.

## **EDITORSHIP**

Associate Editor of the British Gestalt Journal since 1997.

## **OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Member of the organising committee for 'Evolution 2: Relational Child, Relational Brain' Conference held at Esalen Institute, California, February 2007.

Completed the Etape du Tour cycling sportif event, July 2006 and July 2009.

## **PERSONAL DETAILS:**

**NAME:** Neil Peter Harris

**DATE OF BIRTH:** 23rd September 1958

**ADDRESS:** Roundhay  
Chapel Lane  
Bransgore  
Dorset BH23 8BN

**TELEPHONE NO:** 01425 673652/07787 038814

## **EDUCATION RECORD:**

**1967 – 1977:** Warwick School

**1978 – 1981:** Oxford University, Oriel College.  
B.A. in Physiological Sciences.  
(M.A. 1988)

**1981 – 1984:** Bristol University Medical School  
M.B., Ch.B.

**Post-Graduate Qualifications:** Membership of the Royal  
College of Psychiatrists (UK)  
1989

Diploma in Psychotherapy  
(UKCP) 1998

11<sup>th</sup> February 2014