

Dr. Mark C. Farrall

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Professional Experience

- Chartered psychologist, registered Forensic Psychologist, psychotherapist
- 15 years experience of domestic violence and abuse-related work
- Direct work with perpetrators in criminal justice settings
- Trained and certified in Expert Witness role
- Leading provider of specialised training and consultancy in domestic abuse

Approximate percentage breakdown of Instructions received to date in Private and Public Law Proceedings		
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Applicant	Single Joint Expert	Respondent
17%	50%	33%

Intimate Partner Violence and Abuse Expert Witness Service

Dr Farrall has provided an Expert Witness service undertaking specialist in-depth domestic violence and abuse assessment for Family Court where more is required than a social work-based Section 37 report. This degree of specialism is most often called for in complex cases, such as those under Rule 16.4 of the Family Procedure Rules (2010) where there are intractable or intangible issues concerning alleged or found domestic abuse, or parental alienation, and pertaining to ability to promote or maintain contact or protect the child.

This is particularly the case where there is a lack of clarity over the nature, degree or effects of victimisation or perpetration, or allegations are particularly focused on non-physical behaviours, such as emotional abuse, or other non-physical harm. Recent changes to the criminal law in the UK (Serious Crime Act 2015) will mean more such cases, where there is no clear physical evidence, requiring a more sophisticated assessment able to consider personality traits and contemporary psychological and therapeutic research on domestic abuse.

The report produced uses does not simply précis or summarise information obtained from, for example, social work reports, but is an expert *psychological* assessment of individuals, integrating statistically-based actuarial factors with a dynamic clinical assessment, plus relevant psychometric instruments. The result is a defensible, empirically-based assessment to inform the Court's decisions. **This is particularly important where there is no clear record of previous convictions, or there are contested allegations, regarding abusive behaviour.**

Dr Farrall has also developed and provides training in a risk assessment instrument utilising these principles, focussing on assessments for perpetrator programmes. This instrument (the RADAR) was the chosen risk assessment tool in use by MEND, an umbrella agency covering perpetrator work across South East Ireland, and in two UK voluntary sector programmes.

Dr Farrall holds the Civil, Family and Criminal certificates in Expert Witness work, validated by Cardiff University. Through this training Dr Farrall brings a full and up to date understanding of the Part 35 Civil, Part 25 Family and Part 19 Criminal Procedure Rules and of the role of the Expert Witness, to ensure an independent, comprehensive report, compliant with and fulfilling all duties to the Court. Dr Farrall is trained in report formatting and cross examination experience.

ignition (1997 - to date)

Supervision and consultancy of domestic violence and abuse work

As founder and Director of **ignition** Dr Farrall oversees and delivers an extensive portfolio of specialised consultancy in work with domestic abuse perpetrators and victims, to the voluntary and statutory sectors.

Prior to the introduction of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and of nationally accredited programmes for convicted perpetrators, Dr Farrall provided consultancy support services to several probation areas delivering 'home grown' programmes to this population. This included leading the redevelopment of the skeleton North Wales Area programme into a major programme incorporating current research and practice.

In 2000, as part of the Home Office Pathfinder initiative, **ignition** was appointed to provide Consultancy support to the West Yorkshire probation area, which was one of the two pilot areas in the UK for the Duluth domestic violence programme. Led by Dr Farrall, the company input was described by the Programme Manager as "essential" to the success of the project in developing the basic Duluth programme into the *Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme* (IDAP).

This became the main probation domestic violence programme accredited for use in England and Wales and over eight years Dr Farrall provided consultancy support to ten areas of NOMS rolling out the IDAP. He has also consulted to areas running others accredited domestic abuse programmes, such as the *Community Domestic Violence Programme* (CD-VP).

Dr Farrall has also delivered consultancy support services to several major voluntary sector projects working with non convicted domestic abuse perpetrators, including programmes run by the NSPCC and RELATE, and also consulted to the NSPCC on the development of standardised measures to be used nationally for their perpetrator work. He has also facilitated on delivery of the 'Caring Dads' programme delivered by the NSPCC.

Domestic violence and abuse perpetrator programme development

Dr Farrall led the development of *Action for Change*. This is an integrated package of training and consultancy based around a field-tested domestic abuse programme for non-convicted men, including risk assessment, one to one work, and women's support. This programme has been in use since 2003 in a multi agency initiative in the North East (*South Tyneside Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Project*) working with non-convicted men, and has been independently evaluated by Bristol University. In 2015 it was expanded to cover seven local authority areas within the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner's remit.

In 2011 this group programme package was adopted by Stonham Housing in Worcester. In the same year, Dr Farrall developed a brief one-to-one motivational and treatment programme (*Strength to Change*) aimed at men from families subject to Child Protection Plans where domestic abuse was a major concern. This programme is operating successfully with Bracknell Forest Council social services.

Dr Farrall was also commissioned in 2011 by Avon and Somerset police to develop training in motivational work with 'cross over' sexual and domestic abuse offenders, as part of a Association of Chief Police Officers national lead on 'IRIS' early intervention teams.

Therapeutic & Motivational work

Dr Farrall is a qualified psychodrama psychotherapist: this is an experiential group therapy in use in HMP Grendon therapeutic prison with serious violent and sexual offenders. He delivered a clinical group with MIND clients for a year, worked as an Assistant Psychotherapist for two years in an NHS therapeutic community for personality disordered mental health clients, and ran a therapy group with clients of the Cardiff Community drug and Alcohol Team (CADT).

Dr Farrall has also delivered one to one work with domestically abusive men, referred as part of Family Court proceedings.

Dr Farrall is a leading practitioner and trainer of Motivational Interviewing (MI): this is an evidence-based approach to assessing and developing motivation and facilitating behavioural change. Outside of domestic abuse work Dr Farrall is a member of the international Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT). He is currently serving as Co Editor of the Theory section in the newly formed journal *MI:TRIP MI Training, Research, Implementation and Practice*.

Dr Farrall has developed innovative training in the use of this approach for criminal justice settings and in 2003 led a team in delivering training in Motivational Interactions, a specifically devised variant of the core approach, to staff of the Corrections Department in Victoria, Australia. This work has since been described as 'the centre of offender management'. Other work in this field includes training staff from the Estonian Ministry of Justice, and staff from the Prison Services and Special Hospitals Authority in the UK.

Recent work has included delivering training in MI as part of the workforce development plan for the national roll-out in Wales of the Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS) model for Tier2/3 child protection cases with families with complex needs.

Help for Heroes

For this pioneering veteran's charity, Dr Farrall co-led the development and delivery of a pilot project for *Re:Group*, an innovative intensive residency for veterans and partners experiencing relationship difficulties, and where issues of post traumatic stress were present.

Geese Theatre Company UK (1993 - 1999)

Geese are a specialist company providing rehabilitative, educational and offending behaviour work through the use of applied drama and theatre techniques. Dr Farrall gained seven years experience in group work with all types of offenders within prisons and probation settings, augmenting established cognitive-behaviourally based programmes and also delivering innovative experiential para-therapeutic work such as intensive residencies with violent offenders.

Whilst still with the company Dr Farrall specialised in domestic violence and abuse work, and in 1994 developed and delivered their first input to probation group work on domestic violence issues, within the Merseyside Probation Service, which was at that time an acknowledged leader in the field.

Other activities

In 2001 Dr Farrall was a founder member of *RESPECT*, the national charity representing practitioners in the field of domestic violence and associated women's support services, was Vice Chair for three years and Treasurer for a further period, and served on the Executive Committee until 2010. This role with *RESPECT* included the promulgation of nationally accepted Minimum Standards and Principles for domestic abuse work, and support of a national project for *RESPECT* to take on an accreditation and quality control role for voluntary sector domestic abuse perpetrator programmes.

Dr Farrall also developed and delivered the undergraduate programme in Criminal psychology with the University of the City of Birmingham. He was Course Leader for the research Dissertation module of the UK's first MSc level qualification in Psychodrama psychotherapy, at the University of Worcester.

Public Presentations

2003 Keynote speaker at launch of the *South Tyneside Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Project*

2005 Invited speaker at a special symposium on *M.I. in Coercive Settings* at the Amsterdam MINT meeting.

2009 Keynote speaker at inter-agency conference *Effectiveness of Domestic Violence Perpetrator Work* for Worcestershire domestic violence forum

2011 Seminar speaker on dynamics of domestic abuse at *RESOLUTION* annual conference; Keynote speaker at Dutch Ministry of Justice inaugural conference on the integration of Motivational Interviewing within the Dutch criminal justice system; leader of symposium for

Devon Women's Aid organisations of service development and delivery; seminar speaker on domestic abuse and risk assessment at *Solicitors Group* conference; keynote speaker at *A Call to Men* conference on challenging male attitudes to domestic abuse.

2012 Workshop speaker at *Association of Lawyers for Children* conference, November, Cardiff

2013 Keynote speaker at the national conference for the National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers, in November 2013, speaking on the crossovers between domestic violence and abuse and sexual offending.

2014-2015 Repeat keynote appearances for *Safer Shropshire* conferences on implementing non-convicted men's programme.

Qualifications

University of East Anglia (1985 – 1988): Bachelors of Arts (Honours) in Drama & Film Studies - Class Upper Second

The Open University (1995 – 1997): Bachelors of Science (Honours) in Psychology - Class Upper Second

University of Birmingham (1999 – 2002): Masters of Science in Criminological Psychology. Validated by the British Psychological Society. Research dissertation into domestic abuse perpetrator typologies in the U.K.

Birmingham City University, (1997 - 2009): Interdisciplinary part-time research PhD, focused on para-therapeutic work with violent offenders.

Oxford School of Psychodrama, (2002 - 2010): Diploma in psychodrama psychotherapy.

Cardiff University-Bond Solon Certificate

Certificate in Expert Witness work for Civil Procedure (2005), Family Law proceedings (2010), Criminal proceedings (2016). This training covered all aspects of:

- Report writing
- Courtroom practice
- Cross-examination
- Law and Procedure

Trauma Centre (Justice Resource Institute) Boston, USA

Distance learning Certificate in Traumatic Stress Studies (2014 – to date).

The Trauma Centre is considered a world leader in the innovative assessment and treatment of trauma.

Professional Associations

British Psychological Society

Full Member of the Society, with Chartered Psychologist status. Associate Fellow.

British Psychodrama Association

Practitioner member and Vice Chair. The BPA is affiliated to the United Kingdom Council on Psychotherapies, as a member of the Integrative and Humanistic branch.

Health and Care Professions Council

Registered Forensic Psychologist practitioner with the HCPC.

Selected publications

Farrall, M.C. (2000) 'The Use of Motivational Interviewing Techniques in Offending Behaviour Group Work'. *MINUET*, 8, (1). *Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers*. www.motivationalinterviewing.org

Farrall, M.C. (2004) 'Taking Motivation out of the Box: Creating a Para-therapeutic Environment in Custodial Settings through 'Motivational Interactions''. *MINUET*, 11, (1) February. www.motivationalinterviewing.org

Farrall, M.C. (2005) 'Hobson's Therapist: The Paradox of Mandated Opportunities for Change'. *MINUET*, 12, (2), September. Special Symposium. www.motivationalinterviewing.org

Farrall, M.C. (2005) 'Reflections on Edward Gondolf's Presentation on Results from a 4 Year multi-site evaluation of batterer programmes at Respect Conference, London, June 2005'. *Respect Newsletter*, Winter.

Farrall, M.C. (2005) 'Comment on the Horse Whisperer metaphor for working with domestic violence denial'. *Respect Newsletter*, July, pp14-15.

Farrall, M. & Wellaway, R. (2011) 'Choosing to Change: A Motivational Input for Domestic Violence & Abuse work in RELATE'. *Therapy Today*, Vol 22, (4) pp24 – 27.

Carden, A. & Farrall, M. (2012) 'MI Groups for Men with a History of Intimate Partner Violence'. In C. Wagner & K. Ingersoll (Eds) *Motivational Interviewing in Groups*. London: Guilford Press.

Farrall, M. & Young, N. (2015) 'Finding the strength to change: Therapeutically informed work with domestic violence perpetrators in a child protection setting' *Therapy Today*, May, pp22-26.

Other Publications

2009: Named contributor to the British Psychological Society response to Home Office Consultation on the *Together we can end Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy*.

2010: Named contributor to the *RESPECT* review of Domestic Violence risk assessment used in the Family court. The report was submitted to the Legal Services Commission.

2011: Named Contributor (via the British Psychological Society) to Home Office *Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme* consultation; and *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence* (NICE - scope) consultation

2012: Named contributor to British Psychological Society response to Home Office *Cross-government definition of domestic violence* consultation.