

PRESERVING PROFESSIONAL RESILIENCE IN THE WORK WITH OFFENDERS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

**EFFIE SOULTANI
PSYCHOSEXUAL THERAPIST**

**MANDY WHITEHOUSE
INTENSIVE SUPPORT PRACTITIONER**

HARROW LEARNING DISABILITIES TEAM

The primary focus of the Conference is usually the “client” and imparting information about new service and treatment developments. However, it is easy to neglect the “emotional labour” that professionals inevitably experience when working in this field. Given that a major factor for the success of any treatment is the relationship between the client and the professional/s, it seems to be important to pay attention to how these professionals can sustain their emotional balance and the ability to contain and respond to the client's emotional demands.

Two experiential exercises were used to explore the participants' attitudes towards people with learning disabilities as well as towards offenders and to reflect on their own philosophy and approach to their work with offenders with learning disabilities.

FACTORS THAT MAY CONTRIBUTE TO PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS OFFENDERS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

- SOCIAL
- PROFESSIONAL
- ORGANISATIONAL
- PERSONAL
- RELATIONAL

SOCIAL

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graph TD; SOCIAL[SOCIAL] --> HISTORY[HISTORY]; SOCIAL --> SERVICES[SERVICES / ORGANISATIONS]; SOCIAL --> LAW[THE LAW / LEGISLATION]; SOCIAL --> ATTITUDES[ATTITUDES towards]; HISTORY --- H1[of people with LD]; HISTORY --- H2[of criminality]; SERVICES --- S1[Management VS Care]; LAW --- L1[Mental Health Act]; LAW --- L2[Criminal Act]; LAW --- L3[Community Care]; LAW --- L4[REED Report]; LAW --- L5[Human Rights Act]; ATTITUDES --- A1[Learning disability]; ATTITUDES --- A2[Crime]; ATTITUDES --- A3[Professionals];
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HISTORY

of people with LD
of criminality

SERVICES / ORGANISATIONS

Management VS Care

THE LAW / LEGISLATION

Mental Health Act
Criminal Act
Community Care
REED Report
Human Rights Act

ATTITUDES towards

Learning disability
Crime
Professionals

PROFESSIONAL

DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES

DIFFERENT THEORETICAL BACKGROUNDS

DIFFERENT AIMS

DIFFERENT STATUS

ORGANISATIONAL

PURPOSE

AIM

STRUCTURE

ETHOS

CULTURE

PERSONAL

AGE

GENDER

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

PERSONAL VALUES

PERSONAL QUALITIES

RELATIONAL

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL AND CLIENT

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROFESSIONALS

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL
AND ORGANISATION

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ORGANISATIONS

RISKS FOR PROFESSIONALS

NO CLEAR PROFESSIONAL ROLES AND AIMS

PROFESSIONAL ISOLATION

BELIEVING THAT WE HAVE PRIVILEGED KNOWLEDGE OF THE CLIENT

FEELING HELPLESS AND POWERLESS

BLAMING OTHER PROFESSIONALS FOR FAILING THE CLIENT

LACK OF SPACE TO SHARE REFLECTIONS ABOUT THE WORK

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

PERSONAL

(family, religion, personal therapy, leisure etc)

PROFESSIONAL

(regular clinical supervision, peer supervision, de-briefing, case discussions, training)

ORGANISATIONAL

(valuing all disciplines, culture of openness and acceptance of feelings, encouraging joint working, providing physical and emotional safety for all members—clients and staff)