

Simon Kitson, Educational Psychologist

BSc (Hons) Psychology

PGCE (Primary)

MEd Educational Psychology

When I was 16 years old, I decided that I wanted to be an Educational Psychologist who worked with children and young people with Autism. Many years later and after a lot of studying - here I am, doing just that. I have recently decided to work privately in order that I can focus on my particular areas of interest. My interest in Educational Psychology is based upon my love of problem solving, or rather reframing problems into solutions.

Training

I followed the usual seven year path of approved study, enabling me to practice as an Educational Psychologist. This included a degree in Psychology, a PGCE teaching qualification and a Masters degree in Educational Psychology. Additionally, I worked as a data analyst for research and studied Institute of Personnel Management Part 1, both of which have proved useful in my career.

Career path

Research analyst, personnel management, teaching, educational psychologist, research supervisor (for University of Bristol EP Doctoral Programme), training (parents, teachers, school staff, social workers and a range of LA staff), membership of diagnostic groups, independent EP.

Specialisms

On top of my normal case work and throughout my EP career, I have developed an interest and specialism in ASD and ADHD. Early on in my career, I provided advice on the setting up of an Autism unit at Swalcliffe Park Special School. I have also developed training programmes for parents with Autism. More recently I have worked as part of the 'Neurodevelopmental Pathway' ADHD and ASD complex case team with Consultant Paediatricians, Clinical Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists and Specialist Nurses. I was commissioned to carry out specialist Neurodevelopmental Assessments to help the group make a diagnosis in complex cases. I was asked to be part of this group because of my lengthy membership of a previously existing multi-disciplinary diagnostic group (PDDAG), which had been held up as good practice, both regionally and nationally.

Future development:

As our older adult population increases, there is a need to provide services for this group. The principles of assessment are broadly similar to those of younger members of the population. An assessment of cognition in *older adults* enables us to have an understanding of their strengths and difficulties. This in turns enables us to consider what support strategies might be useful to put in place.

EDGE Psychology

I recently set up EDGE Psychology in order that I could practice independently and provide EP services to a wider range of children and adults.

I am registered with the Health Care Professionals Council (HPC) hpc-uk.org and the Association of Educational Psychologists aep.org.uk. EDGE Psychology is ICO (Information Commission Office) registered.



Simon Kitson

Educational Psychologist

07426-520-531

simon@edgepsychology.org

Simon Kitson, Educational Psychologist

- 1983-1986 BSc (Hons) Psychology, Plymouth Polytechnic
- 1986-1988 Statistical Analyst, University of Bristol
- Child Health Data - British Birth Cohort Studies as part of a small team supporting Jean Golding, O.B.E.
- 1988-1989 Institute of Personnel Management Part 1, University of West of England
- 1989-1993 Assistant Personnel Manager, BCWA - Healthcare insurance
- 1993-1994 Post Graduate Certificate of Education Primary, University of Gloucestershire
- 1994-1995 Supply teacher, various schools
- 1996-1998 Teacher/Deputy Head Teacher, Blackhorse Primary School, Bristol
- 1998-1999 MEd Educational Psychology, Exeter University
- 1999-2001 Educational Psychologist, North Somerset Educational Psychology Service
- 2001-2003 Educational Psychologist, APT Associated Psychology and Training
- APT was a private service providing support for Monmouth LA, Gloucestershire LA, Newport LA, Cardiff LA, Torfaen LA, amongst others. I became a dedicated EP to special schools: Edington and Shapwick School and Swalcliffe Park School, where I provided advice in setting up a dedicated Autism Unit.
- 2003-2019 Senior Educational Psychologist, Swindon Borough Council EP Service
- In addition to my normal case work I was Senior EP with an ASD and ADHD specialism.
- I also established the Online Inset training Programme. I personally tutored over 500 teaching staff, social workers, EWO, YEW and Health Visitors. The courses included ASD, Managing Behaviour, Motor Coordination Difficulties and Visual Impairment to name but a few. I was also part of a group that had oversight of the writing of course materials for the ASD course.
- I introduced the Barnardo's 'Cygnet' course, designed for parents and carers of children and young people diagnosed with ASD. I run three courses a year, each with a cohort of around 15-18 parents/carers/TA's/teachers. Bristol University studied parent evaluations and it was noted that my satisfaction feedback was 90% plus 4 or 5 out of 5. I was co-author of the Swindon 'ASD Friendly School Guidelines'.
- I ran 6-day courses for teachers with an opportunity for the training to contribute to a further recognised qualification. I was also seconded for work as Research Supervisor for University of Bristol EP Doctorate.
- 2019 - present EDGE Psychology
- I recently set up EDGE Psychology as an independent EP based in Bristol.