



ST GEORGE'S HOUSE

# Fabricated or Induced Illness: Finding a Fair Way Forward

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## Participant Biographies



### **Grace Bailey**

Grace is an interviewer and journalist who founded *San Clemente* and its successful podcasts series in Arts, Food & Tech. Her work includes discussions with award-winning creatives, entrepreneurs and academics to share diverse ideas of success with a Gen Z audience. She recently graduated with her MA in Classics from UCL.



### **Emeritus Professor Andy Bilson**

Andy is Emeritus Professor of Social Work at the University of Central Lancashire, co-founder of the Parents Families and Allies Network, and Visiting Researcher at the Cambridge Institute of Public Health, University of Cambridge. He was previously assistant director of social work in Fife Region and director of the Council of Europe's observatory on children's rights. He has undertaken research and consultancy on child rights and alternatives to care with many governments and organisations and published widely. He currently focusses on child protection trends and policy, critical evaluation of the child protection evidence base, and parent advocacy in child protection.



### **Nicola Brownjohn**

Nicola (Nicky) is currently the Independent Chair for Kingston Safeguarding Adults Board. In addition to this role, Nicky is an Independent Chair for another Safeguarding Adults Board and, since 2019, has worked as an Independent Consultant in Safeguarding, undertaking Safeguarding Adults and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

Nicky has had an interest in Fabricated and Induced Illness (FII) for a long time, having worked as a nurse directly with families and provided advice and supervision to health professionals involved with potential cases of FII. In her role as an Independent Chair, Nicky has led on taking forward the learning from a high-profile Safeguarding Adults Review featuring FII.



### **Dr Rachel Bryant-Waugh**

Rachel is a clinical psychologist and academic in feeding and eating disorders, specialising in young people and those with co-occurring neurodiversity. Based at Great Ormond Street Hospital for over 30 years, she led a national feeding and eating disorders service, moving to the Maudsley Hospital in 2019 to establish a new service and work up a national pathway for young people with avoidant restrictive food intake disorder (ARFID). She has extensive involvement in healthcare policy development, supporting national implementation and delivering training. Through her clinical practice, she has been regularly involved with families and colleagues raising FII considerations.



### **Rachel Carter**

Rachel is a Partner and Head of the Family Department at Wollens Solicitors. Her expertise is in the field of child protection and complex care proceedings, specifically non-accidental injury (such as head injuries/shaken baby syndrome, fractures and bruising) as well as poisoning and FII. Rachel has worked in this field for 18 years. She holds the Law Society's specialist Children Panel accreditation and represents parents and carers across England and Wales in all levels of court. More information, including details of reported cases, can be found at [Rachel Carter - Wollens](#)



### **Elly Chapple**

Elly is a trainer, public speaker and consultant with various organisations. She recently trained NHSE staff for two years on the NATP programme to rehumanise care and approaches for autistic people. She is a RESPOND trauma trainer for NHSE staff and an RRN Trustee. She is also a Studio III trainer and consultant in the Low Arousal approach and passionate about our understanding of verbal and non-verbal human communication and behaviour. Elly is a TEDx Speaker about diversity and human difference and strives to **#FlipTheNarrative** around people considered 'different' to the elusive 'norm'. Elly's daughter is DeafBlind and her greatest teacher, and they recently won their Human Rights Claim in September 2024 after Care Proceedings were brought unlawfully against their family in 2020.



### **Professor Luke Clements**

Luke is the Professor of Law & Social Justice at the School of Law, Leeds University: his Chair in Law is funded by the disabled children's charity Cerebra.



### **Kaydence Drayak**

Kaydence is a young person whose mother was falsely accused of FII, this led to her little sister being removed from their family and being placed into foster care. The impact of having her mother accused and her sister removed has never left. She and her sister Aurelia Drayak co-founded Teen Advocacy to give teenagers a voice, they have been primarily working on the Youth Voices project (with ATD UK) that has been gathering views of lived experienced young people and feeding into the UN.



### **Dr Judy Eaton**

Judy is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist, and has extensive experience of assessing, diagnosing, and working with adults, children, and families living with autism and/or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). She has worked within the NHS as clinical lead for a multi-disciplinary autism team. She subsequently worked in forensic and adolescent inpatient services. Currently, she manages a team of clinicians supporting the NHS to reduce waiting times for assessment.

She has been involved with many families accused of Fabricated or Induced Illness and contributed to the practice guide for social workers.

She has written two books, published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers and is a co-supervisor for two PhD students at Kings College London.



### **Laura Ferguson**

Laura's experience in the world of social care over the last 30 plus years includes delivering and commissioning social care services in both the public and private sector, with a key focus upon adults with learning disabilities and autistic people.

As a West Midlands ADASS Associate, Laura has co facilitated the Autism and Parental Blame research project, working together with families to identify common concerns and make recommendations for changes to practice.

The report *Autism and Parental Blame: Blamed Instead of Helped*, is intended for professionals, policymakers, researchers, and anyone who is interested in improving the lives of autistic children, young people, and their families.



### **Dr Luke Geoghegan**

Luke is a registered social worker and is Head of Policy and Research at the British Association of Social Workers (BASW). Here he oversees policy guidance to a core audience of 22,000 members as well as developing research partnerships. Previously, he worked for ten years as a Chief Executive Officer for a charity and has also held a range of senior social work roles in local government. Luke occasionally takes time out for academic development and has been a Hansjoerg Wyss Scholar at Harvard Business School, Barnett Fellow at Barnett House, University of Oxford and a Harkness Fellow.



### **Dr Fiona Gullon-Scott**

Fiona is a Senior Lecturer and Clinical Psychologist at Newcastle University and has specialised in autism for 30 years. Fiona's research and clinical work focuses on improving identification, understanding and support, and reducing discrimination for autistic people across the age-range. With a particular interest in autistic females, recent research has included a focus on how and why autistic mothers become investigated for FII, and the impact of this. Fiona has authored articles, been involved in workshops, and has current research projects in this area, and is co-author of recent BASW FII practice guidance for social workers.



### **Abigail Hamer**

Abigail works as a legal principal for the Equality and Human Rights Commission, specialising in matters concerning children and young people. She works across areas including education law, higher education law and children's public law, and conducted the Commission's intervention in the legal case of the University of Bristol v Dr Robert Abrahart, instructing Catherine Casserley. She has previously worked as a children and family solicitor in private practice, in a regulatory capacity for the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, and has also worked in the Academic Services department of a university.



### **Debbie Hollingsworth**

Debbie is an associate working with West Midlands ADASS. She is currently co-leading a project investigating how parents of autistic children and young people experience blame when they approach services for help and support.

Debbie's background is in advocacy, she has been CEO of two independent advocacy organisations in the West Midlands. She has a particular interest in advocacy provision for learning disabled and autistic parents going through child protection and care proceedings.

She is the parent of two Autistic and ADHD children (now adults) and the grandparent of an Autistic and ADHD young person.



### **Mark Isherwood**

Mark has been an MS (Member of the Senedd) in the Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament (formerly National Assembly for Wales) since 2003, representing North Wales.

Mark is the Chair of the Senedd Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee.

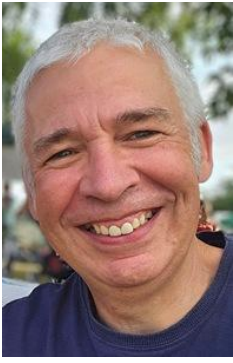
He also Chairs seven Cross-Party Groups, including those on Autism, on Disability and on Deaf Issues.

He has been raising concern about the prevalence and impact of allegations of Fabricated or Induced Illness in the Senedd, having represented several affected constituents.

A Newcastle University Politics Graduate, Mark qualified as an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers. He was previously employed as a Building Society Area Manager.

Mark lives in Flintshire with his wife. They have six children and 8 grandchildren.





### **Stephen Kingdom**

Stephen is Campaign Manager of the Disabled Children's Partnership, a coalition of more than 120 charities campaigning for improved support for disabled children and their families.

Prior to moving to the voluntary sector, Stephen spent 25 years working in the Civil Service, mainly in the Department for Education. He worked on a wide range of policy areas, including the Quality Protects programme to reform children's social care; leading the Academies policy unit in the early days of the programme; overseeing school and local authority education funding; and leading the 2014 reforms to special educational needs and disability. Away from the office, Stephen is a Trustee of Sammy's Foundation, a charity giving disabled children the opportunity to develop skills in heritage crafts. Stephen is a keen cyclist and a supporter of Crystal Palace Football Club.



### **Scott Lawrence**

Scott is an entrepreneur in the renewable energy space and also serves on the board of a not-for-profit that is decarbonising healthcare.



### **Daniel Lemberger-Cooper**

Daniel is a Partner and Solicitor-Advocate, and Joint-Head of the Human Rights, Civil Liberties and Public Law department at Imran Khan and Partners, who is particularly sought after and respected for his expertise in complex, challenging and high-profile litigation. He specialises in private and public/administrative law, human rights, and equality law. His practice includes advising on complex investigations, public inquiries, inquests, regulatory proceedings and professional discipline.

Daniel has acted in the most high-profile inquests and public inquiries of recent times. Daniel is a litigation specialist and has acted in cases at all levels in the domestic courts as well as in applications to the European Court of Human Rights.



### **Cathie Long**

Cathie is an award-winning independent social worker and psychotherapist. She predominantly works with autistic children, young people, and adults, providing expert witness assessments for education tribunals, family courts, and the Court of Protection. Cathie has supported numerous parents and caregivers of disabled children accused of Fabricated or Induced Illness. She was the lead author of the BASW Practice Guide, 'Fabricated or Induced Illness and Perplexing Presentations'. In addition to other publications, she co-wrote 'FII and Perplexing Presentations: What is the Evidence Base for and against Current Guidelines, and What are the Implications for Social Services?' BJSW (2022).



### **Professor Daniel Monk**

Daniel is Professor of Law at Birkbeck, University of London, a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, and Editor of *Child and Family Law Quarterly*. His research has explored a wide range of issues relating to children, families and education drawing on a variety of socio-legal, empirical and theoretical methods. His work on siblings in the public care system, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, and the regulation of elective home education has led to extensive engagement with legal, social work and local authority practitioners and with parliamentarians and policy makers at local and national level.



### **Sherma Polidore**

Sherma is a Family Law Advanced accredited Solicitor at Miles & Partners LLP in London who specialises in cases relating to children. This includes complex public (care proceedings) and private law children applications with specialisms in international cases (including child abduction), race, and religion. Sherma represents parents (usually the alleged perpetrator) in cases of Fabricated or Induced Illness in public law proceedings. With many years' experience, Sherma has been recognised as a 'recommended lawyer' in the Legal 500 for care proceedings and international abductions.



### **Dr Georgie Siggers**

Georgie qualified as a doctor in 1993, training at Guy's Hospital, and then trained in Paediatrics. She has specialised in neurodevelopment since 2001. Her expertise includes assessment of and support for children and young people with autism, ADHD, PDA, FASD and associated conditions. She works independently at Starjumpz in East Sussex and virtually in a national CAMHS team. She has led ADHD services, held Named Doctor for Safeguarding and Designated Doctor for Looked after Children posts and advised adoption and fostering agencies. Over the past decade, she has developed a holistic neurodevelopmental assessment process, with a particular interest in complex presentations and autistic burnout.



### **Alexa Storey-Rea**

Alexa practices as a Barrister at 29 Bedford Row in London but has a nationwide practice in Family Law and particularly in cases involving the most serious and complex allegations of non-accidental injury to children alleged to be perpetrated by parents including those where there are allegations of fabricated or induced illness. Knowledge of medical developments and practices of the medical profession are a vital part of the necessary framework to effectively work in this field. Only a robust examination of the facts and surrounding circumstances can protect children.



### **Amanda Weston K.C.**

Amanda is a senior barrister of 30 years' call who regularly represents children, families, Guardians ad litem, charities, NGOs and local authorities in contentious litigation including safeguarding and care proceedings. She is a member of the A Panel of counsel who act for the Equality & Human rights Commission and writes, trains and teaches on her specialist areas of human rights, discrimination and public law.