



WrightLink

PERFORMANCE SUPPORT,
TRAINING & RESEARCH

*Children's Services, Youth Justice,
Criminal Justice, Community Safety*

Desistance, Good Lives, and Personal Change Processes

1-Day Support Workshop Information

2023
(Version 1.0)

1.0 Introduction

Journeys towards desistance often involve a complex, individualised interaction of individual (micro), environmental (meso), and societal (macro) level factors, which have the capacity to either help or hinder the desistance journey for everyone; these journeys are conceptualized as 'personal change processes' which often also involve behavioural 'lapses and relapses'.

For services to maximize their efforts towards supporting young people to desist from future harm-related behaviour, they must consider the interplay of each of these factors, and their relative influence upon the individual's journey towards desistance.

To further complicate matters, desistance is grounded strongly within adult-focused criminological theory and literature, not child-focused criminological literature, or psychological literature. The challenge for services, however, is to be able to both evaluate and translate the key messages from across a range of forensic disciplines into direct, front-line practice.

This workshop provides the solution, by weaving together the strands of both criminologically-informed and psychologically informed thinking, to inspire and invigorate desistance focused systems and services for children and young people.

This workshop offers practitioners and managers an interpretation and 'practical translation' of the current literature to utilise in practice.

2.0 Support Package Overview

This support package has been designed to be delivered remotely via MS Teams in 1 day. The focus of this workshop is a 'theory into practice' approach for practitioners and managers, covering the following areas of activity from a psychologically informed perspective.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand current desistance theory and research to inform approaches to supervision.
- Explore individual and structural approaches to desistance.
- Explore what is currently known surrounding desistance and young people.
- Understand the role and impact of identity upon the desistance journey.
- Understand what works in supporting desistance via emerging good practice examples.
- Understand the key skills 'in practice' to consider in order to support desistance.
- Understand the utility of the Good Lives Model, from assessment to intervention.

Additional Information

- Participants who successfully complete the full support package will be awarded a certificate of attendance and contribution, and formal confirmation of CPD hours completed (e.g., HCPC registered practitioners) if requested.
- A summary report containing anonymised and aggregated 'participant evaluation feedback' will also be provided to the commissioner following delivery.

3.0 Biography

Andi Myles-Wright *CPsychol AFBPsS*

Chartered Psychologist and Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society

Teaching Fellow in Forensic Psychology & Criminology

Andi has specialised in the provision of performance support, training/coaching, research/audit, and reflective/clinical supervision services in children's and young people's services since 2010.

His 25-year career history spans a wide range of settings and countries, including community-based services and secure residential settings for children and young people (Secure Children's Homes, Secure Training Centres, Her Majesty's Prison Service establishments, and Family Assessment Units).

In addition, Andi has delivered forensic consultancy support services in Australia, South Africa, Malaysia, and the UK, whilst also being experienced in conducting research, publishing book chapters, writing book reviews and international journal articles, and undertaking specialist teaching roles within both Further and Higher Educational settings since 1996.

In 2021 Andi was appointed as a part-time lecturer in psychological criminology at the University of Brighton; he has also undertaken the role of part-time module coordinator, pastoral care tutor, and senior teaching fellow in forensic psychology at the University of Portsmouth since 2018.

Andi's key areas of interest/research include:

- Harmful sexual behaviour
- Aggression and violent behaviour
- Developmental psychopathology
- Desistance and personal change processes
- Attachment, trauma, and harm-related behaviour
- Practitioners' experiences of offender supervision
- Workforce development and organisational (systemic) change processes
- Qualitative research in forensic settings
- Whole service approaches to embedding team case formulation meetings
- Risk assessment and management strategies



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