

## Curriculum Vitae

# Jeffrey Robert Hughes

CertEd, BA(Open), BA(Hons), MSc, AFBPsS, MBCS, CPsychol, CSci, CITP

**HPC Registered Psychologist, Chartered Scientist**

**Chartered Information Technology Professional**

UK citizen born 26 July 1948 in Liverpool, England

**Lucem Ltd, Box 42 Group, St Helens. WA10 3BF**

**Tel: 0844 357 8309 Fax: 0844 357 6642 Mob: 077 9988 7984**

**Email: [jh@psychologist.co.uk](mailto:jh@psychologist.co.uk) Website: [www.psychologist.co.uk](http://www.psychologist.co.uk)**

### Profile

A highly qualified Chartered Scientist, Chartered Educational Psychologist and teacher with extensive practitioner experience in the public and private sectors. Excellent skills in assessing and investigating psychological, dis/ability, learning, atypical and abnormal behaviour in children, young, people and adults. A wealth of knowledge of health, education, social care, voluntary and community services. Able to motivate and inspire others, report to challenging time-scales, create innovative solutions, excellent problem solving, chairing and training skills with a high level of dedication and commitment.

### Teaching and Psychology Experience

In ten years teaching I gained extensive experience of teaching children, many from deprived backgrounds, in a variety of urban settings in Merseyside. Subject teaching experiences encompass science, physics, and maths at secondary level in Comprehensive and Selective Schools both mixed and single sex, with the full curriculum in all-age Special School settings and as a home tutor. Having obtained an Open University Degree and an Honours Degree in Psychology while teaching, I was seconded to Manchester University's MSc. Educational Psychology Course and, on qualifying, worked as an Educational Psychologist and Assistive Technologist with three Local Authorities, Granada Learning and in Private Practice. Throughout my training, teaching and work as a psychologist I have had extensive experience of working with children and adults including those who have learning and physical disabilities.

Under successive Education and Children Acts advice has been given to schools, Local Authorities, Courts, Tribunals families and other professionals. Advisory, training, and therapeutic services have been provided for children, families and staff in communities of schools and units including specialist provision, such as Child Development Centres, schools catering for children with Moderate Learning Difficulties, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties, Severe Learning Difficulties, Speech and Language Difficulties, Sensory and Physical Disabilities including Hearing Impairment, Dyspraxia, Cerebral Palsy, Autism and Dyslexia. Work with children and young people has been extended through work with Further and Higher Education Institutions and work settings in assessing, and advising on, the needs of adult students and employees.

As a specialist psychologist I have extensive experience of providing assessment, advice and direct services in the management, placement and treatment of children in many settings including Secure Units and at home, with families, adoptive and foster carers, and specialist experience of therapeutic and advisory work gained within a multidisciplinary Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (CAMHS) team, extending my experiences in Social Care and school settings.

## **Assistive Technology**

Having been closely involved with local, regional and national computer-related initiatives always seeking to promote the uses of computers for those who have special needs my skills as a skilled Assistive Technologist are used to help people who have disabilities. This includes both "indirect" uses, such as data handling and record keeping, as well as "direct" methods which enable learning, communication and leisure together with uses of computers for assessment and therapy. I have a particular interest in identifying high quality, but low cost, equipment and software to encourage the wider use of computers. While I was at Granada Learning I was closely involved in the development of innovative software for young people including those who have disabilities. The clinical audit software for Child Psychiatry which was developed to my specification is now marketed internationally.

Dissemination of information and good practice through developing and publishing resources, writing articles, giving lectures, and delivering training, especially when this develops the skills of carers and practitioners and improves access and involvement for children, families and carers is an essential component of my activities. I founded SNUG: the Special Needs User Group and organised its local and national activities for over ten years, editing Special Needs Computing, its Newsletter & Journal, and providing a telephone Help Line offering information and advice about uses of computers for people who have special needs.

While working for SEMERC, a division of Granada Learning, I edited a special needs web site within BT Campus, was founding Head of the SEMERC Information Service which provided a range of advisory, assessment, consultancy and training services for special needs and ICT. I was Director of the Special Needs Learning Network, SEMERC's New Opportunities Fund ICT Training programme in the use of computers, software and Assistive Technology hardware for teachers of children with special needs.

I work with many Further Education and Higher Education Institutions undertaking diagnostic and needs assessments for the Disabled Students' Allowance for students. I offer assessment and support advice to employers to ensure provision of reasonable adjustments for those employees who have disabilities, such as dyslexia and dyspraxia.

## **Expert Witness Court Reports**

My Expert Witness work has for many years involved providing Court reports for Family, Criminal and Personal Injury matters and for the Special Educational Needs and Disability and Employment Tribunals. My work for such cases requires me to read and analyse extensive documentation in order to extract key issues and facts to help in diagnosis and identifying the individual's profile of characteristics, skills and abilities, responding to specific questions, recommending courses of action and giving opinions.

In recent years I have undertaken an increasing amount of Expert Witness work in Criminal matters and provided advice to the Police and Solicitors when interviewing vulnerable adults. This has engaged my interest in the whole process of criminal justice. I have interacted with the legal profession, police, probation service and others, finding that the skills and knowledge I built up as an educator, psychologist and assistive technologist have been highly valued.

Having a sound knowledge of current research and practice across disciplines including Psychology, Health, Education, Employment, Social Care, Disability, Information Technology and Assistive Technology, with wide experience and skills in assessing, advising, supporting and training for many purposes I am in a strong position to bring to bear a range of pragmatic skills and experiences which can inform decisions. Through analysis and evaluation of the available information, in conjunction colleagues with different perspectives, I am able to make a positive and successful contribution to the work of the Court and help shape the future of individuals. I have given testimony in Court and Tribunal in Family, Civil, Employment, Educational and Criminal cases.

Recent cases include: ICT provision for a child injured in a road traffic accident; Assessment of understanding of events, actions and documents in criminal matters; Understanding of charges; Ability to give instructions and fitness to plead; Understanding of Police interviews including the Police Interview Caution; Need for an appropriate adult; Intellectual ability and emotional state; Effect of dyslexia, dyspraxia, attention deficiency and Asperger Syndrome on behaviour and decision making ability; Psychological and educational needs of individual children in care, social and family proceedings; Parenting skills and understanding of the needs of children; Appropriateness of placement to meet a child's social, behavioural and educational needs; ICT and Assistive Technology needs, Provision needed for children with Special Educational Needs including General Learning Difficulties, Visual Difficulties, Physical Disabilities, Speech and Language Difficulties, Autism and Specific Learning Difficulties, including Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Attention Deficit and Asperger Syndrome.

## **Consultancy**

I have provided Consultancy Services to a range of other professionals and organisations, including analysis of ICT provision in Special Schools and Units with recommendations on changes in resourcing and the need for training and support, the approaches to be taken by the Police in interviewing people who have disabilities, including Asperger Syndrome, and the awareness and need for training of businesses and organisations which would affect a City's 'Dyslexia Friendly' status.

## **Professional Associations:**

Having served in various national and local posts in NASEN (National Association for Special Educational Needs) and its predecessors. I have served on the Liverpool and St Helens Committee of the National Union of Teachers and on the National Union of Teachers' National Soulbury Advisory Committee. I am Chair of the British Computer Society's Disability Group, a member of the British Dyslexia Association's New Technologies Committee and the IT Network, member of the Management Group of the IT Can Help Network, a Befriender for the St Helens and District Dyslexia Association, Chair of the British Dyslexia Association Local Associations Board and Trustee.

I am an individual member of the National Children's Bureau, the National Association of Advisers on Computers in Education, the Association for Child Mental Health and the Association of Educational Psychologists. I hold a Practising Certificate as a Chartered Educational Psychologist and Chartered Scientist and am an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society (BPsS). I am a member of the BPsS Division of Educational and Child Psychology, the Developmental Psychology Section and the Special Group for Coaching Psychology. I am a member of a number of Expert Witness directories and the Association of Child Psychologists in Private Practice (AChiPPP). I am a Coaching Psychologist and Chartered Status Information Technology Professional (Assistive Technology).

## Professional Development

I have continually developed my professional skills by attendance at courses and conferences. These have included Assertive Discipline, BAT Pack (Behavioural Approaches to Teaching), Brief Therapy, Common Assessment Framework, Diploma, Practitioner and Master Practitioner in Neurolinguistic Programming (NLP), Multidisciplinary approaches to Safeguarding, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy together with a wide variety of regionally and nationally organised courses, seminars, and meetings.

## Current Interests and Developments:

My development work is based on the interface between information technology and psychology, especially the use of computer systems to help people who have special needs and disabilities. I am working on analysis of the "cognitive load" of information and communications including the development of computer software to analyse and support adjustment of the "reading difficulty" of text based information. With this I am developing practical measures of understanding and functioning under various conditions. I hope that this will lead to evidence based materials to support and identify vulnerable people, so they are better able to take part in stressful activities, such as examinations, assessments and interviews. I am examining how the Police Caution can be better explained to ensure full understanding and how parents can better prepare for, and record, meetings about their children who have special needs. I am leading a team of colleagues in developing a tool for assessing Capacity to Participate at the various stages of a criminal matter, from offence through questioning and trial to sentence.

## Qualifications

CITP	British Computer Society, Assistive Technology	2007
CSci	British Psychological Society, Applied Psychology	2007
MBCS	British Computer Society, Assistive Technology	2004
CPsychol	British Psychological Society, Educational Psychology	1989
AFBPsS	British Psychological Society, Educational Psychology	1988
MSc	Manchester University, Educational Psychology	1982
BA(Hons)	Liverpool University, Psychology	1981
BA	Open University, Maths & Computing	1980
Cert Ed	Edge Hill College, Physics & Chemistry	1971

## Career Experience

2001 - present	Principal Practitioner, Hughes&Co/psychologist.co.uk
2001 - present	Assistive Technologist, Special Needs Computing
2001 - 2007	Director Box42 Ltd
1999 - 2001	Head of SEMERC Information Service, Granada Learning
1996 - 1999	Private Practice, Hughes&Co.
1996 - 1999	Editor of SENSOR/Consultant, SEMERC (Part-time)
1996 - 1997	Educational Psychologist, Wigan MBC (Part-time)
1989 - 1996	Educational Psychologist, St Helens MBC
1981 - 1982	Educational Psychologist, Liverpool City Council
1981 - 1982	Trainee Psychologist, Hounslow BC
1979 - 1981	Teacher: Various part-time and supply posts during University courses.
1974 - 1979	Teacher: Anfield Comprehensive School, Liverpool
1971 - 1974	Teacher: Ruffwood Comprehensive School, Kirkby