

**Researcher: Dr Melody Cranbourne-Rosser
(University of South Wales)**

**Research Supervisors: Dr Miglena Campbell,
Dr Lesley Pilkington, & Dr Nikki Carthy
(Teesside University)**

The role of presence when working with children and young people demonstrating harmful sexual behaviour



Presence...

'Bringing one's whole self into the encounter with a client, being completely in the moment on a multiplicity of levels' (Geller, 2013, p14)

'Intersubjective consciousness, a form of reflectivity arising when we become conscious of our contents of mind by virtue of their being simultaneously reflected back to us from the mind of another' (Stern, 2004, p.xvi)

Aims & Purpose

Explore the role of presence through the lived experience of practitioners working with CYP demonstrating HSB.

Research Questions

What role does presence play?
What helps cultivate presence?
What influence does presence have on practice and practitioner sustainability?

Design Methodology

Approach: Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

Participants: 8 UK-based practitioners working in two services specialising in assessments and therapy programmes for CYP demonstrating HSB

Methods: Semi-structured interviews (recorded and transcribed), coding cycles, IPA analysis.

Results & Findings (Superordinate & Subordinate Themes)

- ◆ **Personal Presence**
(Ineffability, Readiness, Meta Presence)
- ◆ **Being Present with Others**
(Being With, Co-connection, Autonomous Collaboration, Relational Roadblocks)
- ◆ **Presence and Wellbeing**
(Internal Manifestations, External Indications, Maintaining Wellness)
- ◆ **Workplace Presence**
(Ethos, Practitioner Progression, Safe Holding)

Limitations & Conclusion

Limitations of study:

Ideographic; researcher bias; ontological and epistemological challenges posed by drawing on philosophy of Husserl and Heidegger to explore consciousness-related phenomenon (i.e., presence).

Conclusions:

Benefits: Presence promotes robust therapeutic relationships, quality and depth of therapeutic encounter, shared sense of sanctuary and safety, working with dual need (victim and victimiser) of CYP, practitioner satisfaction, perception of therapeutic efficacy, practitioner sustainability. Caveats and challenges: Empathic engagement with early wounding, trauma, and HSB material; tacit knowledge; justifying externally; agency responsibilities; intensity of intentional focus.

References

- Geller, S.M. (2013). Therapeutic Presence: An Essential Way of Being. In Cooper, M., Schmid, P.F., O'Hara, M., & Bohart, A.C. (Eds). *The Handbook of Person-Centred Psychotherapy and Counselling* (2nd ed.). UK: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Kamrowski, T. (2020). *Image. Pexels*.
- Saldana, J. (2013). *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers*. UK: SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Smith, J.A., Flowers, P. & Larkin, M. (2009). *Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis: Theory, Method and Research*. UK: SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Stern, D.N. (2004). *The Present Moment in Psychotherapy and Everyday Life*. USA: W. W. Norton & Company Ltd.