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# Self-harm and borderline personality disorder

Exploring practice, controversy and common ground

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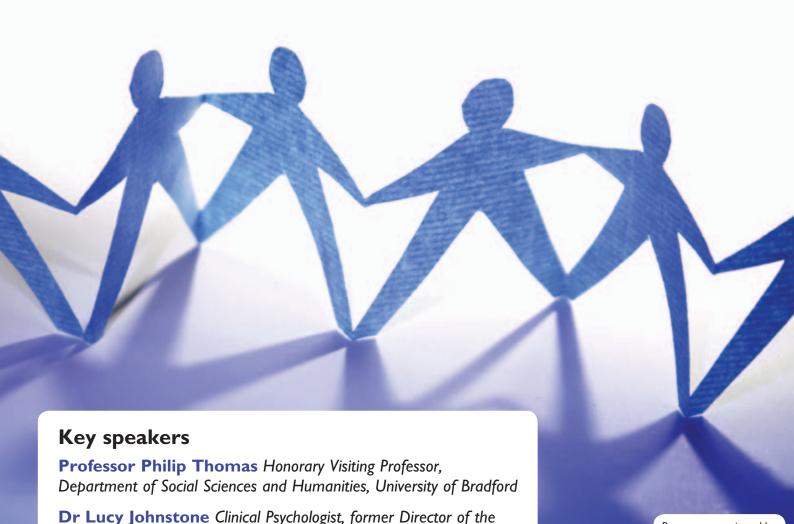
Monday 4 October 2010

Bristol Clinical Psychology Doctorate

Sciences, University of Leeds

Professor Allan O House Director, Leeds Institute of Health

ORT House Conference Centre, London NWI



# Self-harm and borderline personality disorder

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#### **About the conference**

There are over 150,000 attendances to accident and emergency departments each year for self-harm; it is one of the top five causes of acute medical admission. The UK has the highest rate of self-harm in Europe; this rate continues to increase. One half of those who die by suicide each year will have self-harmed at some time in the past.

Borderline personality disorder (BPD) is an increasingly prevalent, yet highly controversial diagnosis. It is defined in DSM-IV as a prolonged disturbance of personality function, characterised by depth and variability of moods. Suicidal or self-harming behaviour is one of the core diagnostic criteria in DSM, leading to a high rate of diagnosis in those who self-harm.

Service user activists and critical-thinking mental health practitioners have questioned the diagnosis being made on the basis of self-injury alone. Furthermore, there is significant concern that the diagnosis of BPD stigmatizes people, usually women, and can support pejorative and discriminatory practices.

### Free bursaries

Pavilion recognises the contribution people from across health and social care make to our conferences. To ensure our conferences are accessible to people using services, unwaged/family carers, and students, there are up to 5 free places available at each conference.

To apply, please write to us by post or email as below stating why you would like to attend this particular conference.

**Post:** Pavilion, Richmond House, Richmond Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 3RL,

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Remember to include your contact details as we will be in touch two weeks before the conference to confirm if you have been given a place.

#### Unable to attend?

Conference papers, as presented to the delegates on the day, are available on CD-rom after the conference for  $\pounds 60$  + VAT. This useful reference will include: available speakers' papers, speakers' biographies and any additional inserts.

#### Aims of the conference

The aim of this conference is to offer anyone working with people who self-harm who have a diagnosis of borderline personality disorder an opportunity to discuss helpful ways of working with this client group, with experts by profession from nursing, psychology and psychiatry, alongside service user/human rights activists.

This is one of the first conferences to bring together experts by experience and by profession to debate and question the use of borderline personality disorder as a diagnosis for people who self-harm. It seeks to actively engage with diversity, leading the way for constructive exploration of self-harm and borderline personality disorder.

## **Key themes**

- What helps in working with people who self-harm
- Participatory debate on the diagnosis of BPD
- BPD and DSM reclassification
- Service user experience and knowledge in health education
- Evaluating treatment interventions
- Diversity, self-harm and BPD

## Who should attend?

- Frontline mental health workers in social care teams
- Psychologists and psychiatrists in acute and community settings
- Mental health nurses in acute and community settings
- Prison staff in young offender and adult settings
- Women's mental health services including forensic mental health services
- Personality disorder (PD) and borderline personality disorder (BPD) units and services
- Therapeutic communities
- Mental health charities
- Commissioners, Managers and Planners of mental health services
- Self-harm services; BPD user groups; self-harm user groups
- NICE guidelines representatives
- PD and self-harm experts
- Survivors

### **Programme**

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9.30am	Coffee and registration			
10.00am	Chair's welcome and introduction			
	Professor Philip Thomas Honorary Visiting Professor, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Bradford			
10.15am	Working with people who self-harm: what assumptions do we make, what helps, what hinders? A nursing perspective			
	Suzie Marriott Mental health nurse			
10.45am	How can we best support people who self-harm: experts by experience informing clinical practice – a survivor and educator's perspective			
	Clare Shaw Director and Training Partner, Harm-ed			
11.15am	Refreshments			
11.45am	Parallel workshops			
	A The impact of being diagnosed as BPD. BPD and DSM reclassifications			
	CABL (Campaign to Abolish the Borderline Personality Disorder Label)			
	Clare Shaw Director and Training Partner, Harm-ed and Debra Shulkes Editor of 'Advocacy Update', the human rights and cultural publication of the European Network of (ex) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP)			
	Rosa Corcoran Writer and freelance journalist			
	B Asian women and self-harm			
	Aarunima Bhatnagar Sexual Health Promotion Officer, Newham Asian Women's Project			
	C Dialectical behaviour therapy as treatment of choice for people who self-harm?			
	Dr Jo Hadfield Clinical Psychologist working in adult mental health services			
	D Men and self-harm			
	Dr Mark Cresswell Sociologist, School of Applied Social Sciences, University of Durham			
12.45pm	Lunch			
1.45pm	Conference debate			
	Does borderline personality disorder as a diagnosis help people who self-harm?			
	Speaking for: Speaker to be confirmed and user representative from Personality Plus			
	Speaking against: Professor Allan O House Director, Leeds Institute of Health Sciences, University of Leeds and Clare Shaw Director and Training Partner, Harm-ed			
2.45pm	Refreshments			
3.00pm	Parallel workshops repeated			
4.00pm	Borderline personality disorder: diagnosis or formulation?			
	Dr Lucy Johnstone Clinical Psychologist, former Director of the Bristol Clinical Psychology Doctorate; Author of 'Users and Abusers of Psychiatry' and co-editor with Rudi Dallos of 'Formulation in Psychology and Psychotherapy: Making sense of people's problems'			
4.30pm	Discussion and chair's summary			

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\* Only applies to paid for places

## Continuous professional development

Conference close

4.45pm

Professionals within the social care sector are required to undertake Continuous Professional Development (CPD) by the General Social Care Council (GSCC). Delegates can gain CPD points from attending our conferences and exhibitions.

#### **About Pavilion**

Pavilion is the leading publisher and event organiser for those working in social and healthcare fields, whether they work in the statutory, private or voluntary sectors. We publish over 200 training packs, Mental Health Today and Learning Disability Today magazines.

#### **Promotional opportunities**

For more information about promotional opportunities at this conference, such as exhibiting and including your promotional materials in the conference delegate packs, please contact: Graham Hoare, Customer Relations Manager, Pavilion:

Tel: 01273 666703 Email: grahamh@pavpub.com

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Date: Monday 4 October 2010 Venue: ORT House Conference Centre, London NWI

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