

Conference: Systems Generated Trauma

9 July 2024
St Georges Centre
Leeds LS1 3DL
and online

9.30am	Registration
10.00am	Welcome
10.10am	Parent Blame and Children's Services Chair: Beverley Hitchcock <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elly Chapple• Professor Andy Bilson• Professor Luke Clements
10.50am	Discussion
11.20am	Complex Systems Generated Trauma: what needs to be done Chair: Dr Ana Laura Aiello <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mary Busk• Dr Peter Baker• Vivien Cooper OBE
12.00	Discussion
12.30pm	Lunch break
2.00pm	What can we do to bring meaningful change? Chair: Derek Tilley Table discussion & suggestions for action
3.15pm	Closing remarks
3.30pm	Close

'Trauma related practice' is a phrase increasingly used by public bodies to convey their awareness that many of those with whom they interact have experienced life changing traumas. As a rule, the traumas referred to are 'other' – in the sense that they are the result of adverse childhood experiences, domestic violence, mental health difficulties and so on. What is not generally acknowledged, is that many users of public services identify their most traumatising experiences as the way they were treated by the public bodies that they had approached for support.

'Systems Generated Traumas' of this kind are a daily experience for many people in contact with the social welfare system, including carers, disabled adults and disabled young people. There are a myriad of intersecting examples, but for parents of disabled children these can include: being prosecuted when their disabled child is 'school refusing'; being refused support by children's services when in desperate need, but then having their home inspected and their children interviewed for child protection purposes; being accused of fabricating or inducing their child's illness (FII) because they have requested a second opinion from a health professional; being unable 'to access justice' to gain redress for the damage done by behaviour of this kind – and so on.



To book a place (to attend either in-person or online), please email A.L.Aiello@leeds.ac.uk

This conference has been made possible through generous funding from Cerebra, Leeds University and Fletchers – specialist solicitors supporting families of children who have suffered brain injuries and other brain conditions.

Speakers

- **Ana Laura Aiello** is the postdoctoral researcher on the Cerebra LEaP project at Leeds. Ana studied law and human rights in Argentina, Spain and in the UK (obtaining her PhD at Leeds University). She has worked for a number of international NGOs (including Amnesty International, Disability Rights International and CHANGE) and at universities in Argentina, Spain and the UK.
- **Andy Bilson** is Emeritus Professor at the University of Central Lancashire and he researches child protection and parental participation in children's services. As a social worker Andy held many posts including Assistant Director in Fife Social Work Department and Assistant Director of Action for Children in Wales. From 1997 to 2001 he was Director of the Council of Europe's and UNICEF's Observatory on European children's rights. He is on the board of the Parents, Families and Allies Network and involved in promoting parent advocacy nationally and internationally.
- **Beverley Hitchcock** is the Head of Research and Information at Cerebra.
- **Derek Tilley** is the Senior Development Officer within Cerebra's Legal Rights team. He has had a long interest in supporting parents with disabled children access their legal entitlements.
- **Elly Chapple** is Founder of #FlipTheNarrative and a TEDx Speaker thanks to her eldest daughter, her greatest teacher. She focuses her efforts on what it is to be human, by retaining curiosity and acceptance of innate human diversity, to ensure everyone has a seat at the table.
- **Luke Clements** is the Cerebra Professor of Law & Social Justice at the School of Law, the University of Leeds.
- **Mary Busk** has spent her working life in the public and voluntary sectors including 18 years at the Department of Trade and Industry. She is a founder member of the NNPCF and currently works for NHS England in the Learning Disability and Autism Programme. She is speaking in a personal capacity today as a family carer and mum of 3, one of whom is disabled.
- **Peter Baker** is a Senior Lecturer in Intellectual Disability at the Tizard Centre, University of Kent. He worked as a Consultant Clinical Psychologist for the NHS in Sussex for over 20 years where he had leadership responsibilities for learning disability psychology services in East Sussex & Brighton & Hove. Peter is widely published in the area of challenging behaviour and intellectual disability. He is currently involved in funded research concerning staff support systems and family trauma.
- **Vivien Cooper** OBE is the parent of a young man with severe learning disabilities and the Founder and CEO of the Challenging Behaviour Foundation.

Cerebra Legal Entitlements & Problem-solving (LEaP) Project

The LEaP Project at the School of Law is an innovative problem-solving project that helps families of children with brain conditions cope with the legal barriers they face.

We listen to families and help them get the knowledge they need to access health, social care and other support services. We identify the common legal problems that prevent families getting access to services and we develop innovative ways of solving those problems. We aim to reach as many families as we can by sharing our solutions as widely as possible.

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About Fletchers

Fletchers is one of the UK's most trusted and respected law firms. We specialise in personal injury and clinical negligence claims and have been supporting those with life-changing injuries for more than 30 years. Our mission is to help rebuild the lives of individuals who have suffered serious, life changing injuries and for them to have the very best possible life after injury. We do this, not only through the case work we undertake for injured clients, but also through supporting charities, causes and organisations that share the same mission.