



SUSAN PEERLESS

Registered Nurse - Mental Health  
Expert Witness



contact@amgconsultancyservices.com  
01785 19557 (Select 1 then option 3)

**NMC PGD BACP Accredited**

**[Registered Nurse - Mental Health]**

## General Background

A dedicated Mental Health Nurse Practitioner committed to person-centred care, excellent communication skills and transparency. Experienced and skilled in robust mental health assessments, positive risk-taking and effective in highlighting, minimising, and safely managing mental health-related risks. Confident negotiation skills with both internal and external stakeholders to ensure safe and individualised care across various settings, including liaising with commissioners, councils, police, probation, NHS Trusts, primary care, education, and prison healthcare.

Worked closely with human resources and recruitment staff to support staff through conflict resolution and mediation in line with job descriptions and employment contracts. A strong advocate of confidentiality and emotional intelligence.

Chaired multi-disciplinary meetings in a professional manner, allowing all involved to contribute and promoting respect and dignity towards professional beliefs and actions.

## Work History

### **Self-Employed Senior Mental Health Nurse Consultant – 2014 - Present.**

- Mental health nurse assessor for adults of working age and young people.

### **Interim head of prison healthcare across three Northwest prisons for adults (male & female),**

- Partnership working with the Ministry of Justice (safer custody, suicide prevention, transfer of care on release, multi-agency public protection for severely mentally ill men and women).
- Liaised with children's services where needed for parents leaving custody.
- Ensured key performance indicators were met and maintained in all areas of offender healthcare (Her Majesty's Inspection of Prisons and the Care Quality Commission).
- Managed integrated substance misuse services within the prisons and engaged with community drug services to plan for release and a seamless service for offenders to integrate with community teams to reduce and minimise clinical risks.
- Section 136 (MHA) project co-ordinator – worked alongside the Director of Patient Safety and Merseyside Police. Worked across three A & E departments to examine information about adults taken to A & E by the police, outcomes and reasons for attendance, along with signposting and following up regular attenders.



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- Worked alongside acute trusts process mapping, which resulted in the commissioning of police street cars and joint working with a mental health nurse assessing adults before being taken to a place of safety. This has resulted in fewer inappropriate A & E presentations and timely assessments as well as a more timely response to crisis interventions.
- Alongside this project and with the Director of Patient Safety, supported serious investigation reviews when lives were lost, highlighted missed opportunities and near misses resulting in policy and procedure reviewing, staff support, and reflective practice sessions offered to staff. Also met with families at distressing times to offer support and reassurances utilising honesty, empathy and transparency.
- Assessed individuals from overseas needing mental health support, often with support from interpreter and with little or no previous history. Shared need-to-know information with the police and relevant healthcare providers and accommodation teams.  
Signposting/referring onto services as required.

**Interim Nursing Home Manager for two large facilities for older people with dementia and end-of- life care needs.**

- Managed staff to ensure safe day-to-day delivery of person-centred care needs, supervision of nurses and care staff, prepared for internal and external inspections with positive outcomes.
- Supported recruitment and retention of staff and carried out regular audits across the homes as required.
- Encouraged close transparent external partnership working with colleagues in the NHS, including safeguarding and social care.
- Facilitated both resident staff and relatives' meetings to encourage inclusion and positive outcomes along with instilling reassurance and confidence in the organisation.

**Merseycare NHS Trust – Bank- June 2024 – present.**

- Senior mental health mortality reviewer within a patient safety team, examining clinical information to ascertain cause of death and lessons learnt for the trust, supporting families when sharing information.
- Presenting findings at a weekly multidisciplinary team meeting with the consultant forensic psychiatrist and staff/teams who had been involved in the patient's care. Review findings were often provided to a coroner in a timely manner.



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- Worked at a fast pace to respond to reviews and outcomes. Worked within the Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF).
- Covering the “Duty” role in community mental health teams for adults of working age, responding to crisis calls, cold calling to patients deemed to be at risk of selfharm, assessing patients in A & E and at the team base. Contributed to crisis management plans particularly when no mental health beds were available, needing to support people at home along with their families considering any other vulnerable people who may live with the patient and giving them the support needed where possible.
- Liaising with community drug services.
- Assessed young people (up to the age of 18) in the Trust’s Child and Adolescent Mental Health team (CAHMS), facilitating risk management plans, meeting parents/carers to offer support and ensure they can safely continue to care for the child in their care.

**Specialist Nurse Advisor – Care Quality Commission 2014 – present (as and when required).**

- Working as part of inspection teams across various healthcare settings including mental health inpatient wards and older people’s nursing homes across the country.
- This role involves looking at all care domains within care plans, ensuring they are robust, responsive and person-centred to safely meet all clinical and risk management needs.
- Reviewing medication management including end-of-life and controlled drugs along with analysing partnership working with care settings and external stakeholders, i.e. tissue viability, falls and frailty, mental capacity including best interest and safeguarding concerns also, GP and social care support and interventions.

**Head of Prison Healthcare at HMP Kennet (Merseyside) 2007 – 2014  
(employed by Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust)**

- Overseeing the day-to-day healthcare delivery to adult male offenders.
- Worked in partnership with the prison senior management team (Ministry of Justice), attended daily senior prison staff meetings to ensure effective and safe needs-to-know information sharing around offenders who may need to attend outside hospital appointments.
- Worked closely with the safer custody and suicide prevention staff to minimise risk and support risk management.



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- Managed substance misuse clinical staff and supported clear transfer of care pathways on release from prison and to engage with community services. Monitored all aspects of healthcare transfers from prison into both primary and secondary care services with a strong emphasis on mental illness and the potential risks of offenders failing to engage and comply with their medication/treatment plans. Also, attended various workshops/conferences for patient safety.
- Attended meetings with Merseyside Police and Legal Company Hill Dickinson for needs-to-know information sharing and contingency planning for high-risk individuals.

**Merseycare NHS Trust 2000 - 2007 - Manager & Clinical Lead for Crisis Resolution/Home Treatment teams across Liverpool and Sefton.**

- Supported inpatient units with the follow-up of patients after discharge back into the community and ensured a 7-day follow-up system was adhered to as part of the discharge plan. Attended ward meetings prior to discharge to ensure a safe discharge process and often reduce the length of stay in hospital.
- Managed a Clozapine in the community team: this was a new initiative to support patients to stay in their own homes with safe community monitoring to initiate and monitor mood stabilising and often avoided hospital admission.
- Assessed and monitored adults with a high risk clinical history, identifying relapse signatures and declines in mental state often resulting in formal or informal hospital admissions under the Mental Health Act, where beds were not available, out-of area beds were sought with the team ensuring all clinical information was shared and regular contact made with staff and families until a local bed was found.
- The teams included mental health nurses, support workers, and social workers who worked well as a multi-disciplinary team meeting with psychiatrists on a regular basis to review and plan care. This also included liaising with education, housing benefits, police, and probation along with safeguarding where appropriate.



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### **St Helens & Knowsley NHS Trust 1995 – 2000**

- Community Mental Health Nurse provided assessments and care planning in the community, followed up patients after a period in hospital, attended ward rounds to discuss safe discharge with staff and patients including families and carers.
- Promoted to team manager for a newly introduced 24-hour access service to further support community teams out of hours and reduce inappropriate hospital admissions and improve support particularly to the severely mentally ill to remain in their own homes where possible.

### **1984 – 1995**

- Enrolled Nurse MH training at Rainhill Hospital where qualified and worked on both acute and rehabilitation wards as a junior nurse, implementing and reviewing care plans to ensure a holistic approach to patient care.
- Administered medication and monitored side effects and concordance. Worked effectively as part of the ward team with excellent communication skills.
- During this time, successfully completed a nurse conversion course from an enrolled nurse to a state registered nurse (RMN) leading to work in a high secure hospital (Ashworth) planning and implementing care plans with adults with forensic histories and often high levels of self-harming behaviours along with complex severe and enduring mental illness.
- This role provided an excellent background in shaping a career and developing good risk assessment and problem-solving skills minimising and managing high-risk patients along with great satisfaction working professionally and being honest and transparent.



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## Professional Qualifications

- Enrolled Mental Health Nurse - 1988
- Registered Mental Health Nurse - 1991
- English National Board (NMC) 941 "Care of the Elderly" - 1992
- English National Board (NMC) 998 "Teaching & Assessing"
- English National Board (NMC) "Nursing in a Secure Environment"
- English National Board No 1 (NMC) Introduction to Counselling"
- Counselling Diploma – Ashworth Hospital (BACP Accredited) - 1996
- Post Graduate Diploma "Care of the Mentally Ill in the Community" 2-year course, NHS funded, Middlesex University validated.
- MA "Health & Social Care" Aintree Hospital NHS Trust/Sefton School of Nursing, seconded from Merseycare NHS Trust.

## Training

- Equality & Diversity – 2024
- Conflict Resolution – 2025
- Medicines Management in Care Homes – CQC – 2024
- Patient Safety Incident Management Training – 2025
- Safeguarding Children – 2025
- Person Centred Dementia Care – 2025
- Data Security Awareness – 2025
- Moving and Handling – 2025
- Suicide Awareness and Prevention – 2025
- Fraud e-learning module 2025
- Introduction to Anti-racism – 2025
- NHS Systems – RADAR EMIS and RIO compliant
- NHS Fraud – 2025
- Improved Ways of Working (CQC) – 2024
- Complaints Management – 2025
- Fire Safety Level 1 – 2025
- Safeguarding Adults Level 2 – 2025
- Infection Prevention and Control – 2025
- Health Safety and Welfare Level 2 – 2025
- Resuscitation Level 2 – 2025
- Sexual Misconduct in the Workplace – 2025
- Equality Diversity and Human Rights – 2025



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- Radicalisation in Prisons - 2012 & 2015
- Enhanced Observations for Adults in Nursing and Care Home Settings – 2025

### **Expert Witness Background**

Susan has been associated with AMG Medico Legal Limited (formerly AMG Consultancy Services Ltd) since 2025 as an expert witness in mental health nursing. She is awaiting attendance on the Bond Solon certificated legal training courses: “Excellence in Report Writing” and “Courtroom Skills – Witness Familiarisation.”

### **Memberships**

NMC Registered Nurse – Mental Health

Royal College of Nursing

Care Quality Commission – Specialist Advisor