



Social Work Reports Ltd Immigration,  
children and families work with law  
firms in the UK



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**N i k k i   A u s t i n   M S c ,   B A   ( H o n s )**

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**SUMMARY:**

I qualified as a Social Worker in 2011 with an MSc in Social Work. I have experience within the criminal justice and social work sectors and a proven track record of providing exemplary levels of service to a broad range of clients, including working with individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, adults with physical disabilities, children, young people and families, within different settings. My experience has enabled me focus on assessing the risk, needs and best interest of children, young people and also adults. During my career I have also worked with Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and their family's; supporting them as they arrive in the county, settling them into accommodation, assessing their needs and best interests, with regard to safety, risk, vulnerability and emotional wellbeing. I have also supported young people through the asylum process by attending interviews with solicitors and the Home Office. I have experience of being the assessing social worker in Merton compliant age assessments and have acted as an appropriate adult in accordance with Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984. To enhance my knowledge I have undertaken training with the Refugee Council.

I currently work as an independent social worker completing assessments and reports for local authorities, solicitors and private court cases. The fields I specialise in are youth offending and forensics as well as asylum seeking children and families

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**EDUCATION:**

- Sept 2011 – July 2013 University of Hertfordshire  
**MSc in Social Work**
- Sept 2005 – June 2006 Nottingham Trent University  
**Youth Justice Pass**  
**Professional Certificate in Effective Practice**
- Sept 1998 – July 2001 University of Bedfordshire  
**Sports Studies 3rd Class Honours BA (Hons)**

**FURTHER TRAINING:**

- Understanding Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and working with challenging behaviour to determine triggers, develop coping strategies and ensure a consistent approach/response, Hampshire County Council, 2001
- Effective Engagement Skills, Essex County Council, 2014
- Working Effectively with Diversity, Essex County Council, 2014
- Solution Focused Training BRIEF, 2014
- Young People, Housing and Homelessness, Shelter, 2014
- Supporting Asylum Seeking Families and Young People, including Merton Age Assessment training, The Refugee Council, 2014
- Monthly training and supervision with Speech and Language Therapist and child psychologist in order to explore and implement best practice while working with young people with ASD, Camden Youth Offending Service, 2015-2017
- Information Sharing and Data Protection, Camden Borough Council, 2016
- Desistance Theory and Good Lives Model, Wright Link, 2016
- Child Sexual Exploitation, Safer London, 2016
- Age Assessment training, NAGALRO, October 2018

**PRESENT POST:**

**April 2015 – Present Locum Social Worker -Youth Offending Team, Camden**

**Duties in Post:**

- Ensure best practice while working with young people with ASD.
- Support and empower service users with ASD through adapted learning resources, spaces or facilities.
- Work to tight time scales with individuals and their families.
- Undertake complex assessments with young people and their families.
- Devise, coordinate and implement effective plans of care.
- Monitor and review intervention plans, mainly relating to statutory court orders, with children, young people, parents and their families.
- Prepare pre-sentence reports for the court assessing the risk of harm to the general public and risk of further offending.

- Represent the Youth Offending Team in court and advise the court on matters pertinent to sentencing and progress on orders.

**PREVIOUS POSTS:**

**January 2012 – July 2012 Hertsaid Sexual Health Charity**

**Duties in Post:**

- Working with and advising adults with physical disabilities, their families and carers.
- Conducting needs assessments and creating individual intervention plans to support clients with their physical disabilities, finding them appropriate housing, access to benefits, support from social care and occupational health.
- Devise, coordinate and implement effective plans of care.
- Monitor and review intervention plans.
- Support clients in conjunction with other professionals to ensure early, proactive intervention and provide the best outcomes for them.
- Work with complex cases.
- Assess vulnerability, needs and the best interests of the client.

**April 2014 – April 2015**

**Social Worker Homeless Youth Service Essex County Council**

**Duties in Post:**

- Working closely with 16/17-year-old individuals who present themselves as homeless.
- Support young people, in conjunction with local housing to ensure early, proactive intervention and provide the best outcomes for them.
- Work with complex cases.
- Assess vulnerability, needs and the best interests of the young person.
- Undertake mediation between young people and their families.
- Offer information, advice and guidance pertaining to youth homelessness.

**September 2013 – April 2014**

**Social Worker: Duty and Assessment Team, London Borough of Barnet**

**Duties in Post:**

- Work with children and young people to assess their needs and best interests.
- Prevent young people from entering the care system by offering parenting strategies to avoid family breakdown.
- Undertake family mediation to support parents and carers.
- Assess children and young people using age appropriate tools.
- Undertake statutory duties such as assessments and instigating Looked After Child procedures.

- Provide a service to unaccompanied asylum seekers.
- Supporting young people as they arrive in the county, which includes; settling them into accommodation, assessing their needs and best interests with regard to safety, risk, vulnerability and emotional wellbeing, supporting them with gaining access to accommodation, healthcare, education and employment.
- Support young people with the asylum process, involving attending interviews with solicitors and the Home Office.
- Work closely with the Youth Offending Team in supporting young people known to the criminal justice system.
- Assess and arranging bail support packages.
- Work closely with Youth Offending Teams and young people remanded into Local Authority Care.
- Assess risk and safeguarding.

**March 2005 – April 2011**

**Youth Justice Practitioner Bedford Borough Council Bedford**

**Duties in Post:**

- Undertake complex assessments with young people and their families.
- Devise, coordinate and implement effective plans of care.
- Monitor and review intervention plans, mainly relating to statutory court orders, with children, young people, parents and their families.
- Represent the Youth Offending Team in court and advise the court on sentencing and progress on orders.
- Compiling pre-sentence reports for the court; assessing risk of harm to the general public and risk of further offending.
- Assess vulnerability.
- Monitor and report on Breach Court Orders.
- Act as an appropriate adult in accordance with Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

**September 2004 – March 2005**

**Youth Inclusion & Support Panel Case Worker Hampshire County Council, Ringwood**

**Duties in Post:**

- Work with young people with Autism spectrum disorder, emotional and behavioural difficulties.
- To support service users learning and re-engagement in to education.
- Manage a caseload of 5- to 13-year-olds referred to the panel who are at risk of anti-social behaviour or offending.
- Receive and assess referrals from referring agencies.
- Complete assessments of risk of offending.

- Deliver interventions to reduce the risk of offending and anti-social behavior.
- Support the child and family throughout legal processes.
- Coordinate multi agency panels to manage and reduce the risk of children and young people entering the criminal justice system.