

Assessment of ASD in custody – Monday 02 November 2020

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Prof Rajan (Taj) Nathan studied at the University of Wales College of Medicine where in 1991 he was awarded the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. Further to undertaking psychiatric training in Yorkshire, in 1996 he was accepted as a Member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Alongside his clinical training, Prof Nathan has pursued academic research at the University of Leeds (gaining the degree of Masters of Medical Science) and then at the University of Liverpool (gaining a Diploma in Forensic Behavioural Science and a higher research Doctorate in Medicine). As a Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist within the NHS for almost twenty years, he has been responsible for the care of forensic psychiatric patients in prison, secure hospitals, and the community. He has led the development of innovative services in the areas of forensic personality disorder and ASD. Alongside his clinical roles, he is currently also Director of Research in the NHS, Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Liverpool, Visiting Professor to the University of Chester, Adjunct Professor at Liverpool John Moores University and mental health lead for the National Institute of Health Research, UK. He has carried out extensive research in forensic psychiatry and is the author of numerous scientific papers and academic book chapters. His forthcoming book (*Dangerous Minds*, John Murray Press, 2021) introduces forensic psychiatry and explanations for serious violence to a wider audience. Prof Nathan is frequently called upon to provide independent expert evidence within criminal and family courts and other legal arenas. He has given expert evidence in person in magistrates courts, the Crown Court, the Royal Courts of Justice, the Family Court, Parole Hearings, Mental Health Review Tribunals and Coroner's Courts.

Learning Objectives

- Familiarity with the diagnostic criteria for diagnosing ASD
- Understanding of the psychological processes underpinning ASD
- Awareness of the explanatory mechanisms for offending in ASD
- Recognition of the steps to be taken for people with ASD in custody

