

Making Sense of Your Mental Health: A Comprehensive Psychological Assessment and Formulation Pathway for Adults

Have you spent years struggling with your mental health without ever feeling as though you truly understand what is happening for you, or why? Perhaps you have received different diagnoses from different professionals, tried various treatments without lasting success, or simply felt that something important has been missed. Maybe you are seeking a thorough, expert evaluation for the first time — wanting clear answers, a compassionate explanation of your difficulties, and a meaningful roadmap for moving forward. Whatever has brought you here, you deserve more than a brief appointment and a checkbox diagnosis. You deserve to be truly understood. This comprehensive psychological assessment and formulation pathway has been designed for adults who are seeking a thorough, expert evaluation of their mental health and psychological functioning — delivered with care, rigour, and clinical expertise by a skilled and experienced psychological professional.

Rather than navigating uncertainty alone, you'll be supported by a qualified psychologist or psychological practitioner who brings expertise, warmth, and deep clinical insight to every stage of the assessment process. This pathway goes beyond the assignment of a diagnostic label — drawing on your full personal history, current presentation, and psychological profile to develop a rich, individualised formulation that makes genuine sense of your difficulties in the context of your whole life. Your assessor will work collaboratively and compassionately with you throughout, ensuring you feel heard, respected, and fully involved in every step of the process.

What Is Psychological Formulation?

A psychological formulation is more than a diagnosis. While a diagnosis identifies and names a pattern of symptoms, a formulation goes deeper — offering a personalised, evidence-based explanation of why you are experiencing the difficulties you are, how they developed, what maintains them, and what might help. Drawing on your life history, relationships, experiences, and current circumstances, your formulation will help you to make meaningful sense of your mental health in a way that is unique to you — and will form the foundation for any recommendations about treatment, support, or further assessment.

What Does the Assessment Process Involve?

Your psychological assessment and formulation pathway will typically involve the following stages:

- **Initial consultation** — a detailed introductory appointment to discuss your concerns, your history, and your goals for the assessment, and to ensure the pathway is fully tailored to your individual needs
- **Comprehensive clinical interview** — an in-depth, structured conversation covering your presenting difficulties, personal and developmental history,

family background, significant life experiences, relationships, and current functioning across all areas of your life

- **Psychometric assessment** — the administration of a carefully selected battery of validated, standardised psychological measures and questionnaires, chosen to provide objective, evidence-based data across relevant clinical domains including mood, anxiety, trauma, personality, and cognitive functioning
- **Review of relevant history** — where available and with your consent, a review of relevant previous assessments, clinical records, or reports to ensure a fully informed and comprehensive picture
- **Psychological formulation** — the development of a detailed, personalised formulation that integrates all assessment findings with your life history and clinical presentation, explaining how and why your difficulties developed, what maintains them, and how they relate to one another
- **Diagnostic clarification** — where clinically appropriate and meaningful, the pathway will include formal diagnostic assessment using the recognised DSM-5 classification system, providing clarity and, where indicated, formal diagnoses
- **Feedback session** — a dedicated appointment in which your assessor will share and discuss your formulation and any diagnostic conclusions with you in clear, accessible language, answer your questions fully, and explore the implications for your care and next steps, including referral to one of our Consultant Psychiatrist colleagues for pharmacological treatment should it be deemed appropriate
- **Written report** — a comprehensive, professionally written report documenting your assessment findings, psychological formulation, diagnostic conclusions, and detailed, tailored recommendations for treatment, support, and onward referral where appropriate

Flexible Appointments to Fit Around Your Life

We understand that seeking a psychological assessment shouldn't come at the cost of your work or daily commitments. That's why appointments are available during evenings and weekends, as well as standard daytime hours — making it easier for those in employment, with caring responsibilities, or busy schedules to access the thorough evaluation they deserve. All appointments are conducted securely online, removing the need to travel and allowing you to engage with the assessment process from the comfort and privacy of your own home.

What Conditions Can This Pathway Assess and Diagnose?

This pathway is equipped to assess, formulate, and where appropriate provide diagnostic clarification across a wide range of adult mental health and neurodevelopmental presentations, including:

- Depression, persistent depressive disorder, and bipolar spectrum disorders
- Generalised anxiety disorder (GAD), panic disorder, social anxiety, and specific phobias
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and complex PTSD (C-PTSD)
- Obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) and related conditions
- Eating disorders including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorder
- Health anxiety and somatic symptom disorders
- Attachment difficulties and relational trauma
- Presentations that have not responded to previous treatment or that remain diagnostically unclear

Is This Pathway Right for Me?

This pathway may be particularly valuable if you are:

- Seeking a thorough, expert evaluation of your mental health for the first time
- Living with a longstanding diagnosis that no longer feels accurate, complete, or helpful
- Experiencing complex or overlapping difficulties that don't seem to fit neatly into a single diagnostic category
- Preparing for or reviewing a course of psychological therapy and wanting a clear formulation to guide treatment
- Requiring a comprehensive psychological assessment report for legal, occupational, insurance, or benefits purposes
- A professional seeking greater self-understanding in order to support your own wellbeing and practice
- Seeking clarity and validation after years of feeling misunderstood, misdiagnosed, or inadequately supported by mental health services
- Wanting not just a diagnosis, but a genuine, compassionate understanding of your whole psychological experience

If you're unsure whether this pathway is the right fit for you, our team will carry out an initial consultation to ensure the assessment is appropriate, relevant, and fully tailored to your specific needs and circumstances.

This pathway is conducted by qualified and experienced psychological professionals working within their area of competence and in accordance with relevant professional and ethical guidelines. The written report produced following your assessment is a formal clinical document and will be treated with the utmost care and confidentiality.