

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WORK INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

# Autistic Women and Girls

Thursday 15 October 2020 / 5pm

A short introductory seminar into understanding  
and working with autistic women and girls

Presented by Cathie Long and Esther Whitney

Cathie is warm and engaging, and proud to be neurodiverse. She has an MA in Autism and was awarded 'The Professional Learning Award Outstanding Achievement (Autism)' by the University of South Wales in December 2017. She is a highly competent and experienced Independent Social Worker and Expert Witness. She is an Approved Mental Health Professional, and a Best Interest's Assessor. Cathie completes capacity assessments for Deputyship applications to the Court of Protection. She is experienced in assessments for the Family Court, particularly where the parents(s) and/or children have a learning disability, neurodiversity, or difficulties associated with their mental health. She possesses over 26 years of post-qualifying experience working with children, adults, and older people who have mental health problems (including dementia), a learning disability, substance misuse issues, and physical health needs.

Esther is an award-winning artist who is also proud to be neurodiverse. Esther is a mother who endured a difficult and prolonged experience of Family Court. Seven weeks after her daughter was born, Esther's baby was removed into the care of her local authority. Due to Esther's tenacity and determination, she intelligently did all she could to challenge the court decision. Finally, despite many opposing views from different professionals, the judge eventually allowed her daughter to be returned to her care. Esther is now the proud mother of her four-and-a-half-year-old daughter.

She is an MA in Autism research student at the University of Canterbury.

Cathie will interview Esther about her lived experience of autism, drawing insights from different aspects of being autistic - such as sensory processing differences, and the differences between autism and a diagnosis of Emotionally Unstable Personality Disorder (EUPD).

**A Zoom link will be shared in advance of the event to all registrants.**

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