

# VINCENT PEART

## Independent Social Worker

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Social Work England: SWE93532 | Coram BAAF Member | Association of Child Protection Professionals

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Independent Social Worker with thirteen years' post-qualification experience in child and family work, including over a decade within care proceedings and the Family Court. I have completed over 225 independent assessments since establishing my practice in 2020 (including parenting, risk, special guardianship, sibling/Together or Apart, capacity to protect, viability, connected persons, ParentAssess, and DVRIM) across 40 local authority areas, nationally and internationally.

Prior to independent practice, I worked as a Children's Guardian for CAFCASS, a Team Manager, and an Advanced Practitioner across MASH, Duty and Assessment, Child Protection, and Court teams. This gives me a perspective that few independent practitioners can offer: I understand what the court expects from expert evidence because I have sat on every side of the process: as the assessing social worker, the supervising manager, and the Guardian scrutinising the work.

I have given oral evidence before the Family Court on over 100 occasions and am experienced in producing reports that withstand cross-examination. My assessments are regularly described by judges, solicitors, and Guardians as thorough, robust, and child-focused. I deliver reports within agreed court timescales and am available for instruction on both public and private law matters across England and Wales.

## ASSESSMENT COMPETENCIES

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Certified and experienced in the following assessment frameworks:

- **Best Interest Assessor (BIA)** : Teesside University (September 2025). Qualified to conduct assessments under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- **ParentAssess** : completed over 100 ParentAssess assessments within care and pre-proceedings
- **Forensic Risk Assessment** : trained March 2025
- **CASP-R** : trained June 2023, with advanced CASP-R Masterclass completed February 2026. Specialist framework for assessing capacity to protect children from harm
- **CUBAS** : trained October 2023
- **Resolutions Approach** : trained December 2025
- **Family Mediation** : trained October 2025
- **Merton-Compliant Age Assessment** : trained June 2023
- **Barnardo's DVRIM Assessor** : certified since June 2014, assessing domestic violence risk in families
- **Kinship Care (Form K: 2025 model)**: accredited June 2025

Additional assessment types regularly undertaken: SGO suitability, sibling/Together or Apart, viability, connected persons, Section 7, Section 37, Regulation 24, Form F, Form C, Form K (2025 model), Re W, capacity to protect, risk/protector, and contact assessments.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACT

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- Completed 225+ independent assessments since 2020, instructed by over 100 different solicitors' firms, teams, and Children's Guardians across 40 local authority areas nationally and internationally.
- Given oral evidence before the Family Court on over 100 occasions, including contested hearings before magistrates and circuit judges. Assessment recommendations accepted by the court in 99% of cases.

- Produced 40+ risk assessments for Family Court proceedings covering physical harm, emotional harm, sexual harm, neglect, domestic abuse, and substance misuse.
- Supervised and performance-managed a team of 8 social workers and 2 family support workers as Deputy Manager and Team Manager. Oversaw multiple Section 47 investigations and Children and Families Assessments annually.
- Held caseloads of 30+ families simultaneously across care proceedings, Section 47 investigations, child protection plans, and PLO pre-proceedings, consistently meeting court-directed deadlines.
- Completed direct work with 200+ children, including Life Story Work, Later Life Letters, and Social Stories tailored to each child's developmental stage.
- Undertaken international viability and special guardianship assessments, delivering court-compliant reports within agreed timescales.
- Managed safeguarding responses for young people at risk of county lines, CSE, and CCE. Developed safety plans for young people presenting with self-harming behaviours and persistent missing episodes.
- Served as expert panel member on the VEMT panel, contributing to strategic risk assessment and intervention planning for children vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

## CAREER HISTORY

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**Independent Social Worker** | Social Work Assessment (Self-employed) Jun 2020 – present

*Available nationally and internationally*

Completed 225+ independent assessments for solicitors, local authorities, and Children's Guardians across 40 local authority areas. Assessment types include parenting, risk, SGO, sibling/Together or Apart, viability, connected persons, ParentAssess, DVRIM, Section 7, Section 37, and capacity to protect. Instructed in both public and private law proceedings. Given oral evidence on 100+ occasions.

**Deputy Manager** | Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Jan 2021 – Dec 2022

Supervised a team of social workers across child protection and court teams. Quality-assured court reports and assessments, oversaw Section 47 investigations, and managed risk across complex caseloads within PLO timescales.

**Team Manager** | Middlesbrough Council Jan 2020 – Dec 2020

Managed a child protection and court team, holding oversight of approximately 180 families. Led strategy meetings, chaired PLO meetings, and ensured court-directed work met filing deadlines and evidential standards.

**Senior Social Worker** | Together for Children, Sunderland Jan 2019 – Dec 2019

Advanced Practitioner role carrying a complex caseload of court and child protection cases. Mentored NQSWs and contributed to service development.

**Senior Social Worker** | Durham County Council Jan 2018 – Dec 2018

Court and child protection caseload with a focus on care proceedings and pre-proceedings work.

**Children's Guardian** | CAFCASS Jan 2017 – Dec 2017

Represented children's interests in proceedings and provided independent analysis and recommendations to the court. Instructed solicitors for children and advocated on their behalf.

**Senior Social Worker** | Sunderland City Council Jan 2015 – Dec 2016

Child protection and court team. Led Section 47 investigations, chaired core groups, and managed complex child protection and Children in Need caseloads.

**Social Worker**, Gateshead Council (2014) | Darlington Borough Council (2013)

Frontline child protection practice including initial assessments, Section 47 investigations, and court work across two local authority frameworks.

## MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS

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Recognised as an expert commentator on child and family social work, regularly contributing to national media coverage and professional publications.

- Interviewed by **Sky News** and **BBC** on social work and child protection issues on multiple occasions
- Quoted and consulted by **The Times**, **The Guardian**, and **The Mail** on stories involving children's social care
- Contributing author, **Community Care**, the UK's leading social work publication
- **Content Editor**, Social Work News (January 2022 – present)

## TRAINING & SPEAKING

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Invited to contribute professional expertise to training programmes for legal professionals, the professional body, and statutory services:

- **The Inner Temple**, Expert panellist at advocacy training weekend on care proceedings, alongside judiciary and counsel
- **BASW**, Speaker at the annual Student Social Worker Conference
- **Belfast Health and Social Care Trust**, Training on social work professional recognition
- **PREVENT**, Counter-terrorism safeguarding training delivery

## QUALIFICATIONS

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<b>PGDip, Social Work</b>	University of Cumbria, 2011–2013
<b>BSc (First Class Hons.), Child &amp; Family Studies</b>	University of Cumbria, 2008–2011
<b>Best Interest Assessor (BIA)</b>	Teesside University, 2025
<b>Diploma, Counselling</b>	Newcastle College, 2020
<b>Certificate of Higher Education, Education Studies</b>	St. Martin's College, 2003–2004
<b>City and Guilds, PTLLS at Level 4 (Post-16 Training)</b>	Gateshead College, 2011–2012

## PRACTICAL DETAILS

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- Registered with **Social Work England (SWE93532)**
- Enhanced **DBS Certificate** held
- Member of **Coram BAAF** and the **Association of Child Protection Professionals**
- Professional indemnity insurance: **BASW**
- Available for both privately funded and Legal Aid instruction nationally. International assessments undertaken by arrangement.
- Reports typically completed 5 days before deadline
- Compliant with Practice Direction 25B and FPR Part 25
- Full and clean driving licence

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To make an enquiry, submit a referral, or arrange an initial discussion:

**Phone:** 0191 716 5069 or 07940 460503

**Email:** vince@socialworkassessment.com

**Web:** www.socialworkassessment.com

## PROFESSIONAL FEEDBACK

What judges, solicitors, and professionals say about my work:

*"The judgment is entirely fulsome about Vincent Peart's evidence."*

### **Barrister**

*"The court is well aware of the quality and robust nature of Mr Peart's work."*

### **Judge**

*"Listening to you was inspiring. You conveyed such insight, with such clarity and compassion."*

### **Adoption Advisor**

*"Great quality reports. I wish all aspired to this level of challenge and depth."*

### **Social Worker**

*"It always reassures me when you do an assessment as I know you will fairly consider all aspects of a case."*

### **Team Manager**

*"We are extremely grateful for the diligence and flexibility with which Mr Peart has worked, far exceeding expectations."*

### **Barrister**

*"You are the first person I approach."*

### **Solicitor**

*"Your professionalism, speed, and efficiency was greatly appreciated."*

### **Solicitor**

*"Your report played a great part in that. The child will mark his 3rd birthday in his father's care. That is a result for all concerned."*

### **Solicitor**

*"Your belief in me, and the way you ensured R's voice was properly heard and represented, made a life-changing difference for us. Because of your work, R now has the permanence and security he deserves."*

### **Connected Carer**

*"Your assessment was one of the best I have read. It was so detailed and thorough which was needed considering the complexities in this case. I have recommended you to my colleagues."*

### **Social Worker**

*"The turnaround time of your assessment has left me in awe!"*

### **Solicitor**