

# The Pillars of Parenting 2025 Psychology Conference

**20th of October 2025**

**Venue:** The Michell Room, Hampshire County Council, Queen Elizabeth 11 Building,  
Sussex Street, Winchester, SO23 8BH.

## Turning Pillars of Parenting THEORY into PRACTICE

This year's conference is about Celebrating Successful Practice. The famous American Baseball player, Yogi Berra has been credited with saying:

**"In theory there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice there is."**

What he is highlighting with his clever observation is that when applying theoretical knowledge in real life (like a baseball game or a day in a children's home), there will always be unexpected variables, unanticipated complexities, distractions and events which the theory has not predicted.

The art of an excellent children's home practitioner is to use theory to inform and improve practice and practice to improve theory. To achieve such a win-win symbiotic relationship, staff must calmly prioritise the needs of the child, dealing with or delegating unforeseen disruptions or events to minimise anything unhelpful, and then to accomplish the agreed-upon positive goals for the child.

This conference celebrates excellent children's home practitioners. It highlights some of the outstanding and successful practices routinely carried out by care staff and managers in what are often challenging situations, working with children who have varied, complex and diverse needs.

### 9.00 to 9.30 Registration

### 9.30 to 9.40 Welcome Dr Seán Cameron, PoP Foundation director and now honorary associate

Seán will present prizes to those staff who obtained 100% across all seven modules of our eLearning.

### 9.40 to 10.15 Introduction – How psychological theory informs good practice

**Colin Maginn (Director of The Pillars of Parenting Ltd.)**

The psychological knowledge base used in our '*Emotional Warmth Parenting*' approach, provides a foundation for understanding the impact that trauma, abuse and neglect has on children's behaviour. We know from 'relationship practice' that responding to frightened and dysregulated children with kindness, empathy and understanding (the theory stuff), provides the basis for forming healthy safe relationships which are central to healing and emotional growth.

### 10.15 to 11.00 Dr Kerry Pringle (Registered Children's Home Manager):

**Achieving best practice in the face of unexpected variables, and complexities**

Kerry is the Registered Manager of a children's home in the South West of England. Kerry will talk about the wonderful practical work at her home illustrating how the Pillars of Parenting has offered them an academic footing.

### 11.00 to 11.15 Refreshment break



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**11.15 to 12.30 Dr Julia Alfano (Psychologist) and Zoe Sainsbury (Registered Children's Home Manager)**  
**The Pillars of Parenting Partnership - Practical applications of the Pillars of Parenting, the Role of Consultation and Positive Psychology and Resilience Building**

The Pillars of Parenting consultation and children with Profound and Multiple Learning Disability (PMLD) and complex trauma- an example of successful practice and partnership working.

The use of the signature strengths questionnaire to inform the POP implementation plan.

**12.30 to 13.15 Lunch (Tea, Coffee with a selection of sandwiches and snacks)**

**13.15 to 13.45 Jax Marshall (Registered Children's Home Manager)**

**Changes in children's residential care over the years and that word, LOVE!**

Successful practice and how 'Emotional Warmth Parenting' has helped.

**13.45 to 14.15 Dr Laura Griffey and Lisa McSpadden (Both Educational Psychologists)**

**The Resilience Ball – Developed by Cath Lowther a Psychologist who previously worked for Hampshire.**

The psychological underpinnings of the model with a practical application activity for participants to think about how it could be applied within their homes with their young people

**14.15 to 14.45 Dr Julia Alfano (Psychologist) and Zoe Sainsbury (Registered Children's Home Manager)**  
**Consultation and Implementation Planning**

Implementation planning. Sharing of good practice examples of implementation planning across a large team and a professional network.

**14.45 to 15.00 Refreshment break**

**15.00 to 15.45**

**Celebration of Practice from the Floor**

Open mic session inviting examples of positive, creative, flexible and holistic practice from the floor.

**15.45 to 16.00 Final words** - Pointers on getting your ideas and stories of good practice, published in the sector press and applying for good practice awards. Let the world know about the good stuff that you do.

**16.00 Conference ends**



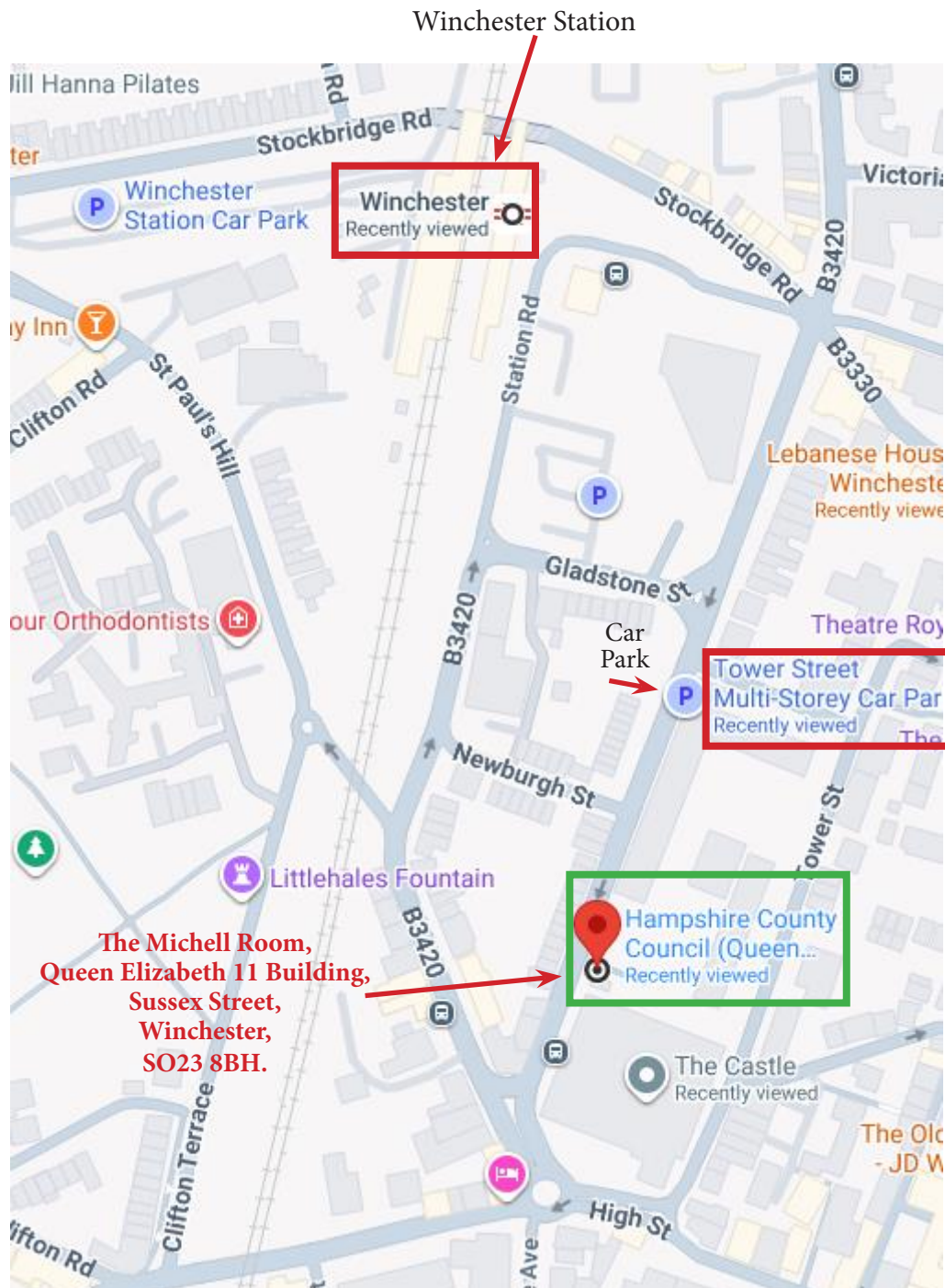
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For more information call  
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