Cluster A personality disorders

A person with a cluster A personality disorder tends to have difficulty relating to others and usually shows patterns of behaviour most people would regard as odd and eccentric.

The main personality disorders in this category are listed below.

**Paranoid personality disorder**

A person with a paranoid personality disorder is extremely distrustful and suspicious. Other features include:

* thinking other people are lying to them or trying to manipulate them
* feeling they cannot really trust their friends and associates
* worrying that any confidential information shared with others will be used against them
* thinking there are hidden meanings in remarks most would regard as innocent
* worrying that their spouse or partner is unfaithful, despite a lack of evidence

**Schizoid personality disorder**

Someone with a schizoid personality disorder may appear cold and detached, and avoid making close social contact with others. Other features include:

* preferring to take part in activities that do not require interaction with others
* having little desire to form close relationships, including sexual relationships
* being uninterested when receiving criticism or praise
* having a limited ability to experience pleasure or joy

**Schizotypal personality disorder**

A person with a schizotypal personality disorder is likely to have poor social skills and delusional thoughts, and behave in unusual ways. Other features include:

* attaching undue and misguided significance to everyday events – such as thinking newspaper headlines are secret messages to them
* believing in special powers – such as telepathy or the ability to influence other people’s emotions and actions
* having unusual ways of speaking – such as long, rambling vague sentences or going off on a tangent
* experiencing excessive anxiety in social situations – even if they have known a particular person or group of people a long time