

Achieving Best Evidence



About Us

Drive Network is a specialist provider of quality short course training to the health, social care and education sectors.

We work in partnership with varied organisations including local authorities, the recruitment sector and private sector providers.

Our trainers come from a variety of backgrounds including health, adult social care, children's services and the law. All are senior level professionals registered and accredited in their respective fields.

What is ABE?

ABE is a national protocol for interviewing children and vulnerable adults as part of a criminal investigation.

The purpose of this five day training is to equip practitioners with the skills necessary to interview children and vulnerable adults in a format which will be acceptable in the criminal justice system. The course is supported by Powerpoint presentation, small group exercises and hard copy course materials, including Home Office guidance.

ABE requires the purpose of the interview to be made clear at the outset and for an individual assessment of the child or vulnerable adult to be made prior to the interview. This assessment then informs the structure of the interview and the techniques to be used.

ABE is based upon principles of a rigorous and consistent approach both to planning the interview and in the interview process itself.

Contact us for details of course venues, booking arrangements and current course fees.

By phone to Keith Revoir
(Course Co-ordinator)
020 8255 1217

E-mail:
info@drivenetwork.co.uk

Website:
www.drivenetwork.co.uk
(go to the 'ABE' page)

Potential students should be aware that ABE training is an assessed course.

On Day Two there is a written knowledge check on the skills learned. This is a pass or fail exercise, with an opportunity for students on the pass /fail borderline to re-take the exercise.

On Day Four each student will plan and undertake their own ABE interview, which will be videotaped. Again this is a pass or fail assessment, and a second recognised assessor joins the trainer on this day to assist with the evaluation of the material.

If there are students on the Pass /Fail borderline an opportunity will be given to undertake a second interview on Day Five.

Students assessed as competent will receive a certificate which confirms completion of the course and competence in conducting ABE interviews. In order to be certificated as competent, students will need to have attended all five days of the training and pass both assessments.



Helen Thomas

is a Detective Constable with twenty two years experience in the Police service, the last ten of which have been in a busy London child protection team. Helen has dealt on a daily basis with sensitive and often complex investigations where children or vulnerable adults are victims or witnesses.

Helen has many years of practical experience in interviewing both children and vulnerable adults and is a recognised assessor and trainer in ABE interviews. She also conducts multi-agency training with education and social work professionals, as part of her remit to ensure that children are helped to give the best evidence they can at Court.

COURSE PROGRAMME

Day One - The reason and purpose of the interview, and setting the ground rules

- Components of the individual assessment
- Preparing the interview and the environment
- Issues of consent
- Building rapport and dealing with blocks

Day Two – Key concepts in an ABE interview

- Truth and Lies
- The concept of memory
- Free narrative
- Topics and Episodes
- Closing the Interview

Days Three and Four – Theory into Practice

- ABE Interviewing practice in groups
- Formally assessed videotaped interview on Day Four

Day Five – ABE and the Criminal Justice System

- Rules for use and storage of interview material
- Role of the equipment operator
- Categorisation of witnesses
- Role of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

