

**COURSE TITLE:**

**ASSESSING POTENTIAL FOSTER CARERS (LEVEL TWO)  
SKILLS AND PRACTICE FOR THE 'F FORM' PROCESS**

**TRAINER :**

**Chris Anderson** is a registered social worker and Manager of over twenty five years standing. She has worked extensively with children and young people in residential and foster care, many of whom present complex and challenging behaviours.

Chris has chaired a Fostering Panel and is a practice assessor for a social work degree course. She provides a range of training and support on a regular basis to a number of fostering agencies and to local authorities.

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

This 'Level Two' course aims to provide social workers who have some experience of the 'F Form' process with a more comprehensive exploration and refining of the skills and practice of assessing potential foster carers

**DURATION OF COURSE :**

Whole day (9.30 - 4.30 with breaks)

**NUMBERS :**

Between 12 and 20 participants

## **TARGET AUDIENCE :**

This 'Level Two' course is aimed at social workers who have an understanding of the 'Form F' assessment process, ideally including having undertaken under supervision some of their own assessments

Having attended the 'Level One' Introductory day is not essential but will provide useful underpinning knowledge on which to build.

The two courses, combined with development of their own supervised practice, will create a pathway to practitioners eventually being able to offer oversight and supervision to social workers undertaking 'Form F' assessments.

## **TEACHING METHOD:**

The course is conceived in seminar format, to enable maximum interaction between trainer and the course participants. There is a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation.

There are group exercises to facilitate experiential learning, using suitably anonymised material from practice.

## **COURSE SYNOPSIS:**

- Undertaking the initial visit, preparing the potential foster carers for the assessment process and beginning the assessment.
- As the process unfolds, deciding what information needs to be recorded in the assessment document, and what can be safely discarded, and why this process is necessary.
- The process of recording information and critical analysis of what emerges. Conveying to the carers in a clear but supportive way why the assessment may for various reasons may not be able to proceed to a conclusion ('counselling out').

- Facilitating a relationship where self motivated learning is nurtured. As part of this, enabling the potential carers to reflect upon their narrative as it emerges.
- Exploring and understanding the social outlook, values and cultural perspective of the potential foster carers and incorporating these fully into the assessment
- Developing the confidence and skills to ask necessary 'awkward questions' and how supportively but persistently to explore the information forthcoming.
- The difficult balance of supporting potential foster carers throughout the process while remaining professionally objective at all times. Communicating the need for this balance to the potential carers.
- Preparing an assessment which is in all ways credible and which meets the standards of professional social work and the policies of the organisation. Quality, detail and evidence!
- Understanding the role of the agency Fostering Panel, attending and taking part in panel proceedings and supporting the foster carers in making their contribution to the panel process
- Linking the assessment to the required CWDC standards and BAAF competencies.
- Providing candidates with an overview of the business and organisational skills required to undertake assessments as an independent social worker.