

**Course Title: Promoting Contact and Strategies for Working with Birth Families**

**Trainers**

**Chris Anderson** is an independent trainer and registered social worker. She has worked extensively with children and young people who present complex and challenging behaviours.

Chris is currently working as a consultant, freelance trainer, and also chairs a fostering panel. She provides training and support for a number of fostering agencies, and local authorities.

**Peter Sadler** is a teacher, trainer and facilitator with more than thirty years experience in the field. He was instrumental in setting up one of the first Behaviour Support Services in the country outside London, and is committed to working in a research based and reflective way.

**Aims and Objectives:**

This course aims to promote good practice for social care workers and foster carers who are working with children who are 'looked after' away from their birth families, and where promoting some level of contact with their birth family is part of the care plan. The course aims to provide practical strategies to promote meaningful contact with birth families.

Participants will be introduced to some practical skills in undertaking direct work with families who have experienced separation.

There are opportunities throughout the day to reflect on working in partnership with families, extended families and the network of professionals who are inevitably involved.

**Duration of course:**

Whole day (9.30 - 4.30 with breaks)

**Numbers:**

Between 12 and 20 participants

**Target Audience:**

The course is designed for all professionals caring for children and young people, particularly residential care workers, foster carers, and education workers, in both the voluntary and statutory sectors

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## **Teaching Method:**

The course is conceived in seminar format, to enable maximum interaction between trainer and course participants. There is a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation, together with small group exercises to facilitate experiential learning.

## **Course Synopsis:**

- Supporting parents and children in planned interventions
- Culture, difference and discrimination
- Strategies for undertaking direct work with families
- What families and children want us to know
- 'The risks ....'
- The importance of endings
- Why did this intervention take place?
- What we bring to this work from our own background and experience