

COURSE TITLE : STRENGTHS BASED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

Trainer:

Lori Goossen is a registered social worker who qualified in 1994 with a BSW. She has practiced in Canada, the US, and the UK.

Lori has a PG Dip in Child Studies and is currently undertaking her MA in Advanced Social Work (Practice Education and Training). Her extensive practice has included safeguarding, adolescent sexual offending, child and adolescent mental health, and early intervention with families.

As an organisational development consultant Lori is experienced in coaching/mentoring new social workers and first time Managers and in leadership development.

Aim:

This course aims to provide social workers with the knowledge and skills required to work with clients from a strengths based perspective. This approach respects client strengths and experiences, can increase motivation and empowers clients, and improves partnership working between service user and social worker.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the day participants will –

- Have an understanding of the strengths perspective and how to implement in practice
- Reflect on the balance of power between service users and professionals and on personal and professional views of service users and impact on practice
- Be able to identify and assess clients' strengths and build on those strengths to improve outcomes
- Consider how strengths based practice can be undertaken with non-voluntary service users
- Have knowledge and skills to implement a strengths approach in practice.

Duration of Course:

One day (9:30am-4:30pm with breaks)

Numbers:

Between 12 and 20

Target audience:

Social workers

Teaching Method:

Teaching is delivered with supporting power point presentation, case examples, small group work, and group discussion.

Course Synopsis:

Social work, like many helping professions, has constructed much of its theory and practice on the premise that clients are clients because they have deficits, weaknesses, and problems.

Participants will –

- Explore and reflect on personal and professional biases in practice and the impact on the service clients receive
- Explore how working from a strengths perspective could improve outcomes for children and families by empowering clients and strengthening partnership working
- Learn to identify strengths in the assessment process
- Consider the relationship between the SWRB and Munro review recommendations for relationship based social work and the use of strengths based practice
- Explore the benefits and limitations of strength based practice particularly with regard to non-voluntary service users and/or safeguarding