

## **COURSE TITLE:**

### **Working Together in Child Protection (1) and (2)**

This course offers social workers the opportunity to develop a high level of knowledge and competence in their child protection and safeguarding practice. Over two separate days, participants will work through a series of complex case studies, update their theoretical base and examine the complex issues associated with child protection and safeguarding work. We look at the range of procedures and guidance that inform best practice, we look at contemporary research and most importantly support social workers to develop higher levels of competence.

## **TRAINERS:**

**Mary Jacob** is a registered social worker who has specialised in safeguarding and child protection since 1992. She is an independent trainer and consultant with a portfolio of experience that includes developing child protection practice and procedures both regionally and nationally, contributing to Phase Two of the Victoria Climbié Enquiry and acting as an Independent Safeguarding Advisor for a local voluntary organisation.

**OR**

**Tom Owens** is a registered social worker and a qualified trainer who has specialised in the field of child protection since 1991. He has written child protection procedures, training strategies and training packages for a number of local authorities. He has been presenting training events since 1995 and is currently the Training and Development Manager for a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in London.

## **AIM:**

- To develop knowledge, skills and the ability to work in partnership with other professionals on the processes for safeguarding children who are suffering, or at risk of suffering, significant harm.
- To provide an opportunity for colleagues from different agencies to learn together and explore professional dilemmas.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of **day one**, participants will be able to:

- Explain what their responsibilities are with regard to child protection matters;
- Accurately describe what is meant by the terms "thresholds" and "significant harm", and know how to apply these to their practice;
- Understand the continuum of need and where and how their interventions fit into this continuum;
- Understand how and to whom they are accountable for their safeguarding practice;
- Describe, and contribute to, child protection processes as outlined in *What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused* (HM Government, 2006a);
- Explain the relationship between the *Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families* (TSO, 2000) and child protection processes
- Demonstrate an understanding of how collaboration between agencies achieves intended outcomes for the child and family members;
- Explain in detail the how information will be shared across professional boundaries, within and between agencies, and be recorded, as outlined in *Information sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers* (DCSF, 2008);
- Apply the knowledge they have gained on this course to their daily practice.

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By the end of **day two**, participants will be able to:

- Understand the elements that can act as blocks agencies working together;
- Explain strategies to overcome potential blocks to working together;
- Explain their responsibilities in assisting other workers and agencies to fully engage with the working together processes;
- Explain the role they play in engaging others in decision making processes, particularly in relation the outcome of Initial Assessments and s47 enquires;
- Understand some of the dynamics of the decision making processes in mutli-agency meetings such as Strategy Meetings, Child Protection Conferences and Core Group Meetings;
- Explain their role in promoting the inclusion and engagement of families and professional in various child protection meetings;
- Understand the mechanisms for dealing with disagreements between professionals and agencies in terms of decisions and plans to protect children.

## **DURATION OF COURSE:**

Two days (9.30 - 4.30 with breaks)

## **NUMBERS:**

Between 12 and 20 participants.

## **TARGET AUDIENCE:**

This course is aimed at Social Workers currently working, or intending to work within Local Authority Children's Services Departments.

## **TEACHING METHOD:**

The course is delivered with supporting power point presentation. Participants will also undertake work in small groups focusing on complex scenarios and the application of theory to practice.

## **COURSE SYNOPSIS:**

- Review of the role of the social worker in all statutory child protection processes, focusing on responsibilities and duties.
- Reviewing up-to-date statutory guidance and relating this to assessment and planning for children.
- Examination the ways in which these responsibilities and duties should be fulfilled, so that participants understand how to apply complex concepts to their practice, including "significant harm", vulnerability and resilience.
- Explain the continuum of need, explore how the range of interventions that social workers undertake fit into this model and how this model can be applied in practice.
- Review the guidance on sharing information, enabling participants to fully understand their duties to both gather and share information.
- Understand in practical terms what the principle of "working together" means and why it is fundamental to good child protection practice.
- Provide the opportunity, via a number of experiential exercises to engage with the challenges and benefits of working with others, together with the dilemmas involved in making sound, joint decisions regarding the protection of children.