

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE LEGAL SKILLS AND SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

A range of courses designed to improve performance in the workplace, and instil competence and confidence to operate to best practice standards.



All elements of this course will be applied in my practice. I have found the training invaluable and it has helped me gain confidence, knowledge and skills in Safeguarding Children.

NICOLA COULTON

Social Worker
Stockton-On-Tees



Excellent! Very practical course, tailored specifically to our role. I will now be able to produce clear and relevant case recordings and well prepared court statements, and will be able to give confident and professional delivery in the witness box.

SARAH HAMILTON

Social Worker
Cumbria County Council

ABOUT BOND SOLON

We are a dedicated legal-skills training company for non-lawyers. We train thousands of Social Workers each year in both their legal and safeguarding duties. Our courses are designed to improve performance and confidence in the workplace and to instil best practice in legal knowledge, understanding and skills.

WHY UNDERTAKE OUR LEGAL SKILLS AND SAFEGUARDING TRAINING?

Social Workers are required to interpret and apply legislation, guidance and case law on a daily basis. Incorrect interpretation and/or application can cause anxiety and confusion among professionals. This can negatively affect the decision-making process and lead to drift and delay, poor outcomes and ultimately leaving a child at risk.

We're passionate about helping children and families by ensuring that the professionals working with them have the skills and knowledge to carry out their roles to best practice standards.

We provide a range of one and two-day courses that will instil social workers with knowledge, understanding and skills needed to carry out their roles lawfully, and to best practice, in order to ensure positive outcomes for the children they are tasked with safeguarding.

BOND SOLON'S TRAINING WILL:

- Equip your staff with the necessary skills, knowledge and procedures to carry out their roles to best practice standards
- Ensure your workforce can competently apply the law
- Instil confidence during all stages of safeguarding
- Help mitigate risk of practice falling short of required legal criteria
- Increase confidence in legal proceedings
- Improve outcomes for children at risk



Excellent trainer who made the subject interesting and interactive. They were extremely knowledgeable on not only the legal side but also from a social work aspect.

LAURA REID

Social Worker
South Eastern Trust (NI)



The training was very engaging and set at a good pace. Variety of resources, presentation, anecdotes were all relevant and amusing. First-hand experience was used to provide relevant examples.

ANNA BLACKMORE- DAWES

Social Worker
Swindon Borough Council

BOND SOLON TRAINERS

Our trainers are all experienced lawyers. They are all subject-matter experts in the areas in which they train, and have a wealth of experience representing local authorities, the family and the children.

Importantly, our trainers are also trained trainers. This enables them to impart knowledge and skills clearly and effectively, while also having the ability to engage, support and give guidance to attending delegates.

UNIQUE APPROACH TO DESIGN AND DELIVERY

Although all social workers, and the authorities they represent, must understand and apply the exact same legislation and guidance, we know that not all of our clients face the same challenges.

Therefore, we understand the importance of working together with our clients to deliver training that meets their exact needs.

We will provide your workforce with the most up-to-date, relevant, useful and effective courses possible by working closely in partnership with you. Courses are delivered in-house and tailored to ensure the training incorporates your organisation's policies, procedures, responsibilities, key legislation and relationships with other agencies/organisations.

We pride ourselves on delivering training that will equip delegates with the core skills necessary to carry out their roles to best practice standards. Therefore our courses are interactive throughout, and the delegates will receive feedback and support from their peers and trainers. Case studies are based on real, practical examples with the learning focusing on delegate participation. Each course utilises a range of training approaches, including: pre-course reading, case studies, plenary sessions, exercises and role play.

All of our courses are accompanied with comprehensive training manuals, designed to be used throughout the career of a social worker after the training.

WHO SHOULD UNDERTAKE THE TRAINING?

These training courses have been designed to instil best practice in the daily role of social workers working with Children and Families. The courses are tailored to meet the needs and experience of those attending. To ensure better outcomes for children we recommend that all those involved in safeguarding children attend our courses; including social workers, team managers, Independent Reviewing Officers, Child Protection Chairs and in-house lawyers.

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Extremely knowledgeable trainer with a strong (working) understanding of current social work practice and what we need to know to equip us with the skills to present ourselves well. I now know how to use SWET and other templates, and to stick to facts/description and how to prepare written evidence.

WENDY HARRISON

Social Worker
Cheshire East Council



The training was excellent. I will be able to apply all I have learnt including Front loading, ensuring the voice of the child is captured from day 1, chronology being added to as I go.... the course was very interesting and covered all the court information required to do a good job in court!

MAXINE DENNIS

Social Worker
Worcestershire County Council

Legal Skills for NQSWs (2 days)

Social workers must have a strong awareness and knowledge of the relevant law, evidence and procedures in order to achieve adequate safeguards and best protect vulnerable children. They must also understand how to write court-compliant statements and reports to best put forward their recommendations.

This two day course has been designed for social workers in their first three years in practice.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Delegates will consider an overview of current relevant legislation and case law and will gain the skills necessary to practically apply these to their daily practice and any applications to court.

They will explore the different types of evidence available to them and the weight of that evidence. They will consider relevant standard of proof and how to collect and present evidence to best practice. They will gain an understanding of the importance of gathering information fairly and productively and they will consider how this can impact on the success of court applications and proceedings.

The training provides delegates with the skills to note-take and record to best practice and how to transfer notes into court-compliant statements. Delegates will learn how the information they present builds the necessary evidence base that decisions are then made upon.

Delegates will learn how to write and structure statements and reports so that they are court compliant, ensuring they produce succinct, focused and analytical documents, insulated from cross-examination. Delegates will explore also how lawyers will attempt to undermine and discredit social workers during proceedings.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Have an overview of the relevant law, legislation and guidance with reference to the relevant law & guidance would include the Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004, the Children & Social Work Act 2017 & Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.
- Understand front loading, pre proceedings and how to meet the 26 week deadline within proceedings
- Recognise different types of evidence, including oral, documentary, hearsay, circumstantial and real, and know how they will assist in meeting the Threshold Criteria
- Collect reliable, current, factual evidence
- Distinguish between facts, inference and opinion
- Create, maintain and enhance best practice in record keeping and note-taking
- Consider and respond appropriately to any Human Rights challenges
- Know what constitutes the appropriate sharing of information

Safeguarding Children - the Social Worker's Responsibilities (2 days)

Social workers operate within a legal framework and government policy, to ensure they provide adequate safeguards for children.

Far too often, these safeguards are not followed correctly, and social workers fail to see the entire journey for the child; from Early Help to eventual court proceedings. This creates drift and delay for many of the most vulnerable children in the authority's care.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Over this highly interactive course, delegates will explore the definition 'Safeguarding Children' and will identify and work through the 9 stage process involved in Safeguarding Children, including exploration and identification of the appropriate services, resources and assessments at each stage from 'Early Help' provisions through to the 'Final Care Plan'.

Delegates will also learn when to apply to court to obtain appropriate orders to safeguard children (emergency applications and long term statutory interventions).

The course is underpinned with a child-centred approach allowing social workers to identify the impact on the child, ensuring the voice and the needs of the child is heard, and encouraging social workers to place the child at the heart of the decision making process.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Identify the roles and responsibilities of those involved at each stage including their own, of their involvement with a child from 'Early Help' through to 'Court Proceedings'
- Explain the intention behind each stage in the process, to either enhance the child's welfare or provide adequate safeguarding for the child
- Identify the appropriate responses by Children's Social Care when concerns are raised about a child, including triggering a S.47 Investigation
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of all individuals and agencies involved in safeguarding children including safeguard partners and relevant agencies
- Know what and when is the appropriate time to share information
- Have a good working knowledge of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Being able to identify risk at the correct time
- Being able to complete risk assessments to best practice standards
- Know what constitutes best evidence at each stage of the process



An extremely well-presented course. The trainer facilitated an interesting and engaging day, relating to a subject matter that can be difficult (child safeguarding).

PAULINE MULLINS

Social Worker
London Borough
of Harrow



The trainer was knowledgeable, approachable and was able to bring some difficult subjects to life and make them interesting to learn.

I now have a greater understanding of the proceedings, process, court orders using best practice to compile evidence and produce effective documents to meet the requirements of the court.

GEMMA COHEN

Social Worker
Stockton-On-Tees

Legal Skills for Experienced Social Workers (4 days)

This programme has been designed to provide social workers with the knowledge and skills to best provide adequate and appropriate safeguards to children. The course will enable them to carry out professional and timely investigations, write court-compliant reports and present evidence effectively and confidently in court.

The course is usually delivered in two blocks of two days, usually two weeks apart.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course covers all stages of the investigative process, with reference to the appropriate law and will highlight that the way in which evidence is collected and recorded affects its admissibility, credibility and weight.

Delegates will learn how the Child Protection Chairs, the Court, and lawyers consider evidence and assess the risks to children. They will learn how to gather evidence, facts and information correctly, and to the relevant standard of proof, which can then be placed before the Court.

Delegates will learn which Applications and Orders are available to them to safeguard children, and when they should be sought. They will also consider best practice guidelines in completing assessments, court reports and Care Plans to best practice standards.

They will then learn how to produce court-complaint, clear, concise and well-structured statements and reports to help better assist the court or tribunal making the decision. Delegates will learn how to insulate their reports from attack under cross-examination and to promote what is in the child's best interests.

In the final part of the course delegates go through a process of familiarisation of the procedures involved in giving evidence, demystifying the process and instilling confidence. Techniques used to discredit and disconcert witnesses will be examined and explained.

We will then set up a mock courtroom, in which delegates will experience being cross-examined and will receive feedback on their performance that will both reinforce good presentation and also be constructive on areas for improvement.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Explain and apply relevant legislation with reference to Children Act 1989, Human Rights Act 1998, Children Act 2004, Children and Social Work Act 2017, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, Data Protection Act and GDPR
- Distinguish the most appropriate Applications and Orders to apply for, and make those applications at the correct time
- Distinguish between facts, inferences and opinions
- Analyse and evaluate evidence through all stages of child protection
- Collect information more effectively by knowing how it is included in written evidence
- Develop an objective and critical eye in relation to written information
- Properly prepare to give clear, honest and objective evidence
- Use their written documents to support themselves when giving evidence in court
- Better assist the court by being able to respond appropriately to the techniques lawyers use in cross-examination



Without doubt the most relevant training I have done since qualifying. Interesting and engaging from start to finish, which has given me a greater awareness of how to balance/challenge, thresholds and given me an understanding of the potential implications of drift and delay. I have a better awareness of the PLO process and the need to front-load.

VICTORIA SATTLER

Social Worker
Stockport Council



This four-day block of training has been excellent and extremely beneficial for practice. I believe the course should be mandatory for all childcare social workers. The trainer was excellent, knowledgeable, clear and approachable.

LAURA EDWARDS

Social Worker
Carmarthenshire
County Council

Safeguarding Children - Law, Evidence and Procedure (2 days)

This course is designed to ensure social workers are able to carry out professional and timely child care investigations in order to achieve adequate and appropriate safeguards.

This course is aimed at social workers with over two years of post-qualifying experience.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course covers all stages of the investigative process, with reference to the appropriate law and will illustrate that the way in which evidence is collected and recorded affects the admissibility, credibility and weight.

Delegates will learn how the Child Protection Chairs, the Court and lawyers consider evidence and assess the risks to children, and they will learn how to gather evidence, facts and information correctly and to the relevant standard of proof which can then be placed before the Court.

The training will demonstrate the different types of facts and information available to social workers, and the course will allow them to identify and apply the relevant law and statutory guidance correctly and to operate within the legal framework to best practice standards.

Delegates will learn which Applications and Orders are available to them to safeguard children, and when they should be sought. They will also look at best practice guidelines in completing assessments, court reports, Care Plan to best practice standards.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Explain and apply relevant legislation with reference to Children Act 1989, Human Rights Act 1998, Children Act 2004, Children and Social Work Act 2017, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, Data Protection Act and GDPR
- Meet the strict and deadlines for care proceedings more readily by being able to distinguish the most appropriate Applications and Orders to apply for, and make those applications at the right time
- Recognise different types of evidence, including oral, documentary, hearsay, circumstantial and real
- Identify what constitutes appropriate information sharing
- Distinguish between facts, inferences and opinions
- Note-take and record important factual information to best practice standards
- Analyse and evaluate evidence through all stages of child protection
- Anticipate how a Court will consider the evidence and options presented when they assess risks to a child



Excellent course. I am now much more aware of the legal process, evidence and Human Rights legislation re children's and parents' rights. The trainer was interesting and made the law relevant to my role as a social worker.

ROSALINE MARK

Social Worker
Oxfordshire County Council



I could not recommend this course enough. It is challenging but offers many rewards in practice. I will be able to support others to look objectively at the evidence placed before the court. Personally, this has helped me to reflect on my recent experiences and understand in more depth the challenge of being a judge.

JON MITCHELL

Social Worker
Devon County Council

Section 47 Investigation (1 day)

When the local authority has been informed a child may be at risk of significant harm, it is essential that those who then carry out the subsequent investigation are equipped with the appropriate skills and legal knowledge to do so to best practice standards.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The course will ensure that social workers understand the threshold criteria relevant to Section 47, and are able to correctly identify the current risks presenting to the child.

Delegates will learn the importance that the child is the main focus of the investigation. This will include ascertaining their wishes, feelings and views alongside the family's views. The course will provide guidance on how stages should be achieved if the child requires to be interviewed, medically examined and/or psychologically assessed. Delegates will also look at the reliability, credibility and weight of all of the information obtained during each stage of an investigation and explore the relevant law around the sharing of information. They will also look at how to record the outcome of S.47 to best practice.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Identify the social worker's roles and responsibilities whilst undertaking a S.47 enquiries
- Recognise different types of evidence and how to collect it so that it is reliable and credible
- Understand and apply the relevant law around the sharing of information
- How best to present such evidence to establish the 'threshold criteria'
- Present the child's and family's wishes, views, feelings
- Distinguish between facts, inferences and opinions
- Identify how this 'harm' has impacted on the child

The Threshold Criteria (1 day)

Often social workers are uncertain as to what 'threshold criteria' means when being used in discussion with managers, lawyers, Child Protection Chairs, other professionals, agencies and judges with reference to child protection and/or care proceedings.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The course will enable the social worker to identify and set out their proposed threshold statement when approaching an LPM, a CPCC/Signs of Safety Meeting or in their application and statement to the court for a care or supervision order.

To establish the threshold criteria social workers must apply the civil standard of proof; the balance of probabilities.

The course will enable delegates to identify all the different types of evidence including their own direct evidence alongside the evidence they intend to rely upon from other professionals (such as teachers, police, adult services or doctors) whose evidence may be required to lead or assist meeting the threshold criteria.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Identify all the different 'types' of harm and their respective definitions
- Identify what constitutes 'significant harm'
- Identify relevant types/sources of evidence required to establish each type of 'harm'
- Understand the law and guidance surrounding the sharing of information
- Draft a succinct factual threshold statement
- Precisely identify the nature of harm that the child has suffered



I now have a better understanding of the S.47 process and the law behind it and challenges faced by professionals.

The course was very informative and well facilitated.

SARAH BENNETT

Social Worker
Plymouth City Council



Intense, yet interesting course. It's nice to hear real life situations and having lawyers lead the course.

ROSHNI RAO

Social Worker
Surrey County Council



Very knowledgeable and experienced trainer who was excellent at explaining how the system works and what is expected from social workers. I will be able to improve my SWETs, records, report and document writing and balance sheets.

LUCY ALGIERI

Social Worker
Anglesey Council

Best Practice in Record Keeping (1 day)

Records produced by social workers may be the essential evidence to assist the court in making a decision regarding a child. The majority of legal proceedings rely on the notes and records Social Care Workers take. It is therefore essential that they are collected, managed and secured to best practice standards to help them withstand scrutiny.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This highly practical one-day course follows the 'journey' of a record; from the initial creation, the management, and storage of records to best practice. The course highlights the importance of records during legal proceedings and how easily they can be attacked or discredited.

Details of what to include in notes concerning evaluation, assessment, information obtained, intervention, planning and decision making will be considered. The accountability of the Social Care Workers and the different ways in which records are scrutinised will also be analysed and explained. Delegates will gain the ability to gather, secure and present records to best practice.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Recognise the importance of records in providing better outcomes for the child
- Distinguish between facts, inference and opinion
- Record clear and concise facts from observation, questioning and documentation
- Be able to use records as a primary source of information
- Identify how a professional is held accountable for their records

Excellence in Statement/Report Writing (1 day)

Often when written evidence is not clear and/or is poorly structured, information is easily lost or misleading. This creates delay and doubt which can leave the social worker and the Local Authority open to attack and challenge during legal proceedings.

It is essential that the assessments and/or reports provided by social workers are undertaken in a timely manner to allow appropriate front-loading for public law proceedings.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course has been designed to enable social workers to produce court-compliant, clear, concise and well-structured statements and reports to help better assist the court or tribunal making the decision. The course is designed to insulate the author from attack under cross-examination and to promote what is in the child's best interests.

Delegates will consider style, format and content of statements and reports by looking at the source and weight of information to be included. They will learn how to distinguish between fact, inference and opinion. Delegates will also look at how to competently and effectively complete the SWET templates.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Collect information more effectively by knowing how it is included in written evidence
- Be able to use records as their primary sources of information
- Use appropriate layout, format and style
- Identify the issues, facts and options
- Develop an objective and critical eye in relation to written information
- Use their written documents to support themselves when giving evidence in court



I will use the structure and tips given throughout the course to guide future statement and report writing.

ASTEN WESTWOOD

Social Worker
South Tyneside

Court Skills for Social Workers (1 day)

Attending court can be one of the most daunting and stressful parts of a social worker role. Doubt may be cast on their statement, assessment report, notes, records, method of investigation, qualifications and general credibility as a witness.

It is therefore essential that social workers are equipped with the skills to give a confident and reliable account from the witness box.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The day is divided into two halves. The morning session is designed to demystify the process of giving evidence. They will consider the techniques used by lawyers to discredit social workers, and importantly how to respond appropriately to the decision maker when these techniques are employed and to remain in control so they can more readily assist the court.

In the afternoon, we set up a mock courtroom in which delegates get to apply the techniques they have learnt in the morning and experience cross-examination. Delegates receive feedback on their performance that will reinforce good practice and also be constructive on areas for improvement.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Recognise how the adversarial system works
- Properly prepare to give oral evidence
- Make appropriate use of supporting evidence, documents and records while under cross-examination
- Distinguish between opinion evidence as the court appointed 'expert-witness' as against providing evidence as a professional social worker
- Give confident and clear testimony to the court despite the rigours of cross-examination

SEND First-Tier Tribunal (1 day)

Attending a Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Tribunal can be a daunting experience. Challenges can come directly from the Panel, the family, their lawyers and/or Experts instructed on behalf of the child/family.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The course familiarises delegates with the relevant legal framework for the appeals process for the First Tier Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal following the appeal lodged by the child/family against the local authority's SEND decision.

This practical training course is designed to ensure that social workers and education professionals are familiar with the procedures involved when giving evidence before a SEND First Tier Tribunal. The course will equip delegates with the necessary skills to enable them to confidently present clear, objective and reliable evidence.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Understand the relevant law surrounding the tribunal system
- Understand the procedures, order of events and roles of those in the adversarial system
- Be able to handle the techniques lawyers used in cross-examination
- How to prepare to give clear, honest and objective evidence
- How to make appropriate use of supporting evidence, documents and notes when giving evidence
- How to give confident and clear testimony under cross-examination



Absolutely Brilliant!
I found this course extremely helpful for preparing for giving evidence in court. I found the cross-examination role-play extremely valuable and I now have a better consideration to the planning, preparing and presenting court statements.

CARMEN OWEN

Social Worker
Buckinghamshire
County Council



If I ever get called to tribunal I feel I will be more able to anticipate and field questions and to prepare less fearfully. The trainer was excellent, and she managed to take us out of our comfort zone and to participate in a fairly uncompromising role-play without fear.

DENISE NOBLE

Specialist Teacher
Cheshire West and
Chester Council

Continuing Care for Children and Young People (1 day)

Professionals working with children and young people are often involved in screening and/or assessing a child's needs to identify if they might be eligible for Continuing Care, using the National Framework 'Decision Support Toolkit'.

The Framework was introduced to provide guidance when assessing the needs of children and young people with complex health needs. The Framework outlines the process that should be followed by all of those involved in securing the best healthcare package for a child.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Often social workers struggle to correctly evidence or challenge their health colleagues regarding Continuing Care. This highly interactive and intensive one-day course will enable delegates to explore the relevant law, evidence and procedure surrounding the decision toolkit and apply it to a case study to enable them to gain confidence in its usage/ scoring the domains.

The training will identify the roles and responsibilities of the different agencies and organisations involved in the multi-agency decision making and identify who may then hold primary responsibility for the continuing provision of any healthcare package.

The training will enable delegates to increase their awareness as to the important differences between Continuing Care for children and young people and NHS Continuing Healthcare for adults and the impact these differences may have upon a child with complex healthcare needs as they transition into adulthood.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Apply their knowledge of the law, evidence and procedure necessarily to carry out their professional assessments/ referrals effectively
- Identify the entire assessment and review process to assist them in feeling more confident in their continuing care decision making
- Use the 'decision support toolkit' correctly to enable them to score the domains appropriately when contributing to a holistic assessment of a child's needs to determine the best continuing care package
- Recognise the importance of collecting and assessing 'best' first hand evidence for the assessment and review process
- Challenge CCG's more readily having acquired a greater appreciation of a local authority's duties versus the CCG's duties to provide healthcare to a child or young person with complex needs following the Haringey decision



The course has given me new knowledge to inform case discussions at panel. I will now be able to provide challenge to decisions and develop/improve panel process. The course was well-paced and well delivered, tailored to the need of the group. Informative and knowledgeable, clear about how things can be applied in practice. Thank you I have learnt a lot!

ANNE LOBLEY

Commissioning
Officer (Social Care)
Nottinghamshire
County Council



Excellent day! I will be able to be able to challenge and debate stronger with regards to joint/tri party funded packages with regards to children.

LOUSE ALLEN

Head of Service (SEND)
Hartlepool Borough
Council



This course was very informative and relevant to my practice. I now have a greater understanding of the Legal Framework, which will inform my practice and a greater knowledge of the process to under 16s, 16-17 young people and also over 18s.

CHARLOTTE AVSTIN

Social Worker
Hartlepool Borough
Council



The trainer was extremely well prepared and knowledgeable and brought the subject to 'life' by relating to practice.

GERALD JAMES WATSON

Social Worker
Swindon Borough
Council

Deprivation of Liberty for Children and Young People (1 day)

This one day course will explore deprivation of liberty in the Court of Protection for young people from the age of 16 (largely those with serious learning disabilities) in any placement where their care amounts to a deprivation of liberty and they lack capacity to consent, and for children in the transition between The Children Act 1989 and The Mental Capacity Act 2005 who may be subject to a care order.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Acquire a detailed knowledge of legal framework for children and young people and deprivation of liberty
- Improve understanding of the interface between the Children Act 1989 and the Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Understand the new liberty protection safeguards that will apply to 16 and 17 years old
- Analyse relevant European and domestic case law

CSE and Online Abuse and Grooming (1 day)

CSE is often referred to as a 'hidden crime'. Children are scared to report it, and often they are unaware it is a happening to them. The consequences are far reaching and can involve violent sexual assaults, rape and blackmail.

CSE does not always involve physical contact and can happen online, where most children live in part, and the consequences can be life changing.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will increase awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation and Online Grooming as a form of 'sexual abuse', and enable social workers to identify vulnerable children and risk factors surrounding them.

The course will enable social workers to safeguard children in a more timely way and gain a better understanding of the legal routes available to them to offer safeguards and secure criminal convictions. They will be able to identify the signs and indicators, providing immediate support to the young person and undertake an appropriate risk assessment and take steps to adequately safeguard.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Identify the relevant legal framework surrounding CSE and online abuse
- Trigger the referral pathway more readily
- Define CSE and grooming and identify harmful content online
- Identify vulnerabilities/risk factors /warning signs including 'The grooming game'
- Distinguish between Consent versus Coercion



I thoroughly enjoyed this training and found it exceptionally useful. I feel much more confident about legal proceedings.

SARAH RAINFORD

Social Worker
Lancashire County Council

Domestic Abuse (1 day)

Domestic abuse can take many forms, not just physical, but also emotional, sexual, financial and/or psychological. The impact of domestic abuse on children can be wide ranging and is a challenging aspect of social work.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designed to assist social workers with the knowledge and skills to identify domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity, and to be able to provide appropriate support, guidance and advice to those who will need to seek protection through criminal, civil or family courts.

Delegates will learn the differences between the legal frameworks, evidential tests and court procedure between the criminal and family courts. The course will identify which applications, remedies and orders can be sought from each court and what they provide by way of safeguarding to the victims of domestic abuse.

Delegates will also look at how to competently and effectively complete the SWET templates.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Identify the relevant legal framework terminology and procedure and remedies in relation to domestic abuse
- Understand the legal definitions of assault, molestation, harassment and stalking
- Distinguish between the evidential tests that have to be met within the criminal and family courts
- Identify what constitutes best evidence to enable a court to make 'findings of fact'
- Identify 'risk' to adults and children at the earliest opportunity

Adoption Law (1 day)

Adoption will have a significant impact on a child. Adoption law is extremely complex, and many social workers struggle to correctly interpret and apply.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The course has been designed to ensure social workers have a full and working knowledge of the relevant legal framework relating to all routes of adoption including placement orders, Coram, and private applications.

Delegates will learn the skills to complete a balance sheet to best practice, (following Re B-S) where adoption is the correct and appropriate option for the child.

Delegates will consider their responsibilities to trace parents and family to assess viability before advancing an application for adoption. They will examine the benefits to the child and birth family of Adoption versus Special Guardianship.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Provide advice, guidance and assistance to potential adoptive applicants on how they could proceed with an adoption application and when permission is required from the Court
- Write professional Adoption Agency Rule 14 reports, while being alert to the rules of confidentiality, redaction and anonymisation, and parental responsibility
- Draft with confidence the Adoption and Children Act 2002 welfare checklist
- Understand the legal framework for leave to oppose an adoption order and the current test in the appeals process



Really informative training. Definitely important in my practice and I have learnt a lot and will use this in practice.

KATY DENNISON

Social Care Worker
Bolton Council

Chairing Skills Safeguarding Children's Meetings (2 days)

Professionals are often required to chair and co-ordinate safeguarding meetings. It is therefore essential they understand this role to enable them to convene and chair successfully, and to maintain a level of confidence and competence in order to achieve positive outcomes for the client.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This two day course will assist delegates in understanding what is required when convening and chairing safeguarding strategy meetings and case conferences. The course equips those individuals to do so with a full understanding of the relevant legislation, policies, procedures and guidance in supporting the process to ensure positive outcomes. Delegates will learn to use best practice in undertaking risk assessments and devising appropriate protection plans while using a client focused approach.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Manage and co-ordinate the multi-agency response in terms of the investigation/risk assessment, protection planning and outcomes
- Identify implications for other individuals, agencies and organisations
- Understand relevant law and guidance regarding information sharing protocols
- Formulate and confirm decisions and recommendations

How to respond to a Serious Case Review/ Notifiable Incident Report or OFSTED report (1 day)

Inadequacies in social worker practices are often identified by external agencies as a key factor that contributed to the harm, death or injury of a child.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The course will arm social workers with the skills required to respond appropriately to adverse findings, criticisms and/or recommendations made by other agencies and/or tribunals. This training will enable practitioners at all levels with children's social care to examine, analyse and digest the concerns/criticisms contained within the report or review to gain a more in-depth appreciation of the concerns expressed to increase awareness and the appropriate steps required to improve and achieve best practice.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Identify and respond appropriately to adverse findings and/or recommendations
- Identify the main areas for learning and improvement
- How to respond appropriately to a "rapid review"
- Learn to devise strategies and plans to meet and/or improve upon the findings and/or implement the recommendations within a timely manner
- Be more confident and competent when inspections and/or reviews are taking place and will be more ready to respond appropriately to that investigation



Excellent training and thought provoking. Challenged my current practice, which I will now be reviewing following the course.

ELERI ELLIS EVANS

Social Worker
Gwyedd Council



Really useful training, delivered in a thorough and professional manner.

GARY LAW

Social Worker
Bury Metropolitan
Borough Council

A SELECTION OF OUR CLIENTS...

We have a very strong reputation in providing legal skills training for social workers in both Children's and Adult's Services.

Over the past 10 years we have provided a variety of training programmes for a large number of Social Services departments across the UK, and we are delighted to have delivered training for the following:

SOCIAL CARE DEPARTMENTS

Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Belfast, Bexley, Blaenau Gwent, Bolton, Borough of Poole, Brent, Bridgend, Bromley, Buckinghamshire, Bury, Caerphilly, Camden, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Conway, Cornwall, Cumbria, Darlington, Denbighshire, Devon, Doncaster, Durham, Ealing, Enfield, Essex, Flintshire, Gateshead, Gloucestershire, Greenwich, Gwynedd, Hackney, Halton, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Hartlepool, Havering, Herefordshire, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Isle of Anglesey, Isle of White, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Knowsley, Lancashire, Lewisham, Lincolnshire, Medway, Merthyr Tydfil, Merton, Middlesbrough, Neath Port Talbot, Newham, Newport, North East Lincolnshire, Northern Health and Social Services Trust (NI), North Lincolnshire, Northumberland, Nottingham, Oxfordshire, Pembrokeshire, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Powys, Redbridge, Redcar and Cleveland, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Richmond, Rotherham, Sheffield, Somerset, South Tyneside, Southern Health and Social Services Trust (NI), Southwark, Stockport, Stockton-on-Tees, Stoke-on-Trent, Suffolk, Surrey, Sutton, Swindon, Tameside, Thurrock, Torfaen, Tower Hamlets, Vale of Glamorgan, Wakefield, Waltham Forest, Warrington, Warwickshire, Western Health and Social Services Trust (NI), Westminster, Wigan, Wolverhampton, Worcestershire, and Wrexham.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT / REGULATORY BODIES

Care Council for Wales, Care Quality Commission, Care & Social Services Inspectorate Wales, Council for Healthcare Regulation, Department of Health, Health and Care Professions Council, Health and Parliamentary Ombudsman, Independent Safeguarding Authority, Information Commissioner's Office, NHS England, Northern Ireland Social Care Council, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, Northern Ireland Ombudsman's Office, Ofsted, Office of the Parliamentary & Health Service Ombudsman, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, Scottish Information Commissioner, Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, Scottish Social Care Council, and Welsh Ombudsman.

EXPERIENCE OF WORKING WITH THE NHS

We are the UK's leading medico-legal training consultancy. We are the market leaders in providing award-winning, innovative courses that are highly experiential and participative. Our high-quality programmes are consistently rated as essential and mandatory training by attending delegates.

We have provided legal training to over 300 NHS trusts.

EXPERIENCE OF WORKING WITH THE POLICE FORCE

We have worked with every Police Force in the UK, providing written evidence, court and associated legal training for a variety of departments and levels of personnel within each Force.

LAW FIRMS

Addleshaw Goddard, Allen & Overy, Baker & McKenzie, Berwin Leighton Paisner, Bird & Bird, Clifford Chance, Clyde & Co, CMS Cameron McKenna, Dechert, Dentons, DLA Piper, Eversheds, Freshfields, Bruckhaus Deringer, Herbert Smith Freehills, Hill Dickinson, Hogan Lovells, Holman Fenwick Willan, Ince & Co, Kingsley Napley, Lewis Silkin, Linklaters, Mayer Brown, Mills & Reeve, Mishcon de Reya, Nabarro, Norton Rose Fulbright, Olswang, Payne Hicks Beach, Pinsent Masons, Reed Smith, Reynold Porter, Chamberlain, Rosenblatt, Simmons & Simmons, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom, Slaughter & May, Stephenson Harwood, Weil Gotshal & Manges, WilmerHale, Withers.



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