

**Families in Care**

Registered Charity (No. 1007596) Since 1992

**Different Perspectives Training**

**Mothers and the Child Protection Process**

**This training was prepared by birth mothers who were directly involved in the Child Protection process; they share their experience of working with social workers, the Child Protection process and Care Proceedings.**

Through their narrative we learn about the impact of the Child Protection process, in particular we learn about their feelings of separation and loss not only in relation to their child, but also in respect of their own parents, their partners and friends.

The women have been professionally supported to develop their training material, which links real practice examples and life stories with social work theories and relevant research. The women provide personal examples of good and bad social work practice and the effect of this on their lives; they talk about the benefits of long term support.

The sessions are delivered by a qualified social worker and birth mothers.

**Teaching methods:** presentation, reflective activities in large and small groups, discussion, reading. Participants will receive hand outs and a reading list.

**Two-way feedback:** following the session participants are asked to give us written feedback. We critically analyse and respond to the feedback, which gives the trainees an opportunity to critically reflect on their own values and assumptions. This can be then discussed in seminars / small groups / supervision – managed by the University / agency in partnership with Families in Care

Image: www.flip-pal.com/tag/flip-pal

**Further information and booking:**

**Alicja Jaworska**

**Telephone: 0191 2524400 or 07897903950**

**E-mail:** [**familiesincare@gmail.com**](mailto:familiesincare@gmail.com)

**Session 1:**

**Different Perspectives – Mothers and the Child Protection Process.**

**Introduction.**

**! Different Perspectives – Introduction should be completed before undertaking other Different Perspectives sessions.**

**Duration**: Full day and half day available

Half day: 2.5 hours presentation

Full day: 2.5 hours presentation followed by 2.5 hours workshop

\*can be tailored to your particular needs / timetable – ask for details

**Content**:

* Introduction into mothers’ experiences of the Child Protection Process and of their contacts with social work practitioners
* Mothers’ experience of loss and grief and ways of dealing with them.
* Theory of ambiguous loss (introduction)
* Parents’ experience of the Child Protection Process (research - introduction)

**Learning Outcomes:**

* Increased understanding of the Child Protection Process from birth parents’ perspective
* Increased awareness of the impact on the process on those parents and their families, as seen by the mothers
* Increased understanding of participants’ own values and attitudes in relation to parents involved in the Child Protection Process
* Increased awareness of issues of loss and grief in the context of adoption and fostering
* Increased ability to recognise and critically reflect on ethical conflicts and dilemmas in the context of the Child Protection Process and social work practice
* Improved awareness of skills necessary to engage effectively with service users, with the focus on communication skills and ability to use them in practice

**Session 2:**

**Different Perspectives – Mothers and the Child Protection Process.**

**Adoption and Fostering.**

**Duration**: Full day and half day available

Half day: 2.5 hours presentation

Full day: 2.5 hours presentation followed by 2.5 hours workshop

\*can be tailored to your particular needs / timetable – ask for details

**Content**:

* Mothers’ experience of Care Proceedings
* Adoption and fostering from mothers’ perspective
* Mothers’ experience of loss and grief and ways of dealing with them.
* Theory of ambiguous loss
* Therapeutic ways of working with birth mothers separated from their children
* Mothers’ experience of Care Proceedings and adoption (research)

**Learning Outcomes:**

* Increased understanding of adoption and fostering from birth mothers’ perspective
* Increased awareness of the impact of Care Proceedings on those mothers and their families, as seen by the women
* Increased understanding of participants’ own values and attitudes in relation to mothers involved in Care Proceedings
* Increased awareness of issues of loss and grief in the context of adoption and fostering
* Increased ability to recognise and critically reflect on ethical conflicts and dilemmas in the context of Care Proceedings and social work practice
* Improved awareness of skills necessary to engage effectively with service users, with the focus on communication and therapeutic skills and ability to use them in practice

**Session 3:**

**Different Perspectives – Mothers and the Child Protection Process.**

**Effective engagement and communication skills.**

**Duration**: Full day and half day available

Half day: 2.5 hours presentation

Full day: 2.5 hours presentation followed by 2.5 hours workshop

\*can be tailored to your particular needs / timetable – ask for details

**Content**:

* Mothers’ experiences of contacts with social work practitioners in the context of the Child Protection Process
* Examples of good and bad social work practice, as seen by the mothers
* How to engage effectively with those mothers, from their perspective
* Recognising ethical conflicts and dilemmas in the context of the Child Protection Process and responding to them
* Basic communication skills in the context of the Child Protection Process and social work practice – mothers’ perspective

**Learning Outcomes:**

* Increased understanding of the Child Protection Process from birth parents’ perspective
* Increased understanding of the ethical principles of social work profession
* Increased ability to recognise, critically reflect on and respond to ethical conflicts and dilemmas in the context of the Child Protection Process and social work practice
* Improved awareness of skills necessary to engage effectively with service users, with the focus on communication skills and ability to use them in practice

**Relevance to Professional Capability Framework**

**Different Perspectives Training** will help participants to develop their knowledge, skills and values as described in the domains of Professional Capability Framework. The training can be tailored to the needs of the trainees, depending on their level in relation to PCF.

The training will support the participants to develop their:

1. Professionalism – in particular:

* awareness of the importance of personal and professional boundaries
* recognising the impact of self in interaction with others and making appropriate use of personal experience

1. Values and Ethics – in particular:

* understanding the profession’s ethical principles and their relevance to practice
* awareness of own personal values and how these can impact on practice
* recognising and reflecting on conflicting or competing values and ethical dilemmas
* awareness of the principles of partnership working with service users

1. Diversity – in particular:

* recognising the importance of the application of anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive principles in social work practice
* recognising the impact on people of the power invested in social worker’s role

1. Rights Justice and Economic Wellbeing – in particular:

* recognising the fundamental principles of human rights and equality
* understanding how legislation and guidance can advance or constrain people’s rights
* recognising the value of independent advocacy

1. Knowledge – in particular:

* understanding of the application of research, theory and methods to social work practice
* acknowledging the centrality of relationships for people and the key concepts of attachment, separation, loss, change and resilience
* valuing and taking account of the expertise of service users, carers and professionals

1. Critical Reflection and Analysis – in particular:

* understanding the role of reflective thinking
* identifying, distinguishing, evaluating and integrating multiple sources of knowledge and evidence

1. Intervention and Skills – in particular:

* communication skills
* ability to engage with people
* recognising complexity, multiple factors, changing circumstances and uncertainty in people’s lives
* understanding the authority of the social work role

**Other training sessions offered by Families in Care:**

1. Independent Advocacy and Child Protection
2. Different Perspectives for Family Law Students
3. Upcoming – Different Perspectives: Fathers and the Child Protection Process

Please contact us for more details.

**Alicja Jaworska**

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**Families in Care**

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Families in Care provides high quality professional support in the form of independent advocacy, counselling and support groups for birth families involved with child protection services.

Having started as a self-help group offering support for isolated and vulnerable birth parents Families in Care has been a registered charity since 1992 and is now recognised as a valuable and dedicated organisation by Child Care professionals across Tyneside.

**Families in Care employs qualified social workers and provides practice placements opportunities for social work students.**

For more information please contact Pat Hanley on 0191 2524400 or e-mail us [familiesincare@gmail.com](mailto:familiesincare@gmail.com).