

**Families in Care**

Registered Charity (No. 1007596) Since 1992



**Advocacy in the Child Protection Training**

**This training will be particularly useful for trainees and newly qualified social workers, as well as independent advocacy workers. It can be also tailored to the needs of family law students. The training considers the advocacy as an integral part of the social work practice and at the same time helps to understand the role of independent advocacy in the child protection.**

The training was developed by experienced social work practitioners in partnership with birth parents who were directly involved in the Child Protection Process. The women have been professionally supported to develop their training material, which resulted in linking real practice examples and life stories with social work theories and relevant research.

**The training deals with parental advocacy and its main aim is to help practitioners to provide best support for parents involved in the child protection process.**

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 its participants are asked to give us written feedback. We critically analyse and respond to the feedback, which gives the trainees the opportunity to critically reflect on their own values and assumptions. This can be then discussed in the seminars / smaller groups / supervisions – managed by the University / agency in partnership with Families in Care.

**Further information and booking:**

**Alicja Jaworska**

**Telephone: 0191 2524400 or 07897903950**

**E-mail:** **familiesincare@gmail.com**

**Session 1:**

**Advocacy in the Child Protection.**

**For Social Work Students and Newly Qualified Social Workers.**

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

 Half day: 2.5 hours session – basic awareness

 Full day: 2.5 hours introductory session followed by 2.5 hours workshop

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

**Content**:

* Advocacy as an integral part of social work practice
* Independent advocacy in the child protection – theory, policy and practice
* Links between Human Rights, Anti-Oppressive Practice, Empowerment and Advocacy
* Effective partnership working with independent advocates in the child protection context
* Parents’ experience of independent advocacy – parents’ perspectives and research

**Learning Outcomes:**

* Increased understanding of the role of advocacy in social work practice
* Increased awareness of the role of independent advocacy in child protection
* Increased understanding of links between human rights, anti-oppressive practice, empowerment and advocacy
* Understanding of the principles and the benefits of partnership working with independent advocates in the child protection context and the ability to apply them in practice

**Session 2:**

**Independent Advocacy in the Child Protection.**

**Aimed at:**

* Social Work Trainees and Newly Qualified Social Workers considering undertaking Independent Advocates roles
* Advocacy Workers

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

 Half day: 2.5 hours session – basic awareness

 Full day: 2.5 hours introductory session followed by 2.5 hours workshop

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

**Content**:

* Independent advocacy in the child protection – theory, policy and practice
* Advocacy and social work practice
* Links between Human Rights, Anti-Oppressive Practice, Empowerment and Advocacy
* Effective partnership working with the local authority and legal representatives in the child protection context
* Parents’ experience of independent advocacy – parents’ perspectives and research
* Good practice examples
* Conflicts of interest and ethical dilemmas

**Learning Outcomes:**

* Increased awareness of the role of independent advocacy in child protection
* Increased understanding of links between human rights, anti-oppressive practice, empowerment and advocacy
* Understanding of the principles and the benefits of partnership working in the child protection context and the ability to apply them in practice
* Increased awareness of parents’ perspective of the independent advocacy
* 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 the parents, with the focus on communication skills and ability to use them in practice

**Relevance to Professional Capability Framework**

**Advocacy in the Child Protection 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, agencies and professionals
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
* 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
1. Context and Organisations – in particular:
* Awareness of the fact that social work practitioners collaborate, inform and are informed by their work with others, inter-professionally and with communities

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

1. Different Perspectives – Mothers and the Child Protection Process. Introduction.
2. Different Perspectives – Mothers and the Child Protection Process. Adoption and Fostering.
3. Different Perspectives – Mothers and the Child Protection Process. Effective engagement and communication skills.
4. Different Perspectives – For Family Law Students
5. Upcoming – Different Perspectives: Fathers and the Child Protection Process

Please contact us for more details.

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**Families in Care**

Registered Charity (No. 1007596) Since 1992

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.