The Centre for Child Protection

The Centre for Child Protection was established in 2012 and has, since its inception, embedded a child-focused approach in all its teaching and learning programmes and child protection simulations. This training programme, designed around working more thoughtfully, compassionately and effectively with children and young people, is a recent initiative from the Centre. Part of the University of Kent’s School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, the Centre is at the forefront of teaching and research excellence:
https://www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/ccp/

Direct Work—taking it beyond ‘tokenism’

‘Direct Work’ is a specific discipline within the realm of social care practice but its principles apply to all agencies working with children and young people. In short, it is about ensuring that when practitioners see, talk to and listen to children and young people, they are doing this most effectively and with the best skills and knowledge available, and that they feel confident during this process and confident in translating this into the assessments they complete. Only then can the wishes and feelings of children and young people be sufficiently sought, recorded and assessed.

This training session will specify the principles, theories and techniques of direct work and will emphasise that as well as understanding the behaviour of children and young people, it is equally important to understand his/her mind. In doing so, we can gain more reliable insights into whether he/she is being maltreated and help the child/young person process their own life experiences.

Successfully accomplishing this demands specific skills, including sensitivity and a ‘mentalised’ approach to the work with children and young people as well as using materials and techniques to help the child express themselves. It is possible that such skills have been diminished, or not valued in recent years, and therefore this course seeks to re-establish one of the core values of practice – that of relationship in the work with children and young people, whilst recognising the time constraints for professionals.

Book your place

The ‘Direct Work with Children’ training course offers a valuable CPD training opportunity and you can book your place today via our website:
https://www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/ccp/events/index1Demo.html

or by telephone 01227 827546

or email ccp@kent.ac.uk

Group discounts can be discussed.
Policy context

This programme will provide a robust foundation for communicating effectively with children and young people, and provides the underpinning knowledge for provision of services in accordance with the:

- DfE Knowledge and Skills Statement for social workers
- DfE Common Core of Skills and Knowledge for the children and young people’s workforce
- Professional Capabilities Framework (College of Social Work)
- Health and Care professions Council Standards of Practice for Social Workers in England
- Scottish National Care Standards

All of the above policy frameworks specify the importance of direct work and more recently, the 2011 Report completed by Professor Eileen Munro (http://bit.ly/1Bav8RM) (re)-emphasised the need for social workers (and other professionals) to engage more effectively with children.

Course objectives

By the end of the course you will have:

- Acquired a thorough policy and legal context for the importance of engaging with children and young people (CYP) effectively;
- Examined the reasons and barriers to why direct work may not be carried out as well as it should, and how to overcome these;
- Been reminded of and provided with reflective space to discuss individual practitioner responsibility in this very important area of practice;
- Experienced a number of techniques to use in your direct work;
- Developed an understanding of the possible impact of various attachment ‘styles’ on the way that direct work may be conducted;
- Engaged with relevant academic theories and concepts to enhance your skills and knowledge in this field;
- Have an opportunity to examine the personal impact of direct work upon the practitioner and the need to have support for this;
- Been introduced to innovative teaching resources and technologies to facilitate your understanding.
Course resources

Mentalising children in complex cases

Relevant evidence based academic articles

Useful and helpful material to guide understanding

Techniques which can help us build relationships

Examination of key theoretical concepts to help understand why we do what we do...and why we need to do it better

Your ‘direct work’ kit-bag

Please note that none of the images used on this leaflet are related to child protection in any way; images have been sourced mainly through Flickr and are free to be used through Creative Commons licences
MORE INFORMATION

The Centre for Child Protection designs and creates teaching and learning technologies which impart research based knowledge and skills about child protection to professionals across the world. Winning the University of Kent Innovation & Enterprise and Teaching and Learning Awards in 2014 and shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Outstanding ICT initiative of the year Award in 2013, the Centre is becoming a leader in this mode of training and development. The below list includes its simulations which have been launched over the last 2 years.

‘Rosie 1’

A simulation focusing on an initial assessment visit to a family. The initially benign situation rapidly develops into a case of child sexual abuse. Free download/worksheet from website.

‘Rosie 2’

It is now 5 years on from Rosie 1 and the case is still active and focuses on neglect. Professionals consider and discuss a range of child protection issues throughout the 13 scenes.

‘Zak’

A simulation for young people in schools focusing on online grooming and the radicalisation process.

‘Visiting Elliot’

This simulation has been developed in collaboration with Kent Police and Kent Probation, and is designed to be used to train professionals who visit sex offenders on licence in the community.

‘Looking out for Lottie’

Aimed at young people aged 14 and over and child protection professionals, this training tool focuses on child sexual exploitation and online grooming.

RITA

Responsive InTeractive Advocate (RITA) was developed with the aim of supporting the UK’s ageing population through the use of responsive and interactive avatars.

MA and standalone modules

Rigorous academic courses with a focus on ‘real life’ application providing high quality, targeted and innovative child protection learning to meet the needs of all professionals.

Contact us

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