

## NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON EVIDENCE- BASED ASSESSMENT TOOLS, ANALYSIS AND PLANNING WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Child and Family Training (C&FT) has been delivering training across the UK and abroad for several years on a range of evidence-based assessment tools for use by professionals working with children and families. Most of the work of C&FT is focused on delivering training to groups of staff in their agency or service. Most courses include training on the use of a model of assessment, analysis, planning interventions and identifying and measuring outcomes linked to the Assessment Framework triangle. The assessment tools and the model of analysis and planning are integrated into the 2010 Working Together (HM Government).

### The evidence-based assessment tools

Members of C&FT with others were commissioned by the Department of Health to develop a range of evidence-based assessment tools with associated training programmes, to support the implementation of the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (Assessment Framework).

More recently members of the C&FT Team have published a book looking at evidence-based assessment, analysis and planning in the safeguarding context: *Safeguarding children living with trauma and family violence: evidence-based assessment, analysis and planning interventions* (2009) Arnon Bentovim, Antony Cox, Liza Bingley Miller and Stephen Pizzey. London: JKP. This forms the basis of a new training course on Safeguarding Assessments.

These assessment tools are compliant with the Public Law Outline and are recommended in a wide range of government guidance and procedures, including:

- Working Together (2010)
- Every Child Matters
- Looked After Children's Records
- Practice Guidance on Preparing and Assessing Adopters & Assessing the Support Needs of Adoptive Families
- Integrated Children's System
- Initial and core assessments
- Safeguarding Children materials

### The courses that are offered include:

- 3-day training on **Assessing parenting and the family life of children, including using the HOME Inventory and the Family Pack of Questionnaires and Scales**  
Cost: £235+VAT\* per person plus trainers expenses for a group of 20 staff
- 3-day training on **Assessing families in complex child care cases using the Family Assessment**  
Cost: £235+VAT\* per person plus trainers expenses for a group of 20 staff
- 2-day training on **Giving children a voice: direct work with children using the In My Shoes Interview**  
Cost: £250+VAT\* (including the computer programme) per person plus trainers expenses for a group of 20 staff
- 4-day training on **The use of the Attachment Style Interview in either adoption and fostering or child care contexts**  
Cost: £500+VAT\* per person plus trainers expenses for a group of 10 or 16 staff
- 2-day or 5-day training on **Safeguarding Assessment Training: Evidence-based assessment, analysis and planning in complex cases where there are continuing safeguarding concerns**  
Cost: 2-day £195+VAT\* or 5-day £430+VAT\* per person plus trainers expenses for a group of 20 staff
- **Day Conferences/Briefing Sessions for managers** vary in cost according to numbers and length of session
- Costs for smaller groups available on application

These costs apply to the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

\*VAT is usually reclaimable by agencies and VAT registered individuals and organisations.

### The training approach

The aim of the training is to ensure participants gain an understanding of each assessment tool and receive training in the skills required for their effective use.

Courses include micro-skills training on (a) the use of the assessment tools to make both qualitative and (where relevant) quantitative evidence-based assessments (b) the interviewing skills and approaches that maximise the engagement of children and other family members (c) the model of analysis and planning (where relevant) using the *Assessment Framework*

There are intervals between training days to enable course members to use the assessment tools in their work context as part of the training process. Consultation is available to participants between training days.

Each participant on the training courses receives a full set of training and other materials needed to use the assessment tools.

The commissioning agency is expected to provide a venue, with audio-visual equipment and refreshments for course members. It is also the responsibility of the agency to manage the selection and attendance of trainees.

### Training and licensing agency trainers to deliver the training

C&FT is committed to making the evidence-based assessment tools and approaches accessible to as many practitioners as possible. We therefore have developed a process for training and licensing Agency Trainers, so that they can continue to roll out the training within their own agencies over time. This involves the potential Agency Trainer(s) being trained in the use of the assessment tools themselves and then co-training at least one further training course with an Accredited C&FT. Preparation, consultation and feedback is provided by the C&FT Trainer throughout this process. They also quality assure the Agency Trainer's ability to deliver the training effectively and decide when they are ready to be Licensed as an Agency Trainer. The assessment tools and training materials are copyrighted and materials required for future training must be purchased from C&FT.

### Tailoring training

Training can be delivered for a single agency or on a multi-agency or multi-disciplinary basis. Training can be streamlined to meet the specific needs of staff groups or agencies.

C&FT also run regular open training courses which staff can attend on an individual basis (or preferably in pairs to support future use of the assessment tools).

### For further information about the Training Programme or to request agency training please contact:

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