

The Impact on Children of Parental Drug and Alcohol Use

Substance misuse is one of the most common parental characteristics present in the literature predicting recurring maltreatment of children. The recent analyses of serious case reviews identified parental substance misuse as present in the lives of 47% of the children who had been the subject of a Serious Case Review (SCR). It continues to be one of the key factors identified as impacting the healthy lives of children from conception to adolescence and beyond.

This one day session enables practitioners to explore how to work most effectively in the best interests of children and families where addictive substance use is an issue. Efficient and effective evidence based practice is imperative given the reality of funding constraints.

The programme is delivered by one of our specialist children's social care consultants, Dr Karen Stone and Maureen Daley, both of whom draw on their experience of over 30 years social work practice including within senior management roles. The programme is informed by the latest research, evidenced based practice and a range of interventions that Karen and Maureen have been delivering to build practitioners' confidence and competence in working proactively and purposefully with families where substance misuse is present.

The programme has been positively evaluated by delegates:

"This day has really put the child at the centre of my thinking and helped me understand what this means for assessing risk"

"I liked the way we identified the potential impact of drug use on children and then thought about how we could reduce the harmful effects"

"It made realise how important it is to made decisions about children's long term needs and the impact of delay for children"

"For me it emphasised the importance of honest and clear conversations with parents and checking out they have understood"

Central Consultancy & Training work alongside our customers to fully understand the local context and priorities thereby ensuring relevance as well as currency and credibility with the workforce. Our programme becomes customised based on key themes including:

- The circumstances, characteristics and prevalence of families where drug and alcohol use is an issue
- The impact of parental drug and alcohol use on parenting capacity and children's development pre-birth through the ages/stages into adulthood
- Using assessment to evaluate the impact and identify how best to work with the parent/s and child(ren)
- Child centred practice including hearing the voice of children
- Resilience and protective factors for children
- Beyond the theory - applying learning to current case work

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Central Consultancy & Training Ltd, The Moseley Exchange, 149-153 Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8JP

Registered in England and Wales as number 05328100

Tel: 0121 285 6161

Email: info@centralconsultancy.co.uk

Website: www.centralconsultancy.co.uk