

Child protection work with  
challenging parents and carers

# Ever been frightened during a home visit?

If you have, then this conference is for you

**18 September 2009,**

**University of Westminster, London**

The Baby P case continues to provoke outrage and hatred towards social workers. Yet few commentators focus upon how hard it can be to deal with people who are difficult, dangerous or evasive.

Child protection workers regularly have to deal with anxiety-provoking and frightening situations where adults may be dangerous, difficult or evasive. Child death inquiries frequently comment on how frightening or manipulative the parents or carers of the child were.

*'Social workers are routinely exposed to unstable and potentially violent situations where they are expected to make complex assessments and analyse risk, working alone and facing considerable hostility.'*

*Summary of UNISON Memorandum to the Lord Laming Progress Report – December 2008*

*'Adults who deliberately exploit the vulnerability of children can behave in devious and menacing ways. They will often go to great lengths to hide their activities from those concerned for the well-being of a child. Staff often have to cope with the unpredictable behaviour of people in the parental role. A child can appear safe one minute and be injured the next.'*

*Lord Laming, The Victoria Climbié Inquiry Report*

*'It is important to recognize the stressful and emotional context for social work and create an environment that enables social workers to share their feelings and anxieties without being labelled as inadequate.'*

*'[Training should] ensure social workers are prepared for the reality of working with children and families who may have complex needs and parents who may be intentionally deceptive or manipulative.'*

*The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report, Lord Laming, March 2009*

This conference is based on Reconstruct's ground-breaking training in this field.

It looks at how to tell the difference between people who are dangerous, difficult or evasive and strategies for protecting children and workers.

In particular it will consider how staff can get sucked in to parents' concerns while forgetting the real reason for their visit, and how dangerous this can be for children.

**reconstruct**   
improving services for children



# *Difficult, Dangerous or Evasive?* *Conference 2009*

## Programme outline

Keynote speaker – child abuse and protection expert **Professor Chris Goddard** from Monash University, Australia, on violent families, abuse of children and violence against child protection workers.

Politicians always say ‘it must never happen again’, and yet it always does. **Barry Raynes**, Director of Reconstruct, will look at why Governments continually fail to learn the lessons of 35 years of inquiries.

**Jim Wild**, senior lecturer, Nottingham Trent University, will look at the the role and effect of personal values in the way we deal with and communicate with adults when child abuse is suspected.

**Jan Fook**, Professor in Social Work Studies at the University of Southampton, will focus on reflective practice, in particular critical reflection using innovative methods to develop skills.

Critical thinking and communication issues will be explored in workshops with professional actors. They will simulate typical scenarios, giving participants the opportunity to explore how they react to people who are difficult, dangerous or evasive. They will also explore how workers react in stressful situations, and focus on practical strategies for communicating with service users who may be dangerous, difficult or evasive.

**Attendance at this conference can contribute to the post-registration training and learning required by the GSCC.**

**Cost: £175**

**To register today email [office@reconstruct.co.uk](mailto:office@reconstruct.co.uk) or fill in the form below and post to: Reconstruct, Affinity Point, 8 Arundel Rd, Uxbridge, UB8 2RR.**

### Difficult, Dangerous or Evasive?

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18 Sept 2009

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