

## Child protection reviews

Past and recent reports and reviews of the circumstances leading to the death of several children have produced similar recommendations including the need for improved information-sharing between services and for improved recognition and assessment of risk.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) child protection inspections have now been completed in every local authority throughout Scotland. HMIE has produced the report *How well do we protect Scotland's children* (2009) which draws together the main messages from these inspections. The report identified key strengths and also considerable national areas for development including:

- assessment of risks and needs
- planning to keep individual children safe
- meeting longer term needs
- information-sharing and recording
- seeking views of children and families
- quality assurance and self-evaluation
- leadership and direction.

However child protection committees will be aware that compliance with quality indicators alone does not protect children.

Reconstruct has developed an innovative partnership approach to analysing practice which moves away from audits to qualitative reviews.

We offer Scottish child protection committees a comprehensive but practical and effective independent review report. Reconstruct staff will take HMIE quality indicators into account, highlight practice and system issues and the changes required to support and sustain good performance. Our team of senior practitioners, frontline, and senior managers have solid experience of doing the job with various agencies as well as the specialist skills of reviewing all aspects of service delivery.

From the outset, Reconstruct staff establish with you the particular areas to analyse, using the HMIE inspection criteria as a baseline framework, together with your individual inspection report.

Reconstruct staff will take into account recent serious case reviews, reports, publications, recognised best practice and your own audits. This joint planning stage is crucial to getting the best out of the review and to engaging staff at all levels in the outcome.

Reconstruct staff will then:

- interview staff
- observe practice
- analyse CPC business plans, reports and case records
- develop questionnaires

- conduct focus groups

Finally we provide you with a comprehensive report highlighting strengths and weaknesses and containing a practical action plan to support service improvement and, where relevant, inspection preparation/progression with your identified key areas of development.

Other possible areas of work are providing training and writing/updating child protection procedures.

To find out more about this innovative training, contact Barry Raynes, email [barry.raynes@reconstruct.co.uk](mailto:barry.raynes@reconstruct.co.uk), or call 01225 780145.

Reconstruct has three core activities  
**Training & development**  
**Independent children's services**  
**Consultancy & project management**  
[www.reconstruct.co.uk](http://www.reconstruct.co.uk)

*Reconstruct aims to bring you information about services that are useful to you. We hope you find our newsletters informative. However, if you no longer wish to receive information from us, you can unsubscribe by emailing [neil.conant@reconstruct.co.uk](mailto:neil.conant@reconstruct.co.uk) putting 'unsubscribe' in the subject field.*