

Working with parents who are difficult, dangerous and evasive

The serious case review of the Sheffield family who suffered years of sexual abuse at the hands of their father highlights yet again just how hard it is to manage and work with adults who are dangerous, difficult or evasive.

'Adult R intimidated and frightened Adult S and the children by using physical violence, intimidation, bullying and emotional control...this behaviour also controlled the actions of some professionals and services. He was found by some professionals to be charming and aggressive to others...'

'Professionals had difficulty gaining access to the Q family home and the children and some professionals were afraid of Adult R.'

'The parents poor co-operation and combination of plausible and hostile presentation added to the focus being on keeping their co-operation and losing sight of the children.'

Other child death and serious injury inquiries, including those into the deaths of Baby Peter and Victoria Climbié found that workers described adults in the children's families as being difficult, dangerous or evasive. They felt concerned about their own safety while attempting to work with these adults.

Reconstruct has developed training that highlights these concerns and fills a gap in what is one of the most neglected areas of training: the critical dynamic between worker and service user, particularly when concerns about child protection need to be raised.

This training can be run as a one- or two-day course providing a range of options for commissioners to decide which programme best suits the needs of staff. The training promotes the need for effective and erudite intervention through practice and rehearsal of challenging examples using actors.

It covers a range of practice issues which include:

- The complexities of working with adults who are difficult, dangerous or evasive, in the context of child protection
- Reflective practice and critical thinking
- Evidence based practice
- Personal process (how own past experiences impact on work)
- Interview scenarios (using interviews with actors)
- A model of dealing with challenge
- Definitions of difficult, dangerous or evasive
- Conflict and evasiveness
- Exit strategies
- Co-working – roles, functions and pre-planning
- Scrutiny of practice
- Self-care and support systems

What customers say about this training

*'...The **most relevant, important, essential and critical training** event I have attended in recent years....this should be mandatory for all staff who work on the frontline...'*

*'Excellent – **best training** event I have ever been on for improving knowledge and skills...'*

*'...this has been by far one of the **best courses** I have ever been on...'*

*'It was wonderful to attend a training course that **delivered what it promised**...'*

'I left feeling inspired and empowered...'

Reconstruct conference

Sexual abuse – what's going on?

1 July 2010,
University of
Westminster, London

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