

Private fostering, public responsibility

Desktop learning

An innovative new training product from Reconstruct

Following the tragic death of Victoria Climbié all local authorities have had to raise awareness amongst their own staff and the public about the issue of private fostering.

Local authorities have been limited in their success with this. Research published by the British Association for Adoption & Fostering in conjunction with ICM in 2009 indicated that 11% of 18–24-year-olds may have been privately fostered at some point during their childhood. However, in March 2007 only 1,250 private arrangements were reported by local authorities across the whole of England.

All staff need to know about private fostering and the sheer numbers this involves means face-to-face training is costly and disruptive.

Reconstruct's e-learning approach tackles this problem on two levels:

A **short e-learning tool** has been designed for anyone who comes into contact with children and families. This includes childminders, teachers, health staff, benefits officers or even the general public. Within around 20 minutes students will receive enough information to be able to identify a private fostering arrangement and to know what to do next. They're given a few examples to try out to ensure the knowledge is embedded, and they can print off a certificate of learning as evidence towards their continuing professional development.

The starting price for this package is just £30 per student, but there are significant discounts available for larger packages, including LSCB packages from only £5,000.

Once reported, it is crucial that local authority officers know what to do. A **one-hour specialist package** builds on the basic private fostering training for local authority staff to learn about, understand and implement your private fostering procedures.

This package is available for a further £30 per person, again with significant discounts available for larger packages, and whole authority packages from £5,000.

Data is gathered at an individual level and collectively to allow managers to accurately track staff performance. Reconstruct's e-learning tests knowledge before and after, so you can be clear how much each student has gained. It also allows strategic reports to be created that identify strengths and gaps in knowledge across the authority or in particular groups.

To find out more about this innovative training, contact Barry Raynes, email barry.raynes@reconstruct.co.uk, or call me on 01225 780145.

Reconstruct has three core activities
Training & development
Independent children's services
Consultancy & project management
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