

Reconstruct newsletter

May 2009

We aim to use this occasional newsletter to keep you informed about developments and to let you know the ways in which we can help you. You can find further information about us at www.reconstruct.co.uk

If you are having problems reading this newsletter, don't miss out. See www.reconstruct.co.uk/Latest%20news.html

Serious case review event

Due to popular demand, we have added more places to the serious case review event in London on 29th May. The event is in response to the greater demands that are being made on LSCBs to produce 'outstanding' reviews. It brings together OfSTED, overview and individual management review authors and SCIE. By the end of the day much will have been learned about what OfSTED is looking for, what makes an SCR 'outstanding' as opposed to 'adequate', and the latest methodological developments to improve the rigour of analysis.

We have a great line-up of speakers including OfSTED deputy director Anna Lis, and Dr. Sheila Fish and Sue Bairstow from SCIE.

With only a few days left to go, we urge you to book your place as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Email office@reconstruct.co.uk

Ever been frightened during a home visit?

Child protection work with challenging parents and carers

18 September 2009, London

The Baby Peter case continues to provoke outrage and hatred towards workers. Yet few commentators comment on how hard it can be dealing with adults who are dangerous, difficult or evasive. This conference focuses on anxiety-provoking and frightening situations. It looks at how to tell the difference between dangerous, difficult or evasive, and strategies for protecting children and workers. For details, see www.reconstruct.co.uk/index.html

Serious case reviews

We have recently reviewed 11 of the 38 'inadequate' serious case reviews and are pleased that Ofsted agreed that all of our reviews satisfactorily addressed the areas of weakness that they identified. We are also able to supply independent chairs.

When we conduct a serious case review we are committed to:

- the full involvement of the family, believing that this adds considerably to the depth of the investigation
- the full involvement of staff in the gathering of information and also in the analysis, to ensure that they are able to comment on and enrich our findings
- leaving you with a small number of succinct recommendations, as we believe that it is pointless giving you a range of tasks which can't be implemented
- carrying out some of the recommendations ourselves, to get your action plan off to a good start.

For further information contact barry@reconstruct.co.uk

Safeguarding reviews

The death of Baby Peter has highlighted that compliance alone does not protect children. This comes as no surprise to us in Reconstruct nor, I am sure, does it surprise you. Recent publications from Lord Laming, *Learning Lessons*, *Taking Actions* and *Learning Together to Safeguard Children* have highlighted the need for a new approach to analysing practice; a move away from audits to qualitative reviews.

In light of this, we have developed an innovative partnership approach that provides you with a comprehensive

but practical and effective Safeguarding Review. Our team of senior practitioners, first-line and senior managers, and academics have solid experience of doing the job with various agencies as well as the specialist skills of reviewing the job.

From the outset, we agree with you the particular areas we will analyse, taking 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.

We then:

- interview staff
- observe practice
- analyse business plans, reports and case records
- develop questionnaires, and
- conduct focus groups

Finally, we provide you with a comprehensive report highlighting strengths and weaknesses and containing a practical action plan.

If you would like further information please contact Barry Raynes.
Email barry@reconstruct.co.uk, telephone 07515 881551.

Training to meet your needs

'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'

'Dangerous, difficult or evasive' course participant

Our training is focused on meeting your needs and the challenges you face in day-to-day practice. As well as our new UK training brochure, we now have brochures dedicated to Scotland and Wales, consolidating the work of our two directors responsible for these countries. All the brochures and full course details are available on the website. If you want to find out more about the Scottish or Welsh training services, email the training directors jeanette@reconstruct.co.uk (Wales) and john@reconstruct.co.uk (Scotland).

Supporting 'KiDs' in Kenya

Reconstruct supports a non profit-making organisation, KiD (Kindergarten in Diani) in Kenya, paying the salary of a teacher to help youngsters get the schooling they need. Some of our staff also sponsor individual children. To find out more about this project see http://www.kid-kenia.de/E_index.htm

Our film

Do you want to see how we work with young people, hearing directly from the people who count? *Our Film* is a short (10 minute)

DVD showcasing independent visiting, advocacy and participation work through the opinions of the young people we work with.

For your free copy email sadie@reconstruct.co.uk

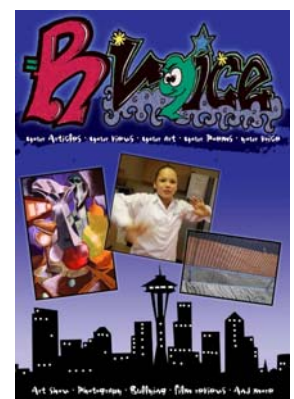


RVoice

Part of our participation Work with Bristol is the production of *RVoice*, a magazine by and for children and young people in care in Bristol.

This is just one of the innovative ways in which we work.

Our independent children's services currently has contracts with 11 local authorities. We focus on delivering services for children in care and multi-agency child protection work and also provide specific pieces of work for individual children who are the responsibility of other authorities. If you would like to talk to someone about the work we do please call Jenny Raynes or Jason Williams on 01225 780145.



Keep up-to-date with the latest research in childcare

'Having used this service before I am looking forward to being on the list once more, it has been invaluable in my work.'

Our service monitors the latest research and reports and summarises them into manageable papers containing the essential information. We keep them short and clear to make them quick and easy to read so you can grasp the key points in minutes.

Simply sign up to be emailed up to 24 summaries a year on issues of direct relevance to childcare practice.

Recent examples include:

- parents and mental health problems
- grief and asylum seekers
- childhood abuse and young offending
- forced marriages
- serious case reviews.

A variety of subscriptions are available to suit different requirements: £15 a year for individuals; £250 for team of up to 20 people; £900 for an entire authority. Email research@reconstruct.co.uk

Reconstruct has three core activities

Training & development

Independent children's services

Consultancy & project management

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@reconstruct.co.uk putting 'unsubscribe' in the subject field.