



Training event for social workers and other professionals working in permanency



Strengthening special guardianship assessments

Who should attend

Social workers conducting special guardianship assessments, their managers and children's team social workers

Trainer

Nicky Probert is a Training Manager for Family Action with over 30 years of social work experience. She has worked as an assessor and manager in the field of adoption, and is an experienced trainer, having worked for BAAF for over 12 years. Nicky offers consultancy to Family Action's national Special Guardianship Support Service.

Special Guardianship Orders were first introduced in 2005 as a private law application which would offer an alternative route to permanence for children outside the care system. Whilst originally intended to ensure children could be offered stability and security by living with existing foster carers or family members, fifteen years on, we

have seen a huge increase in the numbers of children leaving care through SGO's and an increasing concern amongst practitioners that at times these orders may not provide the safe, positive and permanent family experience that is intended.

Recent research and regulatory changes have led to an increased awareness of the importance of producing robust and analytic special guardianship assessments. Drawing on important messages from two reports and a Nuffield Family Justice Observatory research briefing on special guardianship orders (SGOs), the course will highlight areas which require particular attention during the assessment process.

The workshop aims to enable new and existing practitioners to strengthen their assessments and at the same time to highlight any vulnerabilities and extra support needs that families may have. This will include consideration of the use of therapeutic support which is available through the adoption support fund.

VIA  zoom

Date

Tuesday
15 December 2020
10.00am – 1.00pm and
1.30pm – 4.00pm

Fees

PAC-UK subscribing local authorities:

Professionals:
£159 plus VAT (£190.80 in total)

PAC-UK non-subscribing local authorities:

Professionals: £187 plus VAT
(£24.40 in total)

Benefits of attending

By the end of the workshop participants will be able to:

- Describe the legislative and regulatory framework and current context for SGO assessments;
- Identify messages from recent research and learning from Serious case reviews that inform best practice in SGO assessments;
- Identify the factors involved in successful placements and in those which might lead to disruptions;
- Define the secure base model and its application to the assessment of special guardians;
- Identify tools to assess family dynamics, conflicts and loyalty issues in the assessment;
- Apply frameworks for analysis which identify risk and protective factors;
- Present robust and well evidenced assessment reports which highlight strengths and vulnerabilities and identify support needs.

Enrol www.pac-uk.org/training **Contact** training@pac-uk.org **Web** www.pac-uk.org **Tel** 020 7284 5872

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