

Strengthening Partnerships Programme

A child-centred approach to safeguarding





Strengthening
Partnerships
Programme

Introducing
tailored training
solutions for
Safeguarding
Children
Partnerships

Here at Strengthening Practice we understand the **importance of collaborative working** and how it can directly support the work of your partnership.

We are an established, relational, skill-based learning organisation who have successfully worked in in the social care field since 2007.

We provide helpful practice frameworks for practitioners working in both universal and specialist services. Our training team is close to practice and has a breadth of experience including experts by experience, qualified coaches, workforce development and improvement competence, specialised sector knowledge and expertise across services serving both children and adults.

We develop our courses with the roles of the organisation in mind. Our programmes all work alongside practice frameworks such as Signs of Safety, Restorative Practice, Motivational Interviewing, Strengths-based and Relational practice.

Built on the latest research and evidence, we complement existing approaches and provide the underpinning skills to practice well within these frameworks.

Working Together 2018 highlights the importance of learning that is:

“Promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice”

Partnership arrangements continue to face considerable review and scrutiny, notwithstanding the impact of coronavirus which significantly impacted on organisational delivery and practice.

The implementation of the new Safeguarding arrangements, the national Review of Children’s Social Care, national reviews, and inquiries challenging safeguarding practice and the Sector Expert Review of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements provide the context for

safeguarding partnerships to review and ensure they deliver a coordinated and child centred approach to safeguarding.

“The three safeguarding partners should consider what training is needed locally and how they will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of any training they commission.”¹

We can support you in this through a range of training solutions that can be commissioned and delivered to meet your partnership’s needs. We know safeguarding and have the skills to engage large and small audiences, provide helpful tools and resources that support skills and reflection across all levels of the partnership.

We have combined our knowledge and experience with learning from the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to focus and develop a programme to **“make a difference”²** to practice.



1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safeguarding-practice-review-panel-annual-report-2020>



Anti-discriminatory practice

In the Professional Capabilities Framework for social workers in England, there is a Diversity and Equality domain.

The domain for experienced social workers states:

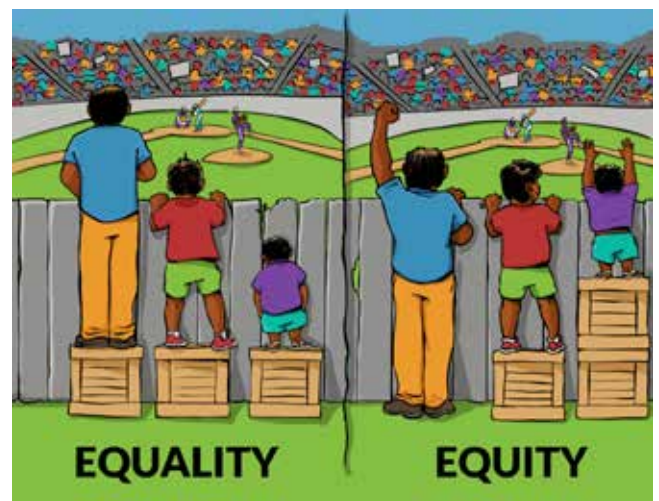
DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY - Recognise diversity and apply anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive principles in practice

I inform, guide and model good practice in the application of understanding of identity, diversity and equality to practice

I model critically reflective practice and support others to recognise and challenge discrimination, identifying and taking professional action

I act (individually or collectively) to challenge breaches and limitations in the ability of my own or others' organisations to advance equality and diversity and comply with the law

I demonstrate and model the effective and positive use of power and authority, whilst recognising and providing guidance to others to avoid oppressive practice.³



³ <https://www.basw.co.uk/professional-development/professional-capabilities-framework-pcf/the-pcf>

Programme Overview

Strengthening Partnerships Programme (SPP)

This programme is for all practitioners working directly or indirectly with children, young people, and families. This includes adult services who work with parents and carers to help them understand the role they should play and the role of other practitioners.

Its overall aim is to strengthen and promote partnership working, develop learning and professional practice and thereby improve outcomes for children and young people.

We have taken what we know is helpful and works and developed a programme that speaks to current issues and theories informed by practice; this includes experts by experience and subject experts. Our programmes are supported by a wealth of learning strategies, materials and tools to support practice.

Training and practice improvement is the principal focus of Strengthening Practice. We design and provide customised training programmes guiding staff through legislative and conceptual frameworks in order to understand how this knowledge applies to the context of their organisation; their local policies and procedures; and the children, young people and families they support.

“Cross-agency training was a success in building relationships across agencies.”⁴

Key to this programme is the learning and proposals recommended by The Child Safeguarding Review Panel following the tragic deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson in 2021.

“Despite the intentions of recent reforms... multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are not yet fit for purpose everywhere. This results too often in blurred strategic and operational responsibilities, creating fault lines in practice arrangements. This has major consequences for the ability of practitioners across different agencies to work together skilfully and purposively to protect children”⁵

4 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1041000/MultiAgencyReform_Kantar_Report.pdf

5 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1078488/ALH_SH_National_Review_26-5-22.pdf



The Strengthening Partnerships Programme

- Six multi-agency workshops inclusive of all training resources and tools
- Workshops designed to maximise multi-agency engagement and learning by expert safeguarding trainers online.
- All the Workshops are 3 hours (including small group working)



Additional thematic Masterclasses

- Masterclasses to share ideas and strategies to “stubborn and perennial problems in multi-agency child protection practice.” Facilitated conversations to get insight and solutions by expert safeguarding leads.
- All the Masterclasses are 3.5 hours (including small group working)
- Includes a comprehensive workbook
- Inclusive of all training resources and tools.



Multi-agency peer coaching

- To consolidate learning and build relationships
- Groupwork with specific cohorts of staff and /or practice leads/strategic leads.



The
Workshops

The Workshops

The Programme is centred around the six key practice themes⁶ to make a difference to children and young people. Each Session lasts 3 hours and is delivered online by our safeguarding expert Suzy Kitching and her training team. Please see our website for current pricing and discounts for larger cohorts:

<https://www.strengtheningpractice.co.uk/strengthening-partnerships/>

6 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safeguarding-practice-review-panel-annual-report-2020>



Workshop 1

Theme: Understanding what the child's daily life is really like

This workshop covers:

- Understanding the child and practitioner's role
- The voice and lived experience of the child
- Communicating with children
- Understanding contributors and early signs of abuse, neglect and exploitation
- Adult issues and children's needs; the impact on the child
- What the research and evidence are telling us, including children and young people





Workshop 2

Theme: Working with families where their engagement is reluctant and sporadic

This workshop covers:

- Relationship-based practice
- Understanding resistance and reluctant engagement
- A strengths-based approach to working with families
- Exploring family's motivation for change
- Working with the whole family not leaving anyone out – seeing fathers, relationships and family networks

 Should your safeguarding partnership want any of these workshops delivered face to face in your locality contact erica@strengtheningpractice.co.uk to discuss your requirements.

 If your safeguarding partnership wants Strengthening Practice to collaborate and co-design a programme with you, contact erica@strengtheningpractice.co.uk



Workshop 3

Theme: Critical thinking and challenge

This workshop covers:

- Skillful use of authority
- Principles of reflective practice
- Understanding the child's experience
- Supporting critical thinking skills
- The role of reflective supervision
- Making and challenging decisions based on analysis





Workshop 4

Theme: Responding to changing risk and need

This workshop covers:

- Understanding respectful uncertainty
- Understanding the child's experience, patterning, and triangulation of information
- Understanding signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Pathways to harm, pathways to protection
- What is the research and evidence telling us, what is knowable and what is unseen?

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Workshop 5

Theme: Sharing information in a timely and appropriate way

This workshop covers:

- Working with thresholds
- Informed consent
- Information sharing between and across services
- Managing incomplete information from a systems perspective
- The child's record
- Facts, opinions, and meanings





Workshop 6

Theme: Organisational leadership and culture for good outcomes

This workshop covers:

- Developing a multi-agency environment for practice to thrive
- Creating a learning system, learning from audits and reviews
- Maintaining a grip on frontline practice and focussing on 'wicked issues'
- Drivers and barriers to multi-agency working

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Thematic Masterclasses

These Masterclasses focus on specific learning themes covering existing and emerging practice learning. They can be delivered single or multi agency depending on the partnership’s needs. They have been created to consolidate and support reflective learning. They support findings from both National and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR) and can complement and stretch knowledge following initial Rapid Review learning.

They are standalone, intensive courses and address some of the most *“stubborn and perennial problems in multi-agency child protection practice.”*⁷

They are strengthened by quality learning materials in a Digital Workbook.

Contact Erica on 01900 822 458 for a quote, or email erica@strengtheningpractice.co.uk

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safeguarding-practice-review-panel-annual-report-2020>

Session delivery mode

Online via Microsoft Teams (max 3.5 hours)

Currently available are Masterclasses in:

County Lines (online only)
Thresholds for intervention
The child’s journey
Engaging with adolescents to help make a difference to their lived lives
Working effectively with domestic abuse
Working effectively where neglect is an issue
Poor mental health and its impact on behaviours, parenting and families
Informed consent, information sharing and recording
Professional judgement, risk assessment and decision making
Reflective practice
Relationship-based practice
Working in partnership
Seriously good case clinics
Strengthening Care
Improving assessment, a parent’s perspective (part of our Expert by Experience programme)
Developing culturally competent practitioners (under development)
Non accidental injury in under 1’s (national review under development)
Seeing men (under development)



Multi-agency peer coaching

Strengthening Practice has been using coaching as part of its core teaching offer for the past three years. SP also developed and supports the British Association of Social Work Professional Support Service (BASW SWPSS), a coaching service for social workers across the 4 nations.

Our experienced coaches at Strengthening Practice can offer group supervision, team supervision and individual supervision.

We specialise in coaching for senior leaders and teams who are working together to make a good difference to the lives of children and young people.

If you are interested in our coaching offer, contact Erica on 01900 822 458 for a quote, or email erica@strengtheningpractice.co.uk



Strengthening Partnerships Programme

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We are an accredited training and CPD provider with the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) and are members of the UK CPD Certification Service.

