

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT SOCIAL WORKER / EXPERT WITNESS
&
FOUNDER – CO-ORDINATOR of ALL BIRMINGHAM'S CHILDREN CHARITY

CURRICULUM VITAE

Training rated as 'OUTSTANDING' by Ofsted March 2015

Name: Eddie O'Hara

Profession: Registered Independent Consultant Social Worker, Primary School Teacher, Trainer & Investigator.

Company: 'Eddie O'Hara Social Work Services Ltd'

Office Base: Birmingham

Mobile: 0771-8485-650

E-Mail: eoh@eddieohara.com

Registered Social Worker; I am registered with the Health & Care Professions Council: my registration number is: SW37232.

Data Protection: I am registered as a 'Data Handler' in line with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Professional Indemnity / CRB Clearance: I have adequate professional indemnity & legal cover. My last clear enhanced DBS check was completed 26-8-2020.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

| Professional Qualification(s) | Professional Disciplines |
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| C.Q.S.W, P.Q.P.T, P.Q.C.P, A.A.S.W. & P.G.C.E | Independent Consultant Social Worker, Primary School Teacher, Trainer & LGA Peer Reviewer |
| Specialist Field | Higher / Specialist |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All types of child protection risk and family placement assessments (national and international). • Complex kinship care assessments. • Placement of children with special needs into non-birth families. • Complex case reviews / investigations. • Training on all types of social work issues. • Internal Management Reviews. • Professional conduct investigations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honours degree in Social Policy and Administration and Certificate of Qualification in Social Work. (South West University 1989). • Post Qualification in Advanced Child Protection. (Warwick University 1994). • Post Qualification in Practice Teaching. (Birmingham University 1999). • Post Graduate Certificate in Education (Primary) including Qualified Teacher Status (University of Central England 2001). • Advanced Award in Social Work: Direct Practice (Birmingham University 2007). • Triple P Group Trainer (Accredited by The University of Queensland Australia, 2012). • Accredited CEOP Trainer (2014). • Accredited LGA Safeguarding Peer Reviewer (2014). |

Areas of Particular Expertise

- Providing professional, impartial and evidenced based domestic (and international) children and family placement / risk assessments (including adoption, fostering, disability, residence, kinship, guardianship, contact, etc).
- Consultation and / or completion of complex case review, individual management reviews, and investigations into all aspects of family and non-family placement issues.
- Standard (and bespoke) training provided in all areas of children & families and adult social work practice.
- Developing Interim Safeguarding Management Systems / Development of Integrated Safeguarding Frameworks for both children and adult services.
- All types of complex High Court Revocation Work, not least historical FO and PO where there are potential breach of Human Rights issues to consider.
- All types of Professional Supervision / Consultation for professionals who work with both children and adults.
- Investigation of complaints and professional misconduct matters.
- Developing and reviewing childcare and adult (safeguarding, child protection, adoption, addiction services, fostering, etc.) Policy and Procedures; including developing integrated safeguarding frameworks for both children and adults which involve multiple partner agencies working together.
- Independently chairing various multi-agency meetings, including disruption meetings, reviews, etc.

Experience in Specialist Area

- I have been involved in various aspects of social work (Children & families and adults) for over 30 +.
- During this time I have spent;
- 10 years as a senior social worker on various children and families teams. including 2 years within a specialist 'children with disabilities' team (2 years with Durham SSD, followed by 8 years with Birmingham SSD). 1989-99.
- 4 years as an active member of the emergency duty back-up team. 1993-97.
- 2 years as an active member of the Crisis Support Team. 1994-95.
- 3 years on North Birmingham adoption and fostering panel, advising on child protection and disability issues.
- 2 years as a senior social worker with both North and South Birmingham permanency teams.
- 8 years as a social work practice teacher and mentor. 5 years as an independent consultant for 'Parents for Children' (London).
- Between 2000-2013 I worked as an independent social worker and 'occasional' panel member for Action for Children; Adoption (Formerly NCH).
- Since 2012 I have been approved as a Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Reviewer (Safeguarding).
- Aug 2013-Oct 2014; Interim (p/t) Safeguarding Manager for the 'Young Persons Recovery (alcohol & drugs) Service' Wolverhampton Partnership; (NACRO, Aquarius, Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust: NHS).
- 2013-2016: I co-led Birmingham Citywide Revocation Project, which; undertook the revocation of numerous legacy FOs & POs, completed an audit on all SGO's made over the last few years on LAC and provided support, guidance to staff across BCC.
- 2017-2019: Citywide Senior Manager in Birmingham Children's Trust responsible for PLO case progress and the Specialist Assessment Service.
- Since 2000 I have also;
 1. Undertaken various commissions involving all types of court directed complex risk / family placement assessments (national and international; UK, Ireland, USA), complex case reviews, training, international consultancy / development (Turkey, Russia and Romania).
 2. Provided a range of training in all areas of child protection / safeguarding in both social care and educational settings, specialising in addictions, fostering and adoption.
 3. Provided a number of Independent Reviews; Complex Review, Individual Management Review, Annual Review, Household Review, Safeguarding Systems Review, LGA Peer Reviews (Safeguarding), etc.
 4. Since 2005 I have conducted numerous independent complaint investigations and investigations into professional misconduct. I was previously a member of Solihull MBC Complaints Panel and a member of BASW Disciplinary Panel.
 5. Since 2013 I have continued to provide safeguarding supervision and training to Recovery Near You (Wolverhampton) Substance Misuse Service (BSMHFT, NACRO and Aquarius Partnership).
 6. During 2016 I provided safeguarding supervision training to 'Service4Education', a not for profit educational social enterprise.

7. Between 2000-17 I provided professional safeguarding supervision to social workers / senior managers in a number of social care / educational agencies, including SSAFA.
8. Have provided safeguarding / child protection development work with another local children's centre / nursery school, and a national social care / health agency which provides community support for families affected by alcohol abuse.
8. Chaired annual fostering household reviews for an independent fostering agency and adoption disruption meetings.
9. Provided expert research / opinion to several firms of lawyers specialising in child care proceedings.
10. Between 201-17 I led a revocation project for a local authority.
11. Between Aug and Nov 2019 I have been carrying out an independent UK wide safeguarding audit and policy work for GamCare.

Community Contribution: As part of my commitment to the local community (on a voluntary basis):

1. Provide safeguarding supervision, consultation and training to a local teaching school and women's centre.
2. Founder & chair a local children's charity 'All Birmingham's Children' which campaigns to promote the best interest of All Birmingham's Children.
www.allbirminghamschildren.com

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH, TEACHING AND TRAINING

Details of Publications

- I have contributed to various enquiries / investigations involving children and family issues, such as the recent enquiry into CAF/CASS by the Lord Chancellors Department.
- Contributor to BASW publication on ISW; March 2006.
- Article on 'Kinship Assessment' published by PSW April 06.
- Article on how to deal with information presented to you 'in confidence' during an adoption assessment, published by PSW July 09.
- Article on 'Child Protection verses Data Protection' published by PSW Sept 09.
- Co-author of 'ISW-A Risky Business' (2006), 'ISW in Recessionary Times' (2010) both published by BASW Venture Press.
- 'I wish someone had told me that' Short article on SW practice wisdom. Published by PSW November 2014.
- Community Care; Careers and training Guide (2014); re 'Advanced Practitioner' section.
- Why Legal Aid Agency funded ISW court work is no longer sustainable. Published by Community Care April 2017.
- The Parliamentary Launch of the National Enquiry into Thresholds. Published by NAGALRO in in Seen & Heard April 2018.
- Article on All Birmingham Children in PSW Feb 2019.
- Article on Community SW in PSW April 2019.

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| <p>Research / Professional Presentations</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 'Assessment' at Regional Kinship Conference Birmingham November 2003. • On 'Expert Witnesses' at BASW National Conference Bristol April 2004. • Ongoing development of LAC / education training for teachers and school governors (Voluntary). • ACA 2002 on Permanence through Kinship (BAAF) January 2006. • 2006: Key Note Speaker at the National Social Work Awards. • 'Safeguarding in the Voluntary Sector' BBC Children in Need 2008. • 'Managing Allegations of Historic Abuse'. National BASW Sept 2014. • March 2017: Keynote Speaker at A Parliamentary Event to celebrate World SW Day. • Sept 2017: Keynote Speaker at APPG Westminster launch of Enquiry in to Thresholds. |
| <p>Details of Teaching & Training</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified practice teacher / social work mentor and professional / management supervision. • Co-ordinator and trainer of 'prospective' adopters and foster carers. • Qualified primary teacher since 2001 • School governor 1999-2005; responsible for various educational issues, particularly those concerning special needs / 'looked after children'. • Occasional primary tutoring and lecturing / presentations given on social work issues to undergraduate postgraduate students, peers and other professional disciplines. Speaker at various regional / national conferences, re social work issues in relation to use of 'Kinship Care', 'Expert Witnesses', CAF, etc. • I was an 'Associate Trainer' with British Association of Adoption & Fostering, Centre for Learning Behaviour Reading University, and Outcomes UK. |

- In 2007/08 I was part of a UNICEF project which is developing and implementing a national foster care training programme on behalf of the Turkish Government.
- Between 2007-14 I have co-delivered training to 'Friends and Family' for Action for Children (formerly NCH).
- In 2010 I was a Project Lead on a sultancy project in Romania developing alternative care for erable adults and children.
- Involved in developing a training program with colleagues in Russia in relation to working with challenging / resistant families.

Since 2017 I deliver National Police College accredited training to Police Services and NCA throughout the UK with Opto Training.

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| <p>Continuing Professional Development and Training (CPD)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular courses attended as a part of continuing professional development. • Active member of PFC, BASW and BAAF professional seminars. |
| <p>MEMBERSHIPS ETC</p> | |
| <p>Committee / Panel Memberships / Project Group</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2001-2007 Independent's Forum (I.F.) Executive & Regional (Chair) Committee Member (I.F. is a professional specific interest group set up by BASW) • 2001-2007 Disciplinary and Investigation Committee Member (BASW). • 2008-2010; Independent Panel Member of Solihull BC Stage 3 Complaints Panel. • 2006- to date; member of BAAF 'Opening Doors Disability Project' (placement of children with disabilities.) • 2009-Member of BASW Serious Case Review Project. • 2011- to date: Independent Panel Member on Action for Children's Adoption & Fostering Panel. • 2012 - 2015 Chair of BASW: England Children & Families Reference Group and member of the England Committee. • 2015 – Founding Chair of Birmingham and Solihull BASW Branch. • 2018 –19 Local Advisory Board Member for Create Academy (Safeguarding Focus). |
| <p>Professional Memberships</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Association of Social Workers (BASW). • British Association for Adoption & Fostering (BAAF/ Coram). • National Association of Guardian Ad Litem and Reporting Officers (NAGALRO). |

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| <p>Consultancies / Panel Chair</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Until August 06 I was an 'Independent Panel Chair' of a fostering agency. • I acted as an 'Educational Consultant' for a fostering agency in Essex. • I acted as a 'Fostering Consultant' for St Christopher's Fellowship. • I works as a safeguarding consultant for both Aquarius, NACRO, NHS & a local school and women's centre. |
| <p>Voluntary work</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am the co-founder & Coordinator for a campaigning charity called All Birmingham's Children (www.allbirminghamchildren.com) • I provide professional supervision to staff in a local school and women's centre. |

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| <p>Other Areas of Special Interest</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex Case Reviews. • Serious Case Review; Individual Management Review (IMR) Reports. Specialist Child Care Investigations. • Professional Conduct / Complaint Investigations. • Urgent / intensive assessments. • International family placements which involve different legal systems. • Care Audits. • Local Government Association Peer Reviews (Safeguarding). <p>In recent years, I have worked throughout the United Kingdom, Ireland, California USA, Turkey, Russia, and have been consulted on cases / developmental work in New York State, Italy, South Africa and Romania; all of which have involved complex family / kinship / risk placements and or training.</p> |
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RELEVANT FORENSIC EXPERIENCE

Number of Cases involved as a Professional Witness

0-10 10-30 over 100

Number of Cases instructed as an Expert Witness

0-10 10-30 over 100

Number of Reports prepared for Family Court Proceedings

0-10 10-30 over 100

Number of occasions on which given evidence in family cases

0-10 10-30 over 100

Other relevant forensic experience

I have been involved in court proceedings up to and including the Appeal Court.

NB: Although much of my work involves families who have children: the reality is that 95 % of my direct work is actually with adults / parents and I am acutely aware that all adults even the big brash ones were once upon a time children themselves!

| DETAILS OF CHARGING RATES | |
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| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Case Work</u></p> <p>Professional time (preparation, attendance at conferences, interviews and panel)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Court Full Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Court ½ Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Travelling</p> | <p>£TBC. per hour</p> <p>£TBC (plus travel if inside West Midlands)</p> <p>£TBC (plus travel if outside West Midlands)</p> <p>£TBC per hour</p> <p>60p per mile (or car hire/ taxi etc)</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Fixed Contract / Oversees Work</u></p> | <p>Usually TBC PD plus expenses depending upon the location.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Training</u></p> <p>Rated as by Ofsted as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘OUTSTANDING’</p> <p style="text-align: center;">March 2015</p> | <p>£TBC PD depending on the course, the preparation required and location.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Cancellation Charges</u></p> | <p>Apply as per proposal.</p> |
| <p>Saturday work is charged at X 1½ the midweek rate. *</p> <p>Sunday work is charged at X 2 the midweek rate. *</p> <p>Where jobs require overnight stays, these time costs will be factored / negotiated into any proposal provided.</p> <p>*Unless previously negotiated</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Last updated Sept 2020</p> | |

DETAILS OF CASE WORK REFEREES

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| Name Address | Debbie Currie. Lifford House, Fordhouse Lane Birmingham B303BN |
| Tel: Professional Status | 0121-302-8252 A/ Director (South) BCT / Department of Social Care |

DETAILS OF TRAINING REFEREES

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| Name Address | Dave Keech Msc Opto Training Ltd (Police & NCA) Bolton www.optotraining.co.uk |
| Tel: Professional Status | 0161-4011334 Director of Training |
| Name Address | Helen Kilgallon RNY Wolverhampton Substance Misuse Service Horizon House Pitt Street Wolverhampton |
| Tel: Professional Status | 03002002400 Head of Service |

If required, testimonials can be supplied from other social work and related professionals.

Signed

Date
