

REGISTERED CONSULTANT SOCIAL WORKER
&
FOUNDER – CHAIR ALL BIRMINGHAM'S CHILDREN CAMPAIGNING 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.

Honours: **British Empire Medal** (January 2022) – From Queen Elizabeth II for 'Services to Children & Families' and founding 'All Birmingham's Children' Campaign. Medal subsequently returned to King Charles III (July 2023) due his government's position on migrant children and the shadow cabinet's position on child poverty.

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 Social Work England (Professional Regulator): Registration Number: SW37232

Data Protection: I am registered with the Information Commissioners Office as a 'Data Handler' in line with the GDPR 2016.

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) C.Q.S.W, P.Q.P.T, P.Q.C.P, A.A.S.W. & P.G.C.E	Professional Disciplines 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. (Southwest 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 is 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.
- Managing various social work / family support teams and services.

Experience in Specialist Area

- I have been involved in various aspects of social work (Children & families and adults) for over 35 +.
- 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 October 2021 to date: Team Manager (30 hours per week) of a charitable Family Support Service which provides family support services to 18 schools throughout the Birmingham Catholic Diocese (Oxford to Stoke on Trent)
- 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 childcare 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.
12. Since October 2021 to September 2023: Team Manager (30 hours per week) of a charitable Family Support Service which provides family support services to 18 schools throughout the Birmingham Catholic Diocese (Oxford to Stoke on Trent)

Community Contribution: As part of my commitment to the local & wider community I:

1. Provide pro bono safeguarding supervision, consultation and training to a local teaching school and Birmingham Women's Centre (Anawim).
2. Founded & chair a local children's charity 'All Birmingham's Children' which campaigns to promote the best interest of All Birmingham's Children. www.allbirminghamchildren.com
3. Provide ongoing regular support to 'Children's Mercy Initiative' (Children's Orphanage in Uganda).
4. Wrote 'All Birmingham's Children: A Tale of Two Cities' (2022) as part of local campaign to address the appalling levels of childhood poverty and health

inequality across Birmingham and the UK. To date over 300 copies have been distributed free to highlight the issue.

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 CAFCASS 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.
- 'Birmingham's Children: A Tale of Two Cities' April 2022.

<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: Keynote 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 into Thresholds.
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Details of Teaching & Training

(As a result of the Covid 19 pandemic I know provide many of the following services online)

- As a qualified schoolteacher, qualified SW practice educator and mentor, I provide a range of teaching and training services across many local authorities, charitable organisations and other partners.
- I provide a range of children and adult safeguarding courses, including attachment, child development, care planning, court work, etc.
- I have trained foster carers and adopters.
- I have trained under and post-graduates in health and social care.
- Lead trainer in rolling out the Common Assessment Framework across the Borough of Westminster.
- I was the lead trainer with Birmingham LSCB in developing and rolling out the Working Together / Multi-Agency (2010) training.
- I was an Associate Trainer with British Association of Adoption & Fostering for 10 years.
- I was the Regional Adoption Agency Trainer with Action for Children (2007-14)
- UNICEF (Turkey) 2007/08 Developing and rolling out a foster training programme to Master Social Workers.
- Project Training Consultant (2010) setting out a fostering strategy in (Romania).
- For the last 10 years I have provided safeguarding training to various regional drug/ alcohol agencies, i.e., Aquarius, Recovery Near You, Solihull Integrated Services (SIAS).
- In 2014 whilst on an education visit to Russia, I engaged in some adhoc training for local professionals.
- Since 2015 I have been an associate trainer with Opto Training who provide the 'Specialist Child Abuse Investigation Development Programme' to a range of different Police Services across the country and the National Crime Agency.
- Since 2019 I have provided Safeguarding Training to all 14 Gamcare Partners.
- Since 2021 I have been an associate trainer with Kingsley Knight Legal Training & Consultancy.
- From June 2022: I will be providing safeguarding training to Crisis Org (Birmingham).

<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 BASW and NAGALRO. • Actively involved in a range of specialist training with my Family Support Team undertakes (Bereavement, Drawing & talking, Trauma based practice, bereavement, mental health, immigration issues, etc)
<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). • National Association of Guardian Ad Litem and Reporting Officers (NAGALRO).

<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 work as a safeguarding consultant for both Aquarius, NACRO, NHS & a local school and women's centre. • Was the founding Chair of the Birmingham and Solihull Branch of BASW. • Since June 2018 I have been the founding Chair of a local (non-registered¹) campaigning charity called All Birmingham's Children (ABC).
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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). • Organisational and service reviews and development. <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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¹ ABC income is less than £5000 PA so not eligible to register.

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

<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>60 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>

Where jobs require overnight stays, these time costs will be factored / negotiated into any proposal provided.

*Unless previously negotiated

Last updated July 2023

DETAILS OF REFEREES	
Name Address Tel: Professional Status	Dave Keech MScs Opto Training Ltd (Police & NCA) Bolton www.optotraining.co.uk 0161-4011334 Director of Training
Name Address Tel: Professional Status	Alastair Gibbon MBE Upon request Upon request Former Director Birmingham Children's Trust.
Name Address Tel: Professional Status	Dr Peter Unwin Social Work Department Worcester University 01905855126 Principal Social Work Lecturer / Poet

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

Signed

Date
