

Linda M Stewart

Curriculum Vitae

I have over 30 years' experience in social work, qualifying in 1983 and working in mental health before moving to children and family work in 1985. Since then I have gained wide-ranging experience in the field of childcare as both practitioner and manager. In addition, I worked as a lecturer and course leader for the Milton Keynes Diploma in Social Work between 1993 and 2003, leaving to become the Service Manager for Cafcass Northamptonshire. In my post as Service Manager I was responsible for all aspects of the service provided to the County and Magistrates Courts by the Children's Guardian and Children and Family Court Reporter Service. I was an active member of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Family Justice Council. I left in 2010 to concentrate on independent work and therapy.

Since 2006, I have undertaken work as a director of ChildPlus Consultancy. This has varied from individual to family and kinship/ Special Guardianship assessments, where abuse, neglect, domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health and disability issues have been factors. I have worked with specialist mental health and psychology professionals with adults and undertaken therapeutic work with children. I have undertaken assessments where cultural issues are significant including a kinship assessment in Jamaica for the High Court, looking at the child's needs within the context of culture and identity.

Over the years I have been consulted on a range of issues from sibling separation to risk and parental capacity to change. In addition, I have been involved over many years in the training of professionals and volunteers covering a range of subjects from risk assessment and child protection to direct work with children and understanding grief and loss.

Academic and Professional Qualifications

Advanced Award in Social Work, EA PQC	2000
Diploma in Management Studies, De Montfort University	1994
Certificate in Systemic Family Therapy, KCC Foundation	1992
Diploma in Psychodynamic Counselling, Napier College	1986
Student Supervisor Award, CCETSW [Scotland]	1985
CQSW, University of Dundee	1983
Diploma in Social Work [post-grad], University of Dundee	1983
MA Politics and Social Administration, University of Dundee	1981

Employment Record

Director, ChildPlus Consultancy	2006 -
Service Manager, Cafcass, Northants.	2003 - 2010
Programme Leader & Practice Coordinator, the Milton Keynes Dip. SW, De Montfort University	1995 - 2003
Senior Lecturer, the Milton Keynes Dip. SW, De Montfort University	1993 - 1995
Principal Social Worker, LA - Children & Families, Northants	1988 - 1993
Social Worker, LA - Children & Families, Bedford	1986 - 1988
Social Worker, LA - Children & Families, Dundee	1985 - 1986
Psychiatric Social Worker, Murray Royal Hospital, Perth	1983 - 1985

Additional Work

External Examiner University of Bedfordshire	2013 -
External Examiner, BA Social Work, Open University	2007 - 2012
External Consultant, BA Social Work, Open University	2004 - 2007
Independent Chair – Fosterplus	2002 - 2004
Independent Social Worker/Consultant/Trainer	2002 -
Member, National Executive Cttee. British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect	1999 - 2002
Counsellor/trainer/supervisor – CRUSE Bereavement Care	1986 - 2013
Volunteer and child protection consultancy – Blue Smile Children's Charity	2013 -

I was involved in CRUSE for over 25 years as a volunteer. In 1999 I was involved in the setting up of Barneys, providing counselling for bereaved children and young people. Barneys is now part of the Bedfordshire Child Bereavement Service. Blue Smile provides counselling and mentoring in a number of schools in Cambridge: my role is as the Child Protection Consultant to the charity.

Training

Over the last 34 years, I have attended a wide range of training courses on subjects including domestic violence, mental health and child protection, assessments, risk analysis and safe planning, fostering and adoption, substance misuse and child protection, transcultural counselling, play therapy, counselling in suicide, abuse, loss and bereavement.

I am HCPC registered and DBS cleared.