

New Child sexual abuse and disability: understanding vulnerabilities and the professional role

One-day course

£850 + VAT for 6 to 25 participants

Please note: There is an increased fee to deliver this course face-to-face.

Who is this course for

This introductory course is for professionals who work with children. This may include in mainstream and special schools, health services, police, children's social care, residential and day care settings, services for learning and physically disabled children, fostering and adoption services, and crucially, those working also with young people with undiagnosed conditions who may have communication, literacy or other special educational needs (SEND). It is also designed and will be beneficial for those providing care and other services to these children and their families.


About the course

Many disabled children attend mainstream education settings and benefit from other many other universal services, however, they will often have other hidden needs. Some children may have Education and Health Care plans, but the majority will not, meaning that sadly, many continue to 'slip through the net'. Due to these children's increased vulnerabilities, they may be more likely to face higher risks of being sexually abused and exploited than other children and young people.

This one-day course is designed to equip participants with an understanding of the key issues when working with, and considering, the sexual abuse of all disabled children.

The course is grounded in a social understanding of disability and explores what this means, why it matters and how this can positively affect practice. It is designed to help participants deepen their understanding of disability and how marginalisation and discrimination can affect the prevention, identification, and response to disabled children, following concerns of child sexual abuse.


It aims to challenge assumptions and stereotypes to enable confident good practice that best protects all children.



What you can expect to learn

- A better understanding of:
 - Marginalised groups and how disability, as only one part of a child's identity, is seen and understood.
 - Critical thinking about the assumptions in use in our practice
 - The research base relating to child sexual abuse and disabled young people
 - The impact of child sexual abuse on disabled young people
 - Voices of disabled children and their parents/carers
 - How negative assumptions, social and economic barriers impact the vulnerability of disabled children.
 - Good practice in parenting and care that helps towards more effective abuse prevention
 - Professional and organisational roles and responsibilities
 - Improving responses to disabled children through reasonable adjustments.

Additional resources

- PowerPoint slides for attendees to refer back to and keep for reflection.
 - A digital copy of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) final report.
 - A digital copy of *It's About Ability: Learning Guide on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, Unicef (2008).
 - A digital copy of *Signs and indicators: A template for identifying and responding to concerns of child sexual abuse*.
 - A digital copy of *Communicating with children: A guide for those working with children who have or may have been sexually abused*.
 - A digital copy of *Supporting parents and carers: A guide for those working with families affected by child sexual abuse*.
 - References and resources list.
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What past attendees said about this course

“Great course, very insightful and an eye opener. I would highly recommend. The training is especially useful as our children and young people need that extra level of advocacy.”

Support Worker, Social Services

“...Informative session delivered really well. Very eye opening to the extent and to what more we could be doing to work together to protect disabled children.”

Autism Advisor, Family Support Team

“The training provided me with the knowledge and awareness to further support children and young people with disabilities, who may be a victim of sexual abuse. I have gained the knowledge to recognise the key indicators with non-verbal or communication barriers to respond to children and young people’s needs.”

Residential Children support worker

