



Information sheet Training

AFT tel: 01925 444414

www.aft.org.uk

Developing trainings in systemic family inclusive practice

Children, parents and other family members tell us what a positive difference working with staff skilled in family-inclusive systemic approaches can make in their lives.

Professionals at all levels of practice report that they feel more skilled, effective and supported by family-inclusive trainings and supervision.

Supporting individual children, young people and adults without also working with those around them who may be key to their recovery or relapse seems short-sighted at best. Opportunities for people in close relationship to work together to find ways forward are missed. At worst, the distress of other family members, and serious problems within the family including violence and abuse, remain invisible.

Government guidance and independent reviews have called repeatedly for more skilled working with families and carers. Yet there are insufficient trainings in the UK to equip staff with the skills they need.

Working with families is complex, demanding, and requires a range of additional skills.

AFT has developed a comprehensive training framework to cascade knowledge and skills in family-inclusive, family sensitive working, creating staff development pathways from very basic skills and understandings to full clinical and supervisory qualifications equipping staff to work with families with serious and complex needs and support other professionals through training and supervision.

AFT currently accredits systemic skills and family therapy trainings in the UK. It actively supports initiatives to develop multi-disciplinary trainings at all levels, to enhance staff skills, develop practice excellence and implement family friendly, family focused policies. It supports and consults to institutions and services delivering trainings, including those tailored to specific professional and client groups, and works with other professional bodies to expand the systemic, family-focused components of their pre-registration trainings.

AFT calls on all political parties and concerned government departments to work to ensure that future recruitment of experienced and skilled practitioners to work with families is not hampered by policies such as the ELQ [Equivalent or Lower Qualification] rule, which has cut course funding for professionals with existing qualifications who wish to train in family-focused practice.

What next?

For further information and consultation on developing workforce trainings in systemic family-inclusive practice, please contact AFT on 01925 444414, email s.kennedy@aft.org.uk

AFT is the UK's leading body for professionals working therapeutically with families. Visit www.aft.org.uk