

Safeguarding & Cultural Differences

A one-day course

There are many childcare practices in different cultures that enhance children's development and promote their welfare. However, equally there are practices that harm children by impacting on their development and in some cases result in children being disabled or killed.

This course will look at examples of cultural situations and participants will examine whether they are abusive or just different, whether they are culturally relevant or beneficial to children's growth. It will provide participants with the knowledge and skills required to feel confident in dealing with black and ethnic minority children (BME) and their families. Through group work & discussion, participants will develop their awareness on: forced marriages & honour violence, female genital mutilation, physical punishment of a child using an implement and the belief in spirit possession.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Distinguish between culturally acceptable & harmful childcare practices
- Understand the issues young people face in relation to forced marriage and honour crimes
- Recognise and respond to situations where children are suspected or known to have been victims of female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Recognise how the belief in spirit possession can result in the abuse of children
- Consider how to incorporate cultural issues effectively into all stages of assessment and service delivery

Training Techniques

Taught, group discussions/exercises/case studies, Q&A, Quiz

Timetable (may be subject to minor amendment)

- Session 1** Introduction
Facts & figures
The legal context and overview of UN Convention on Rights of the Child
Difference between forced and arranged marriage
Motives prompting forced marriage and honour crimes
Potential warning signs and the 'one chance rule'
To give best practice guidelines on where to refer people experiencing forced marriage & honour crimes
Exercise 1 – Abuse or culturally relevant?
- Session 2** Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – Definition
Legislation and National Policy
Context in which FGM occurs & cultural underpinnings
Short & long term implications for a child's health & welfare
Identifying a child who has been subject to FGM or who is at risk of being abused through FGM
Agencies responding to FGM concerns
Exercise 2 – Case studies
- Session 3** Considerations in addressing abuse linked to a belief in spirit possession
Recognising abuse or neglect linked to a belief in spirit possession
Physical punishment & the law
Barriers to children and adults reporting concerns
Blocks to staff reporting concerns and how to overcome these
Sources of stress for BME children & families and parenting capacity
BME parents with mental health problems and their children
Exercise 3 – What do you do if a child tells you they are being abused?
- Session 4** Incorporating cultural issues effectively into assessment and delivery
Statutory responsibilities
Personal Action Planning
Exercise 4 – Improving practice in your organisations relating to safeguarding children & young people from BME communities