

An Introduction to Working with Parents who Misuse Substances

Background for Training:

Substance misuse affects all sectors of society regardless of age, location or income. If you work with families, it is likely that some of them are affected by a family member who misuses drugs or alcohol. How does this affect your work, and what are your concerns and responsibilities towards the children involved?

Session Purpose:

This one-day introductory course will address basic drug knowledge, the possible impact of drugs and alcohol on parenting and will examine what a childcare provider or foster parent can do to help if a parent is misusing drugs or alcohol.

Who Is The Session For?

This course is designed for people caring for children whose parents may be misusing drugs or alcohol. The course is suitable for participants with little or no drug knowledge.

Seminar Objectives:

- Increase basic knowledge around commonly used substances
- Recognise some signs of possible substance misuse in parents
- Understand the possible impact of substance misuse on parenting capacity
- Increase confidence in working with children whose parents are receiving treatment for substance misuse

Who Will Facilitate Training:

Mary Smeeth, Young People's Substance Misuse Training Officer. Mary has a BA in English and Education, and an MA in Counselling. She has worked in the mental health field for eleven years, and has worked with adults with mental health problems, as well as adolescents dealing with substance misuse, ADHD, teenage parents and incarcerated youth. Most recently she worked as an in-home family therapist in Arizona, and has taught parenting classes in the USA and the UK.

Dates & Venues:

Monday 18 May 2009 – Lowestoft. Tuesday 10 November 2009 – Bury. Monday 22 February 2010 – Stowmarket.

Cost and Times:

Course is Free of Charge
9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided.

