

# Sexual abuse

Thursday 22 May 2008



The aim of the workshop is to provide working definitions of child and adolescent sexual abuse for social workers and psychologists involved with children and families. The assessment is based on the Childhood Experience of Care and abuse interview (CECA) -

a standardised interview and scoring measure developed in research work on childhood maltreatment in relation to mental health outcomes.

The workshop will examine research on sexual abuse in relation to family context, and relationship to perpetrator. Case material will be used to illustrate interviewing and scoring procedures. Attendees will practice scoring the severity of different examples of abusive incidents to gain reliability.

The workshop will explore definitions of sexual abuse (eg age of victim and perpetrator, degree of sexual contact, witnessing of sexual activity, relationship to perpetrator) as well as issues around disclosure (support or negative response). The overlap of sexual abuse with physical attacks and psychological abuse will be discussed. Assessment and analysis of sexual abuse in practice contexts will be discussed.

Workshop leaders will include Prof Antonia Bifulco (director of the Lifespan Research Group and designer of the CECA), Geraldine Thomas child psychotherapist and expert on assessing maltreatment in children, Dr Julia Davidson, criminologist and expert on police guidelines for interviewing victims, and Sue Skrobanski, lecturer on child protection and freelance trainer in standardised assessment tools in child protection.

## Workshop timetable

9.30	Coffee
10.00	Introductions
10.15	Research Findings on sexual abuse in childhood.
11.00	Coffee break
11.15	Measuring sexual abuse- Interview questions and rating severity
12.15	Rating vignettes of sexual abuse
1.00-2.00	LUNCH BREAK
2.00	Police guidelines for interview child victims (ABE).
2.45	Impact of sexual abuse on children
3.15	Assessing sexual abuse—practice implications
4.00	Finish