

# **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*

