



Research Conference

'What Helps Children? Evidence Based Analysis for Family Court'

**24 February 2010
Birmingham NEC**

GUIDANCE ABOUT ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Conference Themes

The following provides some additional information about the themes chosen for this conference. This is to assist people who are considering submitting an abstract proposal (for either a formal presentation or workshop) with information about the scope of each theme and potential topics encompassed by it.

Please note: potential papers and workshops are not limited to the suggestions included under each theme. These are intended as a brief guide only. The conference committee would welcome abstracts exploring other issues *providing there is a clearly identified link to at least one of the stated two main conference themes.*

- **Contact, Risk Management and Changing Needs**
 - Domestic abuse
 - Emotional health
 - Neglect
 - Trends in contact
 - Developing services for 21st C families
 - Effective planning and intervention

- **Child Inclusive Practice**
 - Effective communication with children
 - Respecting young people's views
 - Assessing children's needs
 - Helping families to resolve problems
 - Promoting children's best interests
 - Supporting diversity

The conference is open to academics involved with research about children and families and all professionals involved in work with children and families. It will be particularly relevant to: Social Work and Legal Academics, Children and Families Researchers, Family Court Advisers, Local Authority Children's Social Care Social Workers and Managers, Practitioners working in Voluntary Agencies providing front-line services to children and families, Practitioners working within Fostering and Adoption Services and Contact Services, Legal Professionals involved with Family Court.

Information about Presentations and Workshop Specifications

Authors are invited to submit proposals for formal presentations and workshops. All proposed presentations or workshops must either focus on research about practice or the application of research to practice.

Papers which report original research (either completed or in progress) that has a clear application to practice are particularly welcome. If reporting research that is in progress, the research project needs to have progressed to the point where preliminary research findings can be reported to the conference.

Presentations: The time allotted for presentations is 30 minutes (20 minutes for the presentation with 10 minutes for discussion and questions).

Workshops: There is an expectation that workshops will be interactive sessions exploring issues in practice or the application of research to practice with an emphasis on debate about how to manage or resolve key dilemmas for practice, or skills development, or tools which can be used in practice. The time allotted for workshops is 60 minutes.

The Conference Organising Committee and the Peer Review Process

This conference, which is sponsored by Cafcass, is being organised by a multi-agency committee that includes academic and practice representatives and service user representation.

Membership of the conference committee can be found on the conference pages of the Cafcass website.

All abstracts will be anonymised and then peer reviewed by a combined panel of academics, practitioners and service user representatives. The peer review panel is being chaired by Jane Tunstill (Professor Emeritus of Social Work, Royal Holloway College). Further information about the peer review process is available from:

Dr Florence Watson
Cafcass Research Officer
Email: flo.watson@cafcas.gov.uk
Phone: (01603) 226600

Abstract submission deadline: 13 September 2009

The conference committee will notify all applicants of the outcome of the selection process by email by 09 October 2009.

Additional Information

N.B. All presenters whose abstracts are accepted for presentation must register as delegates for the conference. Please see the registration form for details of fees for delegates who are presenting a paper or workshop. A reduced rate applies for people presenting papers or facilitating workshops.

Abstracts should not exceed 300 words (excluding references) and should specify audio-visual requirements. All abstracts should be single spaced in Arial point 12 font. The conference theme should be clearly identified.

All submissions need to be compatible with the anti-discriminatory policy of Cafcass.

All abstracts should be submitted by email and email attachment by 13 September 2009 to:

Judith Soares
Conference Coordinator
Email: judith.soares@cafcass.gov.uk
Phone: (0844) 353-3350

Any abstract author who is not able to submit the proposal electronically should contact Judith Soares or Florence Watson to discuss alternative arrangements.