

Working together to keep Children safe

2nd Annual Child Protection Conference

Tuesday 6th October 2009

Stirling Management Centre, Stirling

CONFERENCE



Keynote Speaker

Adam Ingram MSP

Minister for Children and Early Years, Scottish Government

THE NEW MULTI-AGENCY RESOURCE SERVICE; THE FIRST HUB OF CHILD PROTECTION EXPERTISE IN THE UK

The need for fluid inter-agency information exchange and the sharing of expertise and good practice in the field of child protection has never been greater. Scotland's child protection system is widely regarded as the most robust in the UK, however two recent HMIE reports have labelled inter-agency working and information-sharing in two Scottish Council areas as 'inconsistent' and 'unsatisfactory'. The need for child protection agencies to be able to react to changing circumstances in a swift and coordinated manner is becoming increasingly key to keeping children safe.

The new Multi-Agency Resource Service (MARS) - based in Stirling - will be the first hub of child protection expertise in the United Kingdom. The MARS will aim to develop a network of practice, policy and research expertise to aid professionals in the field. It will encourage and foster inter-agency collaboration to share knowledge in working with complex situations, helping councils and all other child protection agencies overcome the challenges presented by difficult cases and share good practice.

Some of the topics to be covered at this conference:

- **Understand** the MARS initiative
- **Consider** how the service could help your organisation make child protection in Scotland safer and more successful
- **Establish** how to identify perceived and actual gaps in skills or experience within agencies
- **Explore** existing examples of good practice in inter-agency working and information sharing
- **Hear** from leading practitioners and academics in the field

For up to date Agenda information, visit www.mackayhannah.com or contact Adele on 0131 556 1557

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Also featuring:

Beth Smith
Director, Multi-Agency
Resource Service (MARS)

Jane Scott
MARS liaison,
Scottish Government

Harriet Dempster
President, Association of
Directors of Social Work

Fiona Mitchell
Co-ordinator, Scottish Child
Care and Protection Network

Professor Brigid Daniel
Department of Applied Social
Science, University of Stirling

Enid Hendry
Director of Training and
Consultancy and Safeguarding
Information Services,
NSPCC



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Working mainly through conferences, we aim to provide a platform for informed discussion and debate of current issues with senior contributing figures in each policy field.

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