

## **ASSOCIATES' ONLY EVENT** **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

### **Meeting the psychological needs of children and young people in public care: the emotional warmth dimension**

“For the past seven years, we have been developing, implementing and evaluating what we believe to be a refreshingly-different approach to residential and foster care (see Cameron and Maginn, 2008, 2009 and 2011). Our starting questions were: (a) what are the psychological needs of these children and young people and, (b) how can residential and foster carers be enabled and empowered to meet these subtle and complex needs?

An extensive review of the psychological literature led us to focus on four major areas:

- the parenting needs of these children;
- the sensitive support for the post-trauma stress that frequently results from parental rejection, neglect and abuse.
- the children’s signature strengths and how they can utilise these in their everyday lives;
- the support that residential and foster carers require to maintain the up to date knowledge, emotional stamina and professional motivation needed to achieve positive outcomes for this at-risk population of children and young people.

We believe that this combination of skilful parenting, sensitive support for post-trauma stress, building upon the child’s signature strengths and using a psychologist consultant to bring current applied psychology into professional child care, represents a new approach to tackling the roots of the problems experienced by children and young people in care

The “Emotional Warmth’ model of professional child care can make a major contribution to the achievement of the five ‘Every Child Matters’ outcomes, by directly responding to the emotional dimension of the problems of these disadvantaged children and young people, instead of focusing solely on their educational attainments, as most recent government initiatives appear to have done.”

**Dr R J (Seán) Cameron** is founder and now Co-Director of the Professional Doctorate in Educational Psychology programme at University College London. He is also a director of the Pillars of Parenting Social Enterprise.

His publication record includes 6 books and more than 50 journal articles on child psychology including the empowerment of residential and foster carers responsible for vulnerable children and young people.

In 2005 he was given the British Psychological Society's national award for distinguished contributions to the teaching of Psychology and in 2010 he received their annual award for his distinguished contribution to Educational and Child Psychology.

**This event is only £50 + VAT per Associate to attend**

**Outline of the afternoon:**

- **12:30-14:00** - lunch (provided by Family Futures)

- **14:00-17:00** - Presentation by Dr Cameron, group discussions and refreshments.

**Limited places are available. For booking, please contact Azyta Farzadneia at [training@familyfutures.co.uk](mailto:training@familyfutures.co.uk) or call 020 7354 4161**