

# **CURRICULUM VITAE**

## **Tracey Watson**

**Independent Child Care Consultant**

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### **Qualifications:**

Diploma in Social Work

PAMS 4.0

### **Career History:**

2000 - 2004

Residential Social Worker

Private and various Local Authority

Children's Homes contracts

Team Leader and Assistant Manager

July 2004 – December 2005

Child Protection Social

Worker Team

North West Local Authorities.

December 2005 – May 2008

Child, Youth and Family New Zealand

Referral and Assessment Team and

Foster care Social Worker

May 2008 – April 2011

Child Protection Social Worker

Child Protection Team

North West Local Authorities.

April 2011-December 2011	CAFCASS Early Intervention Team Family Court Advisor.
January 2012 - December 2013	Child Protection Social Worker Child Protection Team North West Local Authorities.
Jan 2014 – March 2014	Lancashire Children’s Services Independent Reviewing Officer
March 2014- August 2016	Blackpool Children’s Services Child Protection Safeguarding Chair
Nov 2015 – current.	Independent Social Worker / Expert Witness
March 2018- current	Foster Panel Member

### **Professional experience**

During my fourteen-year social work career I have developed a range of skills and gained substantial experience in the full range of social work duties including:

- Experience of Initial referrals, initial assessments and core assessments.
- Experience of providing evidence within Care Proceedings.
- Experience of professionals and expert’s meetings.
- Experience of chairing complex multi-agency planning meetings.
- Experience of practitioner training in Child Protection.

- Keeping up to date and accurate recordings and chronologies.
- Supervising contact.
- Direct work with children including life story work.
- Recruitment and assessment of foster carers.
- Supporting children, foster carers and adoptive parents following placement.
- Working together with families and other agencies to safeguard children.
- Family assessments where parental relationships were frequently defined by a high level of conflict and where domestic abuse or violence was often a factor.
- Working together with other agencies to ensure that children were safeguarded and making referrals to the local authority where necessary.
- Preparation of reports to court that were fair, independent and represented the best interests of the child(ren) concerned, ensuring that deadlines were met.
- Preparation of reports in special guardianship applications and in placement applications.
- I have extensive experience of providing oral evidence in Court.
- I have undertaken Children's Guardian and Family Court Advisor duties in private law.
- Extensive experience of working directly with children and young people in an effective and sensitive manner in order to ascertain their wishes and feelings and accurately report the same to the court.
- Experience in working with children and families from the different faiths and cultures that are represented in the North West and New Zealand and wide experience of working with interpreters.
- Observation of children with their parents in order to assess parental capacity and attachment.
- Facilitation and participation in family group conferences, care planning meetings, looked-after children reviews and child protection case conferences.
- Excellent up to date working knowledge of childcare legislation and this has underpinned my practice.
- Safeguarding Chair of complex child protection conferences and provided consultation and expert advice on safeguarding issues to social work

professionals and multi-agency partners, in a socially and economically deprived Local Authority.

- Undertaken the role of Independent Reviewing Officer as outlined in The Children's Act 1989 Guidance, Review of Children's Cases Regulations 2004 (as amended), The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 and IRO handbook.
- Developed and improved the Local Authority's practice in the review of care rehabilitation plans for Looked after Children and children subject to plans, using research and user feedback and evidence.
- Promoted, audited and monitored adherence to Child Protection procedures from referral of suspected abuse to ensuring the child is safeguarded with use of Issues resolution.
- Quality assurance and audits.
- Case monitoring, guidance and support of social workers.
- Permanence Planning and Pathway Planning for care leavers.
- Safety Assessment work with adolescents with sexualised behaviour.
- Identification of foster carers training needs/supervision of foster carers and appropriate matching.
- Devising and presented training for foster carers and applicants to be caregivers, training including, behaviours associated with abuse; Pathways into Care and Legal Issues.
- Attended Privacy and Official Information training and processed requests from Council for Child; Police and individuals wishing to access a child or their own file.
- To facilitate inter-agency working in Child Protection through effective communication with all member agencies of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and associated bodies.

**I am registered with the Health and Care Professionals Council, British Association of Social Workers (BASW), Nagalro and registered under the Data Protection Act.**

