



# Working in Partnership

## Accredited Modules in Child Safeguarding

### Overview

Figures released by the Universities & Colleges Admissions Service showed that social work degree applications were increasing by more than 40% and some universities are looking at innovative ways to improve the skills of the children's services workforce. In January 2010 Bath Spa University responded to this challenge by launching a new child protection qualification for non-graduate staff such as social work assistants, classroom assistants and nursery workers.

### About the Project

The safeguarding of children has become a major concern in recent years for all those involved in working with children and young people. Many employers in the public, independent and voluntary sectors are providing training for their staff. The need for training reflects the development of new understandings and strategies on the protection of children. It also reflects the large proportion of those working with children and young people who have limited qualifications.

Bath Spa University has a long and successful history in the education of professionals in education. Working with David Niven Associates – expert consultants in child safeguarding – the University offers accreditation for employers' training in child safeguarding, allowing candidates to progress by building academic credits towards a higher education qualification.

A small number of modules are offered on the following topics:

- Integrated safeguarding of children
- Questioning skills for professional outcomes
- Safeguarding disabled children
- Child exploitation and the internet

Each is worth 20 higher education credits and introduces content which is later developed in other modules. Six modules are required for a Certificate in Higher Education.

Modules are taught by employers through their training programmes. Employers assess the students' assignments and the assessments are moderated and verified by the University's staff. Where students are successful they are awarded credit by the University. Employers can teach the modules using their own staff, or might employ training providers or consultants. Some modules may be taught under licence.

Typically, an employer's training input for a module will be three days of contact time. In addition students will carry out work-based learning activities. A module handbook is provided which lists the learning outcomes, the assessment scheme and offers support for learning and the assessment. Students are referred to a range of learning resources, texts and online materials. As Bath Spa University students they have full access to the University's library resources, including electronic journals and books.

### Fast Facts

- Bath Spa University launches new child protection qualification for non-graduate staff in children's services.
- A wider range of participants gain access to higher education.
- The facility contributes to the social justice agenda.

For each module students are required to complete an assignment. Assignments are designed to require students to refer to a range of literature and sources on the topic. However, they also allow the learner to reflect upon and to analyse their own practice as a professional. Rather than a theoretical essay, assignments are consistent with the professional needs of the practitioner. Assignments are assessed by the tutorial staff of the employer and the marking is moderated and verified by the University's programme leader.

No formal qualifications are required. However, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be employed in a child care setting, either paid or voluntary.
- Be CRB checked.
- Have attended statutory multi-agency safeguarding at level 2 (DFES, 2006).

Bath Spa University provides support for staff teaching and assessing modules. This can be offered on an individual basis, or they can attend training sessions in groups provided at the University or in a regional location.

## Benefits

**Bath Spa University offers this facility in order to:**

- Help to improve the quality of training in child safeguarding and so improve the lives of children and young people.
- Offer the opportunity of higher education to a wider range of participants.
- Make links for the University with a wide range of employers in children's services.
- Contribute to the social justice agenda.

**Benefits to employers from participation in the scheme include:**

- Improved recruitment and retention of staff
- A culture of accredited learning
- Increased career aspiration among staff
- Improved quality of service delivery

## Outcomes

A successful Safeguarding Conference, run by Bath Spa University in January 2010, brought together a wide range of employers across all sectors and was addressed by the Chair of the Independent Safeguarding Authority, Sir Roger Singleton.

Bath Spa University is currently working with the following employers, who have students registered on the training:

- Wiltshire Council
- Action for Children
- Torbay District Council

In the future, Bath Spa University intends to develop sufficient modules to offer a Foundation Degree in Safeguarding. This will require 12 modules and 240 credits. Any credits gained are eligible to be used in an appropriate higher education qualification provided by any university.

## Perspective

“Non-graduate workers in children's services are the eyes and ears of the community. They are the ones who have direct daily contact with the child and therefore awareness of their behaviour. Giving them more knowledge helps to protect children.”

**David Niven, Managing Director, David Niven Associates**



David Niven

Bath Spa University's Business Support Office acts as a catalyst for engaging with employers, providing enterprise opportunities for students and graduates, and maximising on the expertise of the university for the benefit of the local business community. For further information, contact the Business Support Office at [businessenquiries@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:businessenquiries@bathspa.ac.uk) [www.bathspabusiness.com](http://www.bathspabusiness.com)