Margaret Davies

Margaret qualified with an MA in social work, back in 1987, and has ever since worked with an attachment based perspective, in one way or another. Her social work practice has mostly been in the voluntary sector, with a stint in local authority fostering services and a privately owned psychological consultancy and fostering service. She is grateful for the many opportunities and support she has had to be creative, and to innovate, from a values base. Since 2014 Margaret has been an independent leader, trainer and consultant in children’s services, and has latterly focussed her time in supporting the children’s homes sector to embrace an attachment based, love led approach. In her work as Training and Development Lead with Children’s Homes Quality (www.childrenshomesquality.com) she has developed the ‘Lovin’ Care’ approach and conducted a small scale evaluation of the impact of explicitly working with love led practice in a children’s residential setting. Margaret is currently doing a second wave of research into Lovin’ Care and collaborating in writing a book on love led practice in children’s care.

Practice Presentation: ‘Lovin’ Care’: creating the conditions where love can safely flourish between children and the adults who care for them – learning from pathfinding the approach in children’s homes.

We know that to thrive, children need to feel secure in loving relationships. Yet as professionals in the care system, we also feel that we aren’t supposed to love the children we work with or for, tell them we love them, or encourage them to get close to and love us. This must change if we want many more care experienced people to go on to live safe, happy, successful, and settled lives.

Children’s Homes Quality’s Lovin’ Care approach has radically changed the way homes work, releasing staff and children’s potential to connect deeply and bloom. Early evaluations have shown how this approach has: improved staff morale and retention, decreased incidents which challenge staff, helped children to co-regulate, and connect, and has improved their progress.

This Practice Presentation session will explore some of the concepts behind ‘Lovin’ Care’, the early evidence of impact and the key learning points from pathfinding the approach.