



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

## Inter-Agency Seminar:

# Risks and Strengths: Planning for Partnership in Child Welfare

**Wednesday 18 October 2006**

**9.30am – 4.30pm**

**Venue: Witney Lakes Resort, Downs Road, Witney**

### **Speaker: Mike Doolan**

#### **Background**

Until 2001, Mike was Chief Social Worker for the New Zealand statutory child welfare agency, the Department of Child, Youth and Family. He has an extensive background in child protection, child welfare and work with young people who offend. He has also led youth justice reform in New Zealand.

Mike has practised as a field and residential social worker and supervisor, managed national residential and social services programmes, and planned and executed a comprehensive programme to move care services from institutional to community settings during the 1980s.

Mike teaches widely in the UK, Europe, the US and Australia on the themes of family group conference decision-making in child welfare, kinship care and youth justice. His recent research interest has been the phenomenon of child homicide and its coincidence with child protection actions.

#### **Research Interests**

Statutory child welfare policy and practice  
Family-centered practice  
Kinship care  
Youth justice policy and practice  
Child homicide

#### **Other Professional Activities**

Family Group Conference consultancy in England, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Scotland, The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, and Australia  
Social work consultancy in England and Ireland  
Supervision and mentoring of senior and middle managers in complex social service organisations

**Mike is an excellent presenter who will describe a different approach to decision-making and risk management, one that places family strengths,**

**and families' capacity to meet their children's needs, at the centre of decision-making.**

These decision-making models have application across the whole child welfare spectrum, and are relevant to managers across child welfare and criminal justice agencies.

**Mike will also describe research he has conducted in New Zealand into child deaths and the context of statutory interventions and decision-making processes and systems.**

Applications (on Learning Contract attached) to:

Shirley Richens  
Yarnton House  
Rutten Lane  
Yarnton, Oxon OX5 1LP

by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September '06 please