

## STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR

Martin has spent periods of time seconded into posts to introduce thresholds for service provision, lead on the implementation of the Assessment Framework, introduce family support systems, and locate multi-disciplinary teams within the ever-changing structures. He has acted as an external consultant and trainer to several local authorities introducing the Assessment Framework and currently the Integrated Children's System and the Common Assessment Framework. Martin is also advising on the introduction of a unified assessment framework in Scotland and UNOCINI in Northern Ireland.

Martin has extensive experience of writing detailed practice guidance to support existing procedures and operational systems and these include sexual and physical abuse and neglect; domestic violence; parenting; kinship care; as well as a great deal of recent work around professional and organisational dangerousness.

Martin has extensive experience of developing strategic direction within the child protection and domestic violence fields and learning how to blend strengths to maximise output and outcome potential. This includes the production of business plans, strategic direction documents and job and person specifications for new posts.

Martin is also developing training linked to building skills and capacity in senior and principal practitioner groups and is heavily involved in encouraging more confidence in the exercise of professional judgement and analysis. Martin is evolving a system of collaborative independent assessments where he links experts with social care staff to undertake the assessments in a way that maximises the confidence and skill development of staff whilst delivering quality reports to secure the essential outcomes for the children involved. He is also working to ensure that operational IT developments are supported strategically to ensure the focus remains on the children within the family as well as system output compliance.

Martin has written the national training programme on neglect and emotional abuse for CAF-CASS and been instrumental in the commissioning of a pioneering assessment tool for CAF-CASS Cymru focusing on children living with inter-parental conflict (Harold and Shelton, 2008).

Martin in his academic role has repeatedly raised concerns about various government initiatives and has made practical suggestions on how to operationally unite disparate strategic directives. He is a solution-focused trouble shooter in this role with a keen eye for detail. This is reflected in some of his publications and he has developed an A to Z of child protection for Careknowledge which provides an easy route into best practice and research across a range of topics in child protection. The A to Z is currently being supplemented by a range of briefings and the first of these ‘The future of child protection: where have we come from and where are we going?’ has been published (see [www.careknowledge.com](http://www.careknowledge.com)).

[Download an interview with Lord Laming](#) about the current system of child protection on the Today programme on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2005. (Real Audio File, 174b)