Safe Contact: Managing the complexities of child contact within the context of domestic abuse

Date	Wednesdays 4th **and** 11th November 2026
Time	4pm - 6.30pm
Venue	Online via Zoom
For	Child Contact Centre Practitioners
Presenters	Judy Ferguson
Cost	RS Members £50/ Non-Members N/A
CPD Points	5 Category A Points
Booking	Book your place: HERE

Where domestic abuse is a concern, child contact can be a daunting process. Parents who have experienced domestic abuse often have significant safety concerns for both them and their child/ren. They may be concerned about the non-resident parent using contact to monitor what they are doing or where they live, saying inappropriate things to their child or using the contact process to further manipulate, control or intimidate them or their children.

Survivors often feel that they have little control over the process, reluctantly having to be part of a system that isn't working for them or their children.

In this CPD event practitioners will consider the system around child contact in Scotland and the impact on those involved, particularly within the context of domestic abuse. There will be an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and opportunities of supporting children and parents using child contact centres. Participants will consider the dynamics of domestic abuse and managing safety concerns that may arise during contact to ensure that child safety remains at the heart of the process.

The sessions will explore the professional challenges of maintaining neutrality while prioritising trauma-informed, domestic abuse-competent support to parents navigating the contact process in ways that minimise harm and re-traumatisation. Participants will identify what helps to create contact environments that are safe, predictable and child-focused whilst acknowledging the power differences within the system. This interactive event takes place over two sessions.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the event participants will be able to:

- Reflect on Scotland's family welfare system and the role of child contact centre practitioners in supporting children and parents within the context of domestic abuse.
- Recognise how domestic abuse can impact child contact arrangements and safety.
- Examine how best to maintain professional neutrality while using trauma-informed, domestic abuse-competent practice.
- Apply learning to minimise harm and re-traumatisation and create contact environments that are safe, predictable and child-focused.

Presenter: **Judy Ferguson** is the National Training Lead at Scottish Women's Aid, a certified Safe & Together Trainer and a qualified Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate. Judy spent nearly 10 years working in a specialist domestic abuse service and 5 years serving on the board of Scottish Women's Aid. Judy regularly provides training and consultancy to a wide range of multi-agency statutory and voluntary bodies. These include COPFS, Police Scotland, Local Authority Social Work Teams, SCRA, Law Society Scotland, Criminal Justice, Health Boards, Housing Associations and Violence Against Women & Girls Partnerships and is passionate about improving the understanding of, and response to anyone experiencing domestic abuse.

RELATIONSHIPS counselling, mediation & family support across SCOTLAND

HOW TO BOOK

Relationships Scotland CPD events are for practitioners who are currently working for a Service that is a Member of Relationships Scotland. Booking early is encouraged as spaces on this event are limited. Spaces may be open to practitioners from external organisations where appropriate and available. We use an online booking process which can be used by:

- Member Services to book on behalf of practitioners.
- Practitioners from Member Services who wish to self-fund.

If you have any questions about the booking process please contact:
Diana Sinclair, diana.sinclair@relationships-scotland.org.uk

EVENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Booking: Booking for CPD events will be confirmed by email within 10 days of submission. Please check your inbox and/or junk mail, if you have any issues receiving this email please contact us immediately. Booking will usually close 7days prior to the event. Only participants that have received a booking confirmation email will be able to access the event.

Payment: Member Services/Self-funded practitioners will be sent an invoice for the course fee before the event which will have a unique invoice number for the payment reference. Payment must be made prior to the event.

Cancellations: Cancellations within 14 days of the event and non-attendance will be charged in full. Member Services/practitioners must notify us of any cancellations by email. Where appropriate, Member Services may transfer a place to another attendee if the original person cannot attend, we must be informed of this ahead of the event taking place. If a CPD event is cancelled by Relationships Scotland (because of insufficient numbers or unforeseen circumstances) then all fees will be fully refunded. We are unable to reimburse out-of-pocket expenses, such as travel and accommodation.

In exceptional circumstances, Member Services/practitioners may request a refund of the cost of the training event or a free place at a future event. Examples of exceptional circumstances include admission to hospital at short notice, or a family bereavement. We are unable to reimburse out of pocket expenses, such as travel and accommodation. Requests for refunds or credits for future events will be considered by the Office Bearers Group (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer of the National Office). All request for refunds/free places at future events should be made in writing or by email to the CPD Manager, sonia.bruce@relationships-scotland.org.uk

System Requirements: Online CPD events will usually be delivered using the Zoom platform: https://zoom.us/ Please note, some organisations have additional security settings that may prevent you from accessing the CPD event on an organisational device. Relationships Scotland are unable to provide refunds when there are issues with a participant's IT which prevents them from accessing the CPD event.

Accessing the event online: A link to a CPD event will be sent out a few days before the event to the email address noted on the Booking Form. For CPD webinars a link to register on Zoom will be sent out a few days before the event, this registration process can be completed in advance and will ask for your name and email address. For CPD events and webinars please ensure that the Zoom account uses the same name that you used to book and register for events. The Relationships Scotland CPD Host will use this information to admit participants into the event and to confirm attendance certificates. The username for your Zoom account can be amended by signing into Zoom and going to the profile section of your account.

Attending the event online: Relationships Scotland aims to create a safe and inclusive environment for all participants that attend our CPD events. Please contact sonia.bruce@relationships-scotland.org.uk if you require any adjustments to assist your learning. Our events are usually interactive and often explore sensitive areas of practice, participants agree to support a safe and inclusive environment and to protect confidentiality. This includes: to attend the session from a private space; not to share the Zoom link; not to record/transcribe the session through use of AI or other tools; to ensure that course materials are for personal use only and not to be distributed. Certificates will be provided for participation in Category A CPD events. Please note that the views of presenters are their own and may not reflect the views of Relationships Scotland.

PRIVACY

All the information you provide is regarded as confidential and will not be disclosed to any other organisation without your explicit permission. The only exception to this rule of confidentiality is in the event of a criminal offence. Under General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), you are entitled to view, amend or ask us to delete the personal identifiable information we record about you via a Data Access Request. Please speak with our staff to request this. Please be assured that we follow all GDPR guidelines on data retention and storage of your data. Our Privacy Policy is available on our website: https://www.relationships-scotland.org.uk/help-with-our-ste/privacy