

NAGALRO AUTUMN 2020 ONLINE CONFERENCE

‘The Toxic Trio – Handle with Care’

Time to take stock of the use of this terminology in cases where we find domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health

Monday, 5 October 2020, 9.30 am – 1.30 pm

The term ‘Toxic Trio’ in child protection, is often used to describe instances where there is domestic abuse, parent substance misuse and/or parental mental health issues. Research has shown that more and more children are living in families where all three factors are present, and that the ‘combination of these three problems can produce a toxic caregiving environment for the child’ (Brandon, Bailey et al. 2009).

Is it time to build a much broader and more nuanced understanding of the trio of risk in these instances? How do we keep our focus on the impact on the child, carefully examine such complex evidence, and keep an open mind to other potential risks? How should we be thinking about the children who are abused in families where none of these factors are present?

**Do you worry about representing parents?
Many Serious Case Reviews involve the so-called toxic trio.**

This conference will look behind the raw numbers and how this needs to be considered in practice. What does ‘toxic trio’ mean and how should professionals including social workers, Guardians and lawyers approach this area of work both in a humane manner and in a way that can offer protection to children? Both Jonathan Dickens and Marian Brandon have contributed to the ongoing triennial reviews of SCRs and the trio of risk remains present in many of these serious cases. It is a vital clue which needs careful analysis. Marian Brandon will present her research, and ask us to consider why professionals should be cautious of misinterpreting or giving undue prominence to the ‘toxic trio’. There will be a plenary session allowing a reflection on the practice and research issue from the day.

Chair of the Conference: Jerry Bull, Child Care Solicitor and Director Atkins Hope Solicitors

The highly experienced presenters who will challenge our thinking from differing perspectives include:

- Dr Marian Brandon, Professor of Social Work and Director of the Centre for Research on Children and Families at UEA. Current perspectives on the Toxic Trio are drawn from her research.
- Professor Jonathan Dickens, Head of the School of Social Work at UEA and author of recent report Child Protection in Court: Outcomes for Children.
- Jennifer Holly, training and research manager of the AVA (Against Violence and Abuse) project.
- Dr Sheena Webb consultant clinical child psychologist and manager of the London Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC).

The Conference will attract 4 CPD hours and be of interest to academics, barristers, solicitors, family court advisers, children’s guardians, family support workers and mediators, judges, administrators, magistrates, social workers, mental health workers, researchers and IROs.

Nagalro conference on Monday 5 October 2020

'The Toxic Trio – Handle with Care

Full information and instructions will be sent to delegates prior to the conference

Name

Address

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Telephone number

email address:.....

please write clearly and note that places will be confirmed by email

Zoom name:.....

Occupation

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Please note that numbers are limited. No refunds due to cancellation can be made after 27 February 2020 and all applications for refund are subject to a small administrative charge.

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