VICKI SHEVLIN

Social Work Training and Safeguarding Consultancy

Practical. Reflective. Rooted in real social work. Developing Confidence, Competence and Calm

INSIDE THIS BROCHURE

- Individual Training Sessions covering five specialist topics
- The Core Skills Induction: five consecutive half days
- The Core Skills Programme: five flexible full days
- Pricing: clear and transparent
- About Vicki Shevlin

"I wholeheartedly recommend working with Vicki. Having followed her online platforms we reached out to explore how she could add value to our academy offer to newly qualified Social Workers. I liked her approach: informed by experience, current, planned, transparent, aligned to our practice framework, value based and rooted in strengths based, relational, trauma aware practice with a deep commitment to anti-oppressive practice. Vicki wanted to listen to our needs and tailored a bespoke workshop. The session was engaging and well received. I look forward to continuing to work with her."

Shelley Gill, Principal Social Worker and Strategic Manager, Durham County Council Children's Social Care

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The Social Work Collective Academy

INDIVIDUAL TRAINING SESSIONS

Each session is available as a half day (9:30am to 1pm) or a full day (9:30am to 4:30pm). All training can be delivered online or in person across the UK.

Every session is grounded in child-centred, values-led practice and fully adaptable to your organisation's practice model, whether systemic, relational or restorative.

CONFIDENCE IN PRACTICE

A flagship training day for ASYE practitioners, newly qualified social workers, early help workers and non-qualified safeguarding practitioners. Covers the full range of core skills needed in the first year of practice.

What this training covers

- Confident communication: verbal, non-verbal and written
- Chairing and contributing to meetings with clarity, structure and presence
- Home visit confidence: preparation, boundaries and observation
- Assessment practice: gathering, summarising and analysing information
- Professional judgement: making defensible decisions in complex situations
- Emotional regulation: understanding stress, overwhelm and co-regulation
- Working with families: relational, restorative and partnership-based practice

How it aligns with practice

- ✓ Meets the Post-Qualifying Standards for NQSWs
- ✓ Suitable for systemic, relational or restorative frameworks
- ✓ Relevant for qualified social workers and early help practitioners
- ✓ Prioritises children's lived experience in all decision-making

HOME VISITS

Home visits are one of the most complex and undersupported parts of social work practice. This training provides structure, safety, confidence and clarity so practitioners can approach visits with calm and professional curiosity.

Participants leave with a grounded, repeatable approach they can apply to safeguarding visits, assessments and ongoing direct work with families.

What this training covers

- Planning and preparation for purposeful home visits
- Safety and boundaries: practical tools, situational awareness and risk awareness
- The physical and spatial skills of home visiting: how you move, position yourself and use the space
- Professional curiosity: observing, noticing and questioning with care
- Building rapport while holding risk
- Observations that centre children's lived experience, including infants
- Responding to difficult dynamics during visits
- Cultural humility and anti-discriminatory practice
- Regulation tools for before and after every visit
- Recording and analysis after a visit

How it aligns with practice

✓ Meets the Post-Qualifying Standards for NQSWs
✓ Suitable for NQSWs, ASYE programmes and early help teams
✓ Directly addresses the skills gap identified in serious case reviews

> *"I highly recommend Vicki. She is knowledgeable, professional and passionate. It has been a pleasure to work with her."*

Elena Nicolaou, Safeguarding Children Workforce Development Lead, Newham

MANAGING MEETINGS

Meetings shape decisions, relationships and children's lives. Yet most social workers receive little or no formal training in how to lead or participate confidently. This session changes that.

What this training covers

- Preparing and structuring meetings effectively
- Chairing with confidence, clarity and authority without being authoritarian
- The Families First Partnership context: multi-agency meetings and Family Help planning
- Co-creating plans with families so decisions feel collaborative
- Managing conflict and challenge in multi-agency settings
- Keeping children's lived experience central in every conversation
- Understanding power dynamics and promoting genuine partnership
- Accurate, concise recording and follow-up

How it aligns with practice

✓ Fully aligned to PQS for NQSWs
✓ Works with systemic, relational and restorative practice models
✓ Directly relevant to Families First Partnership multi-agency requirements
✓ Suitable for NQSWs, experienced practitioners and early help workers

> *"Vicki was easy to work with and very able to translate our aims into a well produced and good quality product. I would have no hesitation in working with her again on any future projects."*

Workforce Development Lead, Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes Teaching Partnership

ASSESSMENT SKILLS

Clear, confident and child-centred assessments are essential. Yet many practitioners enter practice feeling unsure about how to structure, analyse or communicate their thinking. This training gives practitioners a framework they can rely on.

What this training covers

- Understanding assessment purpose and structure
- Legislation, consent and key frameworks made practical
- Direct work that informs meaningful assessments
- Professional judgement and defensible decision-making
- Analysis skills: connecting evidence, asking why and how does this affect the child
- Balancing strengths, needs, risk and context
- Writing assessments with clarity, depth and emotional intelligence
- Avoiding copy-and-paste practice while keeping assessments child-centred

How it aligns with practice

✓ Fully aligned to Post-Qualifying Standards for NQSWs
✓ Suitable for systemic, relational, restorative or blended approaches
✓ Strengthens professional curiosity, critical thinking and reflective analysis
✓ Relevant for Family Help assessments under Families First Partnership

> *"Your resources and podcast have helped me develop my confidence in being a Social Worker. My confidence has grown so much since I have been using the assessment guide and I have not been giving myself a hard time for needing to learn."*

Newly Qualified Social Worker, The Social Work Collective Academy

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Strong communication is at the heart of good social work, whether working directly with children and families, contributing to multi-agency meetings, or writing assessments and reports that reflect lived experience.

What this training covers

- Verbal, non-verbal and written communication skills
- Expressing professional judgement and reasoning clearly
- Strategies for handling challenge and conflict in professional settings
- How identity, values and self-awareness shape the way we communicate
- Anti-racist, anti-discriminatory and trauma-informed communication
- Communicating with children at different developmental stages
- Writing that centres the child's voice and lived experience

How it aligns with practice

- ✓ Links directly to Post-Qualifying Standards for NQSWs
- ✓ Aligns with systemic, relational and restorative practice frameworks
- ✓ Suitable for NQSWs, ASYE programmes and early help teams

> *"Thank you very much for this training. I found it very clear and informative and will definitely be able to use the principles included to help me communicate better and to focus on key messages and how to deliver them."*

Training Participant

PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY AND REFLECTIVE PRACTICE

One of the most underexplored areas of social work development. This session helps practitioners understand who they are as social workers and why that matters for the quality and sustainability of their practice.

What this training covers

- What professional identity is and why it matters in social work
- How personal history, values and experiences shape professional identity
- Understanding professional identity as fluid rather than fixed
- The systems and structures that influence how we see ourselves as practitioners
- Social media, online spaces and the formation of professional identity
- Navigating professional identity in a changing landscape including Families First and beyond
- Reflective practice frameworks that support ongoing development
- Building a stable professional identity that can hold complexity

How it aligns with practice

- ✓ Grounded in current research and social work theory
- ✓ Relevant for NQSWs, ASYE programmes, return to practice and overseas social workers
- ✓ Works as a standalone session or as part of the Core Skills programme

"Thank you Vicki for your podcast which is an excellent way to support newly qualified social workers and others. I value and appreciate your work to develop and improve professional practice. I am using your podcast on decision-making in my teaching and learning activities. This episode also links to Barry Mason's safe uncertainty framework. Overall, your approach, thoroughness and thoughtfulness are a great help to students in becoming more confident and creative and ultimately better supporting children, adults and families."

Nora, Social Work Lecturer, Open University

This episode is featured on the Open University social work curriculum

THE CORE SKILLS PACKAGES

Two ways to book all five sessions together at a reduced rate. Both packages cover all five core skills topics and can be tailored to your organisation's practice model. Suitable for local authorities, teaching partnerships, ASYE programmes and early help services.

THE CORE SKILLS INDUCTION

Five consecutive half days, one session per week over five weeks

Designed as a structured induction for ASYE cohorts or new team members. Each week builds on the last, creating a coherent developmental journey over five weeks.

- Week 1: Home Visits: preparation, safety, regulation and child-centred observation
- Week 2: Managing Meetings: chairing, contributing and keeping the child central
- Week 3: Assessment Skills: analysis, judgement and child-centred recording
- Week 4: Communication Skills: verbal, non-verbal, written and trauma-informed
- Week 5: Professional Identity and Reflective Practice: who you are as a social worker

> *"Package price: £3,500 (full price £4,000, saving £500)"*

Ideal for ASYE cohort inductions and new team members

THE CORE SKILLS PROGRAMME

Five full days, flexible, to be taken within five months

A sustained workforce development programme for teams wanting in-depth training across all five core skills areas. Sessions are booked flexibly and can be spaced to fit your training calendar.

- Home Visits: full day, in-depth skills for confident frontline practice
- Managing Meetings: full day, including chairing child protection conferences
- Assessment Skills: full day, analytical writing and child-centred frameworks
- Communication Skills: full day, verbal, written and relational practice
- Professional Identity and Reflective Practice: full day, sustaining yourself in the role

> *"Package price: £7,000 (full price £8,000, saving £1,000)"*

Ideal for sustained workforce development programmes

WHO ARE THESE PACKAGES FOR?

- Local authority ASYE programmes
- Teaching partnerships
- Family Help and targeted early help teams
- Return to practice and overseas social worker cohorts
- Early help workers and non-qualified safeguarding practitioners working alongside social workers

PRICING

All pricing is clear and consistent. No hidden costs.

INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS

Session	Half Day Online	Full Day Online
Confidence in Practice (full day only)	Not applicable	£1,600
Home Visits	£800	£1,600
Managing Meetings	£800	£1,600
Assessment Skills	£800	£1,600
Communication Skills	£800	£1,600
Professional Identity and Reflective Practice	£800	£1,600

In person delivery is available across the UK. + £300 to cover travel and accommodation.

CORE SKILLS PACKAGES

Package	Format	Full Price	Package Price
Core Skills Induction	5 x half days, weekly	£4,000	**£3,500**
Core Skills Programme	5 x full days, 5 months	£8,000	**£7,000**

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN EVERY SESSION

- ✓ Pre-session consultation to understand your cohort's specific needs
- ✓ Fully tailored to your organisation's practice model
- ✓ All slides and materials provided digitally after the session
- ✓ Certificate of attendance for all participants
- ✓ 30 days follow-up email support for reflection and implementation questions
- ✓ Optional: access to The Social Work Collective Academy for your cohort

TO BOOK OR ENQUIRE

All sessions are available online or in person across the UK.

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ABOUT VICKI SHEVLIN

Social Worker | Trainer | Safeguarding Consultant | Author

Who I am

I am a qualified social worker, safeguarding consultant, trainer, keynote speaker and author. I have worked in children's services for over eleven years as a frontline social worker, a child protection conference chair and an independent practitioner and I continue to practice today. Every piece of training I design comes from inside the job, not above it.

I am the founder of The Social Work Collective Academy and the host of Social Work Sorted, the only podcast in the UK specifically focused on early career social workers, which has passed 130,000 downloads. I have a growing social media community of over 20,000 social workers across platforms.

My practice background

My frontline experience spans children's services assessment, complex care proceedings, child protection and section 47 enquiries. As a child protection conference chair I chaired complex multi-agency meetings on a regular basis, bringing authority and specificity to every meeting skills session I now deliver. I continue to practice as an independent social worker, undertaking independent assessments, court expert work, supervision and quality assurance of social work practice.

My first degree was in drama and theatre arts, which informs the way I approach home visit training specifically. The physical, spatial and embodied dimensions of home visiting are central to my practice and to my training: how you move, where you position yourself, how you use your body as a practitioner in an unfamiliar space.

My reach and impact

- 130,000 podcast downloads across Social Work Sorted
- Over 20,000 social workers in the online community across platforms
- Training delivered to local authorities, teaching partnerships and ASYE programmes across the UK
- Testimonials from workforce development leads, NQSWs and experienced practitioners
- Author: publishing contract with Bloomsbury for a book supporting early career social workers

Who I work with

My training is designed to be accessible and relevant for the full early career and early help workforce, including newly qualified social workers, ASYE practitioners, early help workers, family support workers, non-qualified safeguarding practitioners, return to practice cohorts and overseas social workers new to the UK system.

> *"Hey Vicki. Thank you so much for doing what you do. I started my ASYE in October and I know that your work and podcast are a lifeline for many of us."*
>
> **ASYE Practitioner**

> *"You are doing an amazing job by sharing good practice and for me as a second year student knowing there is someone outside university is a massive help."*
>
> **Social Work Student**

GET IN TOUCH

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