



Dennis Charlton

I'm originally from the north east of England and started my first job in social work in London in 1971.

I qualified as a psychiatric social worker in 1975 after undertaking a postgraduate course at Manchester University. I also trained as a family therapist in the late 1970's and early 1980's. My first degree is in Sociology and I was recently awarded an MA in Classical Studies. For my dissertation I was able to combine the two subjects closest to my heart, safeguarding children and tragic theatre and produced a piece of work on filicide in Classical Greek theatre.

I worked in area social work teams and child psychiatry settings during the early part of my career and was appointed as Child Protection Consultant first in Lancashire and later Sefton in the late 1980.

I was appointed as Assistant Director of Children's Services in Sefton and held this post until my retirement in October 2006.

Since my retirement from a local authority setting, I chair two Fostering Panels and one Adoption Panel in the North West as well as chairing the Blackpool LSCB. I also sit as a member on the Merseyside Probation Board Trust and I am commissioned by a number of organisations to undertake training and consultancy on child protection and safeguarding.

I hold a deep conviction that effective multi agency working is essential if we wish to safeguard children and improve their outcomes in life.