



CATH THOMAS

ASSOCIATE EXPERT

CONTACT

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QUALIFICATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

- Post Graduate Diploma in Social Work with Children and Families
- BSc Social Work (First class)

SOCIAL WORK ENGLAND
REGISTERED

BASW AND CORAM BAAF
MEMBER

KEY SKILLS

- Children's social care transformation and improvement
- Social work practice and policy development
- Process and governance improvement
- Strategic partnership working

PROFILE

Former local authority senior manager and qualified social worker with 15 years' experience in statutory children's services, specialising in safeguarding, the Public Law Outline, permanence and adoption, quality assurance and the Independent Review function. She has extensive experience of strategic partnerships including local safeguarding partnerships' quality assurance and case reviews, and community safety partnerships including multi-agency responses to exploitation.

EXPERIENCE

Children's Social Care transformation and improvement expert

- Lead children's social care expert on project to transform children's social care placements at Bedford Borough Council.
- Subject matter expert and supporting the local authority's improvement journey at Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council.

Local authority Children's Services management experience

- Head of Service, Child Protection and Court, Herefordshire Council responsible for circa 65 staff including 6 direct reports. The service consists of: 3 social work / family support teams; an Early Permanence team, and the ECHO (edge of care and reunification) multi-disciplinary team.
- Head of Service, Safeguarding and Review at Herefordshire Council, responsible for the Child Protection Conference service, Independent Reviewing Officers, LADO, Quality Assurance, and Contextual Safeguarding.
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council Locum Senior Manager providing interim cover for two consecutive senior management roles, including management of the Complex Safeguarding Service, Edge of Care Service, and Child in Need and Child Protection Services.

A highly skilled independent social worker with significant experience in undertaking, supervising and quality assuring a wide range of assessments, across private law, public law, child protection and fostering / kinship, SGO and adoption.

- A reputation for undertaking analytical assessments and making clear recommendations within specified deadlines.
- Trained to undertake ParentAssess and PAMS assessments for parents with learning difficulties, as well as being trained to undertake AIM3 assessments (for children who exhibit sexually harmful behaviours)