

Magic Dust for Multi-Problem Families

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Katrina Robson is a licensed social worker (CQSW and Advanced Award) in the UK. She also has received credentials in training child protection workers and as a play therapist. She has published several papers and book chapters. Ms. Robson developed and leads the 'Love Barrow Families' project (Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, UK) which works closely with child protection, mental health services, and the school system to provide an intensive support team for multi-problem families. Attachment (Crittenden's DMM theory) is the central organizing approach to the project. Ms. Robson is also a founding member of IASA.

Alison Tooby is the Lead Child Protection social worker for Love Barrow Families and has over 20 years experience of working in a local authority setting and for the NSPCC. She gained a Certificate in Social Work in 1992 from the University of Central Lancashire.

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Love Barrow Families offers a different approach to working with complex families in the community of Barrow-in-Furness in England. Recognising the significance of relationships and connection at an early stage means that "intervening" can be thought about in a way that captures the assets, which already exist in neighbourhood and community. Love Barrow Families is rooted in the community and has grown from the ground upwards. The importance of principles of co-production in providing a framework and source of inspiration during the last two years will be described alongside the use of the Dynamic Maturational Model of Attachment and Adaptation (DMM). The DMM is a theory of human development and validated set of assessments, which provide an efficient, cost effective and empathic understanding of the complexities of the families' lives. The principles of co-production and the DMM have worked well together because both recognise the fundamental nature of relationships for the mental and physical well-being of families, neighbourhoods and communities.

Objectives

1. Describe the principles of co-production
2. Summarise how the DMM is used to inform how families are worked with in Love Barrow families
3. Identify two examples of emerging learning or "magic dust"