



CPD Workshop – Ghosts in the Marriage

What happens to a couple relationship when one or other partner has experienced childhood sexual abuse?

Facilitated by Ruth Morgan
Saturday 16th September 2017
10am – 4pm

Course Overview

Many things bring couples, or individuals, into therapy, and the emergence or disclosure of childhood sexual abuse in the history of one partner may seriously derail the relationship. The abuse may have surfaced only recently, or may be known to only one partner. Memories may be triggered by the birth of a child, by the intervention of other members of the survivor's family, by emergent dysfunction within the sexual relationship.

In this workshop, we will explore the nature of childhood sexual abuse, the damage it may cause to "normal" development around sense of self, boundaries, safety, and the client's sexual identity. We will then consider the implications of some of these "after-effects" on the couple relationship, and the ways in which we as counsellors can help our clients, in one-to-one or couple counselling, to understand and manage these challenges.

We will work with theoretical approaches and with clinical client material, to which participants are very welcome to contribute. My preference is for the workshop to be interactive and practical and to result in participants having an enhanced sense of the process and outcomes of childhood sexual abuse, and increased skills in helping clients engage effectively with it.

Facilitator – Ruth Morgan

I have worked in the therapeutic world for over 25 years as a psychotherapist, supervisor and trainer. I am a Relate trained couple counsellor, and also have 12 years' experience as a supervisor at Croydon Rape Crisis centre, and this has informed my interest in the theme of this workshop. I have been running an introductory course in couple counselling for several years and am particularly interested in the dynamics that unconsciously affect the complex ways in which partners interact with each other.