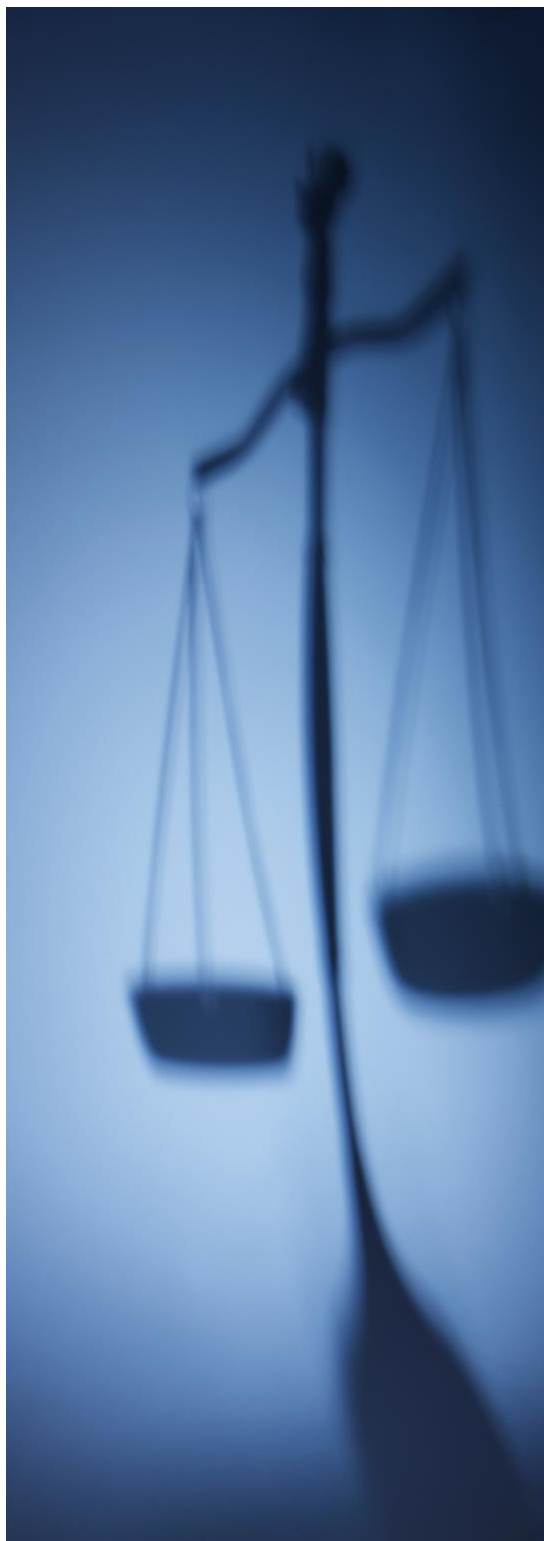




ACHIEVING BEST EVIDENCE (ABE)

INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWING FOR VULNERABLE
VICTIMS AND WITNESSES IN SEXUAL VIOLENCE CASES





COURSE OVERVIEW

ABE INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWING

Sexual and gender-based violence investigations are complex, sensitive and often time-critical. Investigators need specialist knowledge, sound judgment and practical interviewing skills to support vulnerable victims and traumatized witnesses in giving their best evidence.

This five-day classroom course develops specialist investigative interviewers through trauma-informed, victim-centered ABE training. Participants learn to plan and conduct interviews that respond to trauma, reduce barriers to communication and protect the integrity of the evidence. Interviewing is a challenging and complex area in the investigation process.

THE COURSE WILL ENABLE PARTICIPANTS TO:

- Recognize SGBV myths, stereotypes and barriers to disclosure.
- Understand the effects of trauma on victims, witnesses, memory and communication.
- Deliver a trauma-informed first response.
- Plan and conduct ABE interviews around the needs of the individual.
- Use cognitive interviewing, active listening and non-suggestive questioning.
- Refresh PEACE Conversation Management skills for suspect interviews.

PRACTICAL, RESEARCH-INFORMED TRAINING

LEARNING BY DOING

Participants work through prepared case-study scenarios and practical interview exercises with role players. The participative format provides a safe environment to practise ABE cognitive interviewing skills, test decisions and receive feedback before applying the approach in live investigations.

INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES

The course covers rapport, free narrative, appropriate probing, active listening and safe closure. Participants also consider how forensic and medical evidence contributes to the wider investigative strategy.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Police, military police and other investigators responsible for sexual violence or SGBV investigations, particularly those who interview vulnerable or intimidated victims and witnesses.

THE ABE APPROACH

01 PLAN AND PREPARE

Consider the interviewee's individual needs, strengths, communication requirements and risks.

02 BUILD RAPPORT

Create trust and psychological safety, clarify expectations and remove avoidable barriers.

03 OBTAIN THE ACCOUNT

Encourage free narrative, then extend and clarify with appropriate, non-suggestive questions.

04 CLOSE SAFELY

Conclude with care, explain next steps and help the interviewee return to the here and now.

COMPATIBLE WITH PEACE

ABE's phased structure aligns naturally with PEACE, including careful planning, ethical engagement and considered evaluation.

THE OUTCOME

Stronger practical skills, clearer professional judgment and greater confidence in conducting sensitive interviews that support the interviewee, the investigation and the justice process.



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MEET YOUR TRAINER



ALISON EATON
FIS TRAINING CONSULTANT

EXPERIENCE THAT STANDS UP IN THE ROOM

Alison is a retired senior police officer with more than 30 years of UK policing experience. She served as a senior detective and Senior Investigating Officer, with specialist expertise in safeguarding, child abuse, sexual violence, domestic violence, homicide and other serious and serial crimes.

A qualified national and international trainer with a Certificate in Education, Alison is an accomplished investigative interviewing practitioner and former police lead in this field. As a Force Interview Adviser, she supported major investigations involving child abuse, sexual abuse, modern slavery, high-stakes fraud, covert operations and homicide.

She now specializes in PEACE investigative interview training and Advanced Tier 3 interviewing, including interviews with vulnerable victims and witnesses.

Alison also served as a lead Detective Superintendent for National Child Protection Inspections and contributed to more than 15 inspections of police forces. Internationally, she played a key role with the British Embassy in developing the first Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Eastern Europe and continues to support the expansion of specialist provision.

Since 2010, Alison has regularly presented at international investigative interviewing conferences and seminars. She has designed and delivered training internationally in investigative interviewing, major crime, homicide and femicide, child sexual abuse and exploitation, sexual and domestic violence, leadership, effective communication and crime-scene management.

SPECIALIST EXPERTISE

PEACE investigative interviewing | Vulnerable victims and witnesses | SGBV investigations | Major crime | Safeguarding | Training for trainers