



**OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR EQUALITY & SOCIAL SERVICES
MINISTRY OF EQUALITY & SOCIAL SERVICES
14 GOVERNOR'S PARADE
GIBRALTAR**

PRESS RELEASE

No. 35/2012

Date: 18th January 2012

CARE AGENCY – INTENSE TRAINING CHILDREN'S TEAM

As part of the Government's review of Social Services, 16 Care Workers from Children's Residential Services, who are part of the team that support children in care have this week completed an intense 5 day training course.

The Government recognises the needs of all its children in care and particularly the needs of those with challenging behaviour. Importantly, the Government recognises its duty towards its staff both in terms of support as well as the importance of their ongoing professional development. A first class Residential Service will provide its carers with necessary information, instruction and appropriate training to enable them, and importantly the children in its care to be safe.

The Care Agency recognises that there must be a policy in place that encompasses both a supportive strategy for care staff and reporting and monitoring systems. The Care Agency has therefore commissioned an expert specialist training provider to ensure the full implementation of these important elements.

Previously, the Residential Care Staff working with Children and Young People had received level 1 training. This week's training for 16 Care Workers will award them level 2 Certification. This intense training course which has been undertaken at Bleak House will be further supported by in house support and guidance from the training provider over a further 20 days. Additionally there are 3 further staff who have received enhanced training as trainers themselves.

Commenting on the matter the Minister for Equality and Social Services said "I am delighted to be able to announce the first course in a programme of training which the new Government is in the process of devising so as to invest in our staff. This training will give Care Staff the skills and confidence to enable them to safely care for children and young people who can at times display serious behavioural problems.