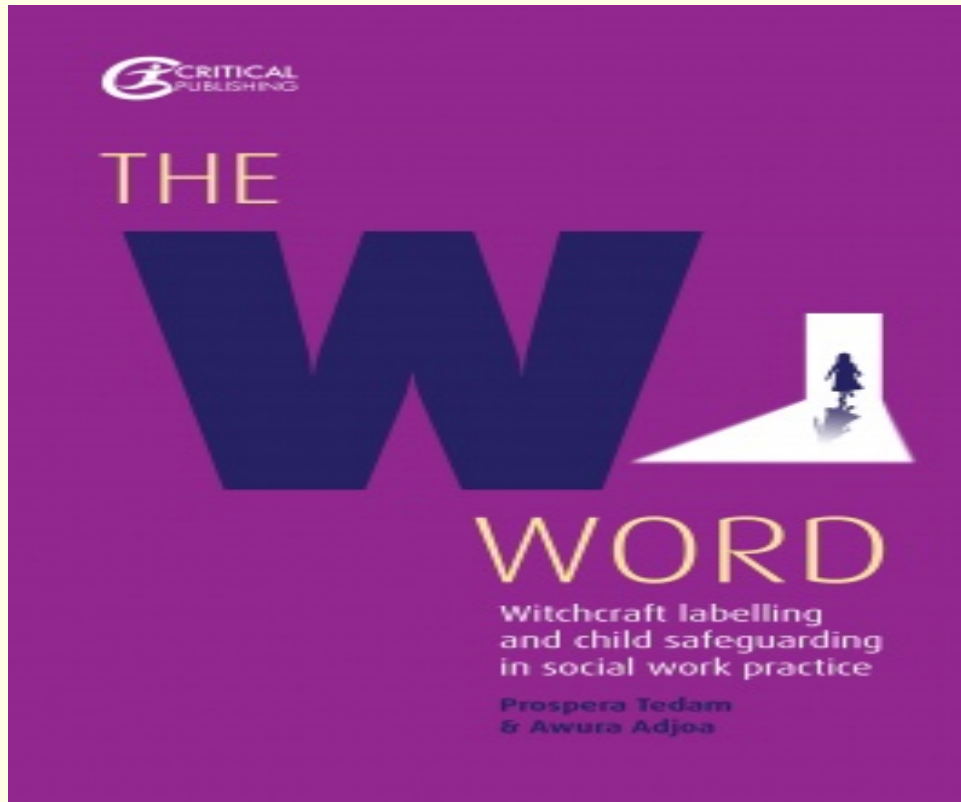




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Dr P Tedam 17.10.17



ITS ALL ABOUT THE W's

What

Why

Where

Who

Working With



What is witchcraft labelling

- *Witchcraft labelling is a process by which children or other vulnerable people experience physical, emotional and sexual abuse as a result of being scapegoated as responsible for misfortunes and difficulties which occur in a family or within close networks. Witchcraft labelling of children results in neglectful and harmful parenting particularly when allegations of witchcraft have been corroborated by a highly regarded person or persons within the community.*
- (Tedam & Adjoa (2017:109))



Why does it happen

Deeply held (cultural, religious) beliefs about the existence of witchcraft and who can be classified a 'witch'

Inexplicable events (largely misfortune- ill health, financial difficulties, unemployment, disability, infertility, bereavement etc) In the UK- Immigration and settlement difficulties

Scapegoating



Who has been affected?





Who has been affected?

Victoria Climbié.

Child B x 2

Kristy Bamu

Khyra Ishaq

Awura Adjoa (narrative contained in the W word)



Where does it occur

- In many communities, countries and faith groups.
- Sri-Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Nigeria, Ghana, DRC, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, UK, USA (etc)



Who is at risk?

Children with a **'difference'**

- Children with disabilities (physical or learning disabilities) or challenging behaviours
- Children who have nightmares
- Children who sleepwalk
- Children who bed-wet
- Albinos or children with other skin/pigmentation related conditions (Research from Tanzania)
- Children living away from home(private fostering)
- Children living with a step parent or relatives
- Children whose parents have been labelled as witches
- Children with Precocious children and left handed children.
- Children who are living within a polygamous setting

Working With Witchcraft Labelling

1. Understand the relevant theoretical frameworks

- Family systems theory
- Attachment theory
- Stigma & labelling theory
- Maslows hierarchy of needs



WORKING WITH WITCHCRAFT LABELLING

- 2. Apply your professional standards
In Social Work - PCF 9 domains (p87-90)*
- 3. Understand the KSS for Child & Family
Social work (p92)*



WORKING WITH WITCHCRAFT LABELLING

4) Have a clear working definition for witchcraft labelling (p 109)

5) Draw on relevant assessment frameworks (p 111)



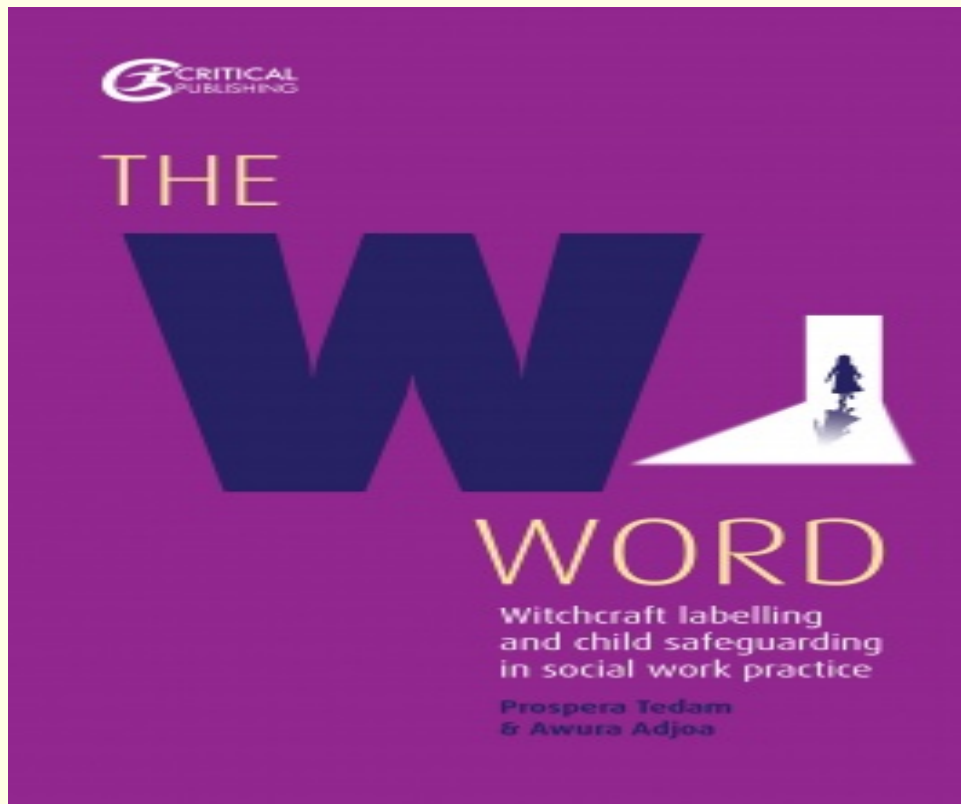
WORKING WITH WITCHCRAFT LABELLING

6) Work in a culturally sensitive way incorporating anti-oppressive and anti-discriminatory practice during your intervention



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“Confess you must”: Power , culture and witchcraft labelling



Power within families

Experts in family systems define power in terms of who is able to influence others to get their way in the family, and who is able to block others from getting their way.



Types of power

Expert power (derived from the specific knowledge held or acquired or in this case assumed to have)

Pastor



Reward power

Is the ability to influence others by providing physical and psychological benefits to those who comply with one's wishes (and sanctions if not)

Awura Adjoa- prevented from doing house chores, moved to live with her step-grandmother, had separate cooking utensils



Coercive power

Parental discipline, threats, aggression, conflict, and competition

Eg- Awura Adjoa being sent to live with her step-grandmother



Conclusion

The W word seeks to:

Move issues relating to this form of abuse from the **marginal** to the **mainstream**



References

French, J. and Raven, B. (1959). The Bases of Social Power. In *Studies in Social Power*, D. Cartwright, Ed., pp. 150-167. Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research.



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Thank you for listening

