A major problem for individuals who have suffered from trauma is the occurrence of secondary traumatisation.

1. An initial traumatic event is outside of regular human experience and the individual’s expectations.

2. Suddenly a world which felt safe and meaningful is no longer so.

3. The individual struggles to find a way back to a place of safety.

4. It is taken for granted that there are worthy, competent individuals / agencies who will help in this situation.

5. Even in the midst of extreme pain and emotional chaos this belief provides some safety.

6. The outside person / agency does not fulfil expectations – the traumatised individual’s basic assumptions about the world are now totally shattered.

7. The trauma deepens. PTSD can occur where it did not previously exist.

8. Anger can lead to conflict with statutory or other agencies. These agencies become defensive and can close ranks. Litigation may occur.

The traumatised individual’s recovery is delayed.