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Practice Links

Issue 57, April 2014

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We are looking to expand the Practice Links team! If you are interested in contributing to the publication in the area of addiction or youth work please let us know. Email kerry.cuskelly@gmail.com for more information.

Next Edition - June 2014

Continuing Professional Development

We are very excited that Nagoya, Japan is hosting the **XXth ISPCAN International Congress** on Child Abuse and Neglect, which will take place 14-17 September 2014. This year's theme is "Towards child-centered societies: Learn from the past, act for the future". Registration is now open. Register before 31 May to get the early bird discount: <http://www.ispcan.org/event/Japan2014>

This ISPCAN Congress will provide a unique opportunity to network with colleagues from a variety of disciplines and representing many regions around the globe, all while enjoying the beautiful city of Nagoya!

Located in the center of Japan, Nagoya is the largest city in the Chubu region. Nagoya is also the gateway to a number of major tourist locations, including Shirakawa-go world-heritage site, the nature region of Kamikochi, and is a short train ride to Osaka, Kyoto, and Tokyo.

Don't miss out on this lovely opportunity. Remember: Standard ISPCAN Members receive a discount on registration. If you're a current 2014 member, you'll need to sign in first to receive the discount. If you're not a current member, consider registering or renewing today! <http://ispcan.site-ym.com/?page=MemberBenefits>

We also encourage you to consider submitting a paper for presentation at the event. Abstract submission is now open through the end of February. Learn more about submitting an abstract: http://www.ispcan.org/?page=Japan_abstract

4th European Conference for Social Work Research

Private troubles or public issues? Challenges for social work research

When the very idea of welfare state is undermined, researchers, scholars, practitioners in social work are challenged to connect their endeavours to the core of social work mission and the support of social solidarity. The conference offers a space to present, discuss, and promote studies and research approaches, aiming at qualifying social work practice as well as the public accountability of social work profession.

The University of Bolzano and its international partners warmly welcome applications to participate in the 4th European Conference for Social Work Research.

Free University of Bozen - Bolzano and European Academy Bozen - Bolzano

15 - 17 April 2014 <http://ecswr-2014.unibz.it>

BASPCAN CONGRESS 2015 - EDINBURGH - CALL FOR ABSTRACTS NOW OPEN

British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect (BASPCAN) 9th NATIONAL CONGRESS

"New Directions in Child Protection and Well-Being: making a real difference to children's lives"

Sunday 12th - Wednesday 15th April 2015

University of Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom

<http://www.baspcan.org.uk/congress2015.php>

BASPCAN Congress 2015 Scientific Committee are pleased to announce the Call for Abstracts is now open. If you wish to consider sharing your work with a wide audience, you have until Monday 30 June 2014 to submit your abstract at:

<http://www.baspcan.org.uk/congress2015.php>

Continuing Professional Development

The *Irish Institute of Mental Health Nursing*, in conjunction with the HSE Nursing and Midwifery Practice Development Unit, are organising two workshops focusing on working with young people with voice hearing experiences. The workshops are facilitated by Rachel Waddingham from Voice Collective. The workshops take place in April 2014, with the first one in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin from 7-9 April, and the second one in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University College Cork from 14-16 April.

Applications are now invited from people interested in attending the Cork workshop from 14-16 April 2014 (see <http://www.iimhn.ie/working-with-children-and-adolescents-with-voice-hearing-experiences/> for application details for the Dublin workshop). Applications are invited from people who have a genuine interest in facilitating/co-facilitating a group, including mental health staff who have agreement and/or opportunities to start a group in the setting in which they work. Joint applications are specifically welcomed from mental health staff (supported by the services they work in), who have an interest in starting and facilitating a group. Others interested in starting a group, ideally those who have identified a service willing to support them to establish a group, are also welcome to apply. There are no cost attached to attending the workshop.

Places on the workshop are limited and will be allocated on the basis of and ability to attend all 3 days and a willingness and commitment to start a Hearing Voices group. See The application form is attached and can also be found at <http://www.iimhn.ie/working-with-children-and-adolescents-with-voice-hearing-experiences/> Please email applications (or enquiries) for the Cork workshop to Harry Gijbels at h.gijbels@ucc.ie or post to;

Harry Gijbels, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University College Cork, Cork

The Wheel's Spring Training Calendar

With The Wheel's Spring Training Calendar now in full bloom, we've got wide range of timely workshops and special events lined up for the coming weeks, including:

Measuring Impacts & Outcomes (27 March, Dublin): this workshop will explain what impacts and outcomes are, why they matter and how you can measure them - learn more here: <http://www.wheel.ie/training/course/how-measure-impact-outcomes-your-work-dublin-27-march-2014>

CEO2CEO Forum (9 April, Galway): a unique opportunity for the CEOs of community and voluntary organisations to network with peers and discuss issues of relevance in a confidential environment - learn more here: <http://www.wheel.ie/training/course/ceo2ceo-forum-galway-9-april-2014>

You can find dozens more workshops and special events by browsing The Wheels Spring 2014 Training Calendar here: <http://www.wheel.ie/training/course-calendar>

DFI 2014 Conference to Focus on Local Engagement

The Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) has announced a conference on people with disabilities engagement in local government for Thursday, 3 April from 10am 4pm in Dublin Castle, Dame Street, Dublin 2. The Conference will be opened by Phil Hogan TD Minister for the Environment Community & Local Government and will explore people with disabilities engagement as citizens in their mainstream locality. Even though the focus is on people with disabilities experiences, the conference will also be relevant to other groups living in communities, such as older people, members of the travelling community, migrant communities, women, children and families.

Book by clicking this link: <https://www.regonline.co.uk/builder/site/?eventid=1487096>

Continuing Professional Development

Barnardos Training Events - Continuing Professional Development April/May 2014

Discovering Siolta 3: Supporting Child-Centred Play - 9 April, 7.00pm to 9.00pm, Dublin 2 Fee: €40.00

Discovering Siolta 4 - Making the Most of your Childcare Environment - 16 April, 7.00pm to 9.00pm, Dublin 2 - Fee: €40.00

Paediatric First Aid - 26 April - 9.30am to 5.00pm, Dublin 2 – Fee €110

Designated Liaison Person Master Class - 1 May - 10.00am to 4.00pm, Dublin 2 – Fee: €110

Child Protection Awareness - 17 May 9.00am to 1.00pm, Carlow – Fee €55

Supporting Social and Behavioural Development: 3 - 6 year olds - 14 May - 7.00pm to 9.30pm, Dublin 2 – Fee €40

Environments: Creating Child-Centred Spaces - 14 May - 7.00pm to 9.30pm, Mullingar, Co Westmeath - €40

Supporting Social and Behavioural Development: Infants and Toddlers – 28 May, 7.00pm to 9.30pm, Dublin 2 – Fee: €40

For further details and to book a place on any of the above please go to the **Training Section** on Barnardos website www.barnardos.ie Tel: 01 4530355 Email: training@barnardos.ie

REGISTER NOW for Annual Conference 2014

When: Saturday 12 April & Sunday 13 April

Where: IBAT College, 16-19 Wellington Quay, Dublin 2

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



You are invited to this two-day event featuring international speakers such as Kusha Bahrami, an Iranian conscientious objector and human rights defender who will speak about the dangers facing people seeking asylum and protection in Europe today. You will hear from experts in various fields of human rights, and partake in thought provoking presentations and workshops.

This year sees the launch of new and critically important human rights campaigns across the movement. We will focus our efforts on combating torture, ending violations of women's rights, demanding the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in Europe and in Ireland. We will continue to work to secure the release of prisoners of conscience and to protect individuals at risk of human rights abuse across the globe. You are central to this vital work. That's why we are inviting you to annual conference. As one of 3.5 million members across the globe, you are crucial to our efforts to end human rights abuse and to shine a light on the dark places where people are brutalised, tortured and imprisoned.

Annual Conference brings together members, activists and the human rights issues that unite us all. Come along and share your knowledge and experience with members and guests.

The full agenda for Annual Conference is now available here: <http://tinyurl.com/o5r5t4u>

Register for the conference here: <http://tinyurl.com/qfb8zjr>

All are welcome! Why not bring a friend and help build the movement for human rights in Ireland. If you have any queries please contact Bernadette or Niamh on 01 863 8300 or email annualconference@amnesty.ie.

Continuing Professional Development

MSc End-of-Life Healthcare Ethics

University College Cork - School of Nursing and Midwifery; School of Medicine; School of Philosophy and Sociology

Applications are now invited for the MSc in End-of-Life Healthcare Ethics. This is a ground-breaking multidisciplinary programme that is offered on a part-time basis over 2 years beginning in September 2014. It is designed to enable students from diverse backgrounds (health professionals, social workers, solicitors, hospital administrators, chaplains, journalists, etc.) to research and critically evaluate the ethical, professional, legal and philosophical underpinnings of end-of-life decisions and care in hospital and healthcare settings.

Programme Structure and Content

This programme will normally be undertaken part-time over a two year period. Students complete modules to the value of 90 credits in total comprising 45 credits in Part 1 and 45 credits in Part 2. Students may opt to exit with a Postgraduate Certificate award (30 credits) or a Postgraduate Diploma award (60 credits).

Topics addressed in the programme include:

The Ethics of Cure and Care

End-of-Life Decision-making and the Role of Legal Rights

The Philosophy of Death and Dying

Ethical Controversies in End-of-Life Care

Ethical Governance

Link to Programme brochure:

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/media/studyatucc/postgrads/applicationdocuments/UCCCoMHMScEnd-of-LifeHealthcareEthicsprogramme14.pdf>

The Irish Hospice Foundation offers 2 Scholarships to cover half of the MSc course fees over two years for successful candidates with a particular focus on dementia care.

Link to Scholarship information:

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/media/studyatucc/postgrads/applicationdocuments/ScholarshipMScEnd-of-LifeHealthcareEthics2014i.pdf>

Application procedure at <http://www.ucc.ie/en/ckx32/>

Deadline for applications is 2nd May 2014

If you have any further queries, you can contact

Dr. Tom Andrews at: (021) 4901465 e-mail: t.andrews@ucc.ie

Ms Sheila Hedderman at (021) 4901560 e-mail: s.hedderman@ucc.ie

Trinity College Law School will host a conference, on May 9th, on the enforcement of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Details in the link below:

<http://www.tcd.ie/Law/events/2014/ESCR2014.php>

Continuing Professional Development

9TH BASPCAN CONGRESS UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH SCOTLAND, UK 12-15 APRIL 2015

EARLY BIRD BOOKINGS NOW OPEN
BOOK NOW TO BE INVOICED IN THIS FINANCIAL YEAR
<http://www.baspcan.org.uk/congress2015-booking.php>

ANNOUNCEMENT- CALL FOR ABSTRACTS IS OPEN AND CLOSES 30 JUNE 2014
Visit <http://www.baspcan.org.uk/congress2015.php>

FURTHER PLANNED CONFERENCES FOR 2014
BOOK NOW ON LINE <http://www.baspcan.org.uk/booking.php>

3 PLACES REMAINING - BOOK NOW UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE:

Working with Child Victims and Sexually Exploited Young People

Monday 31 March 2014, Holiday Inn Hotel, York
Facilitated by Dr SAM WARNER
Chartered and Clinical Psychologist, MMU

This master class demonstrates how child protection practice can be improved by using psychological theory to understand how child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation impacts on children and young people. This day addresses key issues in assessment and intervention, including grooming at home or on the street, abuse-trauma effects, dissociation, self-harm and projected-harm coping strategies, triggers and signals.

Book online here: <http://www.baspcan.org.uk/booking.php>
BASPCAN Members £99, Non-Members £130
Bursaries and student rates available

PLACES STILL AVAILABLE THIS IS MY CHILDHOOD: THERE WILL BE NO OTHER The Importance of Early Years Intervention



dna | david niven
associates

This is a BASPCAN and DNA joint event
Friday 4 April 2014 - Ashton Court Mansion, Bristol

Keynote Speaker: Right Hon. Dame Tessa Jowell MP

Dame Tessa Jowell is part of an All Party Parliamentary Group in partnership with UNICEF and the University of Northampton who will focus on the critical 1001 days in a child's life.

Their goal is get early childhood intervention firmly on the new post 2015 agenda for the United Nations with the UK taking a lead. It will examine ways to support families while reducing the causes of disadvantage to children in their very early years, including the ante-natal period. It will examine the impact of domestic violence, substance abuse and mental illness on early childhood.

Other speakers include:

Jane Evans, parenting specialist and trainer and author of 'How are you feeling today baby bear?' an early years domestic violence story book - published February 2014.

Prof. Lynn McDonald, Professor of Social Work, Middlesex University

There will be a panel discussion with eminent professionals

Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies

Est. 1998, published by Social Care Ireland

CALL FOR PAPERS

IJASS is a peer-review open-access online journal. We welcome manuscripts from across the social sciences and related applied areas, including social work, social policy, community development, education, criminology, youth work, psychology, sociology, family studies, social care, early education and related areas. See Notes for Contributors at:

<http://arrow.dit.ie/ijass/>

Look out for Special Issues in 2014 on

* Irish Criminology and Penology

* International Perspectives on Child Abuse and Neglect

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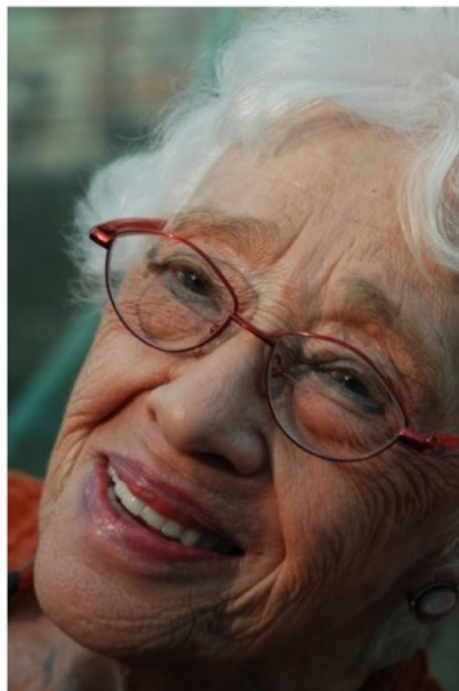
Mark Smith, University of Edinburgh.

Continuing Professional Development

VALIDATION WORKSHOP WITH NAOMI FEIL

May 30th 2014
University College Cork

Naomi Feil is the developer of Validation Therapy. Born in Munich in 1932, she grew up in the Montefiore Home for the Aged in Cleveland Ohio, where her father was administrator and her mother head of the Social Service Department. After graduating with a Master's degree in Social Work from Columbia University, she began working with older people. Between 1963 and 1980, Mrs Feil developed Validation as a response to her dissatisfaction with traditional methods of working with severely disoriented old-old people. In 1982 she published 'Validation: The Feil Method'. Her second book, 'The Validation Breakthrough', was published in 1993 and revised in 2002. Feil and her husband have made many films and videos about aging and Validation. Feil is the Founder of the Validation Training Institute and a popular speaker in North America, Europe and Japan. Her books have been translated into seven languages.



What is Validation? Validation is a method of communicating with and helping disoriented older people, including people with dementia. It is a practical method that helps reduce stress, enhancing dignity and happiness. Validation is built on an empathetic attitude and a holistic view of individuals. When one can "step into the shoes" of another human being and "see through their eyes", one can step into the world of disoriented older people and understand the meaning of their sometimes 'bizarre' behaviour. Validation theory explains that many very old disoriented people, who are often diagnosed as having Alzheimer type dementia, are in the final stage of life, trying to resolve unfinished issues in order to die in peace. Using Validation techniques we offer disoriented elderly an opportunity to express what they wish to express whether it is verbal or non-verbal communication. Validation practitioners are caring, non-judgemental and open to the feelings that are expressed. When disoriented older people can express emotions, often suppressed for many years, the intensity of the feelings lessen, people communicate more, and are less likely to withdraw into further stages of disorientation.

Full Day

Professional: € 50

Informal carer/Unwaged/Student: € 10

Booking:

<http://uccvalidationworkshop.wordpress.com/>

Further Information: uccvalidation@gmail.com



Continuing Professional Development



*PhD Social Work
September 2014*

Drawing upon international models of excellence, the PhD in Social Work is the first of its kind in Ireland. We recognise that social workers are best placed to identify the research needs of the profession. Social workers will be introduced to innovative research methods and supported to complete a PhD thesis. Through a reflective model of teaching and learning, participants will experience a programme that values peer-learning and dialogue in addition to research methods training and excellent tutorial supervision. This is not a social work qualifying programme.

For Social Workers

You will make an important contribution to social work knowledge and will be in a strong position to pursue career opportunities nationally and internationally. These include careers in social work research, practice and policy development, management, education and CPD training.

For Employers

This is a new and timely opportunity for a staff member to generate evidence-based research that is important to your agency.

Duration and Fees

We recognise the need for flexibility. The programme takes a minimum of three years (fulltime) or participants can opt to complete in 6 years by enrolling part-time.

Fees: €5,770/annum (€2,885/annum P/T).

Further Information and Informal Inquiries contact:

Dr Eleanor Bantry White, e.bantrywhite@ucc.ie 021- 4902271

Dr Simone McCaughren, s.mccaughren@ucc.ie 021-4901887

Dr Caitriona Ni Laoire, c.nilaoire@ucc.ie 021- 4903071

Dr Carmel Halton, chalton@ucc.ie 021- 490 828

**We look
forward to
hearing from
you!**

Hearing Voices in Childhood & Adolescence

Helping Young People Who Hear Voices Reclaim Their Lives

Monday 14 April 2014 from 6.30 – 8.00 in Boole 4, UCC

A Public Talk by Rachel Waddingham, Project Manager at Mind in Camden's Voice Collective - www.voicecollective.co.uk

Organised by
The School of Nursing and Midwifery
and
The Irish Institute of Mental Health Nursing



Continuing Professional Development



FIRST CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

'CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON AND BEYOND PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSES'
12 AND 13 NOVEMBER 2014, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK, IRELAND

SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL STUDIES AND SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK, IRELAND
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
CRITICAL VOICES NETWORK IRELAND

The latest edition (2013) of the Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSM) V has once again intensified the debate about the value of psychiatric diagnoses in understanding and responding to a wide range of human experiences of emotional distress. This conference, now in its 6th year, aims to explore critical perspectives on and creative responses beyond psychiatric diagnoses.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers:

Wilma Boevink, experiential expert, works as a social scientist at Trimbos-Institute, the Netherlands. She is a former Professor of Recovery and founder of Tree (towards Recovery, Empowerment and Experiential expertise). Currently finishing her thesis on recovery, empowerment and experiential expertise.	Stuart Neilson lectures and writes about the autism spectrum and mental health in Adult Continuing Education UCC, incorporating his personal perspective as a client. He feels that his own interactions with mental health services benefited immeasurably from a diagnosis of Asperger syndrome in adulthood.
Pat Bracken, Consultant Psychiatrist and Clinical Director, West Cork Mental Health Service. One of the founders of the <i>Critical Psychiatry Network</i> (http://www.criticalpsychiatry.co.uk/) Author, with Phil Thomas, of <i>Postpsychiatry: Mental Health in a Postmodern World</i>.	Olga Runciman, psychiatric survivor and chair of the Danish HVN, is today a psychologist working with and offering therapy to those who are often denied therapeutic help due to 'severe mental illness'. She sees the hearing voices movement as post-psychiatric, working towards the recognition of human rights while offering hope, empowerment and access to meaning making. She has worked extensively with trauma and abuse and is an international speaker as well as writer, campaigner and artist.
David Harper, Reader in Clinical Psychology, University of East London. Co-author of <i>Deconstructing Psychopathology</i> and co-author/editor of <i>Psychology, Mental Health & Distress</i> (the first undergraduate psychology mental health textbook to include a chapter by experts by experience: Peter Campbell, Jacqui Dillon & Eleanor Longden). D.harper@uel.ac.uk www.uel.ac.uk/research/profiles/psychology/davidharper/	Jim Walsh is a self-proclaimed sceptic toward all that is accepted as certainty, or proclaimed to be 'truth'. Despite growing up in Northern Ireland at the height of the 'troubles', being subject to prolonged societal and environmental 'stressors' he still thinks himself lucky in life. He is grateful to have met some inspirational and principled individuals on his life journey, to be a father of two wonderful kids and partner to Ramune, who bakes the best cakes in the world.

Call for Oral Presentations/Workshops (45 minutes' duration): Please submit an abstract (in Word - 250 words max) related to the conference theme and outlining the aims of and intentions by **5 September 2014**. Please also submit a brief bio (in Word - 150 words max). Please email abstract and bio to l.sapouna@ucc.ie. Inquiries to h.gijbels@ucc.ie or l.sapouna@ucc.ie

Registration details will be circulated in early September 2014.

Continuing Professional Development



3rd Biennial International Symposium

Decisions, Assessment, Risk and Evidence in Social Work

Tue 01 & Wed 02 July 2014

Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick, Northern Ireland

(convenient to Belfast International Airport)

Plenary Speakers:

- Professor Eileen Gambrell, Hutto Patterson Professor of Child and Family Studies, University of California at Berkeley, USA, internationally recognized for her work on critical thinking, decision making and related ethical issues, and evidence based practice.
- Dr Martin Webber, Reader in Social Work, University of York, UK, well-known for his passion for rigorous research in mental health social work, including application of evidence to practice decisions and professional knowledge-creation process.
- Mr David Carson, currently Reader, Institute of Criminal Justice Studies, University of Portsmouth, UK, an international speaker on the interface between law and risk in human services including the management of risk and professional decisions in organizations.

This third DARE symposium builds on the second symposium in July 2012 which brought together 110 delegates from nine countries including senior practitioners, managers, policy makers, researchers and those in education and training.

Further information: www.socsci.ulster.ac.uk/irss/dare2012/programme.html

Further information on DARE 2014 including a call for abstracts for oral presentations and posters will be added to our website over the coming months: www.socsci.ulster.ac.uk/irss/dare2014

If you would like your name to be added to the list for publicity email:

Mrs Sharon Lucas at: dare@ulster.ac.uk



International Symposium

Factorial Survey Methods for Studying Decision Making

Thursday 03 July 2014

Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick, Northern Ireland

(convenient to Belfast International Airport)

Decision making is increasingly a focus of interest for society, media, professions and researchers. The factorial survey is an efficient method for studying individual decisions. A randomised set of vignettes of the decision scenario, each with randomised characteristics, is presented to decision makers to make a familiar type of judgement. Because of the randomisation a larger number of factors, and levels of factors, may be included than in the more common factorial experiment. With the growth of computer technology the possibilities for the method are increasing rapidly. This symposium builds on the work at the University of Ulster in using the factorial survey method to study decision making in health care and social sciences. For further information see:

<http://www.socsci.ulster.ac.uk/irss/decisionmakingfs.html>

This conference will be a valuable opportunity for those using and interested in factorial surveys to share ideas and develop the method. Further information on ISFS 2014 will be added to our website over the coming months:

<http://www.socsci.ulster.ac.uk/irss/isfs/index.html>

A call for abstracts for abstracts will be issued in the autumn. Proposals for oral presentations are welcomed in relation to methodological issues, and posters for completed studies and protocols as well as methods. The structure of sessions will reflect the interests of delegates attending, but is likely to include:

- Identification and presentation of factors for vignettes
- Vignette construction and presentation
- Administration of survey instrument containing randomised vignettes
- Analysis of factorial surveys including randomization
- Linking factorial surveys to models of decision making.

If you would like your name to be added to the list for publicity email:

Mrs Sharon Lucas at: dare@ulster.ac.uk

Continuous Professional Development



7th CRSI / UCC conference
Wednesday 11th June 2014



ucc
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland

"Lives less known"

Resilience and inclusion in mental health

Call for Poster Submissions

Publish your findings as a peer-reviewed poster...

Peer-review deadline: **3rd April 2014**

Non-reviewed deadline: **1st May 2014**

Please submit the full text of your poster (less than a thousand words) to conference@crsi-cork.com

Call for ⚡ **Lightning Presentations** ⚡

We are inviting 5 minute/10 slide presentations on the themes of resilience, or the inclusion of those who are often excluded in our society (or any other mental health care themes) - why not grab this opportunity to share your innovations or research?

Please submit proposed outlines by **15th May 2014**

Posters and presentations included in the conference will be published in full or in summary on the website afterwards.

For further information contact:

Keren Lilley Tel: 021 2348557 conference@crsi-cork.com

For updates on speakers and workshops check: www.crsi-cork.com

Continuous Professional Development

In the context of savage cuts in public sector funding, ever increasing social work managerialism and stigmatisation of service users, this conference will provide an important opportunity to debate ways of developing networks of resistance necessary to defend social justice-based social work and oppose the politics of austerity.



This conference will mark the 10th anniversary of the publication of the "Manifesto for a new engaged practice", the founding document of the Social Work Action Network

Call for Papers

We particularly encourage workshops, presentations and papers on the following more specific themes and topics:

- The disability movement
- Defeating sexism and gender oppression
- Debating Government reviews on social work education and adult care
- Challenging the "troubled families" agenda
- Defeating the policies of austerity
- Anti-racist social work practice
- Challenging managerialism
- Working with asylum seekers and refugees
- In defence of youth and community work
- User-led groups and community campaigns
- Building alliances - challenging the strategy of divide and rule
- Radical social work education and practice
- Other subject areas relevant to the main conference themes

For more information in how to submit an abstract or a proposal for a thematic workshop visit

<http://www.socialworkfuture.org/conference-and-events/conference-2014-245-booking-open-conf-2014>

SWAN is a network of social work practitioners, social care practitioners, academics, students and social welfare service users united in their concern that social work and social care activity is being undermined by managerialism and marketisation, by the stigmatisation of service users and by welfare cuts and restrictions. We believe that good social work is a worthwhile activity that can help people address the problems and difficulties in their lives.

Plenary sessions will include presentations on the following themes:

* Building Critical Alliances, 'Mending the Gap in Social Work'.

* Fighting for good practice in times of austerity.

* History and future challenges for radical social work.

Conference fees for 2014:

Conference Registration

£15 Students

£35 Waged

£65 Academics, trade union representatives

Free for service users and asylum seekers

Accommodation:

(There is only a limited number of university provided accommodation in this price. Please book early to avoid disappointment) - £40 (single en suite)

Conference Dinner and Social - £15

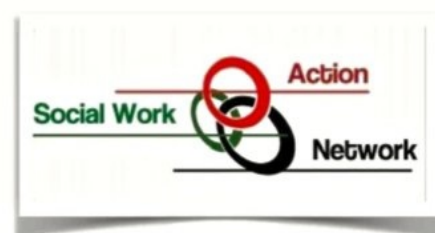
Click on the following link to register online

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/conference.booking/details/?id=259>



9th annual Social Work Action Network Conference

Social Work in a 'Cold Climate': Fighting for Good Practice in Times of Austerity



Durham University

11-12 April 2014

Should you have any queries regarding booking and accommodation, please contact conferenceadministration.service@durham.ac.uk

If you have any questions about the content and themes of the conference please contact Vasilios Ioakimidis vas.ioakimidis@durham.ac.uk



Continuous Professional Development



Celebrating the achievements of social work partnerships in Europe

Europe comes to the UK

The IFSW European Seminar
will be held in Edinburgh
7-9 September 2015

The seminar has a beginning, middle and future, bringing social workers together to:

- Share skills, knowledge and expertise
- Hear from people who use services about the developments they want to see
- Raise awareness with policy makers about the significant contribution social workers make to our communities.

Get involved and register your interest through
www.ifsweurope2015.org

Get involved through your local association
www.basw.co.uk



Edinburgh, 7-9 September 2015



Edinburgh, 7-9 September 2015

Do you want to share your practice, skills and knowledge?

The member associations of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) have been asked to help identify high quality presentations and issues for exploration and debate during the seminar.

Posters, exhibitions and films will enable easy information sharing.

International links will be made throughout the event.

Working together

Work is already underway with social workers sharing knowledge about what works in the following areas:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ■ criminal justice | ■ child protection |
| ■ mental health | ■ learning disabilities |
| ■ complex health and social care | ■ migration |
| ■ prevention and protection | ■ refugees and asylum seekers |
| ■ empowerment and inclusion | |

Getting there & getting involved

The project is supported by the Scottish Government to ensure practitioners can access this opportunity to enhance their professional development.

Discussions are also taking place with employers all over the UK to make it as easy as possible for staff to take part.

There will be special events for students.

Find out more by visiting
www.ifsweurope2015.org or
www.basw.co.uk



Continuous Professional Development



Agenda

- 10.00 **Registration** (tea and coffee)
- 10.30 **Introduction**
Dr John Devaney
- 10.40 **Launch of the Irish Branch**
Dr Geoffrey Shannon
- 11.00 **Lessons from Research**
Dr Helen Buckley
- 11.45 **Lessons from Practice**
Dr Emma Curtis
- 12.30 **Panel Questions and Answers**
- 1.00pm Close

Irish Branch Official Launch

by **Dr Geoffrey Shannon**

11th April 2014 at 10am at Trinity College Dublin

(Mhairtin Ui Chadhain Theatre 2041B, Arts Building)

Lessons from Research and Practice

You are invited to the launch of the Irish Branch of the British Association of the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. (BASPCAN) .

BASPCAN for the first time incorporates five nations together: England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

The establishment of the Irish Branch will support the development of an Irish network of multi-disciplinary personnel coming together from all agencies working in the field with children in need, and with young people who are abused and neglected within Ireland. This is the first time that BASPCAN, the only multi-disciplinary agency of its kind in the UK, has had a Branch presence in Ireland.

Please RSVP to Kate Hills: children@swimireland.ie



Irish Branch Conference

Lessons from Research and Practice

Speaker Biographies

Dr John Devaney, the current Chair of BASPCAN, will be introducing the conference and chairing the sessions. John Devaney is Director of Social Work Education at Queen's University Belfast. He joined the university in 2006 after a twenty year career as a social worker and senior manager in social care in Northern Ireland. He has been a specialist advisor to the Northern Ireland government on child protection, and domestic and sexual violence. John's research interests lie in the area of the safeguarding of children from abuse and neglect, familial violence, the development of child welfare policy and the impact of childhood adversity in adulthood. He is also a Ministerial appointment to the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland.

Dr Geoffrey Shannon will be launching the Irish Branch of BASPCAN at the conference. Geoffrey Shannon is the current Special Rapporteur on Child Protection, first appointed in 2006. He is a solicitor and senior lecturer in family and child law at the Law Society of Ireland. He also holds the positions of Child Law expert to the National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland, Irish Expert member of the Commission on European Family Law and Chairman of the Adoption Board of Ireland.

Dr Helen Buckley will be presenting *Lessons from Research*. Helen Buckley is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work and Social Policy TCD. Her research interests include child protection policy and practice, service user perspectives and utilisation of evidence in practice. She recently led a study on the development of effective recommendations from child abuse inquiries which was sponsored by the DCYA and is the chair of the National Review Panel which examines the circumstances surrounding the deaths of children known to the child protection services.

Dr Emma Curtis will be presenting *Lessons from Practice*. Emma Curtis is a Consultant Paediatrician, with a special interest in Community Child Health, at the National Children's Hospital in Tallaght. Prior to this Emma worked for four years as a paediatrician in Nicaragua. Emma moved to Newcastle upon Tyne, where she worked for eight years as a Consultant, completing her training in community child health prior to taking up her current post as Consultant Paediatrician in 2002.

Agenda

- 10.00 **Registration** (tea and coffee)
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- 10.40 **Launch of the Irish Branch**
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- 11.45 **Lessons from Practice**
Dr Emma Curtis
- 12.30 **Panel Questions and Answers**
- 1.00pm Close

Community-Academic Research Links (CARL)

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

Are you a member of a community group, voluntary organisation, resident's association, NGO?

Do you need a small piece of research done, but don't have enough money or resources to carry it out at this time?

What is this about?

Community-Academic Research Links (CARL) invites non-profit voluntary or community organisations to suggest potential research topics that are important to them and could be collaboratively worked on with students as part of their course work. CARL is an initiative in UCC based on the "Science Shop" model and follows a 30 year European tradition with similar initiatives on-going in some of the highest ranked Universities in Europe. CARL has produced impressive and important pieces of research that have generated a huge interest outside the university walls and the project reports have even had an impact at government policy level.

We are seeking expressions of interest from groups who have ideas for a research project and would like to collaborate on their research idea with a UCC student.

How does it work?

As part of their academic course, students undertake a minor dissertation (between 10,000-30,000 words). In past years, students designed their own study and then contacted groups for permission to collect data. These projects serve to develop the research skills of the students; however, the research may not always answer the needs of community and voluntary groups.

In our model, the students undertake their studies, learn about research methods, data collection, ethics, literature reviews as usual; however, the major difference is that the research projects undertaken are explicitly **studies of issues identified by the community**. These are studies/research which the community identifies as important and need to be undertaken, but they cannot pay for it and/or do not have the expertise themselves to undertake the study.

How long does this take?

The typical time-scale for projects would be a) proposals submitted by groups by early February, b) review of proposals in early March by the CARL advisory group (comprised of UCC staff, students and representatives from the community and voluntary sector) to see which proposals are sufficiently developed and feasible for a student to undertake, and c) students begin their research in May (Master of Social Work) or October (other courses).

Projects must be small enough to be completed within the academic year, roughly 9-12 months. Groups normally receive their research report in July. Large research projects which require longer than a year to complete may be broken up into one or more smaller one-year projects for multiple students.

Where can I get more information?

Please visit our website to watch brief videos about CARL, to find out what it is like to participate, or to read past research project reports.

What if we have already completed a research project with CARL?

Community groups that have are currently involved, or previously completed a project, are welcome to apply again.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Before you make contact ...

1. Is your proposed project small enough to be undertaken as part of a student project?
2. Does your group come under the definition of a not-for-profit community and voluntary group?
3. Do you have a clear idea for a research project that, if undertaken, will have a wider benefit to society?
4. Read our research reports which are made available for free to the wider community on the web.
5. Please review the information on our website.
6. Contact Anna to discuss your idea further and to receive a copy of the application form.
7. Closing date is the 10th February 2014.

CONTACT US

Anna Kingston a.kingston@ucc.ie / 021-4903210

<http://carl.ucc.ie>



UCC

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

New publications and policy reports

"Are we paying for that?" - Government Funding & Social Justice Advocacy by The Advocacy Initiative January 2014

This research launched on January 29th 2014 is an account and analysis of the experience of the funding relationship between the state and voluntary and community organisations engaged in public policy advocacy in Ireland. This narrative, based on 94 interviews and 23 written communications tells the story of the community and voluntary side of the funding relationship, with the relationship analysed on a continuum under the headings state support, inhibition and suppression of advocacy.

Link to report here: <http://tinyurl.com/pft6w7a>

THE ORGANISATION OF RECEPTION FACILITIES FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS IN IRELAND by Corona Joyce and Emma Quinn February 2014

The European Migration Network (EMN) has published a report which provides an overview of the reception system for asylum applicants in Ireland. This report examines the Government's approach to achieving a cost-effective system, while concerns about the suitability of the system, particularly for long-term residence, are also explored in detail.

Link to the report here: <http://tinyurl.com/pasadu8>

Learning More about ESC Rights by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights January 2014

Ireland has committed to protect economic, social and cultural rights in a number of international treaties, however, lots of myths still exist about the meaning of these rights. As more organisations use this human rights framework to support their work they can draw on a huge wealth of resources to better understand these rights.

The main UN body responsible for rights - like the right to social security or the right to an adequate standard of living - is the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. This Committee has issued papers, known as General Comments, explaining what these rights are and how they can be used. The various resources of the Committee provide a treasure trove for those wishing to learn more about these rights.

Click here to access them now: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CESCR/Pages/CESCRIndex.aspx>

A Meta-analysis of Repetitive Root Cause Issues Regarding the Provision of Services for Children in Care by the Ombudsman for Children February 2014

The ombudsman for Children's Office's has produced a report entitled "A meta-analysis of repetitive root cause issues regarding the provision of services for children in care". It was designed to highlight the flaws of the care system based on 10 OCO investigations. It also offers a range of recommendations which aim to account for the systematic root problems of these recurring problems

The link to this report is below: <http://tinyurl.com/qjbs43y>

New publications and policy reports

Fairness in Changing Income Tax - An Examination of Three Options By Social Justice Ireland February 2014

A study conducted by Social Justice Ireland shows that single people earning €125,000 could gain up to €922 (depending on how Government implemented its own proposals).

The following key points should be noted:

- This study compares both Government proposals (i.e. increasing the 20% tax band and reducing the 41% tax rate) and a third option i.e. increasing tax credits.
- To compare these options the study allocates the same amount (€205m) to each option and presents the outcomes.
- Although all the income tax options cost the same, they each have very different impacts on the income distribution.
- The fairest outcome is achieved by increasing tax credits. This would provide the same value to all taxpayers across the income distribution provided they were paying more than €108 in income taxes.
- The most unfair option would be to decrease the 41% tax rate. This would benefit only those paying tax at that rate. Therefore, the single earner on €25,000 gains nothing from this change while those on €50,000 gain €172 per annum and those on €125,000 gain €922 a year. The higher the income, the greater the gain.

Link to the paper here: <http://tinyurl.com/o57jvzk>

Quarterly National Household Survey Parental Involvement in Children's Education Q2 2012 by CSO January 2014

The CSO recently published a report on parental involvement in second level education including issues such as homework. The survey showed that 4% of primary school children and 28% of secondary school children have never received assistance with their homework. 87% of parents aspire to having their children remain in the education system to attend college or university.

Link to the survey here: <http://tinyurl.com/lusn49y>

Youth Work Ireland Policy Brief, Spring 2014



In order to better inform thinking and knowledge on policy issues around the areas of children and youth, Youth Work Ireland's advocacy department produce a quarterly policy brief, which contains short updates on current developments in national policy and highlight issues relevant to the areas of children and young people.

Link to policy brief here: <http://tinyurl.com/klrs6ou>

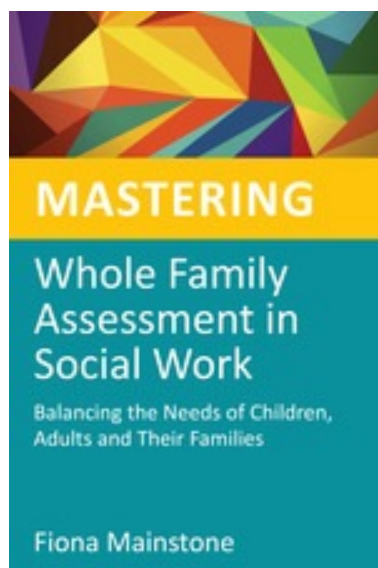
New publications and policy reports

What are European countries doing to prevent intentional injuries to children? by European Child Safety Alliance March 2014

The report on National Action to Address Child Intentional Injury is launched by the European Child Safety Alliance with the support of Vice President of the European Parliament Isabelle Durant and Chair of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children Bernard de Vos.

The report describes the prevalence of intentional injuries to children in the European Union, including maltreatment, peer to peer violence and self-directed violence, and examines the level of uptake of national level policies to address intentional child injuries in over 25 Member States. This is the first time that national actions to address child intentional injury are being comprehensively assessed and reported on in the EU.

Link to the report here: <http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/archives/news/2014/info/ciir-report.pdf>



Mastering Whole Family Assessment in Social Work Balancing the Needs of Children, Adults and Their Families

By Fiona Mainstone

Part of the Mastering Social Work Skills series

Paperback: £19.99 / \$32.95

2014, 234mm x 156mm / 9.25in x 6in, 280pp
ISBN: 978-1-84905-240-5, BIC 2: JKSN

Order online here: <http://tinyurl.com/ppd27rp>



A Short Guide to Divorce Law in Ireland: A survival handbook for the family

By Helen Collins

Divorce can be one of the most stressful events in one's life and although Ireland has the second lowest divorce rate in the EU. The number of divorces granted by the Circuit Court and the High Court increased in 2012 to 2,892 - ISBN 978-190900-593-8, €14.95, Softback, 198 x 129mm, 104pp, 2014, Cork University Press

Practice signposts: data sources to support practice



Practice signposts are permanent pages that will appear in every edition of *Practice Links*. The aim of this page is to provide sign posts to high quality research-informed databases. Some of the databases at a quick glance may seem too medical/health orientated, but also contain great resources to support social work and social care practice also.

Campbell Collaboration

The Campbell Collaboration (C2) helps people make well-informed decisions by preparing, maintaining and disseminating systematic reviews in education, crime and justice, and social welfare. Access to the database in the Republic of Ireland is free as the government of Ireland has purchased a license. <http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/>

Cochrane Collaboration

The Cochrane Collaboration, established in 1993, is an international network of more than 28,000 dedicated people from over 100 countries. We work together to help health care providers, policy makers, patients, their advocates and carers, make well-informed decisions about health care, based on the best available research evidence, by preparing, updating and promoting the accessibility of [Cochrane Reviews](http://www.cochrane.org/). Our work is internationally recognised as the benchmark for high quality information about the [effectiveness](http://www.cochrane.org/) of health care.

<http://www.cochrane.org/>

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) - NHS UK

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) provides guidance, sets quality standards and manages a national database to improve people's health and prevent and treat ill health. <http://www.nice.org.uk/> . Videocasts: <http://www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/videocasts/videocasts.jsp>. Podcasts: <http://www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/podcasts/index.jsp>

Health Intelligence Unit (HSE)

Health Intelligence is part of the Quality and Clinical Care Directorate within the Health Service Executive and is responsible for capturing and utilising knowledge to support decision-making to improve the health of the population. Website has links to HSE research, databases, facts (census etc.), publications and using evidence effectively. <http://www.hse.ie/eng/about/Who/PopulationHealth/HealthIntelligence/>

Evidence in Health and Social Care (NHS)

NHS Evidence is a service that enables access to authoritative clinical and non-clinical evidence and best practice through a web-based portal. It helps people from across the NHS, public health and social care sectors to make better decisions as a result. NHS Evidence is managed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). <http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/>

Practice signposts: data sources to support practice



Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) improves the lives of people who use care services by sharing knowledge about what works. We are an independent charity working with adults, families and children's social care and social work services across the UK. We also work closely with related services such as health care and housing. We gather and analyse knowledge about what works and translate that knowledge into practical resources, learning materials and services. Our work helps to improve the knowledge and skills of those working in care services. This includes managers, frontline staff, commissioners and trainers. People and their families who use these services also use our resources. All of our work is developed in collaboration with experts - including people who use care services and their carers. <http://www.scie.org.uk/>

Decision Map.ie

DecisionMap.ie, the new online decision-support tool developed by Ordnance Survey Ireland and Twelve Horses. DecisionMap, currently in beta test release, combines digital mapping from Ordnance Survey Ireland, with visualisation and web delivery tools developed by Twelve Horses, and statistical data provided by the Central Statistics Office and others. It aims to provide decision makers in the public and private sectors instant access to easily-consumable, spatially referenced data about Ireland. <http://decisionmap.ie/>

Growing Up in Ireland

Growing Up in Ireland is a national study of children. It is the most significant of its kind ever to take place in this country and will help us to improve our understanding of all aspects of children and their development.

The study will take place over seven years and follow the progress of two groups of children; 8500 nine-year-olds and 11,000 nine-month-olds. During this time we will carry out two rounds of research with each group of children.

The main aim of the study is to paint a full picture of children in Ireland and how they are developing in the current social, economic and cultural environment. This information will be used to assist in policy formation and in the provision of services which will ensure all children will have the best possible start in life.

<http://www.growingup.ie/>

Irish Qualitative Data Archive

The Irish Qualitative Data Archive (IQDA) is a central access point for qualitative social science data and provides online access to all new qualitative data generated within the [Irish Social Science Platform](#), and to selected existing data. <http://www.iqda.ie/content/welcome-iqda>

North South Child Protection Hub

This hub available for use by child protection professionals (policy makers, practitioners, researchers and educators) in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The Hub brings together research, policy and practice guidance, inspection reports, serious case reviews, court judgements, news articles and other material relevant to child protection published in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland together with material from Great Britain and other countries. Staff in the Health and Social Care Board and Trusts in Northern Ireland and in the Health Service Executive in the Republic of Ireland, will have access to the Hub but it will also be an important resource for all organisations concerned with child protection. <http://www.nscph.com/>

RIAN - Irish Open Access Research Archive (free)

RIAN is the outcome of a sectoral higher education project supported by the Irish Government's 'Strategic Innovation Fund'. Project planning was carried out by the seven Irish university libraries, [DCU](#), [NUIG](#), [NUIM](#), [TCD](#), [UCC](#), [UCD](#), [UL](#) and was supported by the [Irish Universities Association \(IUA\)](#). The project aim is to harvest to one portal the contents of the Institutional Repositories of the seven university libraries, in order to make Irish research material more freely accessible, and to increase the research profiles of individual researchers and their institutions. It is intended to extend the harvest to other Irish research institutions as RIAN develops.

<http://rian.ie/en>

Psychological therapies (Internet-delivered) for the management of chronic pain in adults

By Christopher Eccleston, Emma Fisher, Lorraine Craig, Geoffrey B Duggan, Benjamin A Rosser, Edmund Keogh

February 2014



Abstract

Background

Chronic pain (i.e. pain lasting longer than three months) is common. Psychological therapies (e.g. cognitive behavioural therapy) can help people to cope with pain, depression and disability that can occur with such pain. Treatments currently are delivered via hospital out-patient consultation (face-to-face) or more recently through the Internet. This review looks at the evidence for psychological therapies delivered via the Internet for adults with chronic pain.

Objectives

Our objective was to evaluate whether Internet-delivered psychological therapies improve pain symptoms, reduce disability, and improve depression and anxiety for adults with chronic pain. Secondary outcomes included satisfaction with treatment/treatment acceptability and quality of life.

Search methods

We searched CENTRAL (Cochrane Library), MEDLINE, EMBASE and PsycINFO from inception to November 2013 for randomised controlled trials (RCTs) investigating psychological therapies delivered via the Internet to adults with a chronic pain condition. Potential RCTs were also identified from reference lists of included studies and relevant review articles. In addition, RCTs were also searched for in trial registries.

Selection criteria

Peer-reviewed RCTs were identified and read in full for inclusion. We included studies if they used the Internet to deliver the primary therapy, contained sufficient psychotherapeutic content, and promoted self-management of chronic pain. Studies were excluded if the number of participants in any arm of the trial was less than 20 at the point of extraction.

Data collection and analysis

Fifteen studies met the inclusion criteria and data were extracted. Risk of bias assessments were conducted for all included studies. We categorised studies by condition (headache or non-headache conditions). Four primary outcomes; pain symptoms, disability, depression, and anxiety, and two secondary outcomes; satisfaction/acceptability and quality of life were extracted for each study immediately post-treatment and at follow-up (defined as 3 to 12 months post-treatment).

Main results

Fifteen studies (N= 2012) were included in analyses. We assessed the risk of bias for included studies as low overall. We identified nine high 'risk of bias' assessments, 22 unclear, and 59 low 'risk of bias' assessments. Most judgements of a high risk of bias were due to inadequate reporting.

Analyses revealed seven effects. Participants with headache conditions receiving psychological therapies delivered via the Internet had reduced pain (number needed to treat to benefit = 2.72, risk ratio 7.28, 95% confidence interval (CI) 2.67 to 19.84, $p < 0.01$) and a moderate effect was found for disability post-treatment (standardised mean difference (SMD) -0.65, 95% CI -0.91 to -0.39, $p < 0.01$). However, only two studies could be entered into each analysis; hence, findings should be interpreted with caution. There was no clear evidence that psychological therapies improved depression or anxiety post-treatment (SMD -0.26, 95% CI -0.87 to 0.36, $p > 0.05$; SMD -0.48, 95% CI -1.22 to 0.27, $p > 0.05$), respectively. In participants with non-headache conditions, psychological therapies improved pain post-treatment ($p < 0.01$) with a small effect size (SMD -0.37, 95% CI -0.59 to -0.15), disability post-treatment ($p < 0.01$) with a moderate effect size (SMD -0.50, 95% CI -0.79 to -0.20), and disability at follow-up ($p < 0.05$) with a small effect size (SMD -0.15, 95% CI -0.28 to -0.01). However, the follow-up analysis included only two studies and should be interpreted with caution. A small effect

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was found for depression and anxiety post-treatment (SMD -0.19 , 95% CI -0.35 to -0.04 , $p < 0.05$; SMD -0.28 , 95% CI -0.49 to -0.06 , $p < 0.01$), respectively. No clear evidence of benefit was found for other follow-up analyses. Analyses of adverse effects were not possible.

No data were presented on satisfaction/acceptability. Only one study could be included in an analysis of the effect of psychological therapies on quality of life in participants with headache conditions; hence, no analysis could be undertaken. Three studies presented quality of life data for participants with non-headache conditions; however, no clear evidence of benefit was found (SMD -0.27 , 95% CI -0.54 to 0.01 , $p > 0.05$).

Authors' conclusions

There is insufficient evidence to make conclusions regarding the efficacy of psychological therapies delivered via the Internet in participants with headache conditions. Psychological therapies reduced pain and disability post-treatment; however, no clear evidence of benefit was found for depression and anxiety. For participants with non-headache conditions, psychological therapies delivered via the Internet reduced pain, disability, depression, and anxiety post-treatment. The positive effects on disability were maintained at follow-up. These effects are promising, but considerable uncertainty remains around the estimates of effect. These results come from a small number of trials, with mostly wait-list controls, no reports of adverse events, and non-clinical recruitment methods. Due to the novel method of delivery, the satisfaction and acceptability of these therapies should be explored in this population. These results are similar to those of reviews of traditional face-to-face therapies for chronic pain.

Plain language summary

Psychological therapies delivered via the Internet for adults with longstanding distressing pain and disability

Chronic pain (i.e. pain lasting longer than three months) is common. Psychological therapies (e.g. cognitive behavioural therapy) can help people to cope with pain, depression and disability that can occur with such pain. Treatments currently are delivered via hospital out-patient consultation (face-to-face) or more recently through the Internet. This review looks at the evidence for psychological therapies delivered via the Internet for adults with chronic pain.

Four databases were searched up to November 2013. We found 15 trials that met our inclusion criteria. Four trials included individuals with headache pain, 10 trials included individuals with non-headache pain, and one trial included individuals with both headache and non-headache pain. We looked at data about pain, disability, depression, and anxiety immediately after the end of treatment and between 3 to 12 months follow-up. We also looked at how satisfied people were with the treatments, and its effects on their quality of life.

We found that for people with headache pain, pain symptoms and disability scores improved immediately following the end of treatment. However, only two trials could be entered into each of these analyses and so findings should be treated with caution. For people with non-headache pain, pain, disability, depression, and anxiety improved immediately after the end of treatment. Disability was also improved at follow-up. Only one study recorded quality of life scores in individuals with headache pain, so we were unable to analyse the results. Three studies presented quality of life scores for individuals with non-headache pain immediately following treatment. We did not find that quality of life improved after receiving the therapy. No data could be analysed on treatment satisfaction/acceptability.

We conclude that these findings are promising for psychological treatments delivered via the Internet for the management of chronic pain in adults, but more trials are needed to determine the efficacy of such therapies.

Link to review: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD010152.pub2/abstract>

Kinship Care for the Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being of Children Removed from the Home for Maltreatment: A Systematic Review

By Marc Winokur, Amy Holtan, Keri Batchelder
March 2014



BACKGROUND

Every year a large number of children around the world are removed from their homes because they are maltreated. Child welfare agencies are responsible for placing these children in out-of-home settings that will facilitate their safety, permanency, and well-being. However, children in out-of-home placements typically display more educational, behavioural, and psychological problems than do their peers, although it is unclear whether this results from the placement itself, the maltreatment that precipitated it, or inadequacies in the child welfare system.

OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the effect of kinship care placement compared to foster care placement on the safety, permanency, and well-being of children removed from the home for maltreatment.

SEARCH METHODS

We searched the following databases for this updated review on 14 March 2011: the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), MEDLINE, PsycINFO, CINAHL, Sociological Abstracts, Social Science Citation Index, ERIC, Conference Proceedings Citation Index-Social Science and Humanities, ASSIA, and Dissertation Express. We handsearched relevant social work journals and reference lists of published literature reviews, and contacted authors.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Controlled experimental and quasi-experimental studies, in which children removed from the home for maltreatment and subsequently placed in kinship foster care were compared with children placed in non-kinship foster care for child welfare outcomes in the domains of well-being, permanency, or safety.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Two review authors independently read the titles and abstracts identified in the searches, and selected appropriate studies. Two review authors assessed the eligibility of each study for the evidence base and then evaluated the methodological quality of the included studies. Lastly, we extracted outcome data and entered them into Review Manager 5 software (RevMan) for meta-analysis with the results presented in written and graphical forms.

RESULTS

One-hundred-and-two quasi-experimental studies, with 666,615 children are included in this review. The 'Risk of bias' analysis indicates that the evidence base contains studies with unclear risk for selection bias, performance bias, detection bias, reporting bias, and attrition bias, with the highest risk associated with selection bias and the lowest associated with reporting bias. The outcome data suggest that children in kinship foster care experience fewer behavioural problems (standardised mean difference effect size -0.33, 95% confidence interval (CI) -0.49 to -0.17), fewer mental health disorders (odds ratio (OR) 0.51, 95% CI 0.42 to 0.62), better well-being (OR 0.50, 95% CI 0.38 to 0.64), and less placement disruption (OR 0.52, 95% CI 0.40 to 0.69) than do children in non-kinship foster care. For permanency, there was no difference on reunification rates, although children in non-kinship foster care were more likely to be adopted (OR 2.52, 95% CI 1.42 to 4.49), while children in kinship foster care were more likely to be in guardianship (OR 0.26, 95% CI 0.17 to 0.40). Lastly, children in non-kinship foster care were more likely to utilise mental health services (OR 1.79, 95% CI 1.35 to 2.37).

AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS

This review supports the practice of treating kinship care as a viable out-of-home placement option for children removed from the home for maltreatment. However, this conclusion is tempered by the pronounced methodological and design weaknesses of the included studies.

The Needs of Children in Foster Care & Children in Need

By Raman, S. & Sahu, S. (2014). Health, developmental, and support needs of vulnerable children – comparing children in foster care and children in need. *Child Abuse Review*.
Doi: 10.1002/car.2305

What is this article about?

This article reports the findings of an Australian quantitative research study seeking to:

- 1) Identify the physical, psychosocial, and developmental needs of a population of children (N=98) attending community paediatric clinics for 'at risk' children in South Western Sydney;
- 2) Compare the health service needs of children in foster care with those in parental care.

What are the critical findings?

Results shows that children exposed to a range of early life psychosocial and environmental adversities have well-established health and developmental needs.

- 57% of sample were in foster or kinship care, 43% were in parental care
- 88% had been exposed to one or more forms of documented abuse
- 65% had been exposed to parental substance use
- 33% had been exposed parental mental illness.

The top four health and developmental issues identified among the sample were:

- Behavioural problems (52%)
- Speech and language delay (45%)
- Educational difficulties (42%)
- Developmental delay (39%)

There was a trend towards greater developmental and educational problems in the foster care group compared to those in parental care however, these differences did not reach statistical significance.

What are the implications for practice?

- Many international studies have highlighted the need for comprehensive multidisciplinary health screens for children in foster care.
- This study suggests that policies and resources may be well placed to screen and address needs of vulnerable children regardless of whether they are in foster care, with biological parents, or in other living arrangements.

Motivational Interviewing & Postpartum Depression

By Sampson, M., Zayas, L.H., & Seifert, S.B. (2013).
Treatment engagement using motivational interviewing for low-income, ethnically diverse mothers with postpartum depression. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 41, pp. 387-394

What is this article about?

- Postpartum depression (PPD) places women, and their children, at risk for many untoward outcomes including lack of responsivity, low self-efficacy, and insecure infant attachment. Especially at risk for untreated PPD are low-income, ethnically diverse mothers.
- This article proposes that employing techniques derived from motivational interviewing may increase a client's awareness of symptoms and intrinsic motivation to seek treatment.

What are the critical findings?

- 1) Through their own direct practice experience and research, the authors are hearing of successful encounters by case workers who are using a MI approach in a PPD intervention pilot study led by one of the authors.
- 2) Use of open ended questions; reflections and high levels of empathy have encouraged mothers to talk more freely than usual about feelings of depression.
- 3) This has allowed for increased rapport and increased trust among the case workers and the client and appears to increase motivation for treatment.
- 4) Key Steps to consider when using MI in this context:
 - Building rapport
 - Exploring readiness and importance
 - Offering Information

What are the implications for practice?

- 1) Equipped with the knowledge to effectively work with and advocate for vulnerable individuals, social workers have unique opportunities and skills to identify, assess, and initiate treatment for PPD.
- 2) Recognising the importance of positive maternal mental health because of its influence on family and environmental systems, social workers are encouraged to consider employing motivational interviewing techniques (e.g. empathy, open ended questions, reflections and rulers) with mothers who are at risk for PPD or are already experiencing symptoms.
- 3) It must be kept in mind that adherence to the MI spirit means that ultimately, decisions to engage in treatment or even to admit to symptoms of depression are solely in the hands of the client.

The Uptake of Research Evidence in Child Welfare

By Buckley, H., Tonmyr, L., Lewig, K., & Jack, S. (2014). Factors influencing the uptake of research evidence in child welfare: A synthesis of findings from Australia, Canada, and Ireland. *Child Abuse Review*, 23, pp. 5-16

What is this article about?

This article draws on three studies conducted in Australia, Canada, and Ireland which explore factors influencing research utilisation in the child protection sector in each country.

What are the critical findings?

Barriers and facilitators to research uptake fall into four categories:

- 1) Individual barriers and facilitators:
 - Lack of experience in critically appraising evidence and applying it
 - Guilt due to devoting work time to assessing and reading research evidence
 - Lack of confidence in research
 - Facilitator: Personal motivation to use research.
- 2) Organisational barriers and facilitators:
 - Conflict created by heavy workloads and pressure for immediate solutions and consequent lack of time to reflect and utilise research
 - Turnover of staff and lack of access to the internet
 - Facilitator: Formal recognition of research in the form of policies that explicitly support research use.
- 3) Environmental barriers and facilitators:
 - The tendency for policy and practice to be driven by a dominant and populist political agenda which tends to outweigh the influence of research evidence
 - In the case of Ireland, the lack of Irish research material
 - Facilitator: Developing links between research institutes, universities, and service providers to create opportunities to communicate ideas and share/discuss research findings.
- 4) Barriers and facilitators related to the nature of the research material:
 - Complicated, over theoretical presentation of research evidence
 - Overuse of jargon
 - Facilitator: Research that is practical and capable of application with a clear aim and purpose, clear articulation of implications, and synthesised evidence that is disseminated in user-friendly forms, e.g. literature reviews, briefing documents.

What are the implications for practice?

- 1) A linear relationship between the production of research and uptake by practitioners does not necessarily exist.
- 2) Provision of support by senior management signalling the importance of research is a basic requirement to influencing the uptake of research evidence
- 3) Access to research material should be provided within organisations along with a means of mediating/facilitating opportunities and incentives to staff
- 4) There is a need for clear, well-structured research reports that clearly articulate aims, purpose, and implications of research.

Organisational Profile

National Home-Sharing & Short Breaks Network Biennial Conference – Stepping Forward

By Joanne Hayes, Social Worker

More information on the NHSN and the Conference can be accessed here: <http://www.nhsn.ie/>



National Home-sharing
& Short-breaks Network

The need for respite is regarded as a necessity and is a crucial component in the provision of support to people with disabilities and their families. The word “respite” has many connotations; it is generally understood to be an opportunity for the main carer to take a break or have a holiday. However, respite also provides positive opportunities to children, young people and adults with disabilities to make new friends and enjoy relationships outside of their immediate family circle. Home Based short inclusive breaks with host families provide an alternative to traditional residential respite in specialist units and group homes. These breaks give people with disabilities and their relatives a break from their everyday routine and provide positive opportunities for real and sustainable social contact.

The NHSN is an association of people and organisations engaged in using, promoting and providing home based services to people with disability in Ireland. The association was founded in 2003 and provides governance and support to host families and service providers. The vision of the NHSN is in line with core values of social inclusion and person-centredness and strives to develop good practice guidelines and standards for professionals. The association also aims to represent this growing sector on a national and international level.

On the 31st of October 2013 the NHSN Biennial Conference was held at the Ashling Hotel in Dublin. The theme of the conference “Stepping Forward” celebrated the developments and successes of home based breaks in responding to the diverse needs of people with disabilities and their families. There were also presentations on training and support for host families and best practice guidelines at an operational level. The conference was well received by host families and various organisations around the country interested in reconfiguring their traditional respite and residential care services.

The focal point of the event was the sharing of positive changes in people’s lives as a consequence of engaging in this model of respite. Key stakeholders voiced their lived experiences. A “guest” (person availing of respite) spoke about how the consistent, continuous and caring friendship with her host family has helped in overcoming some challenging times. Another inspirational speech from a host carer conveyed the positive impact this experience has had on the whole family in terms of developing awareness, acceptance and sensitivity towards disability. Informal networks of support develop naturally through this model of respite whereby both families are aware of one another’s ups and downs, major life events, birthdays and celebrations. The testimonials from these stakeholders are a reflection of the strengths that are inherent in this model of respite provision.

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Another highlight was the opportunity to learn from various organisations on setting up and moving through different types of hosting models. Some organisations have been providing short breaks or “home-sharing” for over 30 years and in recent years have expanded to “contract families” and “shared living”. Contract families differ from short break families in that approved families/individuals are contracted to provide a specific number of overnight breaks a month. Shared living offers permanent, long term care in a family setting to adults with an intellectual disability. Numerous Policy guidelines recommend that if a person with disability leaves their family home either permanently or for a period of time, the substitute home should have all the characteristics of a good family home. Shared living invites people in the community to share their life’s experiences with a person with a disability on a full time basis. This in turn can ensure individualised supports and the opportunity for a person with disability to lead a fuller, more integrated life.

With the aim of informing organisations who are about to embrace this model of respite, presentations were offered on evidence-based practice guidelines. The process of individuals or families becoming home sharers was discussed in detail which included various phases such as recruitment, training, assessment, report and approval. Information was also given about the ‘Host Family Handbook’ which has been developed to provide host carers with a compact resource and reference guide of good practice guidelines. In attempting to assure the creation of successful Host Family Breaks a proposal for good practice guidelines is also being developed. These guidelines will attempt to provide a framework from which various organisations can work from and give a standard level of support to people with disabilities, their families and their host families.

Challenges were also highlighted throughout the conference. For example, maintaining adequate funding is an ongoing struggle for many organisations. Moving from a traditional model of respite provision to a family based model is also another challenge. Recognition in policy and legislation on a national level would assist in standardising this provision of respite which would assure that all stakeholders receive a minimum level of support. A key strength of the NHSN is that in sharing information and knowledge, various organisations have the opportunity to learn from one another and build capacity. To ensure that this supportive mechanism grows, members meet bimonthly with a view to pooling resources, reflect on practice and strengthen levels of service provision. It was evident from the conference that access to quality community resources striving for social inclusion and increased social capital is the way forward. With this in mind, the NHSN Conference “Stepping Forward” was a positive event that showcased cost-effective innovation in a time of austerity.

Podcasts/Videos



Reading Social Work Blogs

What is a Blog ? A blog is a personal web page written by an individual or organisation. Usually it incorporates personal views, opinions and comment on topic issues. The best blogs are read by thousands of people everyday.

How do I find them ?

Just search for the word “blog” and any topic you are interested in. It may take some time to find a site you are happy with. Once you find the right one you might want to access it everyday. The best blogs include links to other sites of interest. To start you off check out: <http://www.socialworkblogs.info/>

How do I write my own blog ?

It is simple to right your own blog – use sites like Wordpress.com, SimpleSite.com or Blogspot.com – there are a range of simple guides available. The secret is to link to other sites, get people interested.

Warning: as Social Workers we need to be mindful of what we write about our work and in particular our clients. If you do write your own blog or contribute to an online debate then make sure you do not mention names, places or anything that could identify anyone you work with.

Audio & Video Podcasts

What is a Podcast? A multi-media file made available by the internet which can be viewed or listened to on a computer, tablet, MP3 player or CD player.

How do I listen to a Podcast? You can listen to a Podcast straightaway on any PC which has speaker or a headphones or you can download it to listen to later. The file can also be saved to an MP3 player or USB memory stick. Some modern CD players can play Podcasts just like a music CD. Some Podcasts are updated regularly – how do I get the latest version? You can use iTunes or other services to check regularly to see if the Podcast has been updated. You can also subscribe using an RSS feed which will inform you when the new edition is ready. Some Smartphones can also download and update Podcasts. For more information go to: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/help>

Video: TED Talk – “Why do victims of Domestic Violence stay?”

Leslie Morgan Steiner was in “crazy love” – that is, madly in love with a man who routinely abused her and threatened her life. Steiner tells the dark story of her relationship, correcting misconceptions many people hold about victims of domestic violence, and explaining how we can all help break the silence. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1yW5IsnSjo&feature=youtube_gdata_player

Podcast: Are the kids alright?

This month’s Big Idea Podcast from The University of Edinburgh considers how society treats its young people and asks one of the evergreen questions: Are the kids alright? The Big Idea Podcast is a monthly show featuring academics discussing contemporary issues and sharing their research and expertise. Previous shows have looked at our relationship with technology, explored human migration, and debated the plans for Scottish independence. Available at: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/2014/kidspodcast-200214>

Video: Coping with Violence: Promising Practices for Child and Youth Mental Health

This video summarizes the report called Promising Practices to Help Children and Youth who have been Exposed to Violence. Violence can create devastating mental health outcomes for young people and break families and communities apart. To tackle this problem, a coordinated effort to share lessons learned and document best practices for addressing young peoples' mental health needs, is urgently needed. Full report available at: <http://cycnetwork.org/en/violence>. Video summary at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DL6XXKxV5a4>



Podcasts



Podcast: Global Mental Health

A recent BMC Medicine podcast features an interview with CGMH co-director Vikram Patel where he discusses the impact of global mental health in the field of medicine, as well as some of the anticipated challenges, controversies, and future directions for this discipline of global health. In this interview, Patel also specifically highlights the initiatives and platforms being developed to promote capacity building, research, policy and advocacy within the Centre Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/qhs9nc9>

Podcasts: St Patrick's on Anxiety and Eating Disorders

Links to broadcast interviews from the Now known as St. Patrick's University Hospital on a variety of interesting topics. Available at: <https://www.stpatricks.ie/podcasts>

Podcast: Debate on the topic of CBT and its applications

Coverage of a recent debate on "This House believes that CBT for psychosis has been oversold" featuring contributions from Speakers: Peter McKenna, Research Psychiatrist, Barcelona; Keith Laws, Professor of Cognitive Neuropsychology, University of Hertfordshire; David Kingdon, Professor of Mental Health Care Delivery, University of Southampton; and, Peter Kinderman, Professor of Clinical Psychology, University of Liverpool Available at: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/iop/news/debates/index.aspx>

Podcast: Mental Health and Football

Interview with Crystal Palace's mental health ambassador Paul Richards was a guest on the show and shared his powerful story about how got involved in his current role. The Five Year Plan's online editor Matt Woosnam, who is also a member of the Talk Easy Trust, also gave his views on the important role the football club can play in tackling issues around mental health. Available at: http://www.croydanguardian.co.uk/sport/football/crystalpalace/11061138.LISTEN__Eagle_Eye_podcast_focuses_on_mental_health_in_football/

Podcast: RTE's LGBT Magazine Show "Cosmo"

The new podcast of The Cosmo features LGBT news, interviews and discussion from the UK, Ireland and abroad, presented by Scott De Buítléir. Link to a recent edition on the topic legal definition of homophobia in Irish law. Available at: http://www.rte.ie/radio1/podcast/podcast_thecosmo.xml

Videos: World Social Work Day 18th March 2014

Link to a variety of videos on the topic: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=world%20social%20work%20day%202014&sm=3 from colleagues around the world.

Songs of Grievance and Hope

Don't say we didn't resist! Dublin communities perform songs composed with Seán Millar based on the Books Of Grievance and Hope, Project Arts Centre May 2013. Produced by the Spectacle of Defiance and Hope with Brian Fleming. Video; Paula Geraghty and Aybrey Robinson, edited, Paula Geraghty. Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7a5G_K1Wzs



About Practice Links

Practice Links is a free e-publication for practitioners working in Irish social services, voluntary and non-governmental sectors. *Practice Links* was created to help practitioners in these areas to keep up-to-date with new publications, electronic publications, conferences and continuing professional development opportunities. *Practice Links* is published every other month in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf file). Distribution is by email, Twitter and on the *Practice Links* website <http://www.ucc.ie/en/appsoc/aboutus/activities/pl/>.

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