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About us

Practice Links is a free publication of the Social Work Development Unit, University College Cork, Ireland

PL

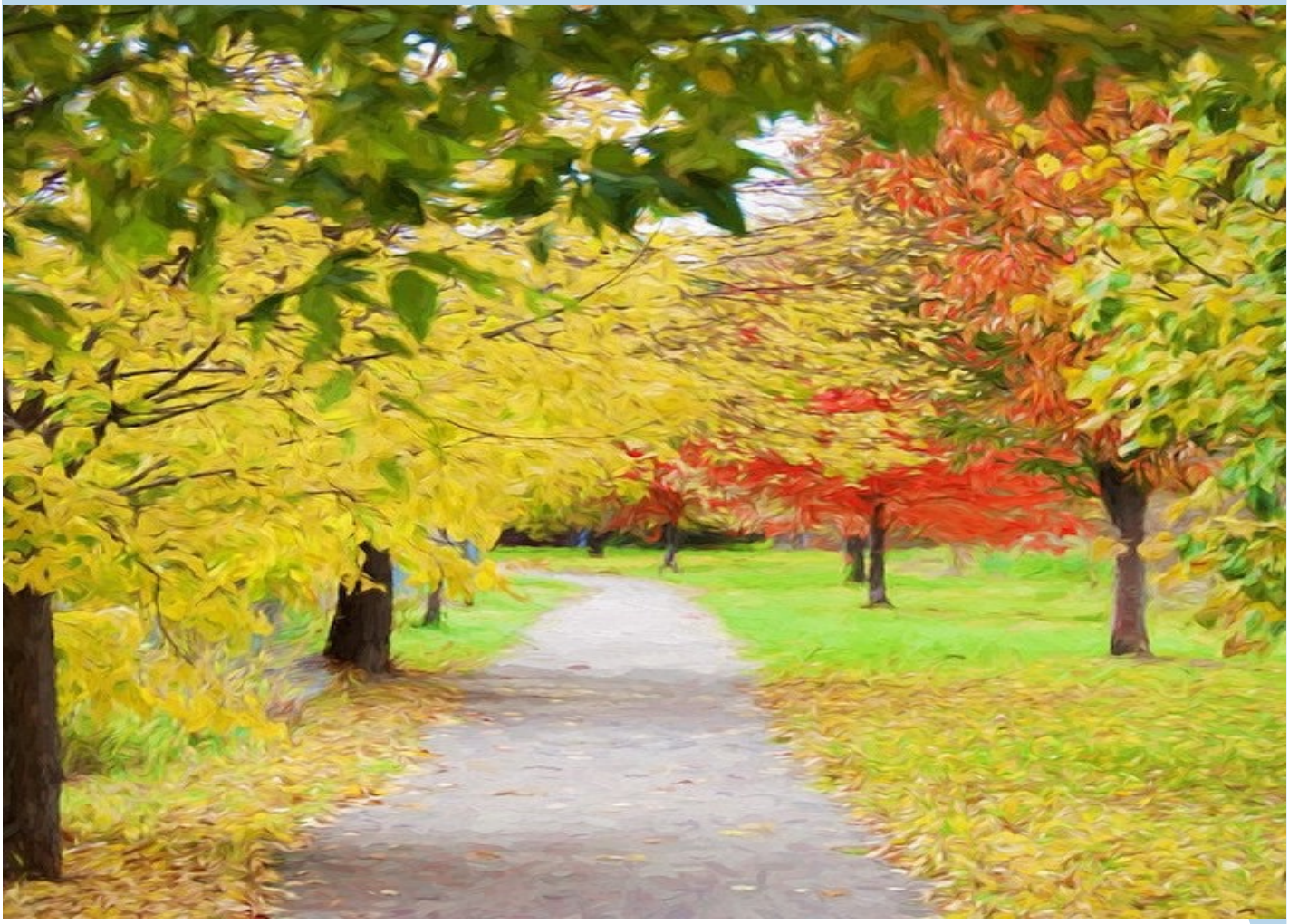
The aim of PL is help practitioners to keep up-to-date with new publications, conferences and continuing professional development opportunities.

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Issue 64, October 2015

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practice LINKS



University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Continuing professional development

Seminar: Working with Families Affected by Illness or Disability

Anne O'Loughlin, Principal Social Worker, National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dun Laoighre

The National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) provides a comprehensive range of specialist rehabilitation services to patients from throughout Ireland who, as a result of an accident, illness or injury have acquired a physical or cognitive disability and require specialist rehabilitation.

The talk will take place on Tuesday 13th October at 5.00 p.m. at Brookfield Health Sciences Complex on the 3rd Floor, Room 301, University College Cork.

Conference: The Changing Landscape of Local and Community Development in Ireland: Policy and Practice

Wednesday, 21st October 2015, O'Rahilly Building, Room ORB_G27, University College Cork

There is no charge but, due to limited space, advance registration is required. To secure your place, please email Carol Power at cpower@ucc.ie no later than Wednesday, 14th October.

Fostering well-being - together we can make a difference

Irish Foster Care Association's National Conference in 2015. The conference will take place in Letterkenny, County Donegal, from 23-25 October. I am attaching an invitation to submit workshop proposals for the attention of you and your colleagues. The deadline for submissions is 10 April 2015.

You can submit proposals by using the online form https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rHNjzEOYIF1DS8Kac61y5VlWPhz- hKrylopIqD4xb6E/viewform?c=0&w=1.

If you have any questions, you can contact IFCA's Learning Development Worker, Maeve Healy, at maeve.healy@ifca.ie, phone 01 4599474 or mobile 087 6555880. The online form is also posted on IFCA's website http://www.ifca.ie/index.php/events/call-workshop- proposals-ifca-national-conference-2015/

The 11th International Practice Education Conference on Practice Learning and Field Education: 'Assessing with Confidence: Supporting Learning and Assessment in Practice'

Belfast from 4th – 6th April 2016 at the Europa Hotel

The Conference organisers are seeking proposals for this interdisciplinary conference and hope that by holding the Conference in Belfast they will attract participation from across Ireland. Registration is now open at http://conferences.whitingbirch.net/ . Guidelines for proposals are on the Conference website and I think the closing date for proposals is 30th November.

Brief Encounters®

3-day Training Course

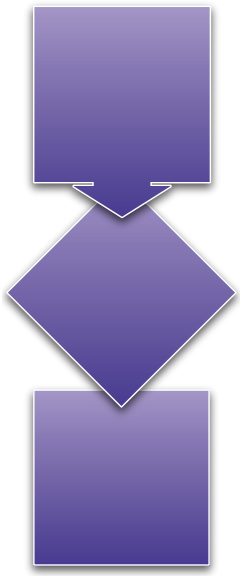
This accredited evidence based evaluated course is built around a brief intervention model The aim is to build peoples capacity , strengthening relationships with clients and within families and improve outcomes for all. Brief encounters training supports the aims of the Empowering Practitioners and Empowering Practice Initiative.

Brief Encounters empowers practitioners in practice with

- Evidence informed knowledge base that increases practitioners ability and confidence supporting clients when they are distressed
- The brief encounters model which is a tool that can be used in work with clients and uses a strengths based approach
- A shared language and common approach which strengthens partnerships, collaboration and interagency working

The training will help social workers provide early intervention and preventative services to children and families, whilst enabling them to build effective relationships with their service users as outlined in the 'A Call for Change Discussion Document' (IASW, 2011).

Brief Encounters® Model



Course Participants Have Said:

"It provides excellent opportunities to develop assessment skills and to manage a boundary led, time limited situation in the most professional way. It was one of the best courses I have completed in 20 years."
Pauline Glavin, Senior Social Worker, North Lee, Cork

"It provided a practical approach for frontline staff to provide an effective intervention with family members who are experiencing difficult situations."
Angela Walsh, Clinical Nurse Manager, Willow Grove, St. Patrick's Hospital
- Angela & All the team have been trained in Brief encounters

The training is accredited with IASW for 8 CPD points
Ag Eisteacht is a leading provider of research based intervention programmes. For further information or to book a course please call us on 021-5005915 or visit our website www.ageisteacht.com

Upcoming Dates For Brief Encounters 3-Day Course:

Cork – Nov 3rd, 18th & 19th
Maryborough Hotel

Empowering through Training

Ag Eisteacht, 2nd Floor, 6 Lapps Quay, Cork
TEL: 021-5005915 | EMAIL: admin@ageisteacht.com | WEB: www.ageisteacht.com
Ag Eisteacht is a charity with CHY number 20668
Registered in Ireland. CRO B445853

Professional Development Workshops

For Whom? These four pieces of training are designed for those working in health and caring services as mental health personnel, counsellors, psychotherapists, social workers, community workers and family workers. In each case there is a role expectation that you are intervening and supporting people who are affected by, in particular, addiction but also other mental health challenges.

Methodology? All workshops are interactive and use an adult education model of experiential learning. Bring case studies and be ready to role-play and work with your own personal material to generate a dynamic learning environment.

When and Where and How Much? They will each take place on Saturday mornings from 9.00 to 1.00pm at The Meditation Centre, St Dominics, Ennismore, Cork. The cost of each session is €50.

Workshop 1 Managing Addiction Saturday October 17th 2015

Whether it is a disease or not addiction is a recognisable phenomenon that responds to treatment. A key component of successful management of the condition is the person taking responsibility for themselves with no blame attached. This workshop will present addiction in a way that is understandable and gives participants a framework within which to work with their client towards developing the resiliency needed for rehabilitation and recovery.

Workshop 2 Helping Families Living with Addiction Saturday November 7th 2015

The shame and guilt of belonging to a family where there is addiction can send the whole thing underground and families don't look for support. The unpredictability, chaos and excesses of addition force the family to *"don't talk, don't feel, don't trust"*. This workshop will equip participants to offer understanding and hope to families. Simple techniques to facilitate *"talking, feeling and trusting"* help families to bounce back with resilience.

Workshop 3 Freeing from the Inner Critic Saturday November21st 2015

One of the many road blocks in the client's way to change is the debilitating impact of the inner critic. Change provokes anxiety and anxiety provokes the inner critic to maintain the status quo. Understanding and reassurance is needed to overcome this debilitating impediment to growth and development and the client will look to the helper for this encouragement. If you are on the way to living with your own inner critic the client is more likely to take steps into the unknown.

Workshop 4 Care Planning with SMART Goals Saturday December 5th 2015

All helpers need to be able to transform assessment understanding into individualised care plans that the client can own and is willing to commit to. Collaborating with the client to develop SMART goals by engaging, contracting and negotiating are key skills to learn. At the same time there must be respect for the what the client can achieve and the pace they can work at.

Facilitator: Mick Devine MACI is engaged in addiction treatment in Cork for 20 years and is clinical director of a treatment agency. From an education background he also offers individual counselling and provides training workshops to mental health professionals and industry. He is committed to psychospiritual development, his own and others, and is a student of the Diamond Approach. Call 087 4171422 or mick.devine@hotmail.com to book and to discuss group bookings and discounts for booking two or more workshops.

Unity through Relationship Annual Conference
9th and 10th November 2015 Regency Airport Hotel Dublin

We are delighted to announce that Drs Jim Anglin and Thom Garfat are keynoting the 2015 'Unity through Relationship' annual conference. This conference is an inclusive international event seeking to build on the connections and relationships made in previous years by bringing together representatives of all sectors involved in the provision of services to children, youth and families. These include (not an exhaustive list): front-line practitioners, educators, researchers, managers, clinicians, carers and students.

Conference theme – 'Congruent Care through Dialogue in Praxis'.

As Paulo Freire has pointed out dialogue is the essence of a coherent and comprehensive process of sharing; values, knowledge, advice and support. In this sense, 'dialogue' represents 'action', rather than discussion without purpose as it encompasses research, theory, practice and politics.

To have effective, consistent and congruent practice in child, youth and family services it is clear that 'dialogue' is essential, and that this dialogue must permeate the everyday lives of those involved. Dialogue must exist within and between carers; those being cared for; child protection practitioners; educators; managers; clinicians; researchers and all those wishing to take up the mantel.

The objectives of this 2 day conference are (within a relational framework):

(i) to provide a forum to highlight thinking and share the views and practice experiences of all who recognise this 'imperative'

(ii) to go some way to meeting the need for the realisation of processes which permit the translation of theory and research into practice, and

(iii) to share progressive and contemporary knowledge.

The importance of 'action' is fully recognised when discussing the development of a fully integrated and relationally-based system of care. But if we are to exist within a system of effective, congruent and values-based care practices there needs to be space for 'discussion and dissemination', as only dialogue in praxis can ensure the promotion of the core values of; respect, equity, participation, partnership, empowerment and social justice.

At this time we are sending out a call for papers and seek applications to contribute to the conference. If you have an idea you would like to propose or want some help with the application process, we will be happy to provide support.

This conference will be innovative, programmatic, participative, comparative, critical and empowering

Completed application forms to be submitted before 27th June 2015 to: info@empowerireland.com

'CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON AND BEYOND THE THERAPY INDUSTRY'

11 AND 12 NOVEMBER 2015, SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL STUDIES AND SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK, IRELAND IN ASSOCIATION WITH CRITICAL VOICES NETWORK IRELAND

'Talking' therapies have become increasingly central in dealing with all aspects of human life. This trend is now generally referred to as the 'therapy industry' (Moloney, 2013). This conference, now in its 7th year, aims to explore and debate critical perspectives on:

- The value of talking therapies
- The politics of the therapy industry
- Talking therapies as another expert system
- Other ways (beyond therapies) to support people in distress

Confirmed Keynote Speakers
Wilma Boevink is an experiential expert, who works as a social scientist at the 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.

Lucy Johnstoneis a consultant clinical psychologist, author of 'Users and abusers of psychiatry',
co-editor of 'Formulation in psychology and psychotherapy: making sense of people's problems' and 'A straight-talking guide to psychiatric diagnosis', along with a number of other critical texts on mental health theory and practice. She is currently based in a mental health service in South Wales.

Jacqui Dillon is a respected speaker, writer and activist, who has lectured and published worldwide on trauma, psychosis, dissociation and recovery. Jacqui is the national Chair of the Hearing Voices Network in England, Honorary Lecturer in Clinical Psychology at the University of East London, Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Medicine, Pharmacy and Health, Durham University and Visiting Research Fellow at The Centre for Community Mental Health, Birmingham City University.

Malcolm Garland is a consultant psychiatrist in Dublin. His team tries to incorporate novel and alternative approaches, including a minimal medication approach and an ethos fostering individuation, not dependence. He is concerned with the slow uptake of a non-"bio" approach by psychiatry, but understands the pressure teams are under to keep people "safe" and the conflicts this creates. He thinks psychiatrists may soon be on the "endangered species" list...

Rory Doody is a Recovery Development Advocate. He is a voice hearer and engages with his own mental health as often as he breathes! Plagued by inner questions like "who does this serve?" he enquires in the different areas of his work, involving education, case work, service and policy developments, structural change, and good intentions. As a 'poacher turned game keeper' with 20+ years of service user history, this question also serves as a check against his own personal motives.

Dina (Konstantina) Poursanidou is a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the Institute of Psychiatry in London, based at the Service User Research Enterprise; Dina has used mental health services since 2008; Member of Asylum, the magazine for democratic psychiatry; integrates an interest in the socio-cultural determinants of distress and socio-political action on the one hand, with an interest in the human subject at a more intimate and individual level on the other.

The Conference organisers are Harry Gijbels, Catherine McAuley School of Nursing and Midwifery, and Lydia Sapouna, School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork, Ireland. Reg info.: http://www.iimhn.ie/critical-perspectives-on-and-beyond-psychiatric-diagnoses/

Continuing professional development



Parents Plus is delighted to host an international practice conference focused on '**Innovations in Working with Families'** on Thursday, 3rd December in Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin. **Conference registration** is now open. Places are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Programme

Innovations in Working with Families will include an advanced practice workshop on solution-focused group work; extensive networking opportunities; practitioner presentations on service innovations in the delivery of the Parents Plus and Working Things Out programmes; key note addresses from Prof Alan Carr, Dr. John Sharry and Fred Ehresmann and a special workshop for managers and service commissioners on how to get evidence based programmes off the ground.

Attendee Information

Innovations in Working with Families builds on the success of our last conference 'Innovations in Working with Adolescents' which was attended by 600 professionals working with children and families. The conference is suitable for all professionals, service managers and researchers who work with families. There will be workshops and seminars spanning all the age ranges and is suitable for agencies working with early years, middle years, adolescent and general populations.

Cost & Registration

The cost to attend is being kept low at €40 (including lunch) to support professional practice and to ensure access for all. Please register your attendance at http://www.parentsplus.ie/conferenceregistration/.

Parents Plus

Parents Plus is an Irish charity that develops practical, evidence-based parenting and mental health programmes. We train professionals working with children and families to deliver the programmes in communities and clinical settings. Our programmes support families to communicate effectively, build satisfying relationships and overcome emotional and behavioural problems. Currently, there are five flagship programmes covering the age groups and addressing special issues.

1) The Early Years Programme (for parents of children aged 1 to 6)
2) The Children's Programme (for parents of children aged 6 to 11)
*3) The Adolescent's Programme (*For parents of adolescents aged 11 to 16)
4) *The Working Things Out Programme* (targeted at adolescents aged 11-16)
5) *Parenting when Separated Programme* (targeted at are parents post separation)

Parents Plus was founded by Dr. John Sharry, Social Worker and Prof. Carol Fitzpatrick, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist within the Mater Hospital Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in 1998. Parents Plus was established as a registered charity under the auspices of the Mater Hospital, Dublin in 2001. www.parentsplus.ie/conference

PARENTS PLUS
EMPOWERING PROFESSIONALS TO DELIVER EVIDENCE-BASED MENTAL HEALTH AND PARENTING PROGRAMMES TO FAMILIES

Ulster University

4th Biennial International Symposium

Decisions, Assessment, Risk and Evidence in Social Work

Tue 05 & Wed 06 July 2016
Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick, Northern Ireland
(convenient to Belfast International Airport)

Plenary Speakers:

Professor Dr Gerd Gigerenzer is Director of the Harding Center for Risk Literacy and Director of the Center for Adaptive Behavior and Cognition (ABC) at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, Germany, where he leads world-leading research on heuristic models of decision making.

Dr John Fluke is Associate Director of Systems Research & Evaluation, and Associate Professor at the Kempe Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, University of Colorado, USA. He is internationally recognized as a researcher specializing in assessing and analyzing decision-making particularly in child welfare and mental health services for children.

Mandeep K. Dhami, PhD is Professor of Decision Psychology at Middlesex University, London. She is an expert on decision-making, risk and uncertainty, particularly within the criminal justice sector.

Further information on DARE 2016 including a call for abstracts will be added to our website over the coming months: **www.socsci.ulster.ac.uk/irss/dare2016/.** If you would like your name to be added to the list for publicity please email: **Mrs Sharon Lucas** at: dare@ulster.ac.uk.

This fourth DARE symposium builds on the third symposium in July 2014 which brought together 125 delegates from eleven countries including senior practitioners, managers, policy makers, researchers and those in education and training.

HSC Public Health Agency

Do You Want to Contribute to the Development of Your Social Work Profession?

Have you thought about practice teaching/ having a student on placement? Have you been a practice teacher before and not done it for a while? If any of these questions apply to you and you want to discuss it further, please contact the Fieldwork Co-ordinator at the School of Applied Social Studies, UCC. I would be very interested in discussing what is entailed with you. The main times placements are required by UCC are for 14 weeks from January –April and September-December. Very occasionally they are required over the summer period also. I will be hoping to recruit shortly for placements for the January-April period. Sharing a placement with a colleague is also possible and I am happy to discuss this with interested people.

Practice Teachers will be offered a library card in UCC for the duration of the placement. A call-in day is held in advance of the each placement cycle beginning, in order to help you prepare for your student. It is professionally stimulating to pass on your knowledge to someone who is interested in social work and wants to learn more about it. Social workers who engage in practice teaching have continually informed us of the benefits in terms of their own continuing development of supervising students. A regular practice teacher and participant on the Postgraduate Diploma a few years back recently stated:

> *'Being a Practice Teacher has helped me to enhance my confidence and integrate new knowledge and skills. One of the most rewarding things about practice teaching is observing the growth and the learning that emerges with each student from the beginning to the end of their placement experience. I have enjoyed the experience of observing my own growth and feel I have developed a more reflective, collaborative, assertive, supportive and person centred approach to practice teaching and supervision.'*

Social workers are now increasingly conscious of CPD and from the 31st May they will be required to keep a CPD portfolio. (See www.coru.ie)

Other training initiatives include the Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Fieldwork Practice and Supervision (Social Work)-applications will be open in a few months' time for this course-see ACE (Adult and Continuing Education) on the UCC website. The closing date for this course next year is likely to be around the middle of May.

One of the innovations I and some colleagues have been involved in is visiting social work teams and running training sessions with social workers there interested in practice teaching. I would be happy to factor this in for a team if social workers express an interest in this. I am also willing to visit social work teams, at their request. One of the times that have proven most suitable for meetings with social workers has been the end of their own team meetings, and with notice, I am willing to travel and meet with people at these times.

I can be contacted at (021) 4903954 or by email at r.murray@ucc.ie

UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Reimagining adoption as a viable care option in Ireland

This seminar was a joint initiative between Professor Caroline McGregor, UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, NUI Galway, and Dr Simone McCaughren, School of Applied Social Studies, UCC. The overall aim of the seminar was to provide the opportunity for delegates to consider the implications of the addition of the new 42a provision in the constitution which has implications for the use of adoption for some children in long-term care . Part one was hosted in NUI Galway on Wednesday 6 May. Here Professor Fred Powell from UCC gave a paper on the sociology of adoption with a focus on adoption origins, debates and culture wars, family politics and adoption futures. Dr Greg Kelly (formerly QUB) put forward arguments for the use of adoption drawing on international research exploring outcomes for permanence for children in care. He argued that adoption can be a 'proportionate response' for some children. Dr. Simone McCaughren provided an overview of the context for change and Prof Caroline McGregor presented on the cultural challenges involved in applying the use of adoption for care to the Irish context.

Part two took place on the 24th September in UCC. Senator Averil Power opened the seminar with a very powerful keynote address sharing her personal story of adoption. Dr Aisling Parkes from the School of Law in UCC provided a very comprehensive overview of recent constitutional and legal change affecting children. She highlighted that until the Adoption Amendment Bill 2012 is passed the old law remains the same.

Dr Mandi MacDonald from QUB gave a presentation entitled "Contact after adoption from care" and talked about the paradox of open adoption from the Northern Irish experience. Dr Derek Kirton, University of Kent, then spoke about the way in which adoption from care has evolved in Britain with "an aggressive pursuit of adoption".

Dr Valerie O'Brien, UCD presented a paper exploring a conceptual framework to assist Irish reform in adoption and child welfare, including lessons from the USA.



There were two poster presentations displayed at the seminar. One poster presentation was by Deirdre McCarthy, a recent graduate of the Bachelor of Social Work Programme, University College Cork. Her research investigated how article 42A of the Constitution, which supports children's rights, will be accommodated in practice. Dr Lisa Moran, a post-doctoral researcher from NUI Galway presented on a current study on outcomes for Permanence and Stability for children in care in Counties Donegal and Galway with a focus on learning from the literature.

Overall, both seminars were well attended and provided a much-needed opportunity to learn about the various legal ,social, political, institutional, policy and personal challenges posed by the prospect of greater use of adoption as an alternative to long-term care for some children. A number of perspectives on the potential, limitations and challenges of use of adoption for care were presented which provided the basis for debate and the identification of the need for further actions to follow on from the seminar. Actions proposed included:

- Learning from international conference events on adoption needs to be more widely disseminated among graduates and professionals;
- New ideas about adoption – historical and current- need to continue be transmitted (i.e. adoption sometimes equated with 'forced' adoption)
- An opportunity for the voice of Adopted people to be hear more must be at the Centre of policy development around policy relating to use of adoption for care.
- When legal change is implemented, it is essential that it comes with policy and practice guidance base on evidence to date from research and experiences from use of adoption in other contexts
- Further seminars such as the Joint UCC Applied Social Studies -NUI Galway UNESCO Centre for Child and Family Research need to be organised to facilitated continued debate and discussion about this important and current theme.

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

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 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 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 the CARL 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 at this time.

How long does this take?

The typical time-scale for projects would be a) proposals submitted by groups, b) review of proposals 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 or October.

Projects must be small enough to be completed within the academic year, roughly 9-12 months. 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 and read sample reports?

Please visit our website to watch brief videos about CARL, to find out what it is like to participate http://www.ucc.ie/en/scishop/, or to read past research project reports http://www.ucc.ie/en/scishop/rr/

Does it matter what the research topic is about?

Topics that are connected to any discipline at UCC are welcome (science, maths, engineering, social sciences, arts, humanities, business, law, etc.)

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you!

CARL
COMMUNITY - ACADEMIC
RESEARCH LINKS
University College Cork, Ireland

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 some completed research reports on our website.
5. Groups that have funding should consider commissioning research, rather than applying to CARL.
6. Contact Anna to discuss your idea further and to receive a copy of the application form.
7. We are accepting proposals all year round.

CONTACT US

Anna Kingston a.kingston@ucc.ie /

UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Video Enhanced Reflective Practice Professional Development through Attuned Interactions:

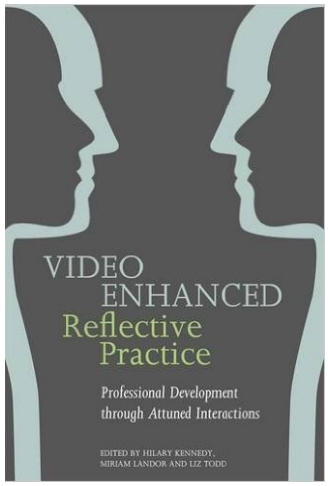
Edited by Hilary Kennedy, Miriam Landor and Liz Todd

This is an edited book which gathers together contributions of practitioners and educators who use a method identified as Video Enhanced Reflective Practice (VERP) to support their professional development across a wide range of professions. Miriam Landor, offers a succulent description of VERP ' It involves a particular kind of shared reflection on very short video clips of one's own work that show attuned interaction.'(p.11) The term 'attuned interactions' describes a communication where two or more people have an effect on each other by being mutually receptive and sensitively responsive' (p.19).

VERP involves the videotaping of a professional activity and the viewing of the video clip by a guider and the group of trusted colleagues (the reflective team). After viewing the video clip, the VERP guider and the 'trainee' identify and discuss its strengths. The reflective team then discuss what they observed, the guider and trainee listen. The trainee is invited to respond identifying any new learning, they are then required to write a reflective account of the specific learning emanating from the whole experience.

Chapters 1-4 explain how and why VERP works, chapters 5-9 explores its applications. In chapters 10-12 VERP principles are applied to case studies of residents with profound and multiple disabilities. Part 4 includes chapter13 which is the an evaluation of a VERP course involving six newly qualified social workers NQSWs, four consultant social workers, and two social work lecturing staff. Midway in the course the principles of Video Interaction Guidance (VIG) are applied to 'difficult conversations' participants had in their work. The course was evaluated compared with a 'control group' of NQSWs who undertook training within their organisation. While the findings cannot be generalised given the size of the study, increased levels of confidence were noted in the NQSWs being able to have 'difficult conversations' (p.165) with clients compared to the control group.

The final parts of the book explore how VERP can be used to influence change at systems level within organisations. In chapter 23 the importance of the role of agency for practitioners working in the modern workplace is discussed as well as how VERP can be used to this assist in this process. It is well worth a read as it synthesises the literature on the competing interests involved in risk averse organisations (with ever dwindling resources) and the competing demand to develop resilient practitioners within those organisations who can effectively manage uncertainty and complexity in an ever changing environment.



This accessible book will be of interest to social workers, social care practitioners and teachers who have an interest in enhancing skills of reflection and critical analysis.

Mary Hurley, University College Cork

New publications and policy reports

Response to 2015 Country Specific Recommendations for Ireland By Better Europe Alliance (July 2015)

The Better Europe Alliance response to the European Commission's 2015 Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) for Ireland. These recommendations were issued by the European Commission in May and with a final version endorsed by the Heads of State (European Council) as part of the European Semester process. This process includes the Europe 2020 Strategy so contains economic, social and environmental commitments. The aim of the CSRs is to focus Governments' attention on a number of key policy priorities.

Link to the recommendations are here: http://www.eapn.ie/eapn/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/better-europe-alliance-response-to-2015-country-specific-recommendations-for-ireland.pdf

Position Paper on Positive Activation By The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland Europe 2020 Working Group (July 2015)

This paper outlines the current policy and structures in Ireland for supporting people into work and presents proposals for how these can be changed so that they are more person centred and capable of supporting those who are most distant from employment in a way which empowers them and aims to improve the quality of their lives.

Link to the position paper can be found here: http://www.eapn.ie/eapn/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/position-paper-on-positive-activation1.pdf

Peer Support: A Tool for Recovery in Homelessness Services By FEANTSA (April 2015)

In this paper, we present experience and expertise regarding peer support by looking at the concepts and values under- lying peer support, and by examining the difficulties and challenges involved in developing it. We will also give examples from across Europe of homeless organisations who train peers and use peer support as part of their care and support teams. Peer support is developing to different degrees in different contexts. The aim of this paper is to help FEANTSA members understand the key principles, opportunities and challenges involved in setting up peer support, in order to inform their practices.

Link to the policy paper: http://www.feantsa.org/spip.php?action=acceder_document&arg=2700&cle=c26046bb08a0daeebc955b8af6403d40a6d65ed2&file=pdf%2Fpeer_support_policy_paper.pdf

The Future Perspective of the Community Platform By The Community Platform (July 2015)

This paper sets out some key elements of the situation in Ireland after six years of austerity policies and proposes policy directions for a future Ireland that would better reflect the values of the Community Platform. It builds on a body of policy work done in previous years by the Community Platform and is based on discussion and exchange with our member organisations.

Link to the paper: http://www.inou.ie/download/pdf/the_future_perspective_of_the_community_platform_14_07_2015.pdf

New publications and policy reports

Experiences of Family Caregivers for Persons with Severe Mental Illness Ireland By EUFAMI (March 2015)

In 2014, an international survey was carried out to get a clearer picture of the experiences of family caregivers for persons with a severe mental illness. The study aimed to clarify the burden and well-being, the satisfaction with professional support and the need for additional support for family caregivers of persons with a severe mental illness.

Link to the full survey results: http://www.shineonline.ie/images/PDF/c4c%20survey%20ireland.pdf

Link to a factsheet about the survey results: http://www.shineonline.ie/images/PDF/ireland%20factsheet.pdf

Link to an infographic about the survey results: http://www.shineonline.ie/images/PDF/infographic-country-ireland.pdf

Working for Work By the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed - 22nd edition (September 2015)

Working for Work provides unemployed people and others in receipt of social welfare payments with good information on the range of supports and services provided by the Department of Social Protection and through the Department of Education and Skills.

Link to the twenty-second edition: http://www.inou.ie/download/pdf/pdf_final_version_2015.pdf

Social Justice Campaigns

Solidarity with Refugees: 10 Things You Can Do to Help in Ireland By ENAR

Link: http://enarireland.org/take-action-in-solidarity-with-refugees-10-things-you-can-do-to-help-in-ireland/

"Invest in my Mental Health!" Campaign By Mental Health Reform

The campaign calls on the Government to provide a minimum of €35 million additional funding for mental health services.

Link: https://www.mentalhealthreform.ie/news/mental-health-activists-gather-at-leinster-house-to-say-invest-in-our-mental-health-2/

Link to online petition: https://www.mentalhealthreform.ie/petition2015/

"Homeless in All But Name" Campaign By ALONE

As part of our 'Homeless in all but Name' campaign, we are asking the government to plan effectively for the housing and support needs of our ageing population. We are asking that they define and designate a portion of all social housing units for use by older people, in line with the ageing demographics.

Link to the online petition: http://alone.ie/campaigns/homeless-in-all-but-name/

New publications and policy reports

Conducting the Home Visit in Child Protection

2nd Edition - Joanna Nicolas

Conducting a home visit is a fundamental part of a social worker's role, but in practical terms many key issues are overlooked during social work training. This is a **practical guide to conducting home visits**, a task which many newly qualified social workers can feel unprepared for and which can be fraught with difficulties.

Useful features of this new edition include:

- Real case examples based on practitioner's experiences
- Realistic solutions to the everyday difficulties you might face
- Examples of what to say
- Reference to the latest guidance, including Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013) to ensure you are practicing in line with statutory requirements and expectations
- Guidance and support in understanding lessons learned from recent child protection SCRs

Written by an experienced social worker and expert in child protection, this book is clear, straightforward and jargon-free. It will be a useful aid to any professionals required to do home visiting. The book addresses:

- What you need to do to prepare for the visit
- How to get in the door
- What to do when you are in the home
- What you need to look out for
- Practical ways to implement lessons learned from recent serious case reviews

http://www.elabs10.com/c.html?ufl=6&rtr=on&s=x8pc98,2cy7v,44mc,1gx4,cpjs,94e4,bya2

Meeting Grief with Mindfulness and Compassion

Nollaig McSweeney

Meeting Grief with Mindfulness and Compassion is a book written by Nollaig McSweeney. Nollaig works as a Mental Health Nurse with a child and adolescent mental health team in Cork. The book is beautifully designed by Ron Smith-Murphy and published by A Little Lifetime Foundation. A Little Lifetime Foundation (formerly Irish Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society ISANDS) is a national charity providing support to parents and families when a child dies on or around the time of birth www.alittlelifetime.ie The book is inspired by Nollaig's daughter Isabelle, who was born still in July 2010. The book is intended as a soothing balm for the bereaved. For details on where you can purchase this book please visit the Facebook page "Meeting Grief with Mindfulness and Compassion". The cost of the book is €20 and ALL profits benefit the charity.

Restorative Practice and Special Needs: A Practical Guide to Working Restoratively with Young People -

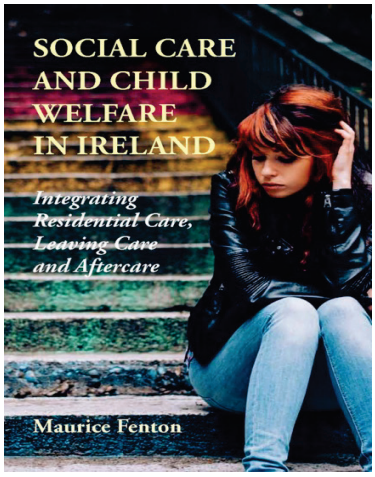
Nick Burnett and Margaret Thorsborne

Restorative Practice (RP) is an effective approach to discipline that has the potential to transform behaviour, by focusing on building and restoring relationships. This practical guide explains how to implement restorative approaches with young people with special needs in educational or residential settings.

RP is being used in general terms, and through a number of case studies the book looks at how RP needs to be adapted for those with additional needs, including Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual Disability and communication difficulties. It also includes guidance on particular issues such as staff facing crises, the issue of physical restraint and additional support parents require. This book will be of interest to restorative practitioners, educational professionals including headteachers, teachers and SENCOs in both special education and mainstream schools and residential care leaders and staff. http://emails.jkp.com/t/t-l-itojyd-idkkdyyu-z/

New Irish publication

New Book Information



Social Care and Child Welfare in Ireland

Integrating Residential Care, Leaving Care and After Care

Maurice Fenton

€39.95 (£34.95) ISBN 978-1-908308-74-0
Paperback / September 2015 / 414 pages

This book addresses the major issue of social care and child welfare in the twenty-first century, and in particular the imperative to integrate residential child care, leaving care and aftercare in order to achieve a congruent system of care. Currently these areas are disconnected elements, whereas in an integrated system they would be fully connected. The book is focused on the situation in Ireland but offers international relevance.

An ecological perspective, with recognition of the importance of both the child and the worker as dyadic elements within this system, is the focus throughout. The child's perspective is presented through a biographical narrative of a former child in care and with case studies from the author's practice experience. The workers' perspective is addressed through detailed critical analysis of the elements which constitute the profession of social care, which include practice, theory, approaches to care, policy, rights, research, legislation, social justice, professionalisation, privatisation and the socio-political and socio-economic factors which impact on the profession of social care, and therefore children in care.

Through this analysis a nuanced and informed perspective, identifying both strengths and weaknesses, is offered on the care system in Ireland in 2015. The book identifies significant deficiencies in the current aftercare services available in Ireland, and advocates for a statutory entitlement to aftercare support for all care leavers. A benefit/cost analysis is provided to support such a change.

"This book is a must-read for anyone who has an interest in the Irish care system. From academics to policy makers, to social workers and care leavers, we all have a responsibility to understand the many aspects of the care system."
– Wayne Dignam, Chairman, Irish Care Leavers Network

"Engrossing, informative and challenging. … essential reading for all those with an interest in children in care."
– Fr Peter McVerry, SJ, Founder, Peter McVerry Trust

About the Author

Maurice Fenton has worked at all levels in residential care, trainee to director, within the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. He founded Empower Ireland in 2009 to support care leavers in Ireland, and is an independent advisor and researcher with a particular interest in mentoring and social justice.

The Liffey Press, Raheny Shopping Centre, Second Floor, Raheny, Dublin 5
Tel: 01-8511458. Email: theliffeypress@gmail.com. Web: www.theliffeypress.com

Practice signposts: data sources to support practice



Practice signposts are permanent pages that will appear in every edition of *Practice Links*. The aim of these pages 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. Our work is internationally recognised as the benchmark for high quality information about the effectiveness 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/Population_Health/Health_Intelligence/

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/

National Documentation Centre on Drug Use

The National Documentation Centre on Drug Use (NDC) is an information resource that supports researchers, policy makers, educators and practitioners working to develop the knowledge base around drug, alcohol and tobacco use in Ireland. The NDC is funded by the Department of Health, and based within the Health Research Board, which is the lead agency in Ireland supporting and funding health research.

http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/

Drugs.ie

Drugs.ie is an independent website managed by The Ana Liffey Drug Project. Drugs.ie's mission is to help individuals, families and communities prevent and/or address problems arising from drug and alcohol use.

http://www.drugs.ie/

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

Practice signposts: data sources to support practice



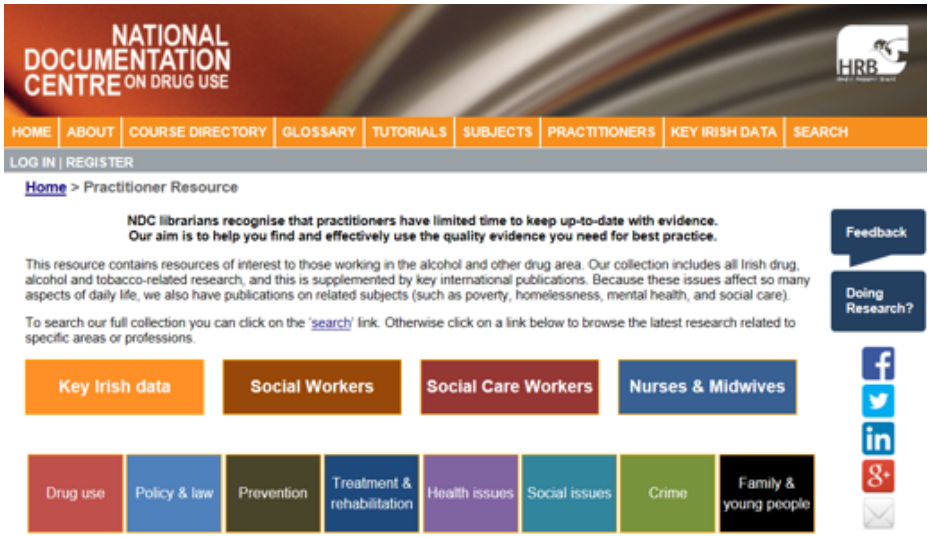
Resource on Marijuana

Marijuana LIT is a source of fact based information to assist professionals in providing accurate information to those affected by the use of cannabis. There are lots of confusing messages regarding the use of cannabis, the harm it causes and whether it should be legalised or not. This makes it difficult sometimes to determine facts from urban myth or popular opinion. The Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network Co-ordinating Office in the United States has a user friendly package of resources to assist those who provide services to substance users. It has information and infographics on how cannabis affects the body, using cannabis while pregnant and the potential complications for unborn children and newborns and how cannabis impacts on young people and families. Dr. Thomas E. Freese explains in-depth what is meant by "Medical Marijuana Use". Who uses it and why, and the difference between medical marijuana and Tetrahydrocannibinol (THC) medications. He also discusses the legal issues around the debate on the legal use of marijuana. http://attcnetwork.org/marijuana/index.aspx#infographic

NDC Drugs Library

NDC DRUGS LIBRARY – NEW RESOURCE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AND SOCIAL CARE WORKERS

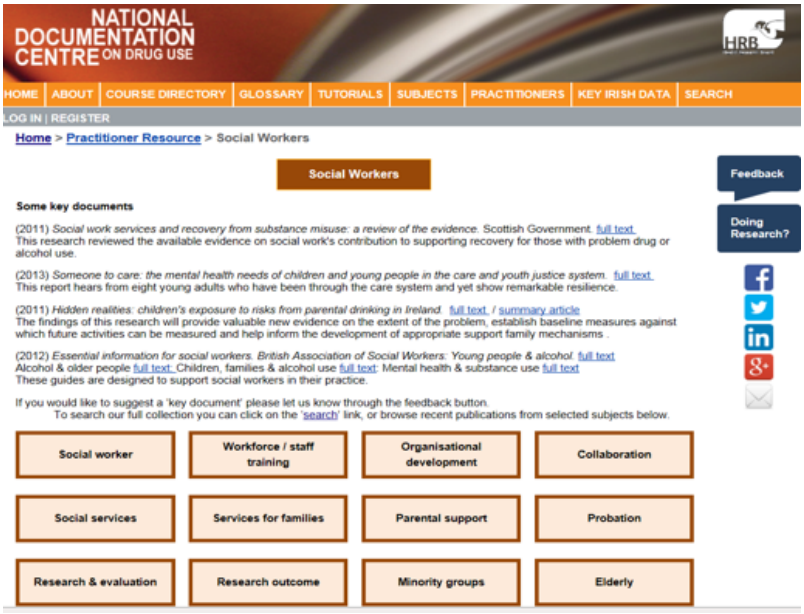
The HRB's national drugs library provides one point of access to all Irish alcohol and other drugs research. Through our website, www.drugsandalcohol.ie, you can view Irish and international research and policy material on legal and illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Because these issues affect so many aspects of daily life, we also have publications on related subjects such as poverty, suicide, prisons, homelessness, social care, and health.



Every year we add hundreds of new articles and reports to our library collection. In order to help relieve information overload we have a number of summarised aids, such as Drugnet Ireland, NDC newsletter, and factsheets.

We recognise that those working in health and social care need access to research in a way that suits your busy work life. In order to facilitate this, the NDC librarians, with the wonderful help of advisors working in the social work and social care work areas, have developed a 'practitioner' resource. The homepage http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/practitioners has links to a number of subject areas. The 'key Irish data' link and those on the bottom row are relevant to most workers. Clicking on a link will show you recent Irish and international articles and reports on that subject.

We have also developed pages for specific professions including social workers and social care workers. Each of these pages list key documents and have links to subjects of particular interest to that profession.



The resource includes a page called 'doing research' which has links to useful online tools providing help on finding and using information for research. We are interested in collecting and making available local Irish drug or alcohol research done by those working in the area. If you are doing any such research, even a small piece in their organisation, you can submit it to us.

We would like to express a special word of thanks to all of those who helped with the design of the resource. We welcome ongoing feedback with recommendations for key documents, subject areas and anything else workers would like to see in your resource.



Research briefs

Community coalition-driven interventions to reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic minority populations

By Laurie M Anderson, Kathryn L Adeney, Carolynne Shinn, Sarah Safranek, Joyce Buckner-Brown, L Kendall Krause (June 2015)

Abstract

Background

Racial and ethnic disparities in health status are pervasive at all stages of the life cycle. One approach to reducing health disparities involves mobilizing community coalitions that include representatives of target populations to plan and implement interventions for community level change. A systematic examination of coalition-led interventions is needed to inform decision making about the use of community coalition models.

Objectives

To assess effects of community coalition-driven interventions in improving health status or reducing health disparities among racial and ethnic minority populations.

Search methods

We searched MEDLINE, EMBASE, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), PsycINFO, Social Science Citation Index, Dissertation Abstracts, System for Information on Grey Literature in Europe (SIGLE) (from January 1990 through September 30, 2013), and Global Health Library (from January 1990 through March 31, 2014).

Selection criteria

Cluster-randomized controlled trials, randomized controlled trials, quasi-experimental designs, controlled before-after studies, interrupted time series studies, and prospective controlled cohort studies. Only studies of community coalitions with at least one racial or ethnic minority group representing the target population and at least two community public or private organizations are included. Major outcomes of interest are direct measures of health status, as well as lifestyle factors when evidence indicates that these have an effect on the direct measures performed.

Data collection and analysis

Two review authors independently extracted data and assessed risk of bias for each study.

Main results

Fifty-eight community coalition-driven intervention studies were included. No study was considered to be at low risk of bias. Behavioral change outcomes and health status change outcomes were analyzed separately. Outcomes are grouped by intervention type. Pooled effects across intervention types are not presented because the diverse community coalition-led intervention studies did not examine the same constructs or relationships, and they used dissimilar methodological designs. Broad-scale community system level change strategies led to little or no difference in measures of health behavior or health status (very low-certainty evidence). Broad health and social care system level strategies leds to small beneficial changes in measures of health behavior or health status in large samples of community residents (very low-certainty evidence). Lay community health outreach worker interventions led to beneficial changes in health behavior measures of moderate magnitude in large samples of community residents (very low-certainty evidence). Lay community health outreach worker interventions may lead to beneficial changes in health status measures in large samples of community residents; however, results were not consistent across studies (low-certainty evidence). Group-based health education led by professional staff resulted in moderate improvement in measures of health behavior (very low-certainty evidence) or health status (low-certainty evidence).

Adverse outcomes of community coalition-led interventions were not reported.

Research briefs

Community coalition-driven interventions to reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic minority populations

THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION®

By Laurie M Anderson, Kathryn L Adeney, Carolynne Shinn, Sarah Safranek, Joyce Buckner-Brown, L Kendall
Krause (June 2015)

Authors' conclusions

Coalition-led interventions are characterized by connection of multi-sectoral networks of health and human service providers with ethnic and racial minority communities. These interventions benefit a diverse range of individual health outcomes and behaviors, as well as health and social care delivery systems. Evidence in this review shows that interventions led by community coalitions may connect health and human service providers with ethnic and racial minority communities in ways that benefit individual health outcomes and behaviors, as well as care delivery systems. However, because information on characteristics of the coalitions themselves is insufficient, evidence does not provide an explanation for the underlying mechanisms of beneficial effects. Thus, a definitive answer as to whether a coalition-led intervention adds extra value to the types of community engagement intervention strategies described in this review remains unattainable.

Link to the review: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/enhanced/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD009905.pub2

Research briefs

The Impact of Detention on the Health of Asylum Seekers: A Systematic Review

By Trine Filges, Edith Montgomery, Marianne Kastrup, Anne-Marie Klint Jørgensen (September 2015)



BACKGROUND

The last decades of the twentieth century were accompanied by an upsurge in the number of persons fleeing persecution and regional wars. Western countries have applied increasingly stringent measures to discourage those seeking asylum from entering their country. The most controversial of the measures to discourage people from seeking asylum is the decision by some Western countries to confine asylum seekers in detention facilities. In most countries, the detention of asylum seekers is an administrative procedure that is undertaken to verify the identity of individuals, process asylum claims, and/or ensure that a deportation order is carried out.

A number of clinicians have expressed concern that detention increases mental health difficulties in asylum seekers, who is already a highly traumatized population, and have called for an end to such practices. This is clearly in conflict with government policies aimed at reducing the numbers of asylum seekers.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this review is to assess evidence about the effects of detention on the mental and physical health and social functioning of asylum seekers.

SEARCH STRATEGY

Relevant studies were identified through electronic searches of bibliographic databases, internet search engines and hand searching of core journals. Searches were carried out to November 2013. We searched to identify both published and unpublished literature. The searches were international in scope. Reference lists of included studies and relevant reviews were also searched.

SELECTION CRITERIA

All study designs that used a well-defined control group were eligible for inclusion. Studies that utilized qualitative approaches were not included.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

The total number of potential relevant studies constituted 11,376 hits. A total of nine studies, consisting of 12 papers, met the inclusion criteria and were critically appraised by the review authors. The final selection comprised nine studies from four different countries.

Two studies reported on the same sample of asylum seekers in Australia at different time points after release. The nine studies thus analysed eight different asylum populations. Six studies (all analysing asylum seekers in Australia) could not be used in the data synthesis as they were judged to have too high risk of bias on the confounding item. Three studies were therefore included in the data synthesis.

Meta-analysis was used to examine the effects of detention on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and anxiety while the asylum seekers were still detained. Random effects models were used to pool data across the studies using the standardised mean difference. Pooled estimates were weighted using inverse variance methods, and 95% confidence intervals were estimated. It was not possible to perform a meta-analysis after release as only one study providing data after release was included in the data synthesis.

Research briefs

The Impact of Detention on the Health of Asylum Seekers: A Systematic Review

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RESULTS

Two studies provided data while the asylum seekers were still detained, and one study provided data less than a year after release. The total number of participants in these three studies was 359. We performed analyses separately for these time points. All outcomes were measured such that a negative effect size favours the detained asylum seekers, i.e. when an effect size is negative the detained asylum seekers are better off than comparison groups of non-detained asylum seekers. The three studies used in the data synthesis were all non randomised studies and only one of them was judged to be of some concern on the confounding item of the risk of bias tool. Primary study effect sizes for PTSD, depression and anxiety while the asylum seekers were still detained lies in the range 0.35 to 0.99, all favouring the non-detained asylum group. The weighted average effect sizes for PTSD and anxiety are of a magnitude which may be characterised as being of clinical importance: 0.45 [95% CI 0.19, 0.71] and 0.42 [95% CI 0.18, 0.66]. The weighted average effect size for depression is of an even higher magnitude: 0.68 [95% CI 0.10, 1.26].

All effects favour the non-detained; i.e. there is an adverse effect of detention on mental health. The magnitude of the pooled estimates should however be interpreted with caution as they are based on two studies, and for depression there is some inconsistency in the magnitude of effect sizes between the two studies.

One study reported outcomes (PTSD, depression and anxiety) after release and the magnitude of the effect sizes were all of clinical importance: 0.59 [95% CI 0.02, 1.17], 0.60 [95% CI 0.02, 1.17] and 0.76 [95% CI 0.17, 1.34]; all favouring the non-detained asylum seekers.

AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS

There is some evidence to suggest an independent adverse effect of detention on the mental health of asylum seekers. All studies used in the data synthesis reported adverse effects on the detained asylum seekers' mental health, measured as PTSD, depression and anxiety. The magnitude of the effect sizes lay in a clinical important range despite the fact that the comparison groups used in the primary studies faced a range of similar post-migration adversities and had a more or less similar experience of prior traumatic events as the detained asylum seekers. Thus, the current evidence suggests an independent deterioration of the mental health due to detention of a group of people who are already highly traumatised.

Adverse effects on the mental health were found not only while the asylum seekers were detained, but also after release suggesting that the adverse mental health effect of detention may be prolonged, extending well beyond the point of release into the community.

The conclusions should however be interpreted with caution as they are based on only three studies. More research is needed in order to fully investigate the effect of detention on mental health. While additional research is needed, the review does, however, offer support to the view that the detention of already traumatised asylum seekers may have adverse effects on their mental health.

Link to the review: http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/lib/project/253/

Research briefs

Resilience & Burnout in Child Protection Social Work: Individual & Organisational Factors

McFadden, P., Campbell, A., & Taylor, B. (2015). Resilience and burnout in child protection social work: Individual and organisational themes from a systematic literature review. *British Journal of Social Work, 45*(5), 1546-1563.

What is this article about?

- This article highlights key themes identified as part of a systematic literature review of 65 articles.
- Themes relate to individual and organisational factors associated with resilience and burnout among child protection social workers.

What are the critical findings?

- Individual themes identified related to: personal history of maltreatment, training and preparation for child welfare, coping with the demands of the job, job satisfaction and dissatisfaction.
- Organisation themes related to: organisational and professional commitment, organisational culture and climate, workload, peer and management support, secondary traumatic stress and compassion satisfaction/fatigue.

What are some of the key implications for practice?

- The identified themes provide an overview of relevant issues that may need to be addressed in order to promote maintenance of staff and help them to remain in a challenging profession.
- This article has the potential to inform the evidence base of policy and practice regarding the retention and support of staff in child protection social work.

Methodological Considerations

- This article is based on a systematic literature review (i.e. a literature review focused on a specific research question that seeks to identify, appraise, select, and synthesise all relevant high quality research evidence) and not primary research.
- Studies that were included were limited to those in English and those published between 1st January 2000 and 31st December 2009.

Research briefs

Education of Prisoners with a Child Welfare Background

Hetland, H., Iversen, A. C., Eikeland, O. J., & Manger, T. (2015). Former welfare clients in prison: Education and self-reported learning problems. *European Journal of Social Work, 18*(2), 198-210.

What is this article about?

- This article report the findings of a Norwegian quantitative study investigating the educational background, educational wishes, actual participation in prison education, and self-reported learning problems among former child welfare clients in prison.
- The results are drawn from analysis of responses to a survey that addressed the entire Norwegian prison population; the final sample used in this article was 1,648.

What are the critical findings?

- One third (approx.) of prisoners in this study reported themselves as former child welfare clients; prevalence was especially high in the youngest age group (under 25) in which over half reported previous contact with the welfare system
- Those who had been child welfare clients had lower educational level than the non-welfare prisoners.
- Almost 70% of prisoners wished to start an education in prison, regardless of child welfare contact or not; a much higher proportion of child welfare clients than other prisoners wished to start upper secondary school.
- Twice as many former child welfare clients had a very high degree of self-reported learning problems in reading, writing, and mathematics compared to the other prisoners.

What are the implications for practice?

- In Norway, imprisoned former welfare clients struggle more than the average prisoner.
- School must be prioritized as part of caring for children and adolescence in the child welfare system.
- Government bodies, the criminal justice system, and schools in prisons are encouraged to pay special attention to the lower educational qualifications and learning needs of former child welfare clients in prisons.
- This may also involve/require collaboration with the schools system from which the child welfare prisoners have come and to which they will be returning upon their release.

Methodological Considerations

- This study was carried out in Norwegian context and as such results may not readily transfer to other countries/ cultural contexts.
- The majority of participants in this study were male however, there was no significant gender difference regarding previous child welfare involvement.

Organisational profile

Organisational Profile: Institute of Child Care Research

Who are they?

The Institute of Child Care Research (ICCR) is a multidisciplinary research unit dedicated to researching the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

What do they do?

The ICCR aims to play a key role in influencing the development of children's policy and practice in Northern Ireland through partnerships with research users, by:

- Identifying and conducting original research into child care needs and services
- Offering training and consultation on undertaking and applying child care research
- Providing postgraduate research supervision for postgraduate students undertaking and completing child care research.

Research Themes:

1. Children and families
2. Children in care and adopted
3. Youth development, lifestyles, and social behaviour
4. Mental health and disability

Examples of current research projects:

- Mind Your Health: The physical and mental health of looked after children and young people in Northern Ireland
- Understand 'wellbeing' in the lives of adolescents with disabilities: an exploratory study
- Sexual health and education needs for young people in care in the Republic of Ireland
- Parental alcohol use and resilience in young people in Northern Ireland: A study of family, peer and school processes

Where can I find out more?

http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/InstituteofChildCareResearch/

Podcasts and videos

New video series on child protection removal systems in seven EU countries, in association with the Irish Research Council



http://www.ucc.ie/en/appsoc/cs/videoresources/ccpsvideos/

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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, 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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