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# Practice Links

Issue 52, April 2013

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PL would like to welcome a new member of the team. Eavan Brady qualified as a social worker in Ireland and is currently working with PART, Canada.

# Continuing Professional Development



**IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR  
INFANT MENTAL HEALTH**

Affiliated with



WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR  
INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

## **IAIMH NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2013 DUBLIN, IRELAND SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013**

### **TRAUMA IN THE EARLY YEARS**

*Using an Infant Mental Health Framework to Listen, Respond  
and Represent the Needs of Babies and Toddlers.*

This unique collaboration with international experts, will present from clinical and legal perspectives, the impact of trauma on the lives of babies and toddlers and their caregivers.

Compelling scientific evidence will be presented and therapeutic interventions discussed. This important conference will be of interest to all disciplines, Multidisciplinary Teams, Child Protection Services, Family Law Legal Teams, the Courts and all who work with vulnerability and risk in the early years.

**Keynote Speakers:**

**Patricia Van Horn, PhD, JD**

Associate Clinical Professor and Director of the Division of Infant, Child, and Adolescent Psychiatry at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Centre.

**Judge Donna J. Hitchens MSW, JD**

Recently Retired Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court.

**Location:** Citywest Hotel, Dublin.

**Cost:** €100 (non-members) / €90 (members). *Light lunch included.*

**Registration:** Email to register your interest. Further details will follow

[imhireland@gmail.com](mailto:imhireland@gmail.com)

# Continuing Professional Development



Creating sustainable futures: defeating the politics of austerity

This year's Social Work Action Network (SWAN) Conference is in London for the first time.

FRIDAY 12th  
&  
SATURDAY 13th  
APRIL 2013

London South Bank University,  
Elephant & Castle



Against the backdrop of increasing cuts and rising inequality social workers, service users, carers, care workers, social work students and educators are coming together to fight back. The Social Work Action Network (SWAN) promotes a model of social work and care practice which is rooted in the value of social justice.

The 8th SWAN National Conference will debate how we can resist cuts to social work and care services and other attacks on the welfare state including the abolition of disability living allowance, increased workfare and the closure of youth services. SWAN is delighted to announce that this year's conference will be held in London, the first time a national conference has been held in the city.

The conference will bring together activists from all parts of the UK and from around the world to discuss the fight against austerity and to develop collective, sustainable alternatives. In particular, it will provide workers, service users and carers with an opportunity to share strategies in the struggle against cuts and marketisation of services, and to challenge the hardship these create.

More conference details will follow soon - sign up to the SWAN newsletter list at [www.socialworkfuture.org/resources/newsletter-sign-up](http://www.socialworkfuture.org/resources/newsletter-sign-up) or follow our Twitter feed. For more information please contact [swanconf2013@gmail.com](mailto:swanconf2013@gmail.com) our specific conference email address.

 [www.socialworkfuture.org](http://www.socialworkfuture.org)

 @swansocialwork

 Social Work Action Network (SWAN)

# Continuing Professional Development

## Teaching Clients to use Mindfulness Skills

Dr Maggie Stanton and Christine Dunkley. 16th May 2013 - St Patrick's College, Maynooth, near Dublin - £120.00 per person (£135.00 after 16th April 2013). To book please click here (or paste into your browser): <http://www.stantonltd.co.uk/section.php?xSec=2> . In the last 15 years Mindfulness has been incorporated into a number of psychological treatments for mental health conditions.

In this workshop two senior clinicians will share their experiences and techniques for teaching mindfulness skills to clients with a range of difficulties. They will introduce the concepts and demonstrate how to explain these to clients while gently leading them through some experiential exercises. This workshop will be held at St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Near Dublin

This workshop is designed for Coaches, Counsellors, Doctors, Nurses, Occupational Therapists, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Psychotherapists and Social Workers. The workshop contributes six hours towards continuing professional development requirements.

## Engagement and Participation in Family Support UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre 6th Biennial International Conference

13th & 14th June 2013

School of Political Science and Sociology  
National University of Ireland, Galway

### CONFERENCE THEME

Family Support requires the involvement of us all – children, parents, volunteers, professionals and politicians – as citizens. The aim of this conference is to view trends, challenges and options relating to citizens' engagement and participation in the field of Family Support. The conference will consider the relevance of citizenship to Family Support, exploring the potential and limitations of community and volunteer led provision, the challenges facing professional worker-citizens in embattled systems, the possibility of participatory structures within service delivery systems, the role of advocacy and protest in Family Support and the overall meaning and value of participation by children and young people for Family Support.

### PARALLEL SESSIONS

For the first time at its biennial conference, the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre would like to invite submissions for presentations in parallel sessions. Abstracts are invited from the policy and practice community, as well as the academic community, in relation to the conference themes, which are as follows:

- Citizenship and Family Support
- The Contribution of Volunteers and Communities
- Challenges Facing Professional Worker-Citizens in Embattled Systems
- Participatory Structures
- The Role of Advocacy and Protest
- Participation by Children and Young People

### Registration

There is a reduced registration fee of €100 prior to 30th April 2013. The full registration fee of €125 applies after this date, depending on availability. Registration is online by credit or laser card only.

[www.conference.ie](http://www.conference.ie)

If you have any queries, please contact:

Iwona O'Donoghue, UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, School of Political Science and Sociology, NUI Galway, Ireland. Email: [iwona.odonoghue@nuigalway.ie](mailto:iwona.odonoghue@nuigalway.ie) Tel: +353 (0)91495734

# Continuing Professional Development



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



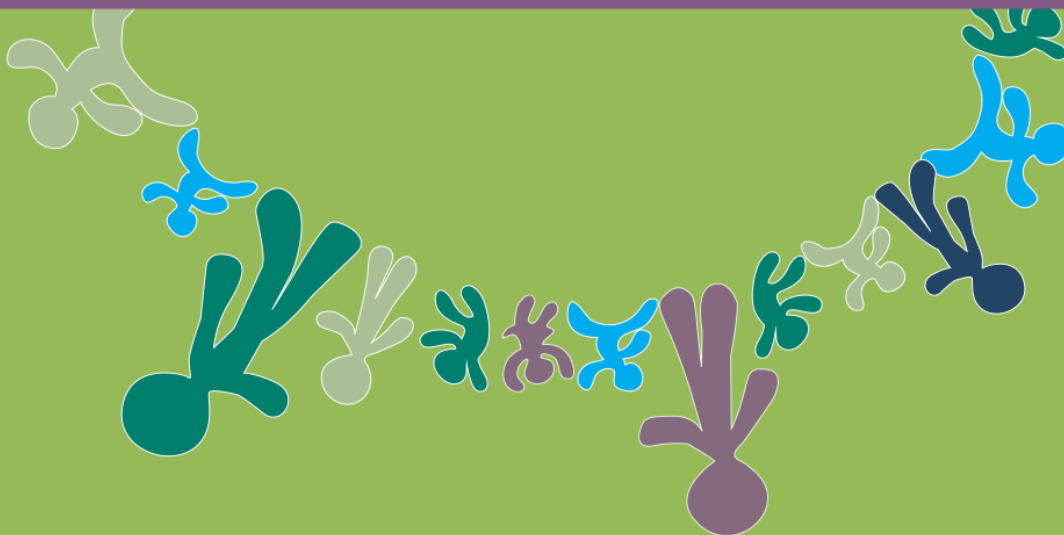
UNESCO Chair in  
Children, Youth and Civic Engagement  
Ireland  
CHILD AND FAMILY RESEARCH CENTRE



NUI Galway  
OE Gaillimh



## UNESCO CHILD AND FAMILY RESEARCH CENTRE ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY SUPPORT 6TH BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



**Date:** Thursday 13th & Friday 14th June 2013

**Venue:** Engineering Building, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

Registration & Abstracts submission online at [www.conference.ie](http://www.conference.ie)

**Please register by 30th April 2013 to avail of special reduced rate**

Please submit your abstract by 28th March 2013

# Continuing Professional Development

## **3rd ENSACT Joint European Conference**

16th-19th April, Istanbul.

<http://www.ensactistanbul.org/?>

About ENSACT and links to social work: <http://www.ensactistanbul.org/en/about-ensact/>

Programme: <http://www.ensactistanbul.org/en/programme/>

## **3rd International Public Health & Palliative Care Conference**

Limerick, 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013 on the theme of: "Death, Dying, Loss & Care: Social Experiences or Medical Events?"

A public health approach to palliative care places the community at the centre of supporting those affected by death, dying, loss and care. The conference website has further details, flyer and booking details: [www.publichealthpalliativecare.org](http://www.publichealthpalliativecare.org)

## **Campbell Colloquium 2013**

The annual Campbell Collaboration Colloquium will be back May 21st - 23rd, 2013! Our venue this year is in beautiful, downtown Chicago just one block from the Magnificent Mile at [Loyola University Chicago](http://www.loyola.edu). Come enjoy the sights and sounds of the big city while engaging with reviewers from around the globe!

Visit the [Colloquium's website](http://www.campbellcollaboration.org) for more details. More information about registration, plenary speakers, and presentations are upcoming. We look forward to seeing you in Chicago!

## **Applications are invited for the Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Fieldwork Practice and Supervision (Social Work) School of Applied Social Studies (University College Cork)**

**2013-2014**

The Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Fieldwork Practice and Supervision (Social Work) commenced in 2001 and it represents a very important program in terms of the School's mission of creating and sustaining community outreach and partnerships within the context of professional development. The program provides a unique opportunity to social work practitioners to engage in professionally accredited, post qualifying education and training in Practice Teaching and Professional Supervision. Specifically, the program is designed to equip social workers with the necessary knowledge and skills to become competent Supervisors and Practice Teachers. In a climate where social workers are coming under increased public scrutiny and at a time when professional registration has become a requirement for social workers, participation on dedicated CPD (continuing professional development) programs is advisable.

**Program Inquiries:** - Contact Ms Ruth Murray email [r.murray@ucc.ie](mailto:r.murray@ucc.ie) Phone: 021-4903954

**Application Forms:** - Available from Adult and Continuing Education, 'The Laurels' Western Road, University College Cork, Cork. Phone: - 0214904700 Applications must be returned by 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013



# Continuing Professional Development

## **ISPCAN (International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect)**

There has been a strong (n = 600) response to the Call for Abstracts and we expect a packed and stimulating programme.

A group for the conference has been created on LinkedIn. For regular updates, please see 'ISPCAN European Conference, Dublin 2013' on LinkedIn, or [http://www.linkedin.com/groups/ISPCAN-European-Conference-Dublin-2013-4874994?home=&gid=4874994&trk=anet\\_ug\\_hm&goback=%2Egmp\\_4874994](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/ISPCAN-European-Conference-Dublin-2013-4874994?home=&gid=4874994&trk=anet_ug_hm&goback=%2Egmp_4874994)

The organising committee is made up of clinicians, practitioners and academics drawn from across the island of Ireland and Europe. Dublin last hosted an ISPCAN event (the 11th International Congress) in 1996 and we look forward to this return visit.

Our conference theme is **"Protecting Children in a Changing World"** and includes the following sub-themes:

- Prevention of child abuse and neglect through early and sustained involvement
- Interventions and programmes for children and families experiencing adversity
- Addressing children's rights and participation
- Reforms in child protection and welfare policy
- Children in out of home care
- Building the evidence base
- Contemporary issues

Dublin is a vibrant and modern capital city with a unique literary, cultural and historical legacy. The city is compact and easy to explore for visitors and is also close to stunning natural scenery and historic sites in nearby counties. Dublin is well served by direct flights from dozens of European cities. Further details on the scientific and social programmes will appear at: <http://www.ispcan.org/event/Dublin2013>.

## **Call for Papers and First Announcement of Speakers: 4th Biennial Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Conference New Agency, New Rights, New Systems: Are Children Any Safer?**

University College Cork, Friday 25th October 2013.

Call for papers available on: <http://swconf.ucc.ie/call/>. Closing date for receipt of abstracts: 1st May 2013.

List of confirmed speakers: <http://swconf.ucc.ie/sp/>

Follow us on Twitter for updates on speakers and conference registration: [@swconfucc](https://twitter.com/swconfucc)



This conference is a joint initiative between the Social Work Development Unit University College Cork, The Health Service Executive South and the IASW Southern Branch.





# Continuing Professional Development

## **SWAN: Social Work Action Network (Cork)**

This letter is to highlight to the people of Cork (and nationally) that a new broad pressure group has been formed to campaign against the destruction of services in the social caring professions within communities and elsewhere. We are called SWAN: the Social Work Action Network. We all work in social services in one area or another. We draw our membership from: social workers; social care workers; special needs assistants; home helps; home carers; service users; community workers and others.

SWAN has been in existence in the UK for about 8 years and has recently formed in Dublin and Galway.

We as members of SWAN all share the common belief that the lives of service users, their families and those of us who work with them have been poorly treated by regressive economic and social policies: recent examples include: the closure of 900 publicly provided geriatric beds; a failing child protection service; poor standards of care in disability services; a loss of 1,000 Special Needs Assistants in two years; the removal of a million hours of home helps in 18 months and privatisation of these services available to those who can pay out of pocket and a whole litany of other service failures too numerous to mention.

SWAN believes that 'neoliberal' policies, whereby those without money are left with little or no services, are at the root of the current problems. The preservation of a real welfare state which cherishes those who are disabled, old, physically or mentally ill, children, unemployed and others who are not 'profitable' in the narrow neoliberal sense is a key aim of SWAN.

All these issues require a holistic response within SWAN so as the whole panoply of workers, service users, families, communities and advocacy organisations can be represented together. Using this methodology, SWAN conferences go beyond 'experts' talking to each other. Each conference discussion has a four way panel: a service user/family member/carer; a representative from a service user advocacy organisation; a practitioner and an 'expert'.

We also allow a space and a mouthpiece for different caring professionals to bring forward their concerns about the destructive impact of current state policies are having on those from example who are disabled, mentally ill, children in need of protection or older people who need to be provided the services to live with basic dignity.

We are equally concerned about the state's failure to implement in full its own policies as they pertain to child protection, disability, mental health, suicide prevention, community care, integrated care, primary care and other key areas. This failure is leading to destruction of thousands of lives in families and communities all over Ireland

We are not a union that represents the pay and conditions of members. We are a campaigning and advocacy organisation which is concerned with the needs of the vulnerable and marginalised members of society with whom we work. However, the cutbacks in the numbers of those working in the caring professions and the resources allocated have also resulted in the deterioration of working conditions which serves the interests of those in need of services badly and also contributes to poor staff morale.

We are planning a formal conference-launch of SWAN (Cork) in May/June. We invite all those who work in the social work/caring professions to join us. Those who join will be granted a safe environment where we can exchange views and whereby issues of concern can be highlighted by SWAN in a variety of fora, including the use of the media, conferences other means.

We plan to hold a launch conference in Cork before June 2013.

If you would like further information or would like to join SWAN Cork, please email: [swancork@gmail.com](mailto:swancork@gmail.com)

You can find 'swancork' on facebook and on twitter.

Website (UK): [socialworkfuture.org](http://socialworkfuture.org)

**Dr. Tom O'Connor, Diarmuid O'Driscoll, Kieran O'Hora, Georgina Jefferies, Helen O'Shea.**

**Swan Cork- Steering Committee**

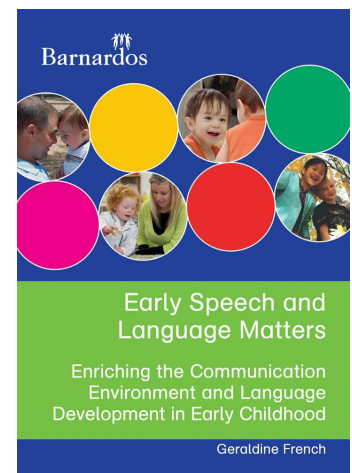
## New publications and policy reports

### Equality and Mental Health: What Advocates Need to Know (November 2012) by The Equality Authority.

This booklet aims to explain how mental health advocates can use equality law to help people who have mental health difficulties to avoid discrimination, to achieve their rights and to seek redress if they experience discrimination. This booklet is a valuable resource for social workers and those in the caring professions who work with people who experience mental health difficulties. A link to the report can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/dyj9b6x>

### Early Speech and Language Matters: Enriching the communication environment and language development in early childhood by Dr. Geraldine French. ISBN: 978-1-906004-26-2

Early Speech and Language Matters provides up-to-date theory and research in relation to the development of speech, communication and language in early childhood. It gives practical guidance to early childhood educators on how they can support this development, and outlines the links with national documents such as *Síolta*, *Aistear* and *The Literacy and Numeracy Strategy*. Early Speech and Language Matters demonstrates the importance of the home learning environment and the importance of sharing information on children's learning with families. It also gives guidance on what to do if there are concerns about a child's speech, language and communication development, how to address those concerns, and how to support children while waiting for speech and language therapy. See [www.barnardos.ie](http://www.barnardos.ie).

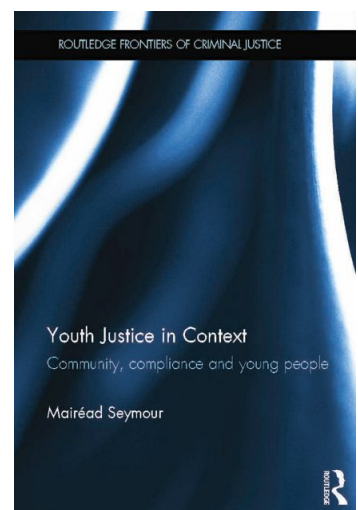


### Youth Justice in Context: Community, Compliance and Young People by Mairéad Seymour

(Routledge Frontiers of Criminal Justice Series published 16th October 2012). ISBN (hardback): 978-0-415-66792-0 Price: £85.00. ISBN (eBook): 978-0-203-10280-0

Youth Justice in Context examines the influence of legislative, organizational, policy and practice issues in shaping what constitutes compliance and how non-compliance is responded to when supervising young offenders in the community. It also addresses the impact of adolescent developmental immaturity and social and personal circumstances in mediating expectations of compliance.

A central concern of the book is to explore the manner in which compliance changes over time through the dynamics that arise in the supervisory relationship between practitioners and young people, and against the backdrop of the social and psychological changes that occur in adolescents' lives as they move towards early adulthood. A detailed examination is provided based on the perspectives of probation and youth justice professionals operating across different organizational contexts, and of young people subject to community supervision. To this end, the book offers in-depth analysis on the strategies employed by practitioners in promoting compliance and responding to non-compliance. It also provides unique insights into young people's perceptions of the supervision process, their motivations to comply, and their perspectives on desistance from offending.



This book offers an alternative perspective to policies and practices that focus primarily on stringent enforcement and control measures in responding to non-compliance. Youth Justice in Context is suited to academics, researchers, students, policy makers, social workers, probation officers, youth justice workers, social care workers and other practitioners working with young people in the criminal justice system.

# New publications and policy reports

## ChildLinks Issue 3, 2012 - Children with Additional Needs in Early Years Services

This latest edition of ChildLinks contains articles from the National Disability Authority; Roscommon Childcare Committee; Early Childhood Ireland; Limerick City Childcare Committee and Mary Immaculate College; and the FIESTA Network (Facilitating Inclusive Education and Supporting the Transition Agenda).

### Child Development Guide

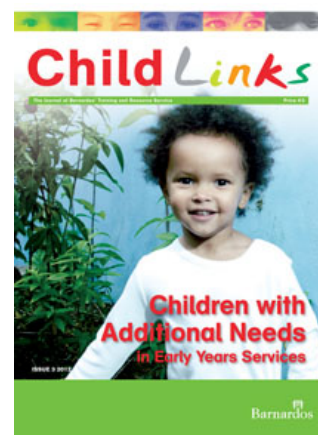
ISBN 978-1-906004-24-8. €25

A key task for busy practitioners is to understand how best to work with children to support their development. This Child Development Guide covers current research (including an Irish context) on emotional, social, educational, physical and behavioural development from birth through adolescence.

### Introduction to Child Protection. E-Learning Course

Access on [www.barnardos.ie](http://www.barnardos.ie)

This Introduction to Child Protection elearning course is for anyone working with children. The aim of the course is to give you an understanding of key aspects of Children First, National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children. This includes the different categories of abuse, your role and responsibilities under Children First and how to handle concerns within your organisation. There is information on the role of the designated liaison person, indicators of concern, how to support a child during a disclosure and the importance of Child Protection policy and procedures. This new course is free to use and is a suitable introduction for anyone working with children. It is easy to work through and includes quizzes and sample scenarios throughout to confirm your learning as well as links to useful resources. This is an introductory course and should be used as a basis for learning more about Child Protection.



## 'Social work and social theory: Making connections' by Paul Michael Garrett

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-84742-960-5 £23.99. Hardback ISBN: 978-1-84742-961-2 £60.00

Available at 20% discount from [www.policypress.co.uk](http://www.policypress.co.uk)

In order to work effectively, social workers need to understand theoretical concepts and develop critical theory. In this unique book, Paul Michael Garrett seeks to bring the profession into the orbit of the anti-capitalist movement and encourages a new engagement with theorists, rarely explored in social work, such as Antonio Gramsci, Pierre Bourdieu and Nancy Fraser.

The book also provides brief, insightful introductions to other important thinkers such as Antonio Negri, Alain Badiou, Luc Boltanski and Ève Chiapello. It provides an accessible and exhilarating introduction for practitioners, students, social work academics and other readers interested in social theory and critical social policy.



The book will be a vital resource aiding those intent on creating a new, more radical, social work. It will also be a useful teaching tool to spark lively classroom discussion.

## New publications and policy reports

### ‘All Born Under the One Blue Sky: Irish people share their adoption stories’

Adults, adopted as babies, parents who have given their child up for adoption and parents who have adopted have come together to tell their stories in a remarkable new book marking 100 years of Cúnamh, the Irish adoption agency.

‘All Born under the One Blue Sky’ is compilation of deeply personal stories and poems chronicling the joy and the heartache of adoption. Everyone who has contributed to the book has had a connection with Cúnamh.

Cúnamh is a registered charity and adoption agency which was founded in 1913 by a group of lay Catholics and has supported thousands of parents and children over the past 100 years.

In ‘All Born Under The One Blue Sky’ those who have been adopted, birth parents and adoptive parents, all of whom have a connection to Cúnamh, share with honesty, courage and generosity their own deeply personal and unique experience of adoption.

One birthmother records her pain and that of other women in her position; ‘No woman should ever be put in a position where circumstances make it impossible for her to keep her child and be made to suffer the agony of knowing nothing.’

In recalling the joy of adoptive parents who had faced the strong probability of never becoming parents, Timothy states; ‘They gave us a boy. And what a boy! There may be boys just as fine in the country, but I doubt it. Certainly neither my wife nor I would admit that a finer child could possibly exist.’

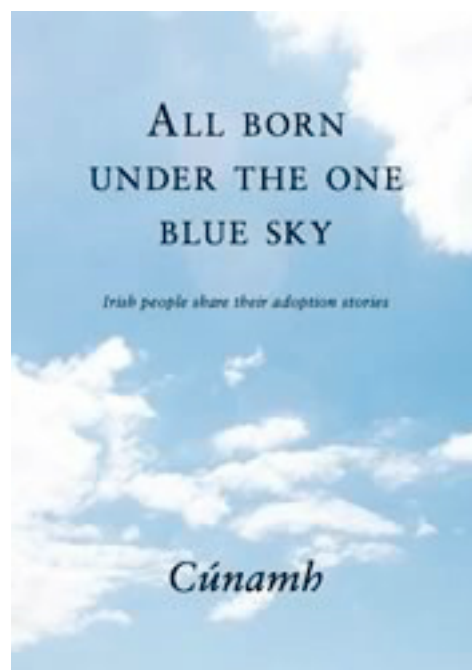
Both the joyful and painful outcomes of searching for birth relatives are recalled. Nicola, meeting her birth mother and later her birth father, describes her emotions on those days as ‘a cocktail of anticipation, fear, awe and moments of pure joy.’ In contrast is Jayne’s experience, ‘It was over. I was devastated, she gave me no reasons why, no explanation. It was simply that she did not want to pursue a relationship with me. My heart was broken and I felt abandoned, deserted and dumped for the second time.’

Professor Mary McAleese contributed a foreword for the publication. In it she refers to the changing history of adoption of which Cúnamh is a part. She also captures the depth of feeling experienced by those ‘whose lives were radically altered by events that brought them into Cúnamh’s orbit.’

This is a book of stories. These stories afford an opportunity to experience what adoption has meant for the writers. They illustrate how adoption has in some way shaped their lives. They offer a greater awareness of the complexities and challenges that adoption brings but, most of all, they are a reminder of the strength of love, the need to belong, and the great lengths people will go to find inner peace.

‘All Born Under The One Blue Sky Irish People Share Their Adoption Stories’ is available to purchase by contacting Cúnamh at 30 South Anne Street, Dublin 2. Ph 01 6779664

[info@cunamh.com](mailto:info@cunamh.com) or via our web site [www.cunamh.com](http://www.cunamh.com). The book costs €12 plus postage of €2.10 in Ireland and €4.50 to the UK and rest of world.



# New publications and policy reports

## State involvement in the Magdalene Laundries

JFM's principal submissions to the Inter-departmental Committee to establish the facts of State involvement with the Magdalene Laundries (February 2013) by Dr James M. Smith, Boston College & JFM Advisory Committee Member, Maeve O'Rourke, JFM Advisory Committee Member, Raymond Hill, Barrister, Claire McGettrick, JFM Co-ordinating Committee Member.

The Justice for Magdalene's (JFM) group submitted "State Involvement with the Magdalene Laundries," the group's principal submission, to the Inter-Departmental Committee to establish the facts of State involvement with the Magdalene Laundries, on 14th August 2012. In addition to the document (which follows below), the submission comprised twelve files of supporting material; two files of survivor testimony, totaling 795 pages, and ten files of archival and legislative documentation, totaling 3,707 pages. A link to the document can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/dxlmxle>

## Spirituality and ageing: implications for the care and support of older people (January 2013) by The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Sciences.

Key points:

- There is disagreement and discussion about the definition of spirituality
- Ageing is a journey which includes a spiritual dimension
  - The spiritual dimension focuses on meaning of life, hope and purpose, explored through relationships with others, with the natural world and with the transcendent
- The evidence base suggests that genuine and intentional accompaniment of people on their ageing journey; giving time, presence and listening are the core of good spiritual practice
- Reminiscence, life story, creative activities and meaningful rituals all help the process of coming to terms with ageing and change

A link to the document can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/d4cme9h>

## Shifting the Dial: From wellbeing measures to policy practice (2012) by Jennifer Wallace and Katie Schmuecker.

At a time of economic turmoil it is perhaps unsurprising that the minds of policy makers focus on the question of how to restart economic growth. But in recent decades people have begun to question the adequacy of GDP as the primary indicator of the progress of societies. A number of governments, local, devolved and national have begun to explore how to measure wellbeing as a complement to traditional measures such as GDP. The project was carried out in partnership with IPPR North and provides evidence from six case studies of experiences of measuring wellbeing in France, the USA and Canada. The report concludes that wellbeing measures are at their most effective when they are supported by a combination of strong leadership, technocratic policy processes and building momentum through wide buy-in from civil society, citizens and the media. Where these elements come together, we have seen benefits for individual and community wellbeing by identifying policy gaps and innovative ways of working. It can also provide a valuable tool for holding governments to account.

A link to the report can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/czt7l4x>



## New publications and policy reports

### The Path to Universal Healthcare - Preliminary Paper on Universal Health Insurance (2013) by the Department of Health and Children, Ireland.

Universal Healthcare is a very pertinent topic for social workers. This paper focuses on Universal health insurance (UHI). [UHI will] provide equal access [to healthcare] based on need, not ability to pay, and [will] deliver the best health outcomes for Irish citizens. Under universal health insurance (UHI), everyone will be insured for a standard package of primary and hospital care services, including mental health services. Insurance will be provided under a multi-payer insurer model with no distinction between “public” and “private” patients. The system will be founded on principles of social solidarity, encompassing the fundamental tenets of financial protection, open enrollment, lifetime cover and community rating. It is timely for social workers to engage critically with this debate and to offer our own critiques of what this system will mean in practice for service users.

A link to the paper can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/d3uveam>

### Know Your Rights - Civil Partners and Other Same Sex Couples

(December 2012) by Dr. Fergus Ryan.

Know Your Rights: The Rights and Obligations of Civil Partners and other Same-Sex Couples is the latest in the ICCL's Know Your Rights public information series, which is designed to inform people in clear and accessible language about their rights under key areas of the law. The pack was produced in partnership with the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN) and was authored by Dr Fergus Ryan of Dublin Institute of Technology. It explains in plain English the rights and obligations created by the Civil Partnership and Certain Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act 2010.

A link to the book can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/bmlqz2n>

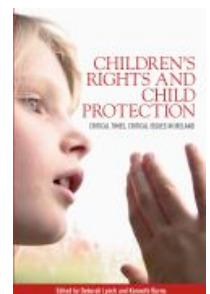
### CG155 Psychosis and schizophrenia in children and young people: NICE guideline (January 2013) by NICE.

This guideline is concerned with the recognition and management of psychosis and schizophrenia in children and young people up to the age of 18. The term 'psychosis' is used in this guideline to refer to the group of psychotic disorders that includes schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, schizophreniform disorder and delusional disorder. This guideline also addresses those children and young people considered clinically to be at high risk or prodromal for psychosis and schizophrenia. The recognition, treatment and management of affective psychoses (such as bipolar disorder or unipolar psychotic depression) are covered by other NICE guidelines.

A link to the NICE guideline can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/blucghg>

### Children's Rights and Child Protection: Critical Times, Critical Issues in Ireland

This topical book, now available in paperback, comprehensively draws together diverse perspectives from key leaders in the field to address critical issues for children in relation to their rights, welfare and protection at a critical time in Ireland. <http://www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/cgi-bin/indexer?product=9780719090851> . ISBN: 978-0-7190-9085-1. c. €20.



# Practice signposts: data sources to support practice



Practice signposts are new 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/Population\\_Health/Health\\_Intelligence/](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/>



# 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](http://www.issp.ie/), 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](http://www.dcu.ie/), [NUIG](http://www.nuigalumni.ie/), [NUIM](http://www.nuim.ie/), [TCD](http://www.tcd.ie/), [UCC](http://www.ucc.ie/), [UCD](http://www.ucd.ie/), [UL](http://www.ul.ie/) and was supported by the [Irish Universities Association \(IUA\)](http://www.iua.ie/). 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>

**Background:** Discharge planning is a routine feature of health systems in many countries. The aim of discharge planning is to reduce hospital length of stay and unplanned readmission to hospital, and improve the co-ordination of services following discharge from hospital.

**Objectives:** To determine the effectiveness of planning the discharge of individual patients moving from hospital.

**Search methods:** We updated the review using the Cochrane EPOC Group Trials Register, MEDLINE, EMBASE and the Social Science Citation Index (last searched in March 2012).

**Selection criteria:** Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) that compared an individualised discharge plan with routine discharge care that was not tailored to the individual patient. Participants were hospital inpatients.

**Data collection and analysis:** Two authors independently undertook data analysis and quality assessment using a pre designed data extraction sheet. Studies are grouped according to patient group (elderly medical patients, patients recovering from surgery and those with a mix of conditions) and by outcome. Our statistical analysis was done on an intention to treat basis, we calculated risk ratios for dichotomous outcomes and mean differences for continuous data using fixed-effect meta-analysis. When combining outcome data was not possible, because of differences in the reporting of outcomes, we have presented the data in narrative summary tables.

**Main results:** We included twenty-four RCTs (8098 patients); three RCTs were identified in this update. Sixteen studies recruited older patients with a medical condition, four recruited patients with a mix of medical and surgical conditions, one recruited patients from a psychiatric hospital, one from both a psychiatric hospital and from a general hospital, and two trials patients admitted to hospital following a fall (110 patients). Hospital length of stay and readmissions to hospital were statistically significantly reduced for patients admitted to hospital with a medical diagnosis and who were allocated to discharge planning (mean difference length of stay -0.91, 95% CI -1.55 to -0.27, 10 trials; readmission rates RR 0.82, 95% CI 0.73 to 0.92, 12 trials). For elderly patients with a medical condition there was no statistically significant difference between groups for mortality (RR 0.99, 95% CI 0.78 to 1.25, five trials) or being discharged from hospital to home (RR 1.03, 95% CI 0.93 to 1.14, two trials). This was also the case for trials recruiting patients recovering from surgery and a mix of medical and surgical conditions. In three trials, patients allocated to discharge planning reported increased satisfaction. There was little evidence on overall healthcare costs.

**Authors' conclusion:** The evidence suggests that a discharge plan tailored to the individual patient probably brings about reductions in hospital length of stay and readmission rates for older people admitted to hospital with a medical condition. The impact of discharge planning on mortality, health outcomes and cost remains uncertain.

### Plain language summary

Discharge planning is the development of an individualised discharge plan for the patient prior to leaving hospital, with the aim of containing costs and improving patient outcomes. Discharge planning should ensure that patients are discharged from hospital at an appropriate time in their care and that, with adequate notice, the provision of other services will be organised. A review of the effects of individualised discharge plans was conducted. After searching for relevant studies, 24 studies were found which compared discharge plans tailored to the individual patients with routine discharge care that was not individualised. This review indicates that a structured discharge plan tailored to the individual patient probably brings about a reduction in hospital length of stay and readmission rates, and an increase in patient satisfaction. The impact on health outcomes is uncertain.

A link to the full review can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/d2gaf5u>

# Research briefs

## The Effectiveness of Incarceration-Based Drug Treatment on Criminal Behavior: A Systematic Review (November 2012) by Ojmarrh Mitchell, David Wilson, Doris Layton MacKenzie.



The Campbell Collaboration Library of Systematic Reviews  
The Campbell Library

**BACKGROUND:** Many, if not most, incarcerated offenders have substance abuse problems. Without effective treatment, these substance-abusing offenders are likely to persist in non-drug offending. The period of incarceration offers an opportunity to intervene in the cycle of drug abuse and crime. Although many types of incarceration-based drug treatment programs are available (e.g., therapeutic communities and group counseling), the effectiveness of these programs is unclear.

**OBJECTIVES:** The objective of this research synthesis is to systematically review quasi-experimental and experimental (RCT) evaluations of the effectiveness of incarceration-based drug treatment programs in reducing post-release recidivism and drug relapse. A secondary objective of this synthesis is to examine variation in effectiveness by programmatic, sample, and methodological features. In this update of the original 2006 review (see Mitchell, Wilson, and MacKenzie, 2006), studies made available since the original review were included in an effort to keep current with emerging research.

**SEARCH STRATEGY:** We searched bibliographic databases, hand searched select journals, and reviewed websites of several research organizations involved in drug treatment research to identify potentially eligible studies.

**SEARCH CRITERIA:** Eligible studies needed to assess the effectiveness of incarceration-based (e.g., jail, prison) drug treatment programs, use experimental or quasi-experimental comparison group research designs, measured a post-release recidivism or drug use outcome, and be conducted between 1980 and 2011, inclusive.

**DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS:** From each evaluation, we coded an effect size that quantified each program's effect on various measures of recidivism and/or drug relapse. We also coded features of the program, research methodology, and sample. We analyzed effect sizes using the random-effects inverse-variance weight method of meta-analysis.

**MAIN RESULTS:** Seventy-four evaluations met our eligibility criteria. The overall average effect of these programs was approximately a 15 to 17% reduction in recidivism and drug relapse. The effectiveness of such programs, however, varied by program type. Therapeutic communities had relatively consistent but modest reductions in recidivism and drug relapse. Counseling and narcotic maintenance programs had mixed effects. Specifically, counseling programs on average reduced recidivism but not drug relapse, narcotic maintenance programs had sizeable reductions in drug relapse but not recidivism, and boot camps had negligible effects on both recidivism and drug relapse.

**CONCLUSIONS:** This synthesis of evaluations of incarceration-based drug treatment programs found that such programs are modestly effective in reducing recidivism. These findings most strongly support the effectiveness of therapeutic communities, as these programs produced relatively consistent reductions in recidivism and drug use. Both counseling and incarceration-based narcotic maintenance programs had mixed effects. Counseling programs were associated with reductions in recidivism but not drug use; whereas, incarceration-based narcotic maintenance programs were associated with reductions in drug use but not recidivism. Note that our findings regarding the effectiveness of incarceration-based narcotic maintenance programs differ from a larger review of community-based narcotic maintenance programs (see Egli, Pina, Christensen, Aebi, and Killias, 2009). Finally, boot camp programs for drug offenders had negligible effects on both recidivism and drug use.

A link to the full review can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/d73rmul>

# Research briefs

## Meeting the Service Needs of Young Care-leavers with Mental Health Difficulties

Munson, M.R. & Lox, J.A. 'Clinical social work practice with former system youth with mental health needs: Perspective of those in need' in *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 40(2), pp. 255 – 260.

### What is this article about?

- Reports the findings of a US based, qualitative research study;
- Explored the views of 44 18 – 30 year olds, who had formerly been involved in public mental health and social services (child welfare, juvenile justice) during childhood;
- Asked for participant views on the types of programs and mental health services that they would be inclined to engage with and potential barriers to engagement.

### What are the critical findings?

- 1) Participants primarily wanted to talk with others who have shared their experiences about their mental health difficulties, preferably in a **peer support group** setting.
- 2) Groups/programmes that involve '**creative expression**' were found to be most appealing; e.g. writing/speaking poetry, arts and crafts, listening to music, art therapy.
- 3) Clinicians being **caring and 'available'**, and services being provided in a consistent and comforting way was found to be key to participants engaging in programmes and services.
- 4) **Barriers** to participation and attendance included other group members being disrespectful and/or negative, lack of childcare services, lack of transportation to programmes/services, and the potential lack of confidentiality.

### What are the implications for practice?

- 1) It is essential to collaborate and partner with youth when designing services for them in order to ensure programme design fits with their needs and preferences.
- 2) There is a critical need to target and engage this youth population with services as research has shown this group have a history of poor engagement.
- 3) Many participants expressed a desire to 'give back' and share their stories of 'the system' with other youth. It is important to incorporate this into programme and service design in order to support the adoption of an identity of 'potential helper', rather than 'perpetually helped'.
- 4) Incorporating social media and online communication into programme development is essential as many young adults conduct the majority of their communication through these tools; programmes that do this will have the 'edge' in engaging this population.

Mishna, F., Bogo, M., Root, J., Sawyer, J.L. & Khoury-Kassabri, M. (2012) "'It just crept in": The digital age and implications for social work practice' in *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 40(3), pp. 277 – 286.

### What is this article about?

- Reports the findings of a Canadian based, qualitative research study;
- Explored 15 social workers experiences and views of whether and how online communication has entered their face-to-face practice and the implications of this for therapeutic work.

### What are the critical findings?

- 1) Technology and 'cyber communication' (e.g. email, texting, social networking sites) has **dramatically impacted** traditional social work practice in clinical, practical, ethical, and legal ways.
- 2) Clients, especially **younger clients**, were found to initiate cyber communication more often, more purposefully, and more persistently than social workers.
- 3) The practice principle '**start where the client is at**' was identified as a reason social workers accepted client-initiated use of technology.
- 4) Client-initiated email or text communication was a potential **complement to traditional face-to-face practice**, particularly for clients with difficulty expressing themselves in person.
- 5) Cyber communication was identified as opening a potential '**Pandora's Box**' as once such communication began it was difficult to undo or limit; this was observed to have potential positive consequences (e.g. increased connection to isolated clients, greater access for clients with mobility and hearing challenges) and negative consequences (e.g. privacy and confidentiality issues, blurring of boundaries).
- 6) Potential **ethical implications and dilemmas** involved in using cyber communication with clients, particularly in the absence of clear standards of practice related to this issue.

### What are the implications for practice?

- 1) Cyber communication is near universal among individuals of all ages and cannot be avoided.
- 2) Use of cyber technology signifies a turning point in traditional social work practice.
- 3) Cyber technology impacts on the nature of client-practitioner relationships.
- 4) Organisations and practitioners must understand the issues and be prepared to respond accordingly.
- 5) It is critical that we examine and understand the consequences and implications of cyber communication for social practice in order to inform practitioner behaviour.

# Research briefs

## Understanding Sampling Methods in the Context of Evidence-based Practice

Pettus-Davis, C., Grady, M.D., Cuddeback, G.S. & Scheyett, A. (2011) 'A practitioner's guide to sampling in the age of evidence-based practice: Translation of research in to practice' in *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 39(4), pp. 379 – 389.

### What is this article about?

- Highlights the importance of understanding sampling when interpreting research;
- Provides practitioners with tools to interpret the research sampling process;
- Offers a three-step guide for practitioners to translate research into practice.

### What are the key issues?

The current climate of evidence-based practice necessitates that social workers use research to inform their practice, therefore it is essential that social workers are **able to translate and evaluate** research findings.

Knowing who was included in a research study is one of the most important aspects of translating research; the study **sample must be relevant and representative** of their client's needs.

Two types of sampling procedures:

- 1) Probability Sampling: maximises the extent to which a **sample is representative of population**. Examples, Simple Random Sampling and Stratified Random Sampling;
- 2) Non-probability Sampling: more **difficult to draw inferences** from a sample to a population. Examples: Convenience Sampling and Purposive Sampling.

Understanding which sampling procedure was used in a study will enable the practitioner to know if the sample is representative and whether the findings can be generalised to the larger population.

### A three-step guide to understanding sampling

Step 1: Determine the sampling procedure used in the research

- What is the study population or sample?
- Could the sample represent other populations?
- What sampling procedure was used to select the sample?

Step 2: Compare sample and client group characteristic

- What specific variables affecting the study sample may also affect the client group?
- Which, if any, characteristics of the study sample apply to the target client or client group?
- What aspects of the intervention and the study apply to the targeted client or client group?
- How might differences between the study sample and the targeted client or client group affect treatment outcomes?

Step 3: Consider additional information you may need

- How well does the study sample represent the accessible population? The theoretical population? Who declined to participate in and why?
- To what extent does the participant sample represent the practitioner's client group?
- What other research is available that used a similar study sample or population?
- Are the findings consistent across these studies? If not, do the findings vary by the sample or sampling procedure?



## Organisational Profile



### Organisational Profile: The Letterbox Club

#### What do they do?

The Letterbox Club aims to provide enjoyable educational support to children in care aged 7-13.

#### How do they do it?

Participating children are sent a parcel of books, maths activities, stationery and other materials once every month for six months, from May to October. Each Letterbox Club parcel arrives in a brightly coloured package addressed to the child. Each child receives a letter and a range of books that have been carefully selected for the children in the programme. They also receive number games and a range of stationery items.

Over the six-month period the parcels also include other items such as a library joining card or information about how to join a library, name plates, bookmarks and letters from a selection of children's authors. After being a member of the Letterbox Club for six months the child will have built up their own small library of books, a collection of number games and a variety of stationery items.

#### Who do they work with?

Children aged 7 – 13 who are in care and are enrolled by their local authority can participate in the Letterbox Club. Since 2009, the Letterbox Club has been available to every Local Authority in the UK.

#### What does the research say?

A 2011 evaluation of the Letterbox Club undertaken by Queen's University, Belfast, found clear evidence that children who participated in the Letterbox Club made significant progress during that six month period in relation to their reading accuracy and comprehension, and also their number skills.

#### Where can I find out more?

[www.letterboxclub.org.uk](http://www.letterboxclub.org.uk)



# Web Links and Electronic Publications

## Older People, Well-being and Participation: New learning resources for working with older people and supporting well-being in old age

Film and handbook now available online

Age UK Brighton & Hove and the University of Brighton have produced a film and learning resources which aim to develop ethical practice in supporting people to make decisions in later life, and contribute to their well-being. The resources were produced as part of an ESRC funded Knowledge Exchange project. It brought together social care practitioners, older people and university researchers to develop the resources which are based on participatory research carried out by Professor Marian Barnes and Dr Lizzie Ward from the University of Brighton working in partnership with Age UK Brighton & Hove and a team of older co-researchers. The research was designed to enable older people to talk in their own terms about what well-being means to them, and how it is produced. So the resources are based not only on findings about older people and well-being, but learning from the process of working with older people and with practitioners to generate and apply knowledge for policy and practice.

You can access the film and the accompanying handbook by going to: <http://www.brighton.ac.uk/sass/older-people-wellbeing-and-participation/>. The resources are intended to be used with front line practitioners working with older people so can be used by those providing training for social care and social work practitioners and by those providing education in social care in colleges and universities, and will be useful for those wanting to develop participatory research practice. And they also introduce some of the basic ideas from care ethics for practitioners working in this context.

For more information contact:

Lizzie Ward, University of Brighton ([E.ward@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:E.ward@brighton.ac.uk)),

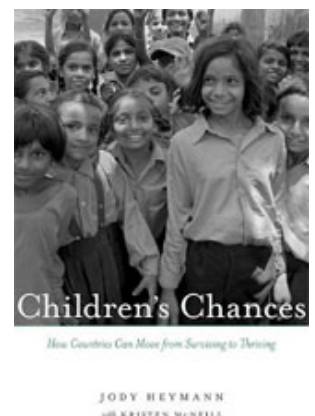
Marian Barnes, University of Brighton ([Marian.Barnes@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:Marian.Barnes@brighton.ac.uk))

Beatrice Gahagan at Age UK Brighton and Hove ([BeatriceG@ageuk-bh.org.uk](mailto:BeatriceG@ageuk-bh.org.uk))

## Children's Chances

In an effort to markedly improve the availability of comparative data around the world on key social policies in the areas of poverty reduction, adult labour policies, education, child labour, child marriage, and equal rights, the World Policy Analysis Centre has tracked the laws and policies in place in 193 countries. This seven-year research initiative allows systematic analyses of social policies and laws worldwide.

A first major portion of these data have been made publicly available at <http://childreuschances.org>, focusing on laws and social policies especially relevant to children and families. This novel dataset allows us to map the answers to key social policy questions such as: what countries still charge tuition for secondary school, erecting barriers for poor children? How much education and training are required to teach secondary school? At what age are children permitted to marry? How many countries guarantee breastfeeding breaks for new mothers once they return to work, and for how long? How many countries allow working mothers and fathers to take leave from work to care for a sick child? How many countries permit hazardous work for children? How many countries constitutionally protect the right to health or health care services? How many countries constitutionally prohibit discrimination in education? How many countries provide financial support to families or to disabled children?



## Web Links and Electronic Publications

19th March 2013: A special issue of *Children, Youth & Environments* on 'Children, Violence, Community and the Physical Environment', guest edited by Dr. Kevin Lalor, DIT

This collection of papers was elicited by a worldwide call in Autumn 2011 for manuscripts with a focus on children, violence, community and the physical environment. The aim was to explore the influence of the community and physical environment / place on violence against children. Violence and abuse of children have received much attention from researchers and policymakers in recent times. However, the physical environment in which violence occurs is not often a focus. This special issue of *Children, Youth and Environments* aims to examine the interplay between the communities in which children live, the physical parameters of these environments and the nature and incidence of violence experienced by children and young people - that is, the socio-ecological factors which moderate or aggravate violence against children.



The result is a fascinating series of papers and Field Reports from Northern Ireland, the United States, Columbia, Brazil, Portugal, South Africa, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The contributions are characterised by their innovative approaches to research and interventions with children and youth, which include focus groups, mapping, drawings, oral history, Photovoice and asset-based community development. All provide insight to the importance of space and place in children's lives.

### Open Access (free) article: Employment mobility or turnover? An analysis of child welfare and protection employee retention

This article challenges the commonly held assumption that there is a high level of occupational turnover of social workers in all child protection and welfare agencies. By analysing occupational mobility patterns (turnover, retention and attrition) in five child protection social work teams, the article demonstrates how occupational mobility is a complex phenomenon and needs to be understood within wider shifts in employment patterns and the gendering of professions. In this paper we argue that it is important to distinguish between employee turnover and employee mobility, and that an examination of the posts taken up after leaving, at least in Ireland, may provide a different perspective on the narrative of high turnover of workers in this sector. Within the five teams, it is estimated that there was a turnover rate of 8 percent in 2006 and 11 percent in 2010, with 72 percent of child protection workers in post at the end of 2005 being retained and still in post at the end of 2010. While this should not lead to complacency, or a failure to recognise and respond to the stressful nature of child protection, it does raise questions for employers about how they might plan for occupational mobility within a stable workforce made up of largely women, aged between 25 and 35, frequently newly-qualified, who are often the main carers for children and adults outside the workplace.

Available on CORA, UCC's institutional open access repository: <http://cora.ucc.ie/handle/10468/862>



# Podcasts



## 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>

**Audio: Social Work Ethics: Interview with Allan Barsky** Every social worker knows that the profession has, at its foundation, a code of ethics that informs decision making. The greatest ethical challenges arise when there is no clear answer – in other words, there may be no clear right or wrong, or the worker may have to choose between the lesser of two evils. In other words, it’s an ethical dilemma. In this podcast Allan Barsky talks about a relational 6-Stage model of managing ethical issues. He speaks about dual relationships, role-plays an ethical situation and analyzes the role play. The conversation ends with a a discussion around additional ethics resources for social workers. Available at: <http://socialworkpodcast.blogspot.ie/2013/03/social-work-ethics-interview-with-allan.html>

**Audio: Attachment - the Importance of Physical and Emotional Safety** Edwina Grant, an independent psychologist and Chair of Scottish Attachment in Action, introduces a meeting of SAIA on 16 March 2012 with a discussion of the importance of physical and emotional safety and 'the dance of attunement'. Available at: [http://www.iriss.org.uk/attunement?](http://www.iriss.org.uk/attunement?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+irisspodcast+%28Institute+for+Research+and+Innovation+in+Social+Services+Podcast%29)

[utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+irisspodcast+%28Institute+for+Research+and+Innovation+in+Social+Services+Podcast%29](http://www.iriss.org.uk/attunement?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+irisspodcast+%28Institute+for+Research+and+Innovation+in+Social+Services+Podcast%29)



## Podcasts



### **Audio: Adolescent Cancer Survivors - Identity and the Need to Belong** Dr.

Barbara Jones discusses the developmental and psychosocial effects of cancer on adolescents and young adults. She speaks about the need to understand the unique needs of this group and explains how their unique needs can complicate the continuum of care as well as important developmental processes. Available at: <http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/podcast/>

### **Audio: Prevalence of Postpartum Depression Study**

This podcasts provides an overview of a piece of US research which followed 10,000 women for up to one year after giving birth, The study found that as many as 1 in every 7 women suffered postpartum or post-natal depression and up to 20% experienced suicidal thoughts. The study recommended that all pregnant women and new mothers be screened for depression along with considering a range of contributory factors. Available at: <http://www.npr.org/player/v2/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist=false&id=174214166&m=174233033>

**Audio: Youthwork Magazine** A wide selection of over 30 podcasts from this UK magazine. Available at: <http://youthwork-magazine.co.uk/main/podcast>

**Audio: Caring for Carers** Caring for someone with chronic poor health, dementia or a disability is a demanding job and carers struggle to fulfill their own needs. In this podcast from ABC Radio National, a British sociologist discusses innovative carer support programs and schemes which allow greater choice and flexibility in the delivery of care. Available at: <http://aifs.govspace.gov.au/2013/03/21/podcast-caring-for-carers/>

**Audio: Wellbeing, Relaxation and Stress-Busting** A selection of podcasts from the Mental Health Foundation covering topics such as dealing with anxiety, fear and stress. Using a range of breathing, imagery and relaxation techniques. Useful for you or your clients ! Available at: <http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/help-information/podcasts/>



# 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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