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PRACTICE *Links*

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In This Edition



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NEXT EDITION: JUNE '09

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 facilitate practitioners to keep up-to-date with new publications, electronic resources and conference opportunities. *Practice Links* is published every other month in Adobe Acrobat and distributed by email and on the web. Submissions for publication should be received two weeks prior to the next publication date. To receive a copy of *Practice Links* direct to your email account click on this link http://lists.ucc.ie/lists/archives/pl-l.html and press the *Join or Leave PL-L* button.

Continuing Professional Development

Children and the European Union: Legal, Political and Research Perspectives

20th - 22nd April 2009, University of Liverpool, UK

The principal aim of this three-day conference is to generate in-depth discussion of developments that have taken place at EU level in relation to children's rights and welfare. This will mark the first critical multi-disciplinary conference to assess this area of EU law and policy and will involve policy-makers at both domestic (Europe-wide), EU and international (including UN) level, practitioners, representatives from the NGO sector, and academics.

The event responds to the landmark 2006 Commission Communication which paved the way for the development of the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child. The conference will also debate the impact of the Lisbon Treaty on the status of children and the extent to which this paves the way for a more strategic and robust EU children's rights agenda.

Critically, the conference will provide an invaluable opportunity to engage in critical, cross-disciplinary debate as to the value of EU regulation of children's rights, with a particular focus on how this could complement the children's rights campaign at both national and international level.

This conference is organised in partnership with the The European Children's Rights Network (EURONET).
Full details of the programme, plenary speakers and registration details can be found at:
http://www.liv.ac.uk/law/cscfl/children/index.htm
Conference fee (including all sessions, lunches, conference dinner and wine reception): £250 (£150 concessions)
For all other information, please email: EUChild@liverpool.ac.uk

Irish Association of Social Workers Conference and AGM

The IASW Annual Conference & AGM will take place on April 24th 2009. The title of the Conference is: 'Social Justice: The Challenge to Social Work Practice'.

To book a place on our conference please complete the booking form and return it to Danielle McGoldrick, via email office@iasw.ie or post to IASW, St. Andrews Resource Centre, 114-116 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Confirmation of bookings will be sent on receipt of the booking form and payment. If you would like further information about this event, please contact Danielle McGoldrick Ph: 01 6774838 Email: office@iasw.ie Website: www.iasw.ie

We are running a Poster Competition again this year and are inviting Members to submit posters on the theme of the Conference. There will be a prize of €100 for the best Poster. Members are welcome to submit a 'team' poster or individual posters. Please ensure that posters reach the office by April 17th 2009 at the latest. Information on preparing a poster presentation is available on the HSE website at
http://hsenet.hse.ie/HSE_Central/Office_of_the_CEO/Quality_andRisk/Training_and-Education/

Postgraduate Diploma/MSc in Bereavement Studies

Applications are now welcome for the Postgraduate Diploma/MSc Bereavement Studies 2009/2010. If you wish to receive an application form, please contact Maura Dunne maura.dunne@hospice-foundation.ie) and one will be sent out immediately. Alternatively you can download one from our website www.hospice-foundation.ie. Please do note that the deadline date for application is Thursday, April 23rd, 2009.

Facilitating New Approaches in Mental Health Recovery (IMHREC)

What is IMHREC? Under the Enhancing Disability Services programme, funded by the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform and managed by Pobal, the Irish Mental Health & Recovery Education Consortium (IMHREC) has been established to develop and deliver a facilitated learning programme on Mental Health Recovery and WRAP in three regional hubs throughout the country.

One Day Conferences in 2009

IMHREC is hosting a 1-day launch conference in each regional hub (Dublin, Cork and Sligo). National and international speakers will share their experiences on working in a recovery context using WRAP.

The 1-day conferences will provide participants with an overview of the principles of recovery and examples of how these principles can be turned into practice using the internationally recognised WRAP programme.

Conference Dates & Venues

Hub Date Time Location

Cork Tuesday 7th April 2009 9.30am – 4.00pm Charleville Park Hotel, Charleville, Co. Cork

Sligo Tuesday 5th May 2009 9.30am – 4.00pm The Glasshouse Hotel, Sligo, Co. Sligo

For further information: http://www.imhrec.ie/2009/03/one-day-conferences-in-2009/

Barnardos 'Written Off?' Seminar

Barnardos is delighted to introduce its 'Written Off?' Campaign 2009. The 'Written Off?' seminar will launch a Barnardos' commissioned ESRI research report looking at educational disadvantage in Ireland. The research, which will be launched on 13 May 2009, investigates:

- Educational inequality in the Irish context
- The relative costs and benefits of different forms of educational provision
- Educational provision for disadvantaged groups in Ireland
- Implications for policy development

Through our experience of working with children and families, Barnardos sees the daily lived experience of children dealing with educational disadvantage and how it can impact on their lives – both present and future.

Investing in children's early and primary education is crucial.

Even in the current economic climate.

Keynote Speaker: Deirdre Purcell

Further speakers to be announced

All enquiries: Catherine Joyce, 01 708 0427 catherine.mjoyce@barnardos.ie

Parents Plus Children's Programme Facilitator Training

13th and 14th May, Dublin - €290. The Parents Plus Children's Programme is an evidence-based* group intervention designed to empower parents to promote their children's (covering ages 6 to 11) development and learning as well as to manage discipline and behaviour problems. Participants will learn how to facilitate the PPCP in clinical and community settings, with children within the normal range of development as well as children with more complex needs.

During the training, participants will be shown not only how to facilitate the Parents Plus Programme with small groups of parents, but also how to use the ideas in their existing work with parents, children and families. Central to the training is a strengths-based model of working with parents strengths and empower them to find the best solutions for their families.

Please go to www.parentsplus.ie if you are interested in booking a place with the following details: Name, Occupation, Organisation, Address, and Telephone No

*Parents Plus Children's Programme Research

The multi-site study on the PP Children's programme is now complete and has been accepted for publication in the journal Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry. The study compared outcome for 74 parents of children attending the PPCP group and 42 parents who completed Treatment as Usual (TAU) . Compared to the TAU Group post-programme, the PPCP Group displayed significant reductions in total difficulties and conduct problems as measured by the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, decreased parental stress, increased parental confidence and significant improvements in parent-defined problems and goals. These positive changes were maintained at five month follow-up for the PPCP group, in addition to further significant improvements in peer problems and prosocial behaviour.

Learning and Teaching Conference in Applied Social Studies

Jointly organised by Irish Association of Social Care Educators and National Digital Learning Repository
Trinity College Dublin
Wednesday 13 May 2009

This conference aims to explore innovations in learning and teaching approaches within all areas of applied social studies. The conference will also launch the latest digital pedagogical resources in applied social studies which have been developed with the support of the NDLR.

- Innovations in Teaching and Learning Approaches in Applied Social Studies
- The Use and Benefits of Technologically Enhanced Learning in Applied Social Studies
- Promoting the Synthesis of Student Learning Within the Academic and Placement Environments

For further information please visit www.ndlr.ie/socialstudies or email Share.Perry@ITSligo.ie or Taylor.Mark@ITSligo.ie

5th Annual Rehabilitation and Therapy Research Society Conference
Innovations in Therapy Research: Impacts on Patient Care

Friday May 8th 2009
Venue: Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, University College Cork, Cork.

Confirmed Speakers:
Dr Brian Caulfield, UCD
"Translating innovation into clinical practice"
Dr Alison Porter-Armstrong, University of Ulster
"The innovation experience: On board the starship enterprise"
Mr Brendan Cremen, UCC
"Technology transfer in the therapies"
Professor Suzanne McDonough, University of Ulster
"Research priorities in the therapies in Ireland"

For further enquiries please contact Dr Catharine Pettigrew, Conference Secretary, at c.pettigrew@ucc.ie

All Change for Young People?
Mobility, Markets, Media, Models of Practice (Call for papers)

An international youth studies conference
at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth (NUIM)
Thursday 25th - Sunday 28th June, 2009
hosted by the Department of Applied Social Studies, NUIM
in association with the Research Committee on Youth of the International Sociological Association (RC34)
and Youth Studies Ireland

Contributions are invited on all of the conference's sub-themes (mobility, markets, media, models of practice) as they relate to young people. Diversity of cultural, disciplinary and professional perspectives is welcome, as are approaches which interrogate the key terms and concepts. Contributions which make links between theory, research, policy and practice are particularly welcome.

Deadline for submission of abstracts (no more than 200 words):
27th February, 2009. A conference website will be available shortly. In the meantime for further information contact:
maurice.devlin@nuim.ie

International Family Day Care Organisation International Conference

22nd - 25th July 2009, University College Cork. http://www.ifdco.com. Queries to pmurray@childminding.ie.

7th Annual Congress - British Association for the Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (Call for abstracts)

13th September - 16th September 2009. Changing Landscapes, Emerging Challenges - contemporary issues in safeguarding children and young people. Swansea University, Swansea, South Wales, UK. http://www.baspcan.org.uk/congress.html
Closing date for abstract 28th February 2009. Conference registration and early bird deals now available on website.

Invited speakers and presentations include:
Camila Batmanghelidjh - Director, Kid's Company, London
Professor Ian Butler - University of Bath
Theresa Covington - Executive Director, National Centre for Child Death Reviews, Washington DC
Professor David Finkelhor - University of New Hampshire
Dr Donald Forrester - University of Bedfordshire
Professor David Howe - University of East Anglia
Jane Hutt - Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Welsh Assembly
Tony Morrison - Independent Consultant and Trainer, Rochdale
Dianna Nammi - Director of IKWRO
Mr Justice Earnest Ryder - Family Division Judge
Keith Towler - Children's Commissioner for Wales

Social Work Practice Teachers' Workshop/Conference

Ruth Murray, Fieldwork Co-ordinator, along with various Social Work staff of Applied Social Studies, UCC, and some practice teachers, are organising a workshop for potential practice teachers for two days in September, namely 3rd and 4th September at Room 156 in the O'Rahilly Building. These two days are aimed at: a) social workers who may have considered practice teaching and always wondered what would be involved, and b) social workers who may not have practice taught for a while and would like to know more about the needs of current social work students on placement, and c) any social workers who may feel a need for a refresher on practice teaching. Contributions will cover subjects such as: Frameworks for Supervision, Practice Teaching, Reflective Practice, Dealing with Challenging Students, Failing Students, Learning Incidents, Contracts, Theory for Practice, Challenges of Assessment and Final Reports on Students.

Any social workers interested in this can contact Ruth Murray at 021 4903954 or email her at r.murray@ucc.ie

There will be about 30 places available and there will be no cost in attending. Ruth will have a leaflet ready shortly to send to Agencies, detailing the programme over the two days. Contact her if you want a place reserved, as places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Again, both days will be held in UCC. Programmes for the two days and application forms will be available from June onwards. A similar Conference in UCC held last year (and the year before) was hugely successful and the feedback from participants last year was tremendously positive.

Keeping Children Safe: Critical Times, Critical Issues (call for papers)

Biennial child protection and welfare social work conference

University College Cork, 23rd October 2009. Conference partnership between the Social Work Development Unit (UCC), Irish Association of Social Workers (Southern Branch) and the Health Service Executive South.

For details on the call for papers process and further information on this conference, please visit the conference website http://swconf.ucc.ie. The closing date for receipt of abstracts is the 1st May 2009.

Alternative Spiritualities, the New Age and New Religious Movements in Ireland: An Interdisciplinary Conference

National University of Ireland, Maynooth
October 30th – 31st 2009. See http://www.nrmireland.blogspot.com/ .
The call for papers has a deadline of the 1st May.

Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Fieldwork Practice and Supervision (Social Work) 2009 - 2010

The Department of Applied Social Studies has been running this course since 2001. We have approximately 60 graduates located at various agencies throughout Ireland. The course is accredited by the National Social Work Qualifications Board . It is the only externally accredited, post qualifying social work course in the Republic of Ireland.

The aim of this programme is to prepare relatively new and experienced social workers for the task of practice teaching and supervision of social work students. The programme is part-time and run on a Friday over the period from mid September to the end of May. Participants attend the university two Fridays every month and they have peer support and library study on the other Fridays. This course offers a balance of theoretical inputs, experiential learning, self directed and library study. It involves on the job supervision of a professional social work student (MSW/BSW) while on placement, over a 14 week period (January-April).

The course team is committed to developing and supporting the philosophy and practice of reflective learning throughout the course. The course embraces a humanistic, person centred value base, beginning with a focus on participants existing knowledge, skills and competencies. Learning is presented as a continuum and new learning is represented as a development on from participants' previous experiences. Providing participants with opportunities to reflect on their own practice and to reassess their own learning in the light of new knowledge and experience is an important focus throughout the course.

Participants are tutored and supervised while on the course. Group work is the main method of teaching and learning on the course and lecturers and tutors encourage participants to bring their practice experiences into the classroom thereby, enriching the whole learning experience for all participants.

Evaluations of the course with course participants and graduates have informed us that the course has had a value and merit way beyond practice teaching and student supervision. Many of our past graduates have gone on to further study and others have been promoted within their agencies to team leader, senior practitioner and other senior positions.

As the reality of social work registration comes down the track, we believe this course will be an important one in terms of providing social workers with opportunities to pursue further professional studies.

We would like to invite you to contact us if you require an application form or further information. Carmel Halton Director of Practice 0214902828 chalton@appsocstud.ucc.i.e. <mailto:chalton@appsocstud.ucc.i.e.> or Ruth Murray Fieldwork Coordinator 021 4903954 r.murray@ucc.ie

Biennial Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Conference



"Keeping Children Safe: Critical Times, Critical Issues"
University College Cork, Friday 23rd October 2009.

Confirmed Speakers:
The Hon Mrs. Catherine McGuinness, President of the Law Reform Commission and former Justice of the Supreme Court

Ian Elliott, National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church

Fergus Finlay, CEO, Barnardos Ireland

Harry Ferguson, Professor of Social Work, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom

Peter Kieran, Specialist, Child and Family Services, Health Service Executive

Carl O'Brien, Social Affairs Correspondent, The Irish Times

For details on the call for papers process and further information on this conference, please visit the conference website http://swconf.ucc.ie. The closing date for receipt of abstracts is the 1st May 2009.

Recently Published Books / Videos / Resources

Anni Bowden and Nancy Lewthwaite (2009) ***The Activity Yearbook. A Week by Week Guide for Use in Elderly Day and Residential Care***, Publisher: JKP. ISBN 9781843109631.

Engagement in meaningful activity is an important aspect of human existence, regardless of one's cognitive abilities. Even in the later stages of dementia, people can still be engaged in activities at a level that allows them to be successful. In fact in these later stages, where cognitive abilities may be waning, the need for activity becomes greater, as cognitive stimulation helps preserve what skills remain. For care staff looking after older people, many of whom may have some degree of dementia, coming up with ideas for activities of a suitable level to keep their residents engaged and stimulated can be challenging. The Activity Year Book solves this problem, offering week by week themed activities. From Valentine's Day quizzes to Bonfire Night word searches, it has activities relating to every important date in the calendar, and also encourages reminiscence and discussion around these events. This book will be invaluable to care staff looking for a simple way of improving the lives of their residents, week by week, all year round. Find out more and buy this book:

http://www.jkp.com/new/9781843109631.

Web Links & Electronic Publications

HEALTHSTAT - HSE Ireland

Health and social care services hold a wealth of information about the services that they deliver. Despite this, it can be a challenge to put a finger on the pulse of service performance. To be able to stand over our work, and to enable continuous improvement, we need reliable, timely and comprehensive information about how our services are delivering. To meet this need, the HSE has designed and implemented a performance information and improvement system called HealthStat.

HealthStat is a comprehensive databank of performance information from Irish public health services. It currently provides detailed monthly results from 29 teaching, regional and general hospitals, which are published online on this website. Later in 2009, HealthStat will expand to cover additional general and specialty hospitals and in 2010, all health and social care services provided in the community by Local Health Offices will be included.

HealthStat works on the basis of measures – how a hospital is delivering services, and targets – what we expect from a well performing service. Hospitals get marks on three themes : Access, Integration and Resources:

* Access measures waiting times for hospital services

* Integration checks whether the services received are patient-centred

* Resources looks at how staff and financial resources are being used

Click here for further information and updates: http://www.hse.ie/portal/eng/Healthstat/

Barnardos' Daily Digest

The Daily Digest is a compilation of relevant articles on social, economic and policy matters relating to children and families. The articles are taken from the on-line editions of the Irish Times, Irish Independent, Examiner, UK Guardian and RTE News website. Relevant articles are also included from the Sunday Broadsheets. The Daily Digest is prepared by Barnardo's Training and Resource Service and emailed to subscribers each morning from Monday to Friday. There is no charge for this service. If you would like to receive the Daily Digest you can email Barnardos Training and Resource Service at martina.dumpleton@barnardos.ie.

Irish Social Science Data Archive

The establishment, within the auspices of the Geary Institute (formerly the Institute for the Study of Social Change), of the Irish Social Science Data Archive (ISSDA), fills a long recognised need in Ireland. ISSDA holds an ever-increasing quantity of machine-readable data from surveys and official statistics (such as the Census) and makes them readily available to users in the academic, public and commercial sectors. Click here for further information: http://issda.ucd.ie/

MIT adopts open access policy to its scholarly publications

Yesterday MIT faculty voted unanimously to provide for full open access to all scholarly publications through an institutional repository. The implementation details remain to be finalised, but the principle is that from yesterday, all their scholarly articles will be published online, and be open to all. More details and commentary is online here:
http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/2009/03/mit-adopts-university-wide-oa-mandate.html

Research briefing 30: The relationship between dual diagnosis: substance misuse and dealing with mental health issues (SCIE, UK)

SCIE's latest research briefing focuses on the issues presented by service users with dual diagnosis for UK practitioners in health and social care. Given the multiplicity of social, familial and economic problems associated with dual diagnosis, social workers have a distinctive role to play in multi-agency work. This briefing examines this role in relation to assessment of dual diagnosis, long term care and service user involvement. Access Research briefing 30: Dual diagnosis
text

Newly-Qualified Social Worker (NQSW) scheme for social work in adult services (SCIE, United Kingdom)

The Department of Health is working with Skills for Care, General Social Care Council (GSCC) and SCIE to develop a Newly-Qualified Social Worker (NQSW) scheme for social work in adult services. A similar framework is being introduced for NQSWs in children's services.

As part of this work, SCIE has been asked to draft for comment a set of Outcome Statements for social workers with adults, their families, carers and communities. The Statements seek to capture the core elements of social work practice in adults' services, so as to enable a NQSW to demonstrate after an initial year in employment that they are a competent social worker. See below for an explanatory letter and questionnaire for responses, the headline definitions for the 12 proposed outcome statements, and an exemplar to show the kind of detail to be included in each statement.

SCIE would particularly like to receive comments from social workers in their first year of practice after qualifying, from social work degree students, and from practice teachers and supervisors of social workers. http://www.scie.org.uk/news/nqsw.asp

Government Publications

National Men's Health Policy 2008 - 2013

http://www.dohc.ie/publications/pdf/mens_health_policy.pdf

Slan: Mental Health and Social Well-being report

http://www.dohc.ie/publications/pdf/slan_wellbeing_report.pdf

The Management of Offenders - A Discussion Document

http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/PB09000022

Live Register March 2009

http://www.cso.ie/newsevents/default.htm

Where Can I get More Information?

- Where an Internet address is indicated, a copy of the article may be available.
- To view articles with a .pdf suffix, you will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader. You can obtain a free copy of this software from http://www.acrobat.com. Many articles are available free and some require a subscription.
- The Boole Library (UCC) may stock some of the books and articles. To read or borrow from the Boole, you must become a member. A fee is required to join.
- The 'visible' web can provide you with a wealth of information: http://www.google.com, http://yahoo.com, http://www.mama.com.
- Inclusion of an entry in Practice Links does not denote an endorsement of the research / publication and it does not necessarily mean that University College Cork or the Department of Applied Social Studies shares the views expressed.

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