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Practice Links

Issue 49, October 2012

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Continuing Professional Development

NIASW / IASW Adult Mental Health Research Conference: 'Suicide Prevention in Context'

Venue : Iontas Resource Centre, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan, 18th October 2012

CALL FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS - WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

The conference is a joint venture between IASW and NIASW. The conference organising committee includes practitioners, managers and academics involved in Mental Health Social Work in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The aim of the conference will be to provide a forum for social workers to share recent innovations in practice. It will also provide an opportunity to review current developments taking place in legislation and policy in both parts of Ireland.

We invite papers and workshop presentations from service users, practitioners, managers and academics. If you wish to make a contribution to the conference, you should forward an abstract of not more than 300 words outlining the proposed content of your paper or workshop presentation.

A review panel will consider all abstracts submitted and select those which best address the conference aims and objectives.

Abstracts should be forwarded to Sharon at sharonmcgeown@btinternet.com by 31st May 2012.



Study Day for Health and Social Care Professionals

Promoting best practice in person-centred care planning for older people

This half day seminar will cover the following areas:

Capacity and decision-making in patients with a cognitive impairment. Dr Siobhan Ni Bhraín, Consultant in Psychiatry of Later Life

Best Practice Guidelines for Care Planning Meetings with older patients. Sarah Donnelly, Research Social Worker

Communicating with patients with a cognitive impairment. Isuelt Mackin, Senior Speech and Language Therapist

Date: Wednesday 28th November 2012

Times: 9.30am-1pm

Location: Tallaght Hospital, Trinity Education Centre

This is a free event however places are limited. For enquiries/registration, email careandconnect@amnch.ie or contact Sarah Donnelly at 01-4142462 for further details.

Social Workers in Disability (SWID)
Special Interest Group of the Irish Association of Social Work
present

"The Writing is on the Wall" Conference

"Best Practice on Recording and Report Writing in 2012 in light of the Data Protection Act, Registration/Coru, and the uses of Social Media."

on

Friday 9th November

The Ashling Hotel, Dublin 8

CPD Points will be available

All Social Workers welcome

The SWID AGM will also take place that day.

Further details to follow

Continuing Professional Development

Critical Perspectives and Creative Response to Experiences of Trauma and Distress

CATHERINE MCAULEY SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY & THE SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK, IRELAND IN ASSOCIATION WITH CRITICAL VOICES NETWORK IRELAND, 14 and 15 NOVEMBER 2012, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK, IRELAND

This conference, now in its 4th year, has as its focus critical perspectives and creative responses to experiences of trauma and distress. The conference offers opportunities to consider:

- the experiences of trauma and distress
- new ways of understanding trauma and distress, beyond bio psychiatry
- creative approaches to engaging with and responding to trauma and distress

This conference is unique as it is free for all participants and involves people from diverse backgrounds (self-experience, survivors, professionals, academics, carers) presenting, discussing and debating critical and creative perspectives on and beyond the dominant bio-medical approach. The 2010 conference saw the launch of the Critical Voices Network Ireland (CVNI), a network of people interested in considering and developing responses to human distress, which are creative, enabling, respectful and firmly grounded in human rights. The conference will include an open forum to discuss the on-going work of the CVNI.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers:

Jacqui Dillon (who will give the opening address) Writer, national Chair of the Hearing Voices Network, Director of Intervoice, Honorary Lecturer in Clinical Psychology, University of East London, voice hearer, author of several book chapters and papers, co-editor of *Living with Voices* and *Demedicalising Misery: Psychiatry, Psychology and the Human Condition*. England.

Richard Patterson Advocate, Activist, IT Sligo Graduate And Holder Of The 2008 Citizen's Information Board Medal For The Best Overall Student On The Higher Certificate In Arts In Advocacy, Past Tool Designer, Past Outdoor Educator, Psychiatric Services Survivor And Alleged 'Manic-Depressive'. Ireland.

Phil Thomas Writer, academic and former consultant psychiatrist; founder member of the Critical Psychiatry Network; worked closely with experts by experience and survivors of mental health services nationally and internationally, co-author, with Pat Bracken, of *Post Psychiatry* and similar writings. Currently writing a book on critical psychiatry. England.

Eleanor Longden: Voice hearer, writer and researcher, co-ordinator of the Intervoice Scientific Committee. England.

Dirk Corstens Social psychiatrist and psychotherapist, Chair of the Intervoice Board. Maastricht, the Netherlands.

John O'Donoghue Writer and poet. Author of *Brunch Poems* and *Sectioned: A Life Interrupted*, which was awarded Mind Book Of The Year 2010. England.

The Conference organisers are Harry Gijbels, Catherine McAuley School of Nursing and Midwifery, and Lydia Sapouna, School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork, Ireland. Conference full but there is a waiting list. Queries to lsapouna@ucc.ie or h.gijbels@ucc.ie

THE 3rd EUROPEAN CONFERENCE FOR SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

Jyväskylä, Finland 20-22 March 2013

The conference, previously held at Oxford and Basel, will bring together researchers and research users across Europe and internationally to exchange research ideas, findings, developments and applications. The main theme of the conference is transforming welfare policies, social work and social care practices with the aim to analyse both ongoing changes in welfare policies and their societal and human consequences on all levels in various parts of Europe and elsewhere.

Please, find further information and the Call for Papers:

<http://www.jyu.fi/ccswr2013>

Continuing Professional Development

Information and Communication Technologies in Health and Social Care Conference

The School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin, have extended an invitation to Health & Social Care Professionals to attend a one day conference on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT's) in Health and Social Care. The conference will take place on November 8th from 9.30am - 4pm. Programme is attached.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have become an integral part of modern life and shape many core processes of interaction. Little attention has been paid to the potential of ICT's both as powerful new tools in direct work and as assistive technologies for people with disabilities and older people. For health and social care professionals, it is timely to take stock and review their potential, noting how innovative practices in Irish social work and health care are changing how health care professionals interact with clients. This one-day conference aims to give participants an overview of recent Irish research and practice developments relating to the use of ICT's, and to explain some of the theoretical concepts underpinning their use.

If interested please fill in the application form and return with payment to Laura Cusack, School of Social Work and Social Policy, Arts Building, Room 3063, Trinity College Dublin. Early booking is advised as places are limited. Contact: Laura Cusack School of Social Work and Social Policy, Tel: +353 1 8963593, Email: lcusack@tcd.ie, Web: www.socialwork-socialpolicy.tcd.ie

The 3rd International Conference on Survivors of Rape

This two day conference, will be held on November 9th and 10th 2012, with a seminar day taking place on Thursday the 8th, in the West of Ireland city of Galway. Visit www.icsor.org for more information. With ICSor 2012, we hope to build on the excellence of the previous conferences, which dealt with the treatment of survivors of rape, the enhancement of our understanding of the impact of rape and to improve the quality of multidisciplinary care for survivors of rape.

HomeTruths Conference - The Irish Experience of Domestic and Sexual Violence

Manor West Hotel, Tralee, 23rd November, 2012 9.30am – 4pm

Bookings and enquiries on opendoornetwork@eircom.net or ring Catherine on 087 6169704

Speakers include :

Joyce, June and Paula Kavanagh – Authors of Click, Click

Fiona Neary Executive Director with Rape Crisis Network Ireland

Sharon O'Halloran Executive Director with SAFE Ireland.

BAPSCAN - INNOVATIONS IN APPROACHES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE: MOVING PRACTICE FORWARD

10 December 2012- Friends House, Euston Road, London

BAPSCAN - DISORGANISED ATTACHMENT AND CHILD PROTECTION

New Ways of Assessing Risk and Helping Children and

Families. Thursday 21 March 2013, Thistle City Hotel, Birmingham

BAPSCAN - Working with Vulnerable Teenagers: Addressing Substance Misuse, Self Harm and Suicide

Monday 22 October 2012, The Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow

If you would like to attend any BAPSCAN event or if you would like to know more, or to book on line please visit <http://www.baspcan.org.uk>

Continuing Professional Development

3rd International Public Health & Palliative Care Conference

Limerick, 25th - 27th 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

ISPCAN (International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) Conference to be held in Dublin 15th - 18th September 2013

Fáilte! [welcome] It is our great pleasure to invite you to Dublin for the 13th ISPCAN European Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. We look forward to welcoming you to Dublin where we can assure you of both a full and exciting scientific programme and a venue that is rich in history, culture and heritage. Delegates will have opportunities to discuss the current state of research and interventions on CAN in Europe and internationally, discuss new challenges and emerging topics and help shape national and international responses.

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 call for abstracts and the scientific and social programmes will appear at: <http://www.ispcan.org/event/Dublin2013>.

Parents Plus Parenting when Separated Programme

In order to address the challenges of parenting when separated, Parents Plus have developed a six week psycho-educational course for parents who are preparing for, going through or have gone through a separation or divorce.

Specifically the Parenting when Separated Programme aims to help parents

1. * Solve co-parenting problems in a positive way that focused on the needs of children.
2. * Cope with the emotional impact of separation and learn stress management techniques
3. * Help your children cope with the impact of the separation both emotionally and practically.
4. * Enhance communication with their children and with their children's other parent

Similar to the previous Parents Plus Programmes, the course comes with a facilitators manual and parent booklet and a facilitator training programme. Unlike the previous programmes the Separated programme does not have a DVD and is delivered solely using worksheets, handouts and group exercises.

Click here to see a [presentation on the programme](#) background and content

Continuing Professional Development

Critical Social thinking Student Research Initiative 2012: Call for Papers

School of Applied Social Studies
University College Cork

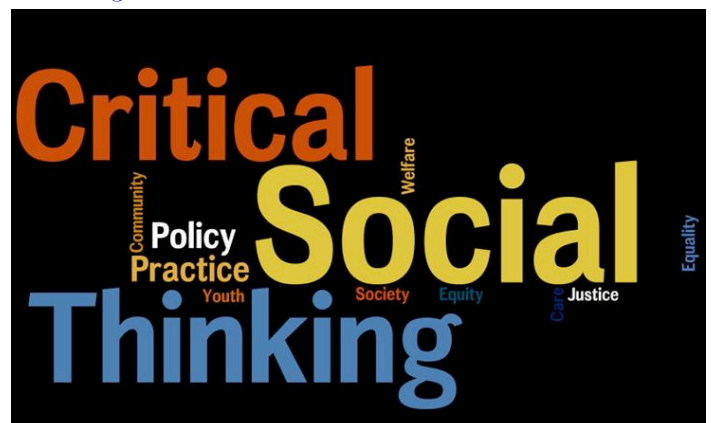
The Critical Social Thinking Student Research Initiative was established in 2008 by the [School of Applied Social Studies](#) with the assistance of funding from [NAIRTL](#). Its purpose is to showcase the high quality academic work undertaken by undergraduate and postgraduate students within our School and to use this as a platform for stimulating interest in social research and to promote student research activity in a public domain. We are keen to extend the invitation this year to social researchers outside the School and University and invite participation from social researchers across Ireland.

There are a number of activities planned for the event this year including:

- § The 1st Critical Social Thinking Postgraduate Symposium, 29th November 2012: The new initiative seeks to establish a national Critical Social Thinking Postgraduate Network. The theme for this inaugural symposium focuses on the impact of social research and dissemination of research findings in the public domain. We invite participants to explore opportunities for communication of research through:
- o Publishing Roundtable discussion
 - o Online Research Dissemination Workshop: (using Facebook, Twitter, blogs etc).
 - o Critical Social Thinking Slam: Presentation of research in Academic Poster or Pecha-Kucha format.
- § The 3rd Annual Critical Social Thinking Conference, 30th November 2012: The conference will primarily comprise a student audience and as such, we hope that papers will motivate and stimulate undergraduate and postgraduate research interest in the social sciences. We invite papers (20 minutes duration) that explore contemporary social issues. Invitees are both recent and current students within the School of Applied Social Studies and postgraduate students from cognate disciplines in UCC and nationally, whose research is relevant to social policy and welfare. Conference themes will address issues including, but not limited to:
- Social Policy in Times of Crisis
 - Gender, Sexuality and Social Policy
 - Poverty and Social Exclusion
 - Housing Policy
 - Health and Well-being
 - Education and Welfare
 - 'Race' and Ethnicity
 - Culture and Society

Further information on this event and details on all activities, including advice for participants can be found at: <http://www.ucc.ie/en/appsoc/researchconference/conf/cstj/CriticalSocialThinkingResearchInitiative2012/>

Please forward any queries to cst@ucc.ie.



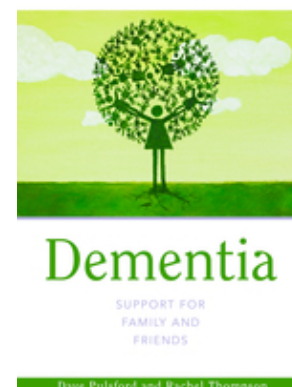
New publications and policy reports

The Boy at the Gate by Danny Ellis (Transworld Ireland 2012) I

Danny Ellis spent a number of years in Artane Industrial School in the 1960s. His CD entitled "800 Voices" is a poignant and moving reflection in song of that time and has had many positive reviews worldwide. Now, Danny has published his memoir entitled "The Boy at the Gate." The personal story told in the book has many twists and shows how Danny Ellis, greatly helped by music, came to terms with the difficulties he faced in Artane as a young boy and subsequently. It's a refreshing antidote to the many accounts of life in Irish industrial schools which, legitimately and understandably, are often tinged with bitterness and resentment. Danny Ellis's account, while pulling no punches, is uplifting and refreshing. ISBN 9781848271494

Dementia: Support for Family and Friends

For friends, family members and carers of people with dementia, understanding the condition and coping with the impact it has on their lives can be extremely challenging. This book, written specifically for these groups, explores each stage of the "journey with dementia" and explains not only how it will affect the person with the condition, but also those around them, and how best to offer support and where to get professional and informal assistance. For more: <http://www.jkp.com/catalogue/book/9781849052436>



Working with Drug and Alcohol Users: A Guide to Providing Understanding, Assessment and Support

Working with Drug and Alcohol Users provides an accessible guide to substance use and working with substance users. Using transactional analysis theory, the author explains why some people use substances, exploring different personality types, and covers the basic components of drug counseling. The book then outlines different counseling techniques used to treat and manage substance users, using transactional analysis models. These include motivational interviewing, harm reduction counseling, drug use ambivalence work and relapse process work. A chapter on teenage drug users is also included. Case examples feature throughout to demonstrate the ideas in practice.



Nation State and Ethnic Diversity

Editors: Peter Herrmann and Hurriyet Babacan, University College of Cork, School of Applied Social Studies and School of Asian Studies, Cork, Ireland and others). https://www.novapublishers.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=37874

Critical and Radical Social Work: An International Journal

A new publication, Critical and Radical Social Work: An international journal, is being launched by [Policy Press Journals](#) in early 2013. The journal is edited by Social Work Action Network (SWAN) steering committee members, Michael Lavalette, Associate Professor of Social Work, Liverpool Hope University and Iain Ferguson, Professor of Social Work and Social Policy, University of the West of Scotland. It will have two editions per year, usually each March and September. <http://www.socialworkfuture.org/articles-and-analysis/international-articles/269-critical-and-radical-social-work-journal>

New publications and policy reports

Open Secret - Breaking the Silence on Violence Against Women and Children

ISBN 978-0-9552920-9-5. web address. www.opendoornetwork.net. 087 6169704. €15. Red Hen Publishing

How He Gets into Her Head - The Mind of the Male Intimate Abuser

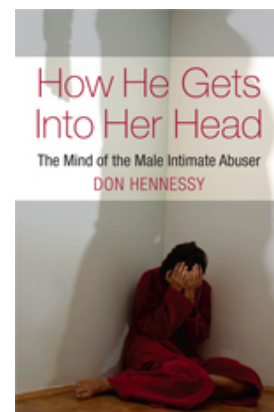
Don Hennessy, Cork University Press. Presenting some ground-breaking ideas, this book prompts a radical reappraisal of how we think about and understand male intimate abuse and violence.

Over the last fifty years an array of resources and interventions have been brought to bear on domestic violence and abuse between intimate partners. Yet intimate abuse continues to be endemic in our society. One of the principal reasons for this lack of effective intervention is that we have ignored a critical ingredient which is the foundation of long-term intimate abuse and violence. This book uncovers the layers of covert tactics which men employ to establish and maintain control over their intimate partner. By deepening our understanding of what is going on the author suggests that we can develop a more efficient and consistent response to the issue.

Working with both the perpetrators and victims of intimate partner abuse has given the author a unique insight into the tactics employed by the male abuser. He suggests that male intimate abuse and violence are driven by an entitlement to sexual priority and that the other tactics of control and violence are motivated by this entitlement. It is this motivation that distinguishes male intimate violence from other forms of 'domestic violence' such as female to male violence and elder abuse.

The author details the similarities in tactics and motivation between the paedophile and the male intimate abuser. He has found that by explaining these tactics to victims he has released many of them from the mind-control that they have experienced. http://corkuniversitypress.com/How_He_Gets_into_Her_Head:_The_Mind_of_the_Male_Intimate_Abuser/368/

[How_He_Gets_into_Her_Head:_The_Mind_of_the_Male_Intimate_Abuser/368/](http://corkuniversitypress.com/How_He_Gets_into_Her_Head:_The_Mind_of_the_Male_Intimate_Abuser/368/)



Masculinities, Care and Equality

Masculinities, Care and Equality by Niall Hanlon explores men's ambiguous relationship with intimate caring work within a context where carefree and nurturing expectations for men are competing for influence. For men, the desire to be more involved carers often clashes with the commonly valued expectations of them as men and this book provides an in-depth, qualitative exploration of a diverse range of male perspectives on the role of love and care in their lives, examining how different men position themselves when confronted by this contradictory expectation.



What's New? Supporting Children through Transitions in their Early Years

Price: €25.00

ISBN: 978-1-906004-23-1

The aim of this book is to support educators in early years services in making children's new experiences as smooth as possible and helping them to learn to cope well with change, now and in the future. The guide gives an overview of the research and theories underpinning the topic of transitions, suggest sound foundations for good practice and give suggestions, ideas and resources for managing many types of transitions.



New publications and policy reports

Special Edition of Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies (Free access on website)

The next edition of the Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies, 'Reflections on recent child abuse reports: Implications for policy and practice, which will be posted on the journal's website this month: <http://arrow.dit.ie/ijass/>. The guest editors are Dr. Aine de Róiste, CIT and Professor Fred Powell, UCC. Please watch this space, and connect to the Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies on LinkedIn"

Editorial

Áine de Róiste & Fred Powell

Learning lessons from the past: Legal issues arising from Ireland's child abuse inquiries

Ursula Kilkelly

An impossible task? Implementing the recommendations of child abuse inquiry reports in a context of high workloads in child protection and welfare

Kenneth Burns & Joe MacCarthy

The Ryan Report (2009). Implications for residential social care workers, managers and policy makers: A practitioner's perspective

Noel Howard

Ireland's opportunity to learn from England's difficulties? Auditing uncertainty in child protection

Brid Featherstone, Sue White & Dave Wastell

Using intelligence to shape reforms in child protection

Helen Buckley

Gendered processes in child protection: 'Mother blaming' and the erosion of men's accountability

Majella Mulkeen

Parenting and family support for families 'at risk' – implications from child abuse reports

Ann Marie Halpenny

Book Reviews

Keenan, M. (2012). Child sexual abuse & the Catholic Church: Gender, power and organizational culture. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Rosaleen McElvaney

Events

Invitation - Launch of Care Leavers Ireland

In a period of recession it is unusual for a charity to emerge since charities depend on donations to make a difference. Care Leavers Ireland (CLI) a charity which makes modest grants to young people leaving state care is about to buck such a trend.

With Aftercare in crisis many young people leave care at 18 and suddenly find themselves completely on their own having had perhaps a relatively stable number of years in care. The origins of CLI go back to 2008 and to date over 80 young people have benefitted from the charity. Now, CLI is to be formally launched on Monday, October 8th by Minister for Children, Frances Fitzgerald in the National Library of Ireland in Dublin at 11.00 a.m. If you would like to attend this positive event please email your confirmation to info@careleaversireland.com

Invitation - Domestic Abuse Awareness-Raising Open Day

We would like to invite you to visit our agencies as part of our Awareness-Raising Open Day on 18th October 2012. All agencies will be open for visitors to come and learn more about our services from 11 am-4pm including lunch hour. We look forward to seeing you on the day. Please feel free to tell your friends and colleagues

The Cork Domestic Violence Network comprising:-

- Cuanlee Refuge, Kyril's Quay, Cork - 021-4277698
- Edel House, Good Shepherd Services, Grattan Street - 021-4274240
- Domestic Violence Social Work Service -
- Liberty St House, 18 Liberty Street, Cork - 021-4921728
- Mna Feasa, 16 Pope's Quay, Cork Domestic Violence Project - 021-4211757
- OSSCork, 94 South Main Street, Domestic Violence Information and Resource Service - 1800 497 497

2wildhorses, Equine Assisted Learning and Therapy Services

2wildhorses, Equine Assisted Learning and Therapy Services, in collaboration with Tory Hill Equine Assisted Therapy are running a one day workshop for allied health professionals on the 8th November 2012. The workshop incorporates experiencing this new modality in education and therapy and offers practical horse assisted activities for the seminar participants.

Themes of the activities include team work, assertiveness and non-verbal communication.

As participants take part in equine assisted activities they will learn about this approach first hand. The experiences are then processed and discussed in the group. No horse experience is necessary and there is no horse riding involved as all activities are done on the ground. Further materials about equine assisted learning and therapy will be provided on the day.

Please visit our websites for further information:

<http://www.2wildhorses.ie/>

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

For informal enquiries please contact Baerbel Schlueter at 086-8691680 or via email @ bschlueter@2wildhorses.ie

Supporting people with dementia who walk about outdoors

Supporting people with dementia who walk about outdoors 'Wandering' and getting lost are often significant concerns for people with dementia, their carers and professionals and can result in the use of locked doors and premature admission to care homes. The research project examines this complex issue in terms of the risks and benefits of walking about outdoors. It summarises the significant issues for assessment and intervention in terms of balancing safety concerns with quality of life. The research is likely to be of interest to practitioners who work to support people to 'live well' with dementia.

Dr. Eleanor Bantry White is a lecturer in social work at UCC. This project formed part of her doctoral work at the University of Oxford, UK. Eleanor is interested in hearing from practitioners with an interest in ageing, older adults and dementia care. If you are interested in hearing more about this research or would like to discuss a presentation, please contact Eleanor @ E.BantryWhite@ucc.ie

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/

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.

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.iscsc.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/>

Background: Dance therapy or dance movement therapy (DMT) is defined as 'the psychotherapeutic use of movement as a process which furthers the emotional, social, cognitive, and physical integration of the individual'. It may be of value for people with developmental, medical, social, physical or psychological impairments. Dance therapy can be practiced in mental health rehabilitation units, nursing homes, day care centres and incorporated into disease prevention and health promotion programs.

Objectives: To evaluate the effects of dance therapy for people with schizophrenia or schizophrenia-like illnesses compared with standard care and other interventions.

Search methods: We searched the Cochrane Schizophrenia Group Trials Register (July 2007), inspected references of all identified studies (included and excluded), and contacted first authors for additional data. We updated this search on 10th July 2012 and added the results to the awaiting classification section of the review

Selection criteria: We included all randomised controlled trials (RCTs) comparing dance therapy and related approaches with standard care or other psychosocial interventions for people with schizophrenia.

Data collection and analysis: We reliably selected, quality assessed and extracted data. We excluded data where more than 30% of participants were lost to follow-up. For continuous outcomes we calculated a weighted mean difference; for binary outcomes we calculated a fixed-effect risk ratio (RR) and their 95% confidence intervals (CI).

Main results: We included one single blind study (total n=45) of reasonable quality. It compared dance therapy plus routine care with routine care alone. Most people tolerated the treatment package but about 40% were lost in each group by four months (RR 0.68 CI 0.31 to 1.51). PANSS average endpoint total scores were similar in each group (WMD -0.50 CI -11.8 to 10.8) as were the positive subscores (WMD 2.50 CI -0.67 to 5.67). At the end of treatment significantly more people in the dance therapy group had a greater than 20% reduction in PANSS negative symptom score (RR 0.62 CI 0.39 to 0.97), and overall average negative endpoint scores were lower (WMD -4.40 CI -8.15 to 0.65). There was no difference in satisfaction score (average CAT score, WMD 0.40 CI -0.78 to 1.58) and quality of life data were also equivocal (average MANSAS score, WMD 0.00 CI -0.48 to 0.48).

Authors' conclusions: There is no evidence to support - or refute - the use of dance therapy in this group of people. This therapy remains unproven and those with schizophrenia, their carers, trialists and funders of research may wish to encourage future work to increase high quality evidence in this area.

[Note: the citation in the awaiting classification section of the review may alter the conclusions of the review once assessed.]

Plain language summary: Dance therapy for schizophrenia. Schizophrenia can be a long-term disabling illness. The most common treatments for people with this condition are medication (antipsychotics) and talking therapies, especially cognitive behavioural therapy and family therapy. These treatments work well for people with 'positive' symptoms (hearing voices and other alterations of the senses) and delusions (distortions in the way the world is seen). However people experiencing 'negative' symptoms (such as flattening of mood, poverty of speech, lack of drive, loss of feeling, social withdrawal and decreased spontaneous movement) do not respond as well.

Dance therapy (also called dance movement therapy) uses dance and movement to explore a person's emotions in a non-verbal way. The therapist will help the individual to interpret their movement as a link to personal feelings. This review aims to assess how successful this therapy is as a treatment for schizophrenia, when compared to standard care or other interventions. Six studies were identified but five were excluded because there were no reliable data, because they were for a therapy other than dance or because they were not properly randomised. The included study compared 10 weeks of group dance therapy plus standard care, to group supportive counselling plus standard care for the same length of time. It was a community-based project involving 45 people and both groups were followed up after four months.

Of the outcomes measured (mental state, satisfaction with care, leaving the study early, quality of life and adverse effects) the majority showed no difference between the two groups. However, when negative symptoms were specifically measured after 10 weeks of treatment, there was a significant improvement in the mental state of the dance therapy group. At the four month follow-up more than 30% of the participants had been lost from both groups, making it impossible to draw any valid conclusions from the outcomes measured.

Overall, because of the relatively small number of people, the data from this trial were inconclusive. However a larger randomised trial measuring outcomes such as relapse, admission to hospital, quality of life, leaving the study early, cost of care and satisfaction with treatment would help clarify whether dance therapy is an effective treatment for schizophrenia; especially for negative symptoms that don't respond so well to medication and talking therapies.

(Plain language summary prepared for this review by Janey Antoniou of RETHINK, UK www.rethink.org).

Full report: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD006868.pub2/pdf>

Mindfulness based stress reduction (MBSR) for improving health, quality of life, and social functioning in adults

(February 2012) By Michael De Vibe, Arild Bjørndal, Elizabeth Tipton, Karianne Thune Hammerstrøm, Krystyna Kowalski



The Campbell Collaboration Library of Systematic Reviews
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BACKGROUND Stress and distress are common experiences central to many of the problems occupying health and social services and efforts to improve both health and quality of life are receiving increasing attention. Evaluative research on mind-body interventions is also growing and one of the best studied efforts to reduce stress is mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR). Developed by Kabat-Zinn in 1979, MBSR is based on old spiritual traditions and includes regular meditation. Mindfulness is a way of intentionally attending to the present moment in a non-judgemental way. A number of reviews and meta-analyses on MBSR have been conducted, but few have adhered to the meta-analytic protocol stipulated by the Cochrane and Campbell collaborations. The last review of all relevant target groups was published in 2004.

OBJECTIVES To evaluate the effect of mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR) on health, quality of life, and social functioning in adults.

SEARCH STRATEGY We searched all relevant databases: MEDLINE, AMED, PsycINFO, EMBASE, Ovid Nursing Full Text Plus, the British Nursing Index and Archive, the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), SIGLE, Web of Science®, SveMed+, Dissertation Abstracts International, ERIC, Social Services Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts, the International Bibliography of Social Sciences, and ProQuest. The searches were conducted in July 2008 and again in September 2010.

SELECTION CRITERIA Randomised controlled trials on all target groups were included where the intervention followed the MBSR protocol developed by Kabat-Zinn, allowing for variations in the length of the MBSR courses. We accepted all types of control groups and no language restrictions were imposed.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS Two reviewers independently read the titles, retrieved the studies, and extracted data from all the included studies. We calculated standardised mean differences (expressed as Hedges' g-values) from all of the study outcomes using Comprehensive Meta Analysis. The meta-analyses were undertaken using the Metafor Package which is part of the statistical program 'R'; we used a newly developed technique (Robust Standard Errors) to address the statistical challenge presented by clusters of internally correlated effect estimates.

RESULTS We identified 31 RCTs with an overall total of 1,942 participants. Seven studies included people with mild to moderate psychological problems, 13 studies targeted people with various somatic conditions, and 11 studies recruited people from the general population. 26 of the 31 RCTs were used for the meta-analyses (an overall total of 1,456 persons). All effect sizes are expressed using Hedges' g-values, and positive values indicate beneficial effects. Post-intervention effect sizes were as follows: for measures of anxiety 0.53 (95% CI 0.43, 0.63), for depression 0.54 (95% CI 0.35, 0.74), and for stress/distress 0.56 (95% CI 0.44, 0.67). The overall effect size post-intervention for the combined outcome 'mental health' was 0.53 (95% CI -0.43, 0.64). Heterogeneity was low and tau square-values (for between-study variance) ranged from 0 to 0.03. The results for measures of personal development were 0.50 (95% CI 0.35, 0.66), quality of life 0.57 (95% CI 0.17, 0.96), mindfulness 0.70 (95% CI 0.05, 1.34), and somatic health 0.31 (95% CI 0.10, 0.52). Results for quality of life and mindfulness showed moderate to large heterogeneity. Effect sizes for the combined mental health outcomes were relatively similar across the range of target groups: 0.50 for clinical and 0.62 for non-clinical populations and this difference is not significant. Likewise the effect size was 0.51 both for people recruited because of a somatic condition and for those with a mental health problem. Effect sizes for mental health were not particularly influenced by the length of intervention, self-reported practice, risk of bias, or whether analyses were done as intention to treat or per protocol, but they were positively correlated with course attendance. Only nine studies included follow-up data; the effects diminished over time except in one study in which refresher classes were held. Very little data were found on social functioning, and no information at all on side effects and costs.

Web Links and Electronic Publications

Mindfulness based stress reduction (MBSR) for improving health, quality of life, and social functioning in adults (continued)

AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS MBSR has a moderate and consistent effect on a number of measures of mental health for a wide range of target groups. It also appears to improve measures of personal development such as empathy and coping, and enhance both mindfulness, quality of life and improve some aspects of somatic health. Hardly any included studies measured either social function or work ability. There is a paucity of data on long-term effects. Link: <http://campbellcollaboration.org/lib/download/1767/>

Why Inequality Matters (September 2012) by Class and My Fair London

This booklet draws on the bestselling book “The Spirit Level – Why Equality is Better for Everyone” (Penguin, revised edition 2010) by Professors Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett which shows that most social problems are worse in more unequal societies and that inequality lies at their root. It shows that only by narrowing income differences we can improve the social and psychological well-being of whole populations. Between them the authors of The Spirit Level have over 50 years experience, much of it investigating inequality.

Link: <http://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/docs/why-inequality-matters.pdf>

Safe Care for Trafficked Children in Ireland: Developing a Protective Environment (September 2012) by The Children's Rights Alliance

This report focuses on developments in care for trafficked children in Ireland with a specific aim of outlining current practice in Ireland in relation to the provision of safe and appropriate accommodation, care, supports, and legal protection to trafficked children or those children suspected of being trafficked. The report is based on a series of interviews carried out by the research team between September and December 2011, on child trafficking, with professionals in the areas of child welfare, care, education, and advocacy. It also incorporates written feedback received between December 2011 and May 2012 from the HSE, AHTU, Irish Refugee Council, Immigrant Council of Ireland and Barnardos on draft reports. Furthermore, it draws on publicly available information on child trafficking in Ireland and internationally. Link: http://www.childrensrights.ie/sites/default/files/submissions_reports/files/SafeCareForTraffickedChildrenInIrelandReport.pdf

Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) Thematic Report on Children 2004-2010 (September 2012) CSO

A new study unmask that more than 200,000 children at risk of poverty. While poverty among children 0-5 was 12%, it was 19.2% among 6-11 year olds and 26.1% among 12-17 year olds. The CSO study published in September 2012 shows that households with children saw their disposable income fall by 8.8% in a single year compared with a fall of 2.1% for households without children. 18.7% of households with children are at risk of poverty compared with 11.8% for those in households without children. Link: <http://www.socialjustice.ie/sites/default/files/file/Organisations/2012-09-06%20-%20SILC%20Thematic%20Report%20on%20Children%202004-2010.pdf>

Web Links and Electronic Publications

Men, Suicide and Society (September 2012) by The Samaritans

This report seeks to explain why men of low socio-economic position in their mid-years are excessively vulnerable to death by suicide and provides recommendations to reduce these unnecessary deaths. The key message from the report is that suicide needs to be addressed as a health and gender inequality – an avoidable difference in health and length of life that results from being poor and disadvantaged. Link: <http://www.samaritans.org/sites/default/files/kcfinder/files/Men%20and%20Suicide%20Research%20Report%20210912.pdf>

Towards a Flourishing Society (June 2012) Editor Fergus O Ferrall

The President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins launched a collection of essays on June 29th entitled ‘Towards a Flourishing Society’. Among other topics, the essayists examine how the economy can serve society, how we can draw on Irish history and the experience of other countries for inspiration, and what institutional reform is required to deliver a ‘Flourishing Society’. Contributors include John Fanning, Fergus O’Ferrall, Philip Orr, Robin Wilson and Sinéad Pentony. Link: http://www.tascnet.ie/upload/file/TASC%20FSoc_FINAL_web.pdf

Ireland After Nama

Ireland after NAMA was established after a one day symposium held in NUI Maynooth, on November 23rd, 2009, entitled ‘Geography after NAMA’. The event, attended mostly by geographers from across Ireland, sought on the one hand to discuss how the financial crisis was playing out at local, regional, national and international scales, and on the other to consider how Geography and social sciences more broadly should respond to the crisis in productive ways.

Ireland after NAMA uses the establishment of the National Assets Management Agency as a symbolic, watershed event in the evolution of the crisis. It therefore does not focus on NAMA per se, though it does provide commentary on the debate, policy and workings of that organisation. Rather it provides an informed analysis of the crisis – its history and its present unfolding – drawing on social science theory and empirical research. In particular, it presents a spatial and scalar reading that acknowledges that how the crisis is playing out is spatially uneven and unequal, affecting parts of the country in different ways, and its grounding in particular communities is the result of processes operating at different scales from the local through to the global; how the crisis is playing out in rural Ireland is quite different to the cities, which is quite different to the commuting belts and the border counties for a variety of reasons.

Over time, our hope is that Ireland after NAMA will become a useful resource of analysis and empirical data for those who wish to understand the tail end of the Celtic Tiger and Ireland’s passage through the present crisis. For more: <http://irelandafternama.wordpress.com>

Information for Practice (IP)

To help social service professionals throughout the world conveniently maintain an awareness of news regarding the profession and emerging scholarship. The goals of IP are: to identify and deliver a selection of the highest quality available in each category; regularly deliver an interesting mix of new information; create a more global sense of the profession for users from all locales and serve as an introductory socialization force for students <http://ifp.nyu.edu/>

Community Detox for Benzodiazepines or Methadone (Video)

Last year drugs.ie produced a video feature aimed at people concerned about their own use of Benzodiazepines, or Benzodiazepine use of a friend or family member. This feature is entitled Benzodiazepines: Signs and symptoms of problematic use, and treatment options available. The video is presented by Dr. Brion Sweeney, Consultant Psychiatrist in Substance Use. To follow on from this, we have produced a new video feature, focusing on another initiative Dr Sweeney is involved with; as a member of the initiative’s steering group - this is the Community Detox Initiative. http://drugs.ie/features/feature/community_detox_for_benzodiazepines_or_methadone

Web Links and Electronic Publications

My Voice Has to be Heard - Research on outcomes for young people leaving care in North Dublin

This research study aims to contribute to a better understanding of the issues facing young people when they leave care. This report aims to answer three main research questions.



- What are the needs and circumstances of young people aged 17-18 who leave care in North Dublin?
- What factors are associated with more positive outcomes for young people?
- What are young people's experiences of receiving aftercare supports?

The full report is now available to [download as a PDF](#) file (you will need to have a free PDF reader such as Adobe installed).

Young People Leaving Care: Supporting Pathways to Adulthood

The journey to adulthood is a big step for all young people. However, for young people leaving care it may be far more difficult, coping with major changes in their lives and at a younger age, especially if they lack preparation and support.

Young People Leaving Care explores the journey from care to adulthood through the main challenges these young people face: in being in settled accommodation, in fulfilling their potential in education, employment or training, and in achieving and maintaining good health and a positive sense of wellbeing. For each of these pathways, the book provides a comprehensive review of relevant research, how young people might be best supported, and how the services they receive have the potential to increase resilience and boost their chances of enjoying a fulfilled life as a young adult.

This is an essential book for all those who work with young people from care, including social workers, personal advisers, counsellors, teachers, policy makers, researchers and students in the field of child welfare. <http://www.jkp.com/catalogue/book/9781849052443>

Report of the Independent Child Death Review (June 2012) by Dr. Geoffrey Shannon and Norah Gibbons

The report, authored by Dr. Geoffrey Shannon and Norah Gibbons, gives details of the 196 children who died over the period 2000-10, both of natural and unnatural causes. The children in the report include children who were in the care of the state at the time of their death, young adults who were in aftercare and other children who were not in care but were known to the HSE.

Link: http://www.dcy.gov.ie/documents/publications/Report_ICDRG.pdf

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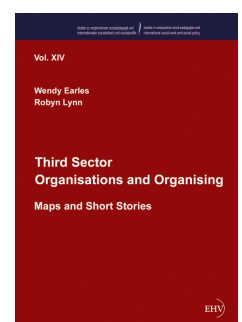
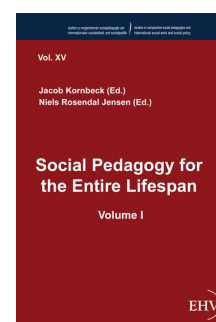
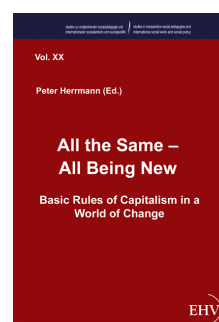
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