



Supporting Research, Evidence and Knowledge Exchange in Social Work and Social Care

Welcome

Welcome to the 10th edition of the newsletter. I am delighted that the profile and enthusiasm of social workers, academics and service users to be involved in and share the outcomes of research is increasing.

Check out the Health and Social Care Board website for details on research and evidence.

Please keep the information coming in. It is always worth sharing with other people. Send to Anne McGlade.

Anne.McGlade@hscni.net



Save the
DATE!



Make a note in your diary of our 7th annual Social Work and Social Care Research Conference - 11th March 2020.

Introduction

On the 14th June 2019 a number of our Social Work professionals presented at the All Ireland Research Conference. It is encouraging to see the increase in confidence and competence and their willingness to share outcomes. See special features 12-19. A number of other updates from events and workshops are included in this edition as well as information about up coming events and initiatives.

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Building the evidence base outcomes from postgraduate learning and development. Social work postgraduate Research Methods Programme

Provided by Ulster University and employer organisation

- ◆ Post qualifying modules for Social Workers
- ◆ Postgraduate modules for service users and careers

The programme provides modules designed to develop knowledge and skills relevant to social work research related activity and culture in Northern Ireland in support of the Social Work Research and Continuous Improvement Strategy 2015-2020 (Health & Social Care Board 2015). On 6th June 2019 candidates both (social workers and service users) from the 2018-2019 Cohort presented for oral assessment the outcomes from their evidence reviews. Following the exam board meeting 20th June 2019 a diverse range of reviews are now available to contribute to the repertoire of evidence relevant to social work practice in Northern Ireland.



Participants, tutors & colleagues

Contd/.

We are grateful for the support of Paul Gallagher (PhD student Queen's University) for his contribution in the assessment process. Paul assesses the reviews from a service user perspective with a particular emphasis on issues of accessibility of language and presentation. We are delighted that participants on the course are addressing the issue of jargon free presentation. This in part can be attributed to the fact that social work professionals and service users undertake the same training and assessment and work alongside each other in the classroom setting.

The following evidence reviews are now available.

Title of the review	Name	
The Impact of Social Factors for Older People in the discharge Process from hospital	Pamela Fillis Pamela.Fillis@setrust.hscni.net	SEHSCT
Beyond UNOCINI - The use of decision making models in children's services intake teams	James Draper James.Draper@setrust.hscni.net	SEHSCT
The social work contribution to providing psychosocial palliative and end of life care in adult services	Gillan Thomas Gillian.Thomas@westerntrust.hscni.net	WHSCT
The outcomes of older people ready to leave hospital and discharged with unresolved	Brian Crossan Brian.Crossan@westerntrust.hscni.net	WHSCT
Vicarious Trauma: Associated impacts on practitioners working with young victims of trauma'.	Bill Vail Bill.Vail@westerntrust.hscni.net	WHSCT
The Apex of Involvement? Emergent Themes in Research into Co-Production in Adult Recovery Colleges	Karen Bester karen.l.bester@gmail.com	Service User

Contd/.



HSC R&D Division Doctoral Fellowship Award

HSC R&D Division is committed to supporting research training to increase research and development capacity and build an evaluative evidence-based culture in Health and Social Care Services in Northern Ireland (HSC).

In response, the HSC R&D Division offers funding for Doctoral Fellowship Awards. These awards are intended to enable individuals to develop a research career within the HSC by undertaking research training leading to a PhD.

The scheme is open to individuals employed in or by Health and Social Care Northern Ireland (HSCNI), in community, voluntary or not-for-profit organisations in Northern Ireland involved in health or social care provision, as an independent contractor (e.g. GP) in Northern Ireland involved in health or social care provision, or by a recognised HSCNI training agency (e.g. the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency). Awardees will continue to be employed within the one of these organisations for the duration of the Fellowship and are required to hold or obtain a contract of employment for the full duration of the award.

The remit for applications includes all areas of health and social care. Doctoral Fellowship Awards are available for a maximum of 3 years full-time or 6 years part-time. An award will provide support for the applicant's salary costs, tuition fees, research expenses and conference travel.

Potential applicants are advised to contact the office to discuss their application (028 95363490).

Application forms and guidance notes from the 2020 call can be downloaded below. **Applications will close on Friday 11th October 2019 at 2pm.**

<https://research.hscni.net/fellowship-awards>

Contd/.

Local Information Pack (LIP)

Researchers working with NHS/HSC organisations across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales now benefit from a consistent package to support study set-up and delivery across the UK.

Part of submission includes a **Local Information Pack (LIP)** for commercial and non-commercial research. This contains an **Organisation Information Document (OID)** (which replaces the *Site Specific Information form*, used previously in Northern Ireland).

For more information and guidance on the UK Local Information Pack please visit **IRAS Help**. <https://www.myresearchproject.org.uk/help/hlpsitespecific.aspx>

A slideshow presentation which explains the procedure is also available to download.

Examples of completed SoECAT and OID templates are also now available on the Four Nations NHS/HSC Compatibility website on the page:

[UK Local Information Pack: Questions and Answers](#).

<https://research.hscni.net/approval-research-hsc>

**HSC R&D Division
Northern Ireland**

improving health and social care through research



**Public Health
Agency**

Research and Development

For the latest news and information about awards, grants, new initiatives, up and coming events and workshops check out the HSC R and D division Website

<https://research.hscni.net/>

The goal of meditation isn't
to control your thoughts, it's
to stop letting them
control you.

A graphic with a background of blue and green water. The text is in a black, serif font, centered on the image.

Public Involvement Enhancing Research (PIER) NI, Workshop update Brief Summary



On Tuesday 11th June over 80 researchers, health and social care staff and patient and carer representatives attended an inspiring and engaging lecture on the Measurement of Impact in Patient and Public Involvement in Research, by **Simon Denegri**, OBE, Director of Patients, Carers and the Public National Institute for Health Research, England, in the Postgraduate Centre, Belfast City Hospital.

The event was hosted by Public Involvement Enhancing Research (PIER) NI and HSC R&D Division. An afternoon workshop showcased examples of PPI in Practice from Northern Ireland, led by **Ruth Boyd**, (NI Cancer Research Consumer Forum), **Jean Daly**, (Ulster University), **Claire Kerr** (Queens University Belfast) and **Claire Fordyce** and **Jill Munce** (Public Health Agency).

Check out the presentations on:

<https://research.hscni.net/pier-ni-hosts-ppi-workshop-simon-denegri>

Critical appraisal

“Critical appraisal of the quality of empirical research is central to informed decision-making in health and social care. Critical appraisal is the process of carefully and systematically examining research evidence to judge its trustworthiness, its value and relevance in a particular context. It allows research evidence to be used reliably and efficiently. Critical appraisal is intended to enhance the professional’s skill to determine whether the research evidence is true (free of bias) and relevant to those who use their services”.

*“Measuring engagement and engaging consumers are two sides of the same coin.” - **David Penn**.*

The application of research methodology helps you to measure.

Professional in Practice Awards



Chief Social Work Officer Sean Holland with Caragh and Christine McLaughlin, mother and daughter who received Leadership Awards.

Social Workers from across Northern Ireland celebrated their success and commitment to lifelong learning at the annual Professional in Practice awards hosted by the [Northern Ireland Social Care Council](#).

Awards in three different categories: **Consolidation Award**; **Specialist Award** and **Leadership and Strategic Award** were presented to the 170 Social Workers from the Statutory and Third sectors at the special ceremony in the Tullyglass Hotel, Ballymena (Tuesday 19th June).

[The Professional in Practice Framework](#) delivered by the NI Social Care Council is the only one of its kind in the UK supporting social workers practice and lifelong learning. Chief Social Work Officer, Sean Holland officially launched the new Advanced Scholarship Award at the ceremony and commended Social Workers for their ongoing commitment, contribution and value they are making to society through their continuous Professional in Practice learning and evidence based research.

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Professional in Practice Awards



Councillor Maureen Morrow, Patricia Higgins and Marian O'Rourke



Social Workers from the Third Sector



Mark Adams and Simon Darby
guest speakers from CLIC Sargent



Joanne Sansome, Marian O'Rourke and Paul Rooney



Councillor Maureen Morrow
and Paul Martin



Jake Craig and Ryan Dickson,
entertainers from 'On the Spectrum'

ECSWR 2020

10TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE FOR SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

22 - 24 April 2020

University of Bucharest / ROMANIA

Social Work Research: Contributing to Innovations in Practice,
Policy and Social Development

The 10th edition of The European Social Work Conference (ESCWR 2020) will be held in Bucharest, Romania between the 22nd and the 24th of April 2020.

The European Conference of Social Work Research (ECSWR) is the major annual event of the European Social Work Research Association (ESWRA). The conference has taken place since 2011 and is highly regarded amongst social work researchers across Europe, as an important annual event for sharing research findings and debating ideas as well as networking. It has grown in size and reputation, and the ESWRA Board is keen that ECSWR continues to develop and strengthen its quality, reach and value for social work research in Europe.

The conference will be hosted by The Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest.

The overarching theme of the conference is:

"Social work research: Contributing to innovation in practice, policy and social development"

Social work research encompasses a rich mix of methodologies and underpinning epistemologies. How does this diversity lead to innovation in social work practice, policy and social development? How does this variety prompt different approaches to the nature, possibilities, implementation and effectiveness of innovation? How can the different social work research contributions to innovations within Europe and across the globe be multiplied and disseminated across diverse cultures/regions? What are the distinctive contributions of social work research to these innovations, in context of wider contributions of social sciences and humanities?

Contd/.

ECSWR 2020 call for abstracts is OPEN!!

This is an exciting time to talk about integrating social work research into daily practice. Therefore, ECSWR 2020 focuses on how the diversity of social work research methodologies, approaches, traditions and cultures contributes to Innovations in social work practice and policy, and to social development more broadly, at local, regional, national, international levels.

DEADLINE IS 20th October 2019 - Check out the website
<https://www.ecswr2020.org/en/Default.asp>

Jon Symonds
ESWRA Vice-Chair
Florin Lazăr
Local Co-Chair



**PLENARY KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
SPEAKERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON**

“It takes a village” Conference Oslo, Norway, May 14-16, 2019

“Families experiencing substance use, mental or physical health problems”

Mary Donaghy at HSCB led a team of six who presented on the work of Think Family Northern Ireland (TFNI) in Norway in May 2019.

The team comprised of a Service user, voluntary and statutory sector staff who each delivered a presentation on the initiatives that have been developed under TFNI.



This was an ideal opportunity to showcase how Northern Ireland has strengthened practice to support families where a parent has a mental health issues and the impact for other family members as part of the recovery journey.

Presenters pictured with Mary Donaghy

Gaining Initial Support for the conduct of Social Work and Social Care Research Evaluation or Audit activity in two or more Trusts in Northern Ireland



In August 2015 a Protocol and Application Form were introduced to ensure Initial support from two or more HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland. It related to research, evaluation or audit that involved social work staff or service users or carers.

During 2018-2019 a consultation inclusive of relevant stakeholders was undertaken. Fifty six individuals were issued with the consultation. Fifteen detailed replies were received and whilst moderate in number each reflected a thorough consideration of the issue.

A detailed consultation feedback document has now developed and disseminated to stakeholders. The final protocol and application form takes cognizance of wider NHS/HSC changes across the 4 regions. For queries contact Social Care Research Lead where you can also request a copy of the consultation via swresearchconsultation@hscni.net . We will be piloting the revised streamlined Protocol and application for during the next six months. The Documentation is available on the HSCB's website at

<http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/our-work/social-care-and-children/swresearch>

“Research is the search for knowledge, a useful investigation without any prejudices and with an open mind. Research methodology is the necessary tool for achieving accuracy and exactness when it comes to facts and knowledge about something. It is the right approach to pursue knowledge since it leads to a better understanding of a fact or phenomenon. Research is the practical experience of the fact known by others”.

Special Feature



ALL IRELAND SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Friday 14th June 2019 10am-4pm

www.iasw.ie || [@All_Irl_SWR](https://twitter.com/All_Irl_SWR) || [#AISWR](https://twitter.com/All_Irl_SWR)



Present by Liz Tanner Southern Health & Social Care Trust

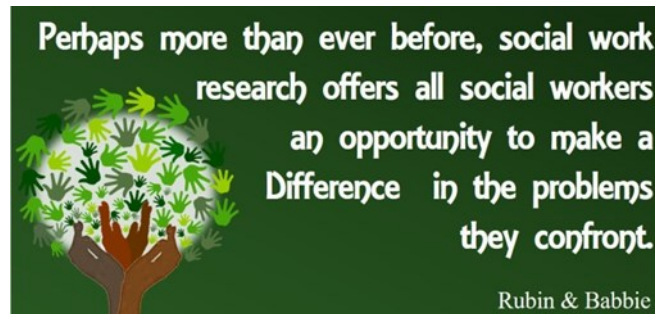
The 1st All Ireland Social Work Research Conference was held on 14th June 2019 in Dublin. This Conference aimed to provide a platform for social work practitioner researchers, Masters, and PhD students to showcase their ongoing and completed research. Through the work of the Practitioner Research SIG, the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) became aware of the high volume of research being carried out by Social Workers around the country as means of recognising this valuable work, a small committee decided to organise the first 'All Ireland Social Work Research Conference' to show-case the quality of social work research that is being carried out each year in Ireland.



The organising committee was made up of volunteers; Niamh Flanagan, Sarah Donnelly, Kerry Cuskelly and Eavan Brady received an over-whelming response to the 'call for abstracts' and reviewed over 60 applications.

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On the day over 50 presentations, both Gasta (quick 6 minute) and 15 minute oral presentations were delivered. Copies of the presentations can be found here: <https://www.iasw.ie/events/135-fully-booked-all-ireland-social-work-research-conference>



Senator Collette Kellaheer commenced proceedings by delivering an inspirational speech at the beginning of the conference and described how she identifies as a social worker first and that all of her other positions are connected to this as she strives for social justice for all.



As she spoke about the importance of research, she stated; *“It’s important that Social Workers capture real stories from lives of people we work with, their everyday challenges, indignities & struggles and things that must change to put them right. This is real research from the frontline.”* (Senator Colette Kelleher)

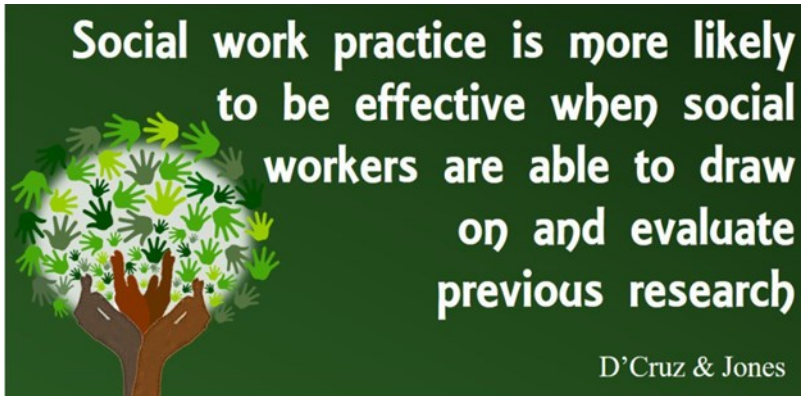
Aine McGuirk, Chair of IASW followed Senator Kelleher and emphasised the importance of research; *“Research is a vital part of social work study & practice. [It] informs professional practice.. [helps] assess the needs & resources of people.. evaluates effectiveness of services.. & most importantly informs action.. for better services”*

Twelve social workers from across the Trusts in Northern Ireland presented at the conference and many more attended to listen to the thought provoking and insightful research that was being presented.

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The majority of the research presented by the presenters from the Northern Ireland was undertaken as part of a Professional in Practice and

academically accredited course delivered the Ulster University. The Research and Evaluation methods programme is a 2 year course which gives social workers the opportunity to undertake a systematic narrative review and to undertake their own



research project. The research generated as a result of this course has had a huge impact on services and has developed the knowledge and skills of social practitioners from both the voluntary and statutory sectors.

The diversity of the presentation and research undertaken throughout Ireland was impressive and motivating.



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Deirdre McKenna, social worker from the Southern Health and Social Care Trust won the award for 'best gasta'. Congratulations Deirdre.

On the day, other winners were;

Presenter	Type of Presentation	Award / Commendation
Zoe Hughes	Oral	AISWR Contribution to Practice Award
Sean Lynch	Oral	IASW Breaking Boundaries Award
Deirdre McKenna	Gasta	AISWR Gasta Award
Sandie Murphy	Gasta	AISWR Methodology Award
Laura Cullen	Gasta	Highly Commended (Gasta)
Anne Marie Shier	Gasta	Highly Commended (Breaching Boundaries)
Phil Butler	Oral	Highly Commended (Contribution to Practice)

A number of other social workers had their research commended and were invited to submit an article to 'The AISWR Special Edition of the Irish Social Worker' Journal.

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Throughout the conference, it was acknowledged that social work is navigating difficult times with recruitment and retention, under resourcing and issues in relation to social work identity. It was felt that the AISWR conference went some way to reframing this negative narrative by highlighting the great research that social work practitioners and students are engaged in.

Practitioners and researchers are united by the desire to improve social work practice. In part this is a constantly renewing search for better and more effective ways of helping people, driven by a motivation to ensure that people receive the best possible help
(Mitchell, Lunt and Shaw,2010)

The feedback from the conference was extremely positive and has done a lot to raise the profile of social work research by acknowledging the excellent work done by all those who presented their research.

The organisers are hoping to organise another conference next year and state; 'Overall the first 'All Ireland Social Work Research Conference' was a great success, and we're planning for an even bigger and better event in the very near future!'

**Writing & presenting research reports is ...
contributing to the generation of new
knowledge for the improvement of
social work practice and ultimately
for the benefit of those we serve.**



Kryskik & Finn

Contd/.

Practitioner research demonstrates a sustained commitment to enhancing good practice. It is also closely associated with predominant social work values

Mitchell, Lunt and Shaw

Colin Reid, Chair of BASW, concluded the day by speaking about the benefits of collaborative work when considering research and commended and thanked the organisers for organising such an impactful and thought provoking day



"Social Work.. faces multiple challenges, not least.. impacts of Brexit.. AISWR is.. bringing SWs together from across the island & highlights a strong commitment to working collaboratively to provide clear & decisive leadership for our profession" Colin Reid, Chair @BASW_IRL

"Key to communicating your research successfully is having the right messaging. This will give you the best chance of capturing the attention of important stakeholders, while also ensuring all members of your research team are being consistent and accurate in findings delivered".

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Just to let you know that Deirdre McKenna and myself attended the All Ireland Social Work Research Conference in Dublin yesterday and it was a huge success. There was about 130 social work practitioners, researchers, academics and students in attendance and the research disseminated and shared was inspirational and motivating. Check out #IASW on Twitter for a blow by blow account of the day!

Deirdre presented a 'gasta' (6 minute, 'quick') presentation on 'The Heart of Living and Dying' project and I delivered a 15 minute presentation on my 'Staff experiences and Perceptions of Assessing Individuals with a Dual Sensory Loss and Learning Disability'.

I'm extremely pleased to tell you that Deirdre won the award for 'best Gasta presentation' so huge congratulations to Deirdre and so good to see the profile of research minded social workers in the SHSCT and the North of Ireland being raised.

Liz Tanner, Southern HSC Trust

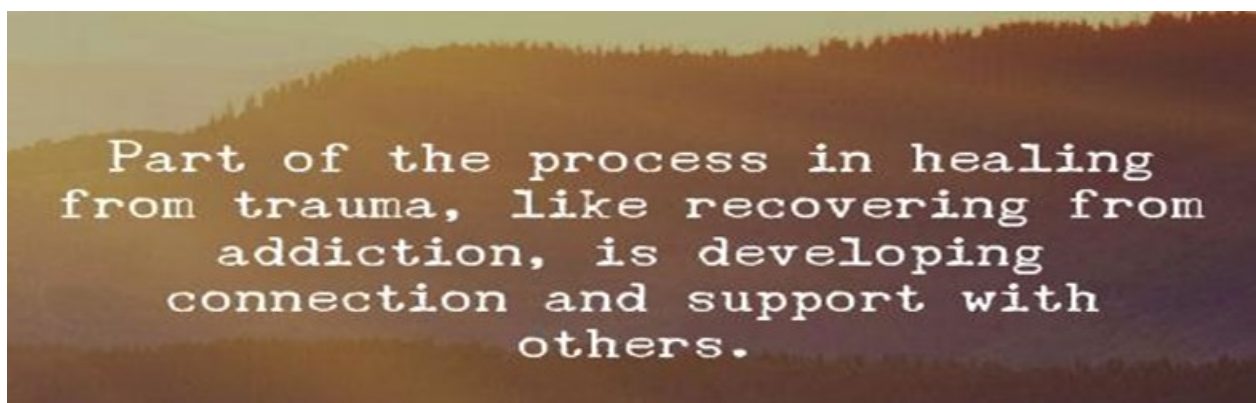


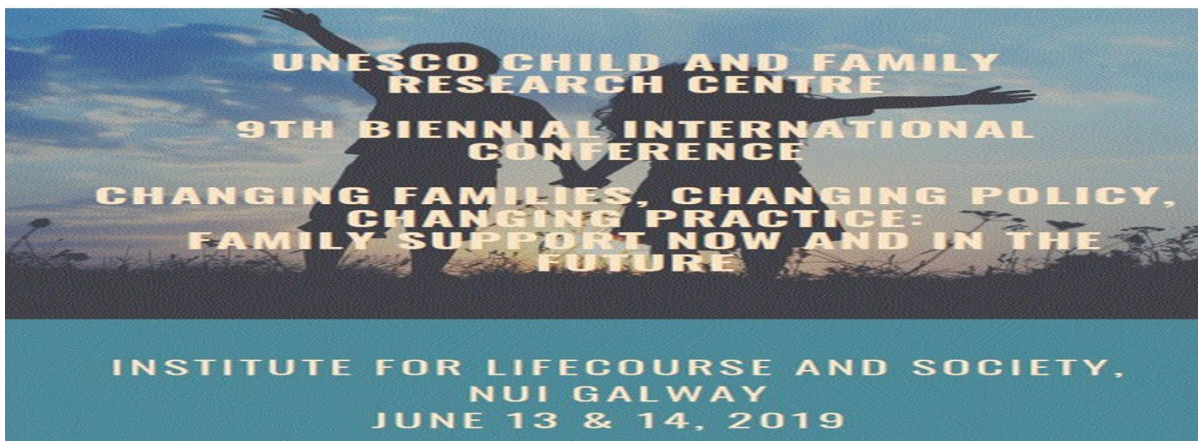
Deirdre trying to wrestle her Gasta award off Liz. Nothing competitive in academia or practitioner research circles.

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The UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre 9th Biennial International Conference was held at NUI Galway on the 13th & 14th June 2019 entitled Changing Families, Changing Policy, Changing Practice: Family Support Now and in the Future.

An abstract was accepted for the Pause Project currently being piloted in the NHSCT. Eilish Scott the Practice Lead presented their current findings and the work being conducted with the women referred to the Project. Eilish was commended by those present for her compassionate and thoughtful presentation on the work with some of the most marginalised women in society, whose children are permanently in the care system, and who have themselves often being victims of Trauma and Domestic Violence. The results of this study will also be shared locally in the autumn.





UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre 9th Biennial International Conference at NUI Galway on the 13th June 2019 -Changing Families, Changing Policy, Changing Practice: Family Support Now and in the Future.



Roisin McCooey and Kevin Duggan from the Social Care Directorate in the Health & Social Care Board delivered a presentation.

The presentation title was: Empowering Sure Start Families in Northern Ireland – relationship based early interventions. Sure Start in Northern Ireland is a programme targeted at parents and children under the age of four living in the most disadvantaged areas. There are 38 Sure Start projects in the top 25% most deprived wards. The programme brings together health, family support and early education services within communities to support children and families. It is an investment to improve equity and inclusion by empowering families to improve social development, by supporting the development of early relationships between parents and children, good parenting skills and family functioning in communities.

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Family Star data was presented on Sure Start Family Support work which focuses on 7 areas (physical health, emotional well-being, keeping your child safe, social networks, boundaries and routines, child development, home, money and work) that are key to effective parenting. 88% of service users moved forward in 1+ areas, 74% moved forward in 2+ areas and 52% moved forward in 3+ areas. Case studies were also presented to evidence the array of support, which families' access in Sure Start



An analysis was provided of the range of activity delivered across Sure Start to meet family's needs – 36,738 families were registered with Sure Start in 2018/19. Data from a Sure Start survey of 3505 parents presented the journey of parenthood, the benefits of Sure Start as a non-stigmatising service and issues which are meaningful to parents.

93% of Parents agreed strongly that Sure Start has had a positive impact on them and their family. Many parents highlighted that the key benefits of Sure Start was the opportunity to socialise with other parents and staff which reduced isolation and loneliness; some of them made lifelong friends in their community through Sure Start.

Discussion took place around strategies that support families to address the persistent stress that makes it difficult for many parents to provide stable and nurturing care. Also there is a need for recognition that 0-3 years is the critical period for brain development and the need for the right relationship based early interventions, using this two generational approach with both parents and children as a model of effective practice. This helps to mitigate against multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences both past and current, which can have a profound impact on children's lifespan health, education and justice.

Please be advised of an upcoming event hosted by PPANI:
Places allocated through Trust Training Teams

**Event: Reframing Sexual Abuse as a Public Health Issue
and its
Benefits for Effective Risk Management**

Guest Speaker: Professor Kieran McCartan
When: Monday 16th September 2019 2-4 pm
Venue: 18b Newforge Lane, Belfast, BT9 5NW

The event is free to attend.

Places are limited book early to avoid disappointment.

If you wish to attend can you forward your details to myself to reserve a place by July 31st. Allocation of places to respective agencies will be forwarded via agency training departments in due course.

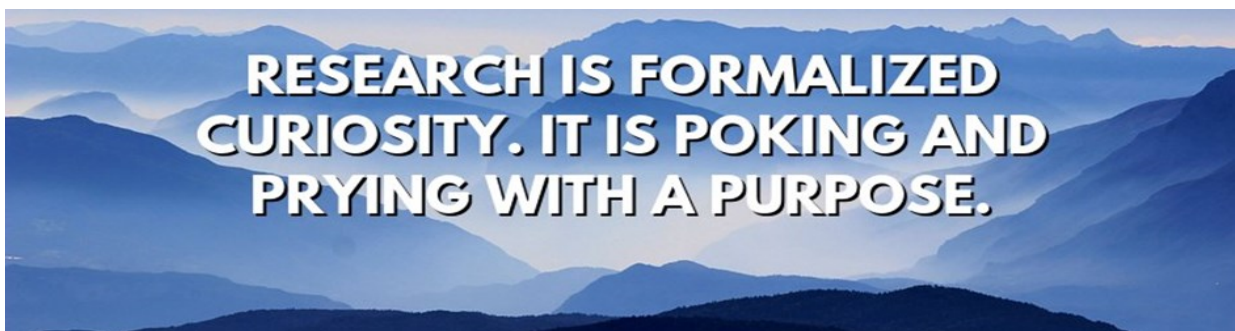
To avoid any confusion please do not forward this email to any other agency representatives.



*Angeline Davidson ,PPANI, Seapark Complex, 151 Belfast Road,
Carrickfergus, BT38 8PL Tel:02890259570*

Angeline.davidson@publicprotectionni.gsi.gov.uk

“Quality improvement is usually a small incremental improvement in what you currently do...and generally have been doing for some time. There is a danger that you may be quality improving the wrong thing. Service improvement is finding what is the right thing to do, based on available research and evidence. This may well be different from what you are doing currently. So a new service may be required what may be quality improved once it has bedded in”.



HRA publish new best practice principles for public involvement



Health Research
Authority

The HRA (Health Research Authority) provides details about how to involve relevant patients, service users and carers, and other members of the public in the research which is intended to benefit them.

See HRA Webpage

<https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/best-practice/public-involvement/>

The new webpages introduce four key principles for best practice in public involvement:

1. Involve the right people – people who have lived experience relevant to the health condition or social care situation being researched, and to the people the study will aim to recruit as participants.
2. Involve enough people to provide a reasonable breadth and depth of views on the issues that are likely to be important to the people the study will aim to recruit, and who it is intended to benefit.
3. Involve those people enough in as many aspects of the study as is feasible, productive, and appropriate to the research - and at the right times.
4. Describe in your application how it helps using the question specific guidance in the IRAS Application Process (<https://www.hra.nhs.uk/about-us/committees-and-services/integrated-research-application-system/>) to make it clear how involving people well helps to address potential ethical issues.

Research has shown that laughing for two minutes is just as healthy as a 20 minute jog. So now I'm sitting in the park laughing at all the joggers.