

Making Research Count



Autumn 2015

2015-16 Event programme launched with safeguarding theme

Our new programme launched on Tuesday 22nd September at the Priory Street Centre in York. ***“Safeguarding children and young people; messages from research, implications for practice”*** brought together a number of eminent speakers in this field.

- Professor Nick Frost of Leeds Beckett University shared his thoughts and experiences on learning from serious case reviews. Nick argued for a shift from a failure discourse to a complexity discourse
- Professor Nina Biehal presented her latest research on the abuse and neglect of children and young people in care, particularly those in residential and foster care
- Professor Juliet Koprowska presented some very recent research on communicating with parents in the context of child protection. Her work on discourse analysis really made us think about what we say and how we say it!



See overleaf for other events in the new programme.

UNIVERSITY *of York*

Department of Social Policy and Social Work



Adult social care; messages from research, implications for practice - Tues 6th October, Hull

We present a range of research topics across the spectrum of adult social care, including:

- A decade of serious case reviews; the evidence and implications for practice (Stephen Clay, Hull Safeguarding Adults Board_
- Survivorship; living with cancer and long-term conditions (Sue Taplin, University Campus, Suffolk)
- Specialist and generic reablement services in England: results from a national survey (Fiona Aspinall & Gillian Parker, University of York)
- Understanding everyday help and support (Ilona Haslewood, Joseph Rowntree Foundation)



Advocacy in social work; a research and practice event - Thurs 3rd December, Wakefield

This event will look at advocacy in social work with children and young people, and with adults. It considers the differences and similarities in advocacy with children and young people and adults and offers workshop options suitable for those working with children or adults.

Optional workshop topics will include:

- Independent mental health advocacy (Julie Ridley, University of Central Lancashire)
- Advocacy for looked after children and children in need (Christine Oliver, Thomas Coram Research Unit, University College London)
- Advocacy across the older generations (Dorothy Hodgkinson, Older Citizens Advocacy York)
- Outcomes and impact of advocacy for children and young people in a range of settings (University of Central Lancashire and The Office of the Childrens Commissioner for England)

Developing an approach to engaging fathers within children's social care - Thurs 25th February, York



This half-day event will be presented by Gavin Swann, Head of Service, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, London Borough of Croydon. Gavin qualified as a social worker in 1998 and has practiced mostly in London, but spent 4 years working for UNICEF and other NGOs in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Gavin first became interested in working with fathers when he recognised that he held prejudicial views of men as valueless, as violent, and as absent. Academic study has allowed him to unpick these stereotypes and develop a methodology to support social workers, managers and statutory organisations to involve fathers in social worker assessments and interventions.



Evaluation of 2014-15 programme

The scores are now in for our 2014-15 programme.

- 95% of delegates rated the content and quality of presenters to be excellent or very good
- 98% of delegates had plans to disseminate the research to colleagues
- 89% of delegates found the research highly useful or useful to their practice



“Venue and hospitality excellent, quality resources”

This year we are aiming for even better feedback so please do complete the evaluation form when you attend an event. Our speakers are always keen to hear what you thought of their presentations and we value your feedback and use it to help us choose topics for events, locations, venues and even the type of tea we serve - you prefer Yorkshire tea and Earl Grey! So if you have any suggestions for how we can improve our programme do let us know.

Events for 2016 will include mental health social work, welfare conditionality and a practice development day looking at risk-taking in social work. If you would like to see other topics on the programme tell us what your interests are.

If you missed an event and are interested in having a copy of the presenter’s slides, do get in touch as we can usually make them available to you.

“Excellent seminar in an ideal location with informative and thought-provoking speakers”

“Thank you for an enjoyable and informative morning. All speakers were very professional in the way they presented”



International Centre for Mental Health Social Research wins work closer to home

The ICMHSR is part of a new collaboration between academics and North Yorkshire Police, working together to improve policing by developing new approaches to dealing with policing and mental health problems

Dr Martin Webber, the Director of the International Centre for Mental Health Social Research is partner in new £1 million collaboration between the University of York and North Yorkshire Police which is being led by Professor Martin Smith. Part of the £10 million Police Knowledge Fund launched to encourage collaboration between academia and police forces, York is one of 14 successful UK bids. Each collaboration aims to increase evidence-based knowledge, skills and problem solving approaches within policing.

The project *Co-Production of Policing Evidence, Research and Training: Focus Mental Health* will develop mechanisms to change the practice and culture surrounding recording and working with people with mental health problems, both criminals and victims.

Project activities will include: a series of 'Research Cafés' for managers and service providers to discuss their experiences in managing mental health problems and what they see as challenges, opportunities and potential solutions; a systematic review of literature on policing and mental health; evaluations of mental health triage, recording of mental health data and self-harm; and working with partner institutions to develop joined-up mechanisms for dealing with mental health problems.

Following this, the project will launch national level workshops to ensure best practice is shared across the UK, and the University of York will provide intensive training for police and health practitioners, including the development of a tailored part-time Master's programme. Find out more at <http://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/news-and-events/news/2015/icmhsr-police-mental-health/>



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Innovation alert - young people in and leaving care

Jo Dixon of the University of York is carrying out 3 new studies linked to young people in care. See below for further details and watch this space for news of a dissemination event in 2016 on this and Jo's other work on adolescents on the edge of care.

- [The 'Right Home' evaluation: accommodation and support for young people in and on the edge of care](#) - Calderdale Council
- [The 'House Project' evaluation: the first UK housing cooperative for care leavers](#) - Stoke-on-Trent Council
- [The 'Step Change' evaluation: social care interventions for young people in and on the edge of care](#)- Action for Children

Centre for Social Work Practice

The Centre for Social Work Practice (www.cfswp.org) is a small national charity working with host organisations, which are usually universities, across England, parts of Wales and shortly also Scotland. They are focused on the promotion of relationship based practice and provide a voice for the profession in this area of practice and have a strong educational and developmental focus.

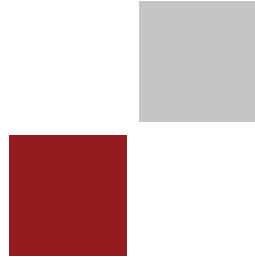


Their main activities have been conferences and seminars and more recently they are working to deliver a range of services to practitioners and their employers such as developing provision and research into reflective practice groups. The events they offer are relevant for a wide range of professionals and practitioners, where relationship based practice is necessary to provide the best possible experience for those seeking or requiring help. They believe that relationship based practice is an essential component for social work practice, ensuring that there is reflection and learning within the role.

Forthcoming events in the North include:

- a discussion group on 18th December in Leeds hosted by the Northern School of Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy
- a conference in early 2016 where Dr. Sharon Shoesmith, Professor Andrew Cooper and Dr Jadwiga Leigh will present their work with a child protection focus
- a discussion group at the end of 2015 in Scotland (Dundee or Edinburgh) where Dr Jane Herd will talk about the Centre to help plan future partnership working and events

Further details about the organisation and events can be found at www.cfswp.org



Research in the media spotlight

The work of our colleagues here at the University of York has been hitting the press lately.

Professor Nina Biehal's report 'Living in Children's Residential Homes' was quoted in the Guardian article [Children's care homes are seen as a last resort, but they can be a safe haven](#)

Kate Brown's work on the Leeds sex trade was featured in The Yorkshire Post '[Managed' red light district in Leeds hailed a success'](#)

Meredith Newlin and Martin Webber's work in Sierra Leone was picked up in [the Yorkshire Post](#) and Medical News Today (an international medical news website) '[Researchers from the University of York pilot mental health training programme for nurses amid the Ebola outbreak'](#)

Spotlight on useful resources

Have you seen the **Mental Capacity Act directory** on the Social Care Institute for Excellence website? It brings together a comprehensive range of government documents, case studies and other useful information all in one place. <http://www.scie.org.uk/mca-directory/>

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