

Making Research Count



Summer | 2014



Social work in the 21st Century

On 9th May we held a seminar at the Priority Street Centre in York, where we debated current issues in social work with Isabelle Trowler, England's Chief Social Worker for Children and Families, and Lyn Romeo, England's Chief Social Worker for Adults.

Kersten England, Chief Executive of City of York Council, formally welcomed Isabelle and Lyn to York, describing York as a place where social workers help people to live the lives they want to live. Topics debated with the Chief Social Workers included the future of adult social workers, the integration of health and social care, the role of the principal social worker, and how do social workers deal with increasingly complex cases.

This event was in partnership with the International Centre for Mental Health Social Research and in a packed afternoon programme we heard fascinating presentations from 2 of the Centre's PhD students. Jonny Lovell presented a very personal perspective on self-disclosure in mental health. Tracee Green shared her research and experiences of parenting assessments, from the perspective of researcher and social worker.

The audience also posed questions to an expert panel including Dr. Paul Edmondson-Jones, Director of Public Health, Jon Stonehouse, Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills, and Eoin Rush, Assistant Director, Children's Specialist Services, of City of York Council and Saleem Tariq, Director of the Children's Social Care Service, of Leeds City Council. Areas covered included the impact of financial cuts, and moving from care management to social work and preventative work.

Jonny and Tracee's presentations can be found on our [website](#).

Dr. Martin Webber, Director of the International Centre for Mental Health Social Research, and academic lead for MRC at York, has blogged about the day. Read what he has to say [here](#).



UNIVERSITY *of* York
Department of Social Policy and Social Work



Continuing Professional Development

The College of Social Work provides useful summaries of the latest key national reports in social work matters, enabling you to stay up to date with current thinking. See their [website](#) for articles on Reclaiming Children's Services, Think Ahead: Meeting the workforce challenges in mental health social work, and more.

Here at **Making Research Count** we help you with your Continuing Professional Development recording by mapping all our seminars against The College of Social Work's Professional Capabilities Framework and The Health and Care Professionals Council Standards of Proficiency. These documents can be found on our website and are always included in your delegate pack at events. We also provide you with a certificate of attendance.

Resources

European Social Work Research Association

Ian Shaw, formerly the MRC link person on the staff at York, is now chair of the newly formed European Social Work Research Association. The association's website – still under development – is at www.eswra.org. Membership is open to all who share the association's aims. His latest book is a comprehensive text on qualitative research methods – 'Doing Qualitative Research in Social Work' with Sally Holland (Sage Publications, 2014).

He works part-time with the University of Aalborg in Denmark but keeps PhD students and several research projects here in York. You can find links to his recent books and details of his various publications [here](#).

Young people in and leaving care

In February many of you attended our seminar led by Professor Mike Stein on 'Supporting young people from care to adulthood'. Mike has recently published an article on *'Young People's Transitions from Care to Adulthood in European and Postcommunist Eastern European and Central Asian Societies'*.

This paper explores comparative material from two publications that provided mapping information on young people's transitions from care to adulthood. It draws on two samples: first, a European sample which included 9 non-communist European countries; second, a sample of 14 postcommunist societies which included 9 European and 3 Central Asian countries.

The paper outlines descriptive data on population; the placement of children living apart from their birth families; the age of leaving care; the legal and policy framework for preparation and aftercare; official (secondary) data and research; and policy and practice recommendations. The paper can be downloaded [here](#). Mike also gave evidence as an expert witness to the House of Commons Education Select Committee Inquiry on the 16 plus Care Option, on 30th April 2014.

Mike will also be presenting a seminar for us in our 2014-15 programme on Neglected Teenagers in Leeds on 4th February 2015.



To tweet or not to tweet...

Earlier this year we set up a Twitter account for MRC. We know from talking to you that some of you love, hate or are indifferent to tweeting. We hope it will enable us to reach a wider audience for our events and give those of you who are unable to attend in person the opportunity to take part.

At our recent event with the Chief Social Workers a number of people tweeted questions for the panels, which we were able to ask on their behalf and tweet a reply back to them, so we think it can work!

So do have a look at [@UoYMRC](#) and think about joining us virtually if you can't make it in person.

You might also be interested in following our colleagues at the Department of Social Policy and Social Work [@spsw](#), and the Social Policy Research Unit [@spruyork](#)



Meet the team

Martin Webber is the Academic Lead for MRC York. Martin is an Anniversary Reader in Social Work and Director of the International Centre for Mental Health Social Research.

Lisa Thurlow is the programme administrator, managing bookings and finance.

Angela Portz is the programme co-ordinator, liaising with subscribing organisations and academics to design and develop the programme of events.



2014-15 Seminar Programme

10th September 2014, Priory Street Centre, York, 9.30am – 12.45pm
Troubled families; research and practice, Aniela Wenham, University of York

18th September 2014, St. Gemma's Hospice, Leeds, 10.00am – 4.00pm
Does palliative care need its own advanced care plan?
A range of colleagues from the hospice movement and academic institutions. This event includes material specifically aimed at those working with children and young adults as well as older people.

15th October 2014, Innovation Centre, Science Park, University of York, 1.30pm – 4.15pm
Roma: employment and routes to inclusion in the UK
Professor Peter Dwyer, University of York, and colleagues from Salford University

4th November 2014, Priory Street Centre, York, 10.00am – 4.15pm
Thriving and surviving in social work: research and practice for newly qualified social workers, Staff from University of York Department of Social Policy and Social Work and partners

3rd December 2014, Innovation Centre, Science Park, University of York, 1.30pm – 4.15pm
Best safeguarding practice in residential care and supported living services for adults with learning disabilities, Dr Rachel Fyson, School of Sociology & Social Policy, University of Nottingham





4th February 2015, Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds, 1.30pm – 4.15pm
Neglected teenagers: research, policy and practice, Professor Mike Stein, University of York

5th March 2015, Kings Manor, University of York, 9.30am – 12.45pm
Talking with parents in the context of child protection, Andrew Hill and Juliet Koprowska, University of York

11th June 2015, Innovation Centre, Science Park, University of York, 9.30am – 12.45pm
Life story work in dementia, The Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, and partners

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