

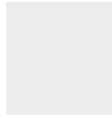
Making Research Count



Annual Report 2014

UNIVERSITY *of* York

The Department of Social Policy and Social Work



Introduction

Making Research Count (MRC) is a national collaborative research dissemination initiative with a local presence. It was established in 2001 by a network of Universities operating from bases across England.

All the universities in the network have a proven track record in social work and social care research as well as providing social work education at qualifying and post qualifying levels.

The other universities currently involved in Making Research Count are Bedfordshire, Central Lancashire, East Anglia, King’s College London, Northumbria (in partnership with Teesside), Salford, University of the West of England, and the Open University.

The principles on which MRC is based are:

- To provide a bridge between research and practice, bringing together knowledge, experience and expertise from practitioners, researchers, service users and carers.
- To ensure that social workers and other practitioners have the evidence they need to inform their practice
- To enable participants to make sense of research
- To improve the dissemination and implementation of research findings
- To ensure that practitioners and service users are involved in setting the agenda for research
- To help agencies evaluate and develop policy and practice

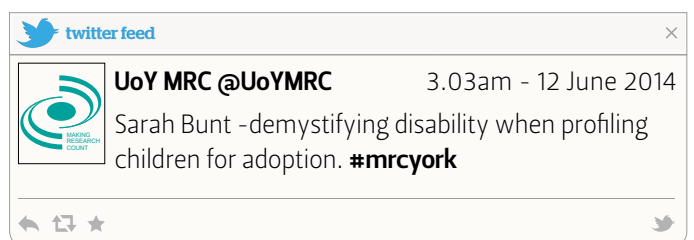


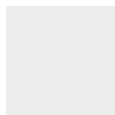
National MRC partnership update

Meetings of the MRC partners take place several times per year and provide an opportunity to exchange information on seminar topics, national developments and changes to the partnership.

This year we were delighted to receive a recommendation from our partners at the University of Bedfordshire and offered a seminar on “*Placing Disabled Children for Adoption*” by Dr. Sarah Bunt.

We were also pleased that delegates from one of our subscribers were able to attend a seminar at MRC Bedfordshire and Kings College London on deafblindness. We have now added this seminar into our regional event programme for 2014-15.





MRC York 2013-14 Programme

Making Research Count (York) is funded regionally via subscriptions from member agencies, primarily seven local authority children's and adult social services departments in the East Riding, Hull, Leeds, North East Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Wakefield and York.

Each university determines the shape of its programme, and this is largely dependent on the wishes and requirements of its subscribers, as well as what is practical and achievable within the subscription income.

The objective of Making Research Count is, however, consistent nationally in promoting knowledge-based practice in social work and social care.

Our programme includes

- Research seminars with a specific focus on children's social care
- Research seminars with a specific focus on adult social care
- Conferences and other events with a combined or broader focus
- Opportunities to take part in research initiatives and support for practice
- A quarterly newsletter
- Mailings with opportunities to access events provided by other MRC partners
- Opportunities for workforce development leads to network with regional colleagues and influence the MRC programme development

In addition to our regular subscribers, any organisation or independent individual may purchase a place at any event, subject to availability. This year a number of non-subscribing local authorities and statutory services chose to purchase places, including;

- Bradford Council
- Doncaster Council
- Kirklees Council
- South West Yorkshire Mental Health Trust
- Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health Trust.

This year we improved our marketing to the voluntary and community sector, recognising their ability to contribute to the diversity of experience of delegates at our events.

Our events often have appeal to those working in a variety of roles, e.g. family support workers, development workers, youth workers and those working in the criminal justice and youth justice systems.

Organisations attending included;

- NSPCC
- The Retreat
- The Carers Federation
- National Fostering Agency
- Rural Action Yorkshire
- The Cambridge Centre
- Mainstay
- Foundation
- Catch 22
- Gipsil
- Martin House Hospice
- York CVS
- York MIND
- Healthwatch York



- Independent Living Scheme York
- Chase Ltd
- Stockton Hall

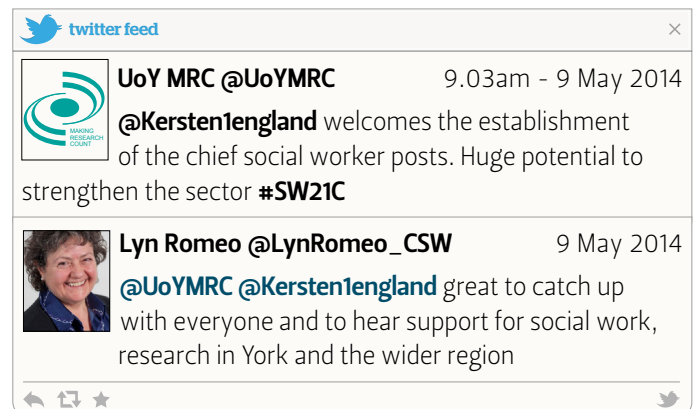
Where possible we provided bursaries to enable staff and volunteers from small voluntary organisations to take part.

We also welcomed staff and students from other academic institutions and a number of privately funded individuals.

Partners who have worked with us this year in the delivery of our events programme include;

- The Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of York
- The Social Policy Research Unit, University of York
- The International Centre for Mental Health Social Research, University of York
- Norah Fry Research Centre, University of Bristol
- University of Bedfordshire
- Kings College, London
- The University of Central Lancashire
- Cardiff University
- Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil IFST
- The McPin Foundation
- The Office of the Chief Social Workers
- The Adoption Register
- Foundation and the Springboard Project
- Mr. Mike Bush
- Mr. Chris Edmondson
- City of York Council Senior Leadership Team
- Leeds City Council

We thank them for supporting our events with their research, practitioner and policy experience and personal stories.





Events held

From September 2013 to July 2014, the following events were delivered by Making Research Count (York).

5th September 2013

Substance misuse and whole family interventions

This event covered research on 'families with parental substance misuse and child protection concerns: research evidence from a family preservation service' and 'applying evidenced based practice with complex families'.

Speakers and presenters were;

- **Sally Holland**, Reader in Social Work, Cardiff University
- **Niall Casserley**, Consultant Social Worker, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil IFST
- **Jay Goulding**, Consultant Social Worker, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil IFST

12th December 2013

Looking after ourselves; resilience and self-care in social work practitioners

This event included a presentation of recent research findings about stress and burn-out in social work.

Delegates also explored how they can develop a mindful appreciation of their own mental and emotional health needs and how

and why this needs to be integrated into their practice as social workers.

Speakers and presenters were;

- **Mike Bush**, Mental Health consultant and trainer
- **Dr. Martin Webber**, University of York

27th February 2014

Connectedness as a component of recovery

This seminar explored the findings of three research projects which focus primarily on the networks of people with mental health problems; the Connecting People study, the Community Health Networks study, and the Connected Communities action research programme.

Speakers and presenters were;

- **Dr. Martin Webber**, Reader in Social Work, and Director of the International Centre for Mental Health Social Research, University of York
- **Vanessa Pinfold**, Research Director, McPin Foundation
- **David Morris**, Professor of Mental Health, Inclusion and Community School of Social Work, University of Central Lancashire and visiting Academic Associate at the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College, London
- **Dr. Ruth Allen**, Director of Social Work, South West London & St. Georges Mental Health NHS Trust and lead of the mental health faculty of The College of Social Work



26th March 2014

Supporting young people from care to adulthood: research, policy and practice

This seminar gave participants an opportunity to explore how they can promote the resilience of young people on their pathways from care to adulthood.

Professor Mike Stein's presentation drew upon research studies of their lives in care, their transitions from care and their lives after care, including their main pathways to adulthood: moving into settled, safe, accommodation of their choice; entering further or higher education, or training; finding satisfying employment, and; achieving good health and a positive sense of well-being.

This was followed by an example of 'resilience in practice', through the work of the Springboard project. The event also introduced the Children and Young People's Research Network.

Speakers and presenters were;

- Professor Mike Stein and Professor Nina Biehal, University of York
- Kate Crosswaite, Foundation
- Tamsin Trevorow-Earl with Josh and Cassie from the Springboard Project, York

9th May 2014

Social work in the 21st Century

This seminar was held in partnership with the International Centre for Mental Health Social Research and the Office of the Chief Social Workers.

Delegates had the opportunity to debate current issues in children's and adult social work with the two chief social workers and with a panel of directors of services from across the region.

There were also presentations from two PhD students from the International Centre for Mental Health Social Research on self-disclosure in mental health and parenting assessments.

Speakers and presenters were;

- Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker for Children
- Lyn Romeo, Chief Social Worker for Adults
- Martin Webber, Jonny Lovell and Tracee Green, International Centre for Mental Health Social Research
- Kersten England, Chief Executive, City of York Council
- Paul Edmondson-Jones, Director of Public Health and Deputy Chief Executive, City of York Council
- Eoin Rush, Assistant Director, City of York Council
- Saleem Tariq, Chief Officer, Children's Social Work Service, Leeds City Council

22nd May 2014

Council managed personal budgets: developments in the home care market and the role of brokers

This seminar focused on findings from a small number of recent interviews with commissioning managers and council brokers.



The purpose of these interviews was to update knowledge about developments in the home care market and explore the role of brokers in facilitating the matching of older people's preferences with supply.

Speakers and presenters were;

- Kate Baxter, University of York
- Parveen Rabiee, University of York

12th June 2014

Placing disabled children for adoption

This seminar focused on;

- impression-managing a disabled child's identity in adoption
- matching the needs of disabled children with adoptive families
- unearthing motive in adopting a disabled child
- outcomes and best practice in family finding for disabled children.

Speakers and presenters were;

- Dr. Sarah Bunt, University of Bedfordshire
- Andy Stott, The Adoption Register

26th June 2014

Taking on and taking over; physically disabled young adults and their care and support arrangements

This seminar disseminated two sets of research findings; 'taking on and taking over; physically disabled young adults and their care and support arrangements' and 'men living with long-term conditions'.

Speakers and presenters were;

- Fiona Aspinall and Wendy Mitchell, University of York
- Chris Edmondson
- David Abbott, Norah Fry Research Centre, University of Bristol

9th July 2014

Does personalisation affect service users' levels of risk?

This workshop presented findings from a study which aimed to answer these questions using national and local data, and interviews with practitioners and service users.

Delegates had the opportunity to reflect on these findings together, to consider the implications for practice and identify key learning points that can be utilised to continue to improve social care practice, promote service user independence, and minimise risks to service users.





Speakers and presenters were;

- Dr. Fiona Aspinall, University of York
- Dr. Martin Stevens, Kings College, London



Impact and evaluation

We evaluate all our events and design our programme based on feedback from delegates. We are keen to follow up on the impact on practice and this year are selecting a number of events for more detailed impact assessment.

-  *The content was rated excellent or good by 89.5% of delegates*
-  *98.5% of delegates had clear plans to disseminate their learning to colleagues*
-  *77% of delegates found the research useful or highly useful in helping them to think about how research could inform their practice*
-  *84% of delegates rated the quality of the research presentations as excellent or very good*

Feedback

The following is a selection of quotes from delegates attending events:

-  *Very informative, brilliant to hear from an end user/first-hand experience*
-  *Instigated a major debate to take back to our team*
-  *I am summarising the afternoon to the senior leadership team in the near future, will provide the handouts and web links*
-  *Will definitely apply directly in practice*
-  *As always, very thought provoking but with some solutions*
-  *Wide reaching and very informative. The slides I feel can be used on their own as very self-explanatory with good information*
-  *Interesting event helps you think more in depth, highlighted that we are doing some good work incorporating relevant areas*
-  *Topics really relevant to social care role, and has given me a lot to consider and share with colleagues*
-  *Workshop 1: really interesting and really good way of managing it. Workshop 2: good discussion group, really well managed and really relaxed and productive. Fabulous day all round*



Programme delivery

The following events have been booked for the 2014-15 programme.

We continually work with our subscribers to identify any further learning and development needs and areas of interest and welcome suggestions for future events. Events in 2014-15 will be delivered in York, Leeds and Hull in response to demand.

10th September 2014

Troubled families; research, policy and practice

Aniela Wenham, University of York and Steve Crossley, Durham University take an in depth look at the Troubled Families programme and implications for practitioners.

18th September 2014

Does palliative care need its own advanced care plan?

A range of colleagues from the hospice movement and academic institutions have worked with us to design and develop this new partnership, aimed at our existing subscribers as well as hospice staff and those working in related settings.

15th October 2014

Roma: employment and routes to inclusion in the UK

Professor Peter Dwyer, University of York, and colleagues from Salford University present their latest research findings.

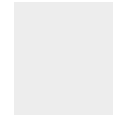
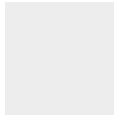
This Seminar will bring together key findings from some of the latest comparative empirical research in the field of Roma inclusion, with a specific focus on employment. It will provide a greater understanding of experiences of Roma, focusing specifically on their perceptions of the key barriers to accessing employment.

4th November 2014

Thriving and surviving in social work

Staff from University of York Department of Social Policy and Social Work and a range of partner organisations come together to offer a full day of continuous professional development.

Speakers and workshops will focus on the latest research and practice, with topics including different models of adult safeguarding, corporate parenting, recruitment and retention of children and family social workers, secondary trauma and resilience in social work, and serious case reviews.



3rd December 2014

Best safeguarding practice in residential care and supported living services for adults with learning disabilities

In this interactive seminar Dr Rachel Fyson, School of Sociology & Social Policy, University of Nottingham will report some of the findings from a research study which examined the extent to which support staff in residential care and supported living services share a consistent understanding of what constitutes poor or abusive practice when working with adults with learning disabilities.

28th January 2015

Do crisis services have all the answers in crisis care?

This event takes a close look at the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat. Workshops on preventative and emergency care will be available, alongside research presentations and key speakers. Keynote speaker Andy McNicoll, Community Editor of Community Care, will speak on "Investigating an under-pressure mental health system."

4th February 2015

Neglected teenagers: research, policy and practice

A qualified social worker, Professor Mike Stein has worked as a probation officer, a senior child care officer and an area manager in a social services department.

His research interests include the challenges faced by young people leaving care, the experiences of vulnerable young people, including young people running away from home and care and maltreated and neglected teenagers.

We are delighted to welcome Mike back to MRC to present some of his most recent research.

12th February 2015

Special guardianship; investigating experiences, outcomes and challenges

Led by Jim Wade, Senior Research Fellow in the Social Policy Research Unit, University of York. This seminar will focus on understanding how the policy and practice of local authorities is evolving, and will chart the experiences of guardians and their children.

23rd April 2015

Deafblindness

Presented by Peter Simcock of Staffordshire University. Deafblindness has been described as a complex and severe impairment, and Deafblind people as some of the most vulnerable in society.

This workshop will explore this unique impairment and its implications for service-users and social work practitioners.

The session will draw on the presenter's research and practice experience to consider the importance of social work and social care for adults who are Deafblind.



11th June 2015

Life story work in dementia

Everybody has a life story. These are rich and varied and can be used to communicate who we are to the people around us.

People with dementia sometimes need help to communicate their histories and identities, and 'life story work' might provide a way for them to do this more easily. Researchers from the Social Policy Research Unit at the University of York and their partners are currently researching this and will present their findings.

22nd June 2015

Ten years of the Mental Capacity Act; capturing experience

Presented by Jill Manthorpe, Professor of Social Work at King's College London, Director of the Social Care Workforce Research Unit and NIHR Senior Investigator Emeritus. This seminar is in direct response to requests from delegates at previous events. Jill has published widely on the Mental Capacity Act, dementia, palliative care and more, and has her finger on the pulse of social work practice.

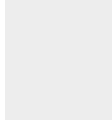
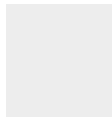
Plans for 2014-15

The University of York is confident that Making Research Count offers a valuable service to social work and social care practitioners.

We are actively seeking new subscribers, not only to sustain the programme but to broaden the range of skills and experience available to delegates at our events.

Our future plans include a responsive offer that will meet the CPD needs of staff, whether employed in local authority, health or voluntary and community settings. This reflects the increasing nature of multi-disciplinary and partnership working in the field.

During 2014-15 we have secured funding from the University of York to take research from the Department of Social Policy and Social Work out to the workplace. If you are interested in having a researcher attend a team meeting or provide you with a bespoke event, do get in touch.



Contact us

Academic Lead

Dr. Martin Webber - Social work practice and research enquiries

Martin.webber@york.ac.uk

01904 321203

Regional Co-ordinator

Angela Portz - Subscription enquiries and programme design

Angela.portz@york.ac.uk

01904 321237

Programme Administration

psw-mrc@york.ac.uk

Booking and event administration queries

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