Foreword

The past year has been a busy one for Making Research Count at York. We arranged 13 events for social workers in the Yorkshire and Humber region to engage with the latest research findings on a diverse set of topics.

Practitioners discussed new evidence in varied practice fields, including palliative care, child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, safeguarding and the mental health Crisis Care Concordat, for example. 95% of delegates found the content of the events to be ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’.

Our aim at Making Research Count is to disseminate research findings as widely as possible to inform social work practice. We were pleased, therefore, that 98% of delegates had plans to disseminate the research to colleagues.

However, we want to do more to support practitioners to engage with research. Continuing public sector austerity has led to posts being cut with an increasing burden being placed on the remaining practitioners as their caseloads grow. Many find taking time to attend Making Research Count seminars or events increasingly difficult.

Therefore, we are looking for different ways of engaging practitioners in new research which informs their practice. One method has been to come to workplaces to hold seminars at lunchtimes or other convenient times. Another has been to increase the number of speakers at some events to maximise the learning gained from them. If you have any ideas, please let us know.

Finally, if your agency has filled up all its allocated places at an event, please ask your representative to get in touch with us as we may be able to provide some additional places. Subscribers always receive preferential rates, so it’s best to make full use of your MRC subscription.

I wish to thank Angela and Lisa, and all those who help out at events, for making last year so successful. Our programme for 2015-16 looks really exciting. I look forward to welcoming you to one of our events soon.

Professor Martin Webber
We are pleased to have worked with a number of local authorities across Yorkshire and Humber this year, including:

- City of York Council
- North Yorkshire County Council
- North East Lincolnshire Council
- Hull City Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Leeds City Council
- Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
- Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council

We have also welcomed delegates from health and social care services including:

- South West Yorkshire Mental Health Trust
- Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health Trust
- NHS Partnership Commissioning Unit
- Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale Mental Health Trust
- Leeds and York Partnership NHS Trust
- Focus Independent Social Work
- Windermere House Hospital
- Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- NHS England

Lori Goosen, London Borough of Bexley, speaking about secondary trauma and resilience in social work at Thriving and Surviving in Social Work event, November 2014
Involving the voluntary and community sector

Our bursary scheme to encourage voluntary and community groups and charities to take part in our events has enabled the following organisations to participate in Making Research Count.

- Mainstay
- Avalon Group
- York People First
- Advocacy Alliance
- Martin House Hospice
- Lindsey Lodge Hospice
- Overgate Hospice
- St. Gemma’s Hospice
- Dove House Hospice
- Rotherham Hospice
- St. Luke’s Hospice
- Ashgate Hospice
- Wheatfields Hospice
- Bradford Hospice
- Keighley Hospice
- St. Catherine’s Hospice
- Community Links
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Clarence Gardens Association
- York Travellers Trust
- York Racial Equality Network
- Apna Haq
- Mesmac
- Romania Gateway
- BID Services
- York Blind and Partially Sighted Society
- Guide Dogs for the Blind
- My Sight Nottinghamshire
- Leeds Dementia Action Alliance
- Lifestory Network
- Healthwatch York
- Carers Resource
- Every Child Leaving Care Matters
- The Children’s Society
- Sight Cymru
- Vision 2020
- Blind Veterans UK
- Galloway Society for the Blind

The following academic institutions also attended to hear about our work.
- Liverpool Hope University
- Southport College
- Durham University
- Teeside University
- University of Salford
- University of Essex

We are privileged to be able to draw on the support of many talented colleagues at the University of York, who have supported the delivery of our programme by presenting their own research.

We would like to thank;
- Dr. Aniela Wenham
- Dr. Jenni Brooks
- Kate Gridley
- Dr. Simon Cauvain
- Jim Wade
- Professor Mike Stein
- Jo Dixon
- Dr. Katie Graham
- Professor Peter Dwyer
Partners and supporters

We have also had the generous support of speakers from a range of external organisations, including academic institutions and research bodies, local authorities, the police, the media, and voluntary groups and charities.

We thank the following people and organisations for sharing their research, their views and their personal and practitioner experiences.

- Stephen Crossley, University of Durham
- Professor Jill Manthorpe, Kings College London
- Jean Tottie, Life Story Network
- Dave Brown, Migration Yorkshire
- Milena Stateva and Laura Stock, Tavistock Institute of Human Relations
- Dr. Lucie Shuker and Dr. Camille Warrington, The International Centre: Researching Child Sexual Exploitation, Violence and Trafficking, University of Bedfordshire
- Professor Bridget Featherstone, The Open University
- Peter Simcock, Staffordshire University
- Phil Raws and Abdou Sidibe, The Children’s Society
- Inspector Michael Brown, The College of Policing
- Christian Walsh, Leeds City Council
- Andy McNichol, Community Care
- Dr. Rachel Fyson, University of Nottingham
- Bryn Lloyd-Evans, University College London
- Jemima Burnage, Care Quality Commission
- Lori Goossen, London Borough of Bexley
- Professor Gary Craig, University of Durham
- Professor Phil Brown, University of Salford
- Dr. Mike Stockton and Kathryn Black, St. Gemma’s Hospice
- Dr. Jan Aldridge, Martin House Children’s Hospice
- Dr. Anna Wolkowski and Anne English, Dove House Hospice
- Dr. Victoria Lidstone, University Hospital of Wales
- Dr. Louis Bailey, Centre for End of Life Studies, University of Hull
## Evaluation

### Percentage of delegates who...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Found the content and quality of delivery by presenters to be excellent or very good</th>
<th>Had plans to disseminate the research to colleagues</th>
<th>Found the research highly useful or useful in relation to how it would inform their practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Troubled families</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palliative care</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roma inclusion and employment</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thriving and Surviving in Social work</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safeguarding adults with learning disabilities</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisis Care Concordat</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglected teenagers</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special guardianship</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual impairment and deafblindness</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic abuse</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child sexual exploitation</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life story work in dementia care</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten years of the Mental Capacity Act</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average for the year</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **372** delegates attended events
- **95%** rated the content and quality of presenters to be excellent or very good
- **98%** had plans to disseminate the research to colleagues
- **89%** found the research highly useful or useful in relation to how it would inform their practice
Events held

18th September 2014, Leeds
Does palliative care need its own advanced care plan?
A range of colleagues from the hospice movement and academic institutions worked with us to design and develop this event to support our existing subscribers, hospice staff and those working in related settings.

15th October 2014, York
Roma: employment and routes to inclusion in the UK
Professor Peter Dwyer, University of York, and colleagues from Salford University presented their latest research findings to a broad audience of local, regional, national and overseas delegates.

4th November 2014, York
Thriving and surviving in social work
Staff from University of York Department of Social Policy and Social Work and a range of partner organisations delivered a full day of continuous professional development.

3rd December 2014, York
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 reported 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.

Continued on page 8

Andy McNichol, Community Care speaking about investigating an under-pressure mental health system, January 2015

10th September 2014, York
Troubled families; research, policy and practice
Aniela Wenham of the University of York and Stephen Crossley, of the University of Durham engaged practitioners with an in-depth analysis of the Troubled Families programme.

Speakers and workshops focused 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.
Events held

4th February 2015
Neglected teenagers: research, policy and practice
Professor Mike Stein presented messages from research on adolescent neglect, alongside Phil Raws and Abdul Sidibe of the Children’s Society who presented early findings from new research on parenting behaviours and negelect.

23rd April 2015
Visual impairment and Deafblindness
Parvaneh Rabiee of the Social Policy Research Unit at the University of York, presented her recently completed study “Vision Rehabilitation Services: what is the evidence?”, looking at community-based rehabilitation services funded by local authorities.

The overall aim of this study was to provide an overview of the evidence base for community-based vision rehabilitation services, exploring how these services are currently supporting people with visual impairment and what outcomes they are likely to achieve.

13th May 2015, York
Working with Domestic Abuse
Professor Brid Featherstone, from the Faculty of Health and Social Care Research at the Open University engaged delegates with debate on how domestic abuse is dealt with in child protection processes – the implications for mothers and children, and the challenges and possibilities of working in partnership with families.

18th May 2015, York
Child sexual exploitation
This event was presented by Dr. Lucie Shuker, Research Fellow, and Camille Warrington, Young People’s Participation Development Officer, at The International Centre for Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Young People, at the University of Bedfordshire.

They spoke about challenges to disclosure and identification, consent, victimhood and agency, providing messages from research on effective practice, with an emphasis on children’s rights.

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 presented their interim findings. Delegates heard the powerful story of Jean Tottie of the Life Story Network, who spoke about her father’s life story.

22nd June 2015, York
Ten years of the Mental Capacity Act; capturing experience
Jill Manthorpe, Professor of Social Work Director of the Social Care Workforce Research Unit, Kings College London, closed our 2014-15 programme with an evaluation of the past ten years of the Mental Capacity Act. Jill walked delegates back in time to 2005 and engaging them in lively debate about the policy and legal changes they have experienced.

Our 2015-16 programme begins in September 2015 with:

22nd September 2015, York
Safeguarding children and young people; messages from research, implications for practice

6th October 2015, Hull
Adults social care; messages from research, implications for practice

3rd December 2015, Wakefield
Advocacy and models of empowerment

25th February 2016, Hull
Developing an approach to engaging fathers in social care

Full details are on our website

Feedback

“Venue and hospitality excellent, quality resources.”

“Good to have knowledgeable speakers, enthusiastic about their subject and happy to share personal experiences as well as practice.”

“As a newly qualified social worker it was interesting to see how research can be best implemented in practice.”

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

“Engaging, interesting and relevant. Great to listen to such a captivating speaker.”

“Not a word wasted! Brilliant. Could have listened all day.”
Contact us

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss becoming a subscriber to Making Research Count or to make a booking for a forthcoming event.

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