

# Making Research Count

## Social Work in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2014

### Overview

This event will provide an opportunity to hear from the two Chief Social Workers for England, providing delegates with the opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities for social work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Delegates will also hear about the work of the International Centre for Mental Health Social Research at the University of York including two PhD projects being undertaken by social workers.

### The Speakers

#### **Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker for Children and Families**

Isabelle Trowler qualified as a social worker from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1996. She has worked within the voluntary and statutory sectors both in education and social care settings, and in a variety of practice and leadership roles. Over the last 7 years, initially as the Assistant Director of Children's Social Care in Hackney and later as Director of Morning Lane Associates. She co-founded a new model of delivering child and family social work in the UK called 'Reclaiming Social Work' and more commonly referred to as 'Hackney model'. She also advised [Eileen Munro's review of child protection in England](#) about the redesign of children and families social work.

#### **Lyn Romeo, Chief Social Worker for Adults**

Lyn Romeo qualified as a social worker from the University of New South Wales, Australia, in 1978. She has worked in health and statutory sectors in a variety of practice, leadership, inspection and management roles. Previously, Lyn worked as the Assistant Director for Adult Social Care in the London Borough of Camden, an inspector with the Social Services Inspectorate, and for over 20 years worked in Yorkshire as both a field social worker and in a variety of management roles across children and adults. Over the last 8 years, she led and managed adult social care services, joint commissioning arrangements with the local clinical commissioning group and integrated service provision with the local mental health, learning disability and primary care services.

#### **Dr Martin Webber, Reader in Social Work at the University of York**

Martin Webber is Director of the International Centre for Mental Health Social Research in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work and Academic Lead for Making Research Count at York. His research interests are in the development and evaluation of social interventions for people with mental health problems and the development of the evidence base for mental health social work and social care practice. He is a registered social worker and maintains close connections with practice.

### **Forensic Parenting Assessments using Parenting Assessment Manual Software and Better Outcomes; Tracee Green**

**Brief Summary of Research:** Forensic parenting assessments assess parents and their ability to meet their children's needs within the court process and often contribute towards answering the question of whether parental rights should be terminated. Despite best practice methods presented through literature on these assessments, the specific approaches for undertaking these assessments vary greatly – impacting on the quality of these assessments. This research will look specifically at Parenting Assessment Manual Software (PAMS) assessments and whether PAMS assessments provide an acceptable and effective standardisation to non-PAMS assessments.

**Brief Biography:** While undertaking her research and PhD part-time at the University of York, Tracee also works part-time as a Social Worker in London. She has been qualified for 12 years and during this time has been involved in the development and continued modification of her team's Parenting Assessment Service, and has been undertaking Forensic Parenting Assessments under Public Law Outline and Care Proceedings. Though her team has used various pieces of relevant literature in the development of the service over the years, she has been surprised by how little was known about what similar services provided. During preliminary investigations, she was further surprised by how many different approaches were used in the completion of Forensic Parenting Assessments. Some of these approaches raised concern about the quality of assessments being produced and some stretched and improved her own (and her team's) practice.

### **Sharing Lived Experience in Mental Health Interventions; Jonny Lovell**

**Brief Summary of Research:** There is debate among mental health professionals about the sharing of lived experience in practice interventions, with Peer Mentors sharing their mental health status and experiences widely on a daily basis, while some practitioners regard self-disclosure as unprofessional or unhelpful. Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and the International Centre for Mental Health Social Research are undertaking research to explore how a range of different mental health professionals and service users feel about the sharing of lived experience by practitioners. It is anticipated that this research will lead to the production of training and guidance to help professionals make decisions about what to share, when, and for what purpose.

**Brief Biography:** Jonny has worked in the voluntary sector since 1996 with children, young people, and adults in a wide variety of settings, as a project worker and as a manager. In 2011 he returned to education to undertake the MA in Social Work at the University of York, graduating in 2013. His dissertation involved original research on self-disclosure of sexual orientation by social workers with clients, which led to the opportunity to undertake the PhD he started in October 2013. This research, previous research, and research updates are available online at: [jonnylovellblog.wordpress.com](http://jonnylovellblog.wordpress.com)