Book of Abstracts

13th ISPCAN
European Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect 2013

15th – 18th of September 2013
DoubleTree by Hilton Dublin
Dublin, Ireland
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Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Irish Local Organising Committee and the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN), it is our pleasure as Conference Co-Chairs to welcome you to the 13th ISPCAN European Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

We are excited by the interest shown in the conference and the support we have received from engaged presenters, conference sponsors and yourselves as delegates. It is this support which has allowed us to put together a packed program and a schedule of presentations which addresses a wide range of current and important issues. These include innovative approaches to child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention; new research findings; and emerging policy initiatives.

As delegates, we hope you will make the most of the opportunities the conference affords to discuss new challenges and emerging topics which may well contribute to innovative national and international responses.

Dublin is a perfect context to host what we hope will be a stimulating and thought provoking event. It is a vibrant and modern capital city with a unique literary, cultural and historical legacy. The city is compact and easy to explore and is also close to stunning natural scenery and historic sites in nearby counties. After the conference ends there are plenty of beauty spots to explore and reflect, or not, on the days you have spent with colleagues at the conference.

So all that remains for us to do is to welcome you to Dublin and the Conference, which we hope will prove to be a stimulating and rewarding event.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Kevin Lalor
Conference Co-Chair
Local Organising Committee

Dr. Victoria Lidchi
Conference Co-Chair
ISPCAN
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Keynote Presentations
KN1
Trauma sensitive communication with parents of maltreated children
18:15, 15 September 2013: Landsdowne

Prof. Peter Adriaenssens (KU University of Leuven)

Biography
Peter Adriaenssens (1954) is Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the KU University of Leuven (Belgium) since 1993. He is clinical director of the Crisis Intervention Unit of the department of Child Psychiatry and director of the Confidential Child Abuse & Neglect Centre at the University Hospital Leuven. His research and publications cover the field of child & trauma, parenting, community child psychiatry.

Abstract
We are conscious about the incidence of trauma related pathology in children, and we know that the prevalence of traumatic stress in the lives of their parents is extraordinarily high. Nevertheless, we remain surprised when parents are not cooperative, avoid our supportive care or threaten professionals. In regards to communication, it must be kept in mind how they adapted to difficult life-events. Often these parents have experienced on-going trauma throughout their lives in the form of childhood abuse and neglect, exposure to domestic violence, to transgenerational community violence, relational problems, poverty, lack of safety and sense of security. These experiences have a significant impact on how these parents think, feel, behave, relate to others, and cope with future experiences. They have learned to adapt to these traumatic circumstances in order to survive, but their ways of coping interact negatively when communicating with caregivers and other professionals.

It is clear that understanding the underlying mechanisms of their non-cooperative communication style is essential to provide better care for their children. For this reason we utilize trauma sensitive communication skills. In order to respond empathetically to the needs of these parents/trauma survivors, to ensure their physical and emotional safety, to develop realistic treatment goals and, at the very least, to simultaneously guarantee a proper and protective approach to their child, all practices must be provided through the lens of trauma knowledge.
Biography

Dr. David Wolfe is a psychologist and author specializing in issues affecting children and youth. He holds the inaugural RBC Chair in Children’s Mental Health at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), where he is Head of the CAMH Centre for Prevention Science located in London, Ontario. He is a Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at the University of Toronto, and former Editor-in-Chief of Child Abuse & Neglect: The International Journal. Dr. Wolfe has broad research and clinical interests in abnormal child and adolescent psychology, with a special focus on child abuse, domestic violence, and developmental psychopathology. He is internationally known for his work on child abuse and violence prevention, especially regarding the impact of early childhood trauma on later development in childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood. Dr. Wolfe has been pioneering new approaches to preventing many societal youth problems such as bullying, relationship violence, and substance abuse. His research team developed and evaluated the school-based Fourth R program to promote healthy relationships and reduce violence and abuse among youth, which is widely used across North America.

Abstract

This keynote presentation takes a forward-looking approach to preventing child abuse and related forms of personal violence by examining current and emerging approaches to intervention and prevention. This perspective focuses on factors common to child abuse, exposure to domestic violence, adolescent dating violence, and partner violence, and presents ways to connect these common risk factors to form a practical approach to prevention. School-based universal education is discussed as a feasible, effective, and necessary strategy to reduce the incidence of child-, family- and partner-violence. Practical examples of ways to integrate skills-based lessons into existing school curricula are described, along with the expanding evidence base.
KN3
Child orientation – a contested concept or a "wicked problem"?
13:30, 16 September 2013: Landsdowne
Marit Skivenes (University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway)

Biography
Professor Marit Skivenes (b. 1968) completed her PhD in political science in 2002 on a thesis evaluating the child welfare law in light of a deliberative perspective, and has in her research been concerned with theoretical and normative issues as well as the legitimacy challenges facing the child welfare system’s responsibility of children at risk. Using argumentation theory, she has contributed to the development of a framework for analysing and evaluating political programmes and decision-making processes. Skivenes has published numerous works on child welfare and broader welfare issues, as well as the impact of communication and publicity in theory and practice. Alone or in collaboration with others she has published articles in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters and a book that has been peer-reviewed, and in addition reports, chapters in reports and feature journals. Skivenes regularly publishes her scientific results for a broader audience in feature articles in major Norwegian papers. She has broad experience in leading projects, supervising students at different levels, teaching and lecturing.

Abstract
The aim of this presentation is to identify the meaning of the concept of "child orientation" for the purpose of discussing how such an orientation can be understood in policy and practice. On one hand, there is a general agreement on what is considered "child orientation," but on the other hand there is a wide range of definitions and understandings within the research community, as well as within policy and practice. Clearly, a reason for the pluralism of opinions is that the concept is a good candidate for being an essentially contested concept— a concept that can involve many meanings in terms of its content, in combination with a sense of dogmatism related to the idea. However, we can also ask whether a child orientation is a "wicked problem," i.e. a problem whose solutions require a huge change or reorientation in opinions, or whether measures to implement this orientation have negative, unintended consequences. The challenging question, whether a child orientation is essentially contested or wicked, or both, is how to deal with the concept in policy and practice. The talk ends with a few suggestions on how to deal with this challenge.
Hindsight, Foresight and Historical Judgement: The Cascading Problem of Child Sexual Abuse within the Catholic Church

09:00, 17 September 2013: Landsdowne

Dr Marie Keenan (UCD)

Biography

Dr. Marie Keenan is a Social Worker, Systemic Psychotherapist and Researcher who is a College Lecturer in the School of Applied Social Science, UCD, and is the current Chairperson of the Family Therapy Association of Ireland. She is also on the Advisory Board of the Criminology Institute, UCD. Before taking up a teaching and research position at UCD Dr. Keenan worked for more than twenty years as a social worker and psychotherapist. Some of the settings in which Dr. Keenan worked include Lambeth Social Services, Brixton, London; Psychiatric Unit of Cork Regional Hospital; Learning Disability Services, Warwick, England; Cluain Mhuire Adolescent Psychiatric Service; Probation and Welfare Service, of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform; The Rutland Addiction Treatment Centre; The Granada Institute, Dublin (which offered services for victims and perpetrators of sexual crime) and in her own private practice.

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to deepen understanding of the cascading problem of child sexual abuse within the Catholic Church. The author argues that the past is not an isolated static state, but one that is complexly interwoven with present politic and changing conditions, to produce heroes and villians, saints and devils. Arguing that there are several biases that influence perceptions and conceptions of the past the paper searches for constants and variants in the Catholic Church and the societal context to understand child sexual abuse by Catholic clergy and the response of the Catholic hierarchy to this problem. Based on empirical research and an analysis of the international landscape of this most global of global organizations, the problem of child sexual abuse within the Catholic Church is presented as both systemic and individual with unique and typical features of other organizations in which child sexual abuse has come to be known.
KN5
How do we get through this mess? Developing and using best evidence to inform practice

14:00, 17 September 2013: Landsdowne

Prof Aron Schlonsky (University of Toronto)

Biography
Aron Shlonsky is Associate Professor and Factor-Inwentash Chair in Child Welfare at the University of Toronto, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, director of the Ph.D. program, and Scientific Director of the Ontario Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (OCANSD). Prior to his appointment at University of Toronto, he spent a number of years as a child protective services worker, sexual abuse therapist, and substance abuse counselor in Los Angeles. His professional interests center largely on child welfare and include risk assessment, kinship foster care, and sibling relationships in out-of-home care. His interests also extend to evidence-informed practice, systematic reviews, and evaluation research. He is co-author with Duncan Lindsey of ‘Child Welfare Research: Advances for Child Welfare Practice and Policy’ (2008, Oxford University Press), with Michael Saini of ‘Systematic Synthesis of Qualitative Research’ (2011, Oxford University Press), and has authored and co-authored numerous manuscripts appearing in scholarly journals and books highlighting the use of actuarial tools in child welfare settings, the predictors and effects of sibling separation in foster care, issues surrounding kinship foster care, the implementation of subsidized legal guardianship for relative caregivers, and the teaching and implementation of evidence-informed practice.

Abstract
Beginning in the late 1990’s with Eileen Gambrill’s positioning of Evidence-based medicine as a model for practice in the helping professions, academics have been arguing about the definition of Evidence-informed Practice (EIP), and whether and how it can be implemented in social care. There is little doubt that the generation and use of evidence in practice is a social justice issue; that to formulate, recommend, decide upon or even deliver social services requires a commitment to using the very best evidence at our disposal. In all likelihood, few would argue this point. But actually identifying and delivering effective services can be a difficult proposition. How do we make this happen? What types of evidence should be used and when? How do we anticipate and measure outcomes in complex social service systems? How can professionals make use of evidence in ways that enhance their skills? How do we avoid the trap of focusing on outputs instead of outcomes? This talk uses an evidence-informed practice framework to describe how an outcomes-oriented approach, implemented well, can lead to the identification and implementation of effective services and policies. Specifically, it will describe how information collected at the local, regional, and state levels can be utilized to develop outcomes reporting systems that monitor individual client progress for practitioners as well as overall program performance for social care agencies, moving toward data-integrated implementation of effective programs and practices in child welfare. Case examples from the province of Ontario in Canada and the Northern Territory of Australia will be used to illustrate the model.
KN6
Child sexual abuse primary prevention: What we need to know to stop the hidden epidemics

11:00, 18 September 2013: Landsdowne

Alberto Pellai (Milano State University, School of Medicine)

Biography

Alberto Pellai is a MD with a specialisation in Preventive Medicine and a PhD in Public Health. He is also a child psychotherapist. He works as a researcher in public health at the Medical School of Milano State University and as a psychotherapist in private practice. He has created the child sexual abuse prevention programme named "Le parole non dette" which is the best known and popular prevention programme for school-based child sexual abuse primary prevention in Italy. This programme has been adopted by ASPI in Switzerland as the official prevention programme targeting primary schools and, thanks to the EU Daphne project, has been replicated in four different European countries in the past two years. Dr. Pellai has authored many scientific papers and books for teachers, parents and children. In 2004, the Italian Ministry of Health awarded him with the Silver Medal for Public Health for his unique and innovative contribution to the field of primary prevention.

Abstract

Sexual abuse is a problem impacting the psychosocial development of many children all over the world. There are still many controversies around how to define sexual abuse against children due to cultural and political issues. To date we are still lacking a consistent and universally recognized definition of sexual abuse in the literature. Epidemiological studies have demonstrated that sexual abuse is spread across all demographic, ethnic and family groups, in both males and females, and perpetrators can include those outside the family as well as within it. In the last decade the whole new phenomenon of Internet based sexual offending against minors has brought new challenges for those working both in the clinical and prevention field. In a global world, most of the victims of child sexual abuse still remain silent, alone and do not get help. At the same time, most children and teens do not receive the basic sexual education, prevention information and life skills that they need to grow up healthy, safe and happy. And after promoting programmes targeting children, there is growing evidence that also perpetrators need to become a target for prevention. If they are detected, recognized and helped at an early stage of their abusing career, control recovery and extinguishment of their sexual drives toward children can be promoted effectively and with positive long term effects.

What can we do to decrease the victimization risk of new generations? Are the digital natives more protected or more at risk for child sexual abuse? What should parents and teachers know and do to promote the prevention we are in need of nowadays? What can we learn from the latest advances in the fields of psychology, pedagogy, and neurosciences to create and develop better programmes to prevent child sexual abuse? These and other issues will be faced and challenged during the plenary run by Alberto Pellai.
Reform in a Cold Climate: Reflections on the Complexity of Managing Change in a Time of Austerity

12:00, 18 September 2013: Landsdowne

Gordon Jeyes (HSE)

Biography

Mr. Gordon Jeyes is currently the National Director for the HSE Children and Family Services in Ireland. He joined Cambridgeshire County Council in 2005 and held the posts of Deputy Chief Executive in charge of the Office of Children and Young Peoples’ Services. Prior to that he was the UK’s first Director of Children’s Services and has provided advice to governments in Scotland and at Westminster on the development of Children’s Services. Mr. Jeyes was Chair of the Anti-Bullying Network and a member of the SEED Review Group on Youth Crime. He was a member of the Ministerial Strategy Group on Continuing Professional Development (Teachers) and the National Youth Justice Strategy Steering Group. Mr. Jeyes also led the critical incident response to the Dunblane school massacre in 1996.

Abstract

This presentation is a narrative reflection by ‘a blow in’ on the management of change in a national children’s system. It explores initiatives to modernise a system of services for children in the context of:

- Financial restraint
- Cultural complexity
- A range of highly critical reports with many diverse recommendations

Initial observations will be based on the presenter’s own experience in Children Services since 1999. This includes service delivery within Scotland based on full service school and community engagement as well as experience as a Westminster advisor on Every Child Matters and the development of the English Children’s Trust and Safeguarding Board approach.

Tom Peters, management guru, always maintained that culture eats strategy for breakfast. Strategy in Ireland has struggled for breath given the range of cultural issues including:

- The complex relationship between Church and State in terms of service delivery and the issue of culpability in previous child protection scandals.
- Integration of children’s services within a health system which lacked public credibility and within which children’s services was somewhat of a Cinderella, lacking clear lines of accountability.
- A wide range of reports into child deaths and serious incidents leading to multiple recommendations and public concern and criticism. This culminated in issues of capacity, capability and credibility.
- At the beginning of this reform process in 2011 there was a change of government and a commitment to have children and young people services represented at the Cabinet table and in a separate department. This also included a commitment to establish a Child & Family Agency as a legal entity separate from the health service.

The start of the reform process was to examine the various reports, rationalise the working groups and initiatives and produce a coherent change management programme “Vision into Practice”. This was done against a background of:

- Severe financial restraint and loss of economic sovereignty
- Significant recruitment and restructuring restrictions
- Disaggregation from a large health service, itself under serious financial and reform pressures.

The establishment of the Child & Family Agency should be seen as a part of the continuum of reform with the corporate re-design reinforcing:

- Enhanced accountability
- Greater consistency
- More transparency

Central to this is a debate about the most effective way of managing referrals in a children’s services model and in a manner that is efficient, effective and proportionate. The creation of a standard delivery framework seeking to ensure a service for each according to their needs, strengthening community interventions and standardising the process for directive interventions is the key to well developed children’s services discussed within this debate.

This presentation will conclude with a summary of current key aspects of reform including Agency establishment, court reform and efforts to establish a baseline of intervention regarding cost and effectiveness.
Symposium
Presentations
OS01.001
Adapting a promising multi-faceted child maltreatment preventive intervention to respond to differences in target populations
11:00, 16 September 2013: Landsdowne
Diane Depanfilis, Frederick Strieder, Kathryn Collins, Pamela Clarkson Freeman, Theresa Costello
Implementing evidence-informed practices requires a “goodness of fit” with the target problem and population (Fixsen, et al., 2005). Adapting and then implementing promising practices requires a good “fit” while still implementing the core components of an intervention with fidelity. This symposium presents a framework for adapting and replicating a promising multi-faceted family strengthening intervention designed to prevent child maltreatment (DePanfilis & Dubowitz, 2005) by tailoring the intervention to individual communities and target populations (Paper 1). Informed by prevention science (DePanfilis, 2009), implementation science (Proctor, et al, 2011), and intervention research (Fraser, et al., (2009), this symposium further outlines the process used to specifically adapt the assessment and intervention process for parents and children who present with trauma symptoms (Collins, et al., 2011) (Paper 2), were grandparent caregivers versus parent caregivers (Sharpe, et al., 2009) (Paper 3), or when children were already determined to be unsafe by Child Protective Services (Paper 4). All papers will present the methods used to adapt the interventions and participants will observe a contrast between logic models, inclusion criteria, selected assessment measures, and intervention components as well as methods used to monitor fidelity. As available, preliminary results of these adapted interventions will be compared to the original demonstration results related to the reduction of risk factors (parental depressive symptoms, parenting stress, every day stress), the enhancement of protective factors (parenting attitudes, parenting competence-satisfaction, social support), and the achievement of child safety (observed physical and psychological care and CPS reports), and child behavior (externalizing and internalizing) outcomes. The co-authors have extensive experience in intervention and implementation research and will provide links to references for further reading.

OS01.002
Adapting a promising multi-faceted child maltreatment preventive intervention to respond to differences in target populations – Families with children determined to be unsafe (SAFE-Family Connections)
11:20, 16 September 2013: Landsdowne
Diane Depanfilis, Pamela Clarkson Freeman, Theresa Costello
OBJECTIVES: Families with children who are determined to be unsafe following a report of child abuse and neglect are different than families determined to be at risk of child maltreatment. The purposes of this paper are to: (1) illustrate family and service characteristics identified in a sample of families with children determined to be unsafe and therefore placed in foster care compared to characteristics of families served by the preventive intervention; (2) identify predictors among these family and service characteristics that might explain the length of foster care; and (3) illustrate how these differences led to changes in the intervention and specification of fidelity criteria.

METHODS: Qualitative and quantitative methods were used to explore differences in family and service characteristics between a sample of 1500 unsafe children who entered care and 762 families served by replication organizations targeting children at risk of maltreatment. Data were examined using Life Table, Kaplan Meier, and Cox Proportional Regression survival analysis methods to explore which family characteristics predicted the length of foster care. Combined results of these analyses were used to make adjustments to the intervention and fidelity criteria prior to implementation.

RESULTS: While certain child and family characteristics were different between samples, some differences varied by replicating site. Significant differences were noted between the level and intensity of services provided to families within the CPS system compared to replicating sites. Adjustments to the intervention are currently being tested with a randomized trial.

CONCLUSIONS: The first phase of intervention research – i.e., exploring risk and protective factors in the target population is crucial to guide adaptations to an established intervention.
**OS01.003**

Adapting a promising multi-faceted child maltreatment preventive intervention to respond to differences in target populations – Trauma Adapted Family Connections (TA-FC)

11:40, 16 September 2013: Landsdowne

Kathryn Collins, Frederick Strieder, Pamela Clarkson Freeman, Diane Depanfilis

Objectives: Families living in urban poverty, enduring chronic and complex traumatic stress, and having difficulty meeting their children’s basic needs have significant child maltreatment risk factors. There is a paucity of family focused, trauma-informed evidence-based interventions aimed to alleviate trauma symptomatology, strengthen family functioning, and prevent child abuse and neglect. The presenters will: 1) discuss how intervention science principles were used to adapt and develop TA-FC to respond to the needs of families exposed to multigenerational trauma; 2) review core components of the model; and, 3) present outcomes of the pilot study of TA-FC.

Methods: TA-FC is a manualized trauma-focused practice rooted in the principles and essential components of Family Connections (FC), but further applies tenets of the Eco-structural model, Bowen Family Therapy, Narrative Practice, Motivational Interviewing, and Attachment Theory to develop comprehensive assessments and discrete intervention components. Caregivers and children complete standardized instruments at baseline and closing. Repeated measures ANOVA (2x2) were conducted to explore differences over time in risk and protective factors and child behavior.

Results: Significant changes included reductions in risk factors such as caregiver trauma and depressive symptoms, parenting stress, and child trauma symptomatology. Significant changes were also found for protective factors, including parenting sense of competence (efficacy and satisfaction), sense of community, and perceived access to family resources.

Conclusions: TA-FC is a promising practice that addresses the glaring gap in family oriented services for this specific, growing, and underserved population of families living in urban poverty, enduring traumatic stress. The six month intervention, TA-FC uses empirically validated instruments for both assessment and intervention evaluation. This facilitates the integration of child, parent, family, and community level outcome results into practice, evaluation, and quality assurance efforts.

**OS01.004**

Adapting a promising multi-faceted child maltreatment preventive intervention to respond to differences in target populations - Grandparent Family Connections (GFC)

12:00, 16 September 2013: Landsdowne

Pamela Clarkson Freeman, Frederick Strieder, Diane Depanfilis

Objectives: Grandparents are increasingly the primary caregivers to grandchildren, with approximately 5.5 million children under the age of 18 living with a grandparent. This paper will: 1) present intervention adaptations required to meet the needs of grandparent caregivers; 2) illustrate the results of using standardized assessment instruments to measure family risk and protective factors; and, 3) demonstrate how assessment measures can be integrated into a program informing clinical practice and research.

Methods: GFC is a six month manualized intervention. Families receive a minimum of 60-minutes of face-to-face time per week with a clinician. Caregivers complete standardized assessment instruments at baseline and closing. Repeated measures ANOVA (2x2) were conducted to explore differences over time in risk and protective factors and child behavior.

Results: Grandparents caring for children have significantly greater risk factors, as evidenced by poorer physical and emotional health. While there is evidence of positive change between baseline and closing for various risk and protective factors, including depression, parenting efficacy, and family resources, most grandparents report poorer general health and role limitations as a result of emotional and physical health as compared to non-grandparent participants. Despite reports of decreases in parenting satisfaction, grandparents reported less overall parenting stress and more positive child behavior.

Conclusions: Grandparents who assume a caregiving role often report increased distress, social isolation, depression, and deteriorating health following the addition of children to their households. GFC targets intergenerational families at risk for neglect and responds to their unique strengths and needs, through the identification, development, and delivery of services tailored to grandparent caregivers thus mediating the negative consequences of caregiving and promoting family well being.
**OS02.001**  

11:00, 16 September 2013: Pembroke  

**Ana Carcer Alce**, Eleanor McClorey

Objectives: Article 19 on the Convention on the Rights of the Child encourages a paradigm shift towards strengthening primary prevention of all forms of violence through public health, social programs and educational approaches. This transformation can be facilitated by applying the knowledge about the psychological domain. This paper presents the foundations and some results from the Parent-Child Psychological Support Programme (PCPS). The PCPS has been operating in Ireland since 2001 and converts infant mental health principles into a centre-based service for local communities. It aims to promote infant well-being by supporting and improving parent-child relationships. Because it is acknowledged that children’s lives are often loaded with many risks and recurring stressors, the PCPS is process-oriented and focuses on protective systems (i.e. the child’s attachment) to provide cumulative, protective efforts.

Methods: This Programme is available to all newborns within a catchment area. It provides tailored interventions to infants and their parents over the child’s first 18 months through quarterly, clinic-based appointments, starting at 3 months. The PCPS is based on a number of key principles: Caring for parents or ‘minding the minders’; supporting and guiding the job of parenting; and supporting and promoting maternal sensitivity and synchronous interaction between the caregiver and the infant. Thus, PCPS incorporates the assessment of mother (primary caregiver)-child interaction to sustain synchrony. PCPS has physical and mental health screening components for early detection and provision of extra support.

Results: Some data about implementation evaluation and impact evaluation of this evidence-based program will be presented.

Conclusions: The PCPS Programme, its implementation and characteristics will be discussed in the context of the challenges of operationalising these conceptual frameworks in real-life settings, with programmes that are practical, affordable, suitable, evaluable and helpful.

**OS02.002**  
Protecting children in 21st century Ireland: Integrating learning from policy, international evidence and multi-level implementation perspectives (Prevention of child abuse and neglect through early and sustained involvement)

11:20, 16 September 2013: Pembroke  

**Eleanor McClorey**

Introduction to the Symposium: In the early years of the 21st century Ireland was forced to confront the reality of the scale of child abuse and neglect accrued from decades of systemic failure to prioritise the rights, the wellbeing, the welfare and the protection of children across the key structures of society. A series of investigations, tribunals, reports and documents chronicled the real state of Ireland’s response to its children and identified critical steps that had to be taken to provide a new context for children growing up in Ireland.

Systemic changes are now in train to try to ensure that this legacy of child abuse is addressed and that the interests and needs of children are prioritised in policy and practice.

This symposium will present policy developments, structural reform and evidence-based service responses at national and local level that are being developed and implemented in Ireland with a focus on the wellbeing, protection and rights of the child.

Prevention and Early Intervention policy and practice strategies, the development of a national network of quality children services, lessons learned from the implementation an area-based response to the socio-economic and environmental risks to child wellbeing and welfare, and building the strengths and resilience of parents and children through supporting the attachment process in infancy (drawing on evidence from Spain and Ireland) will be presented, critiqued and reflected on in the symposium. The panel will bring their combined research, practice and policy expertise to the presentation and analysis of the steps being taken in 21st century Ireland to learn from the failures and abuses of the past.
OS02.003
Protecting children in 21st century Ireland: Integrating learning from policy, international evidence and multi-level implementation perspectives - Using evidence to develop services for children and families: Considerations and challenges for the CFA

11:40, 16 September 2013: Pembroke

Kieran McKeown, Eleanor McClorey

Objectives: The context of the presentation is set by the fact that a new Child & Family Agency (CFA) will be established in Ireland in 2013 to integrate all core services for children and families. The context is also set by the widespread consensus which now exists about the importance of using evidence to assess how well public policies and services are performing relative to their expected outcomes. Though not entirely new, the focus on evidence has gained particular currency since the OECD reviewed Ireland’s public service in 2008 and the collapse of the Celtic Tiger which began around the same time. The presentation uses the new CFA as an opportunity to analyse how a renewed focus on evidence could contribute to making services for children and families more efficient and equitable thereby increasing the likelihood of improved outcomes.

Methods: The method which informs the presentation is based on observation that framing public policy and services in terms of evidence does not, of itself, generate new evidence. It demonstrates how the new CFA provides a ‘once in a lifetime’ opportunity to build a strong foundation of evidence about how to design and deliver services for children and families.

Results: Five types of evidence are discussed that could add value to the work of the new CFA. These are: evidence on matching needs to services; evidence on the effectiveness of different service systems for children and families; evidence on the outcomes of services; evidence on the determinants of child and family well-being; and evidence on the processes of helping and making effective therapeutic interventions.

Conclusions: The presentation shows how an evidence-informed approach to public policy and services, if properly implemented in the new CFA, could contribute to fundamentally reforming children’s services in Ireland.

OS02.004
Protecting children in 21st century Ireland: Integrating learning from policy, international evidence and multi-level implementation perspectives - Lessons from the design and early implementation of a Complex Community Change Initiative

12:00, 16 September 2013: Pembroke

Eleanor McClorey, Hazel O’Byrne, Gemma Cox

Objectives: Community Change Initiatives (CCIs), such as area-based strategies to tackle child poverty, have become increasingly complex as a result of societal complexity, economic challenges, income disparity, and our greater appreciation of the difficulty of addressing deeply embedded community problems. CCIs provide a specific type of area-based response to entrenched social problems that emphasise their structural and environmental origins, their complexity and their interrelatedness. youngballymun is an example of an innovative CCI in the Irish context.

Methods: The lessons presented in this paper are developed from the preliminary findings from youngballymun’s extensive evaluation programme of work, experiential learning from youngballymun practice and processes and literature related to implementation of evidence-based programmes and community change initiatives internationally.

Results: The presentation summarises the key learning related to the design and implementation of initiatives seeking to achieve the scope and scale required to generate positive child outcomes and to sustain these positive impacts over time through policy and practice systems. Key themes include the importance of meaningful stakeholder engagement in a collaborative planning process, the conditions required for successful implementation and reflections on how those conditions can be established. The paper shares valuable insights on the delivery of outcomes at child, family and system levels so that the CCI is an effective protective strategy that builds resilience, supports wellbeing, development and learning, and minimizes risks to child wellbeing and protection.

Conclusions: This provides a working model of how systems change can be progressed by those interested in integrated children’s services, and the key issues and considerations that must be factored into the implementation of such a Community Change Initiative.
OS02.005
Protecting children in 21st century Ireland: Integrating learning from policy, international evidence and multi-level implementation perspectives - Implementation of the Local Area Pathway as part of the proposed National Service Delivery Framework
12:20, 16 September 2013: Pembroke
Aisling Gillen, Eleanor McClorey

Objectives: In Ireland, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) has taken a decision to set up in 2013 a dedicated Child & Family Agency (CFA) to deliver services to children and families in need within a co-ordinated, multi-disciplinary and multi-agency National Service Delivery Framework (NSDF) as an integral element of a national focus on child wellbeing, welfare and protection. As there is strong evidence for investing in early support services to address emerging child protection problems, a core facet of the new NSDF is what is termed the ‘Local Area Pathway’ (LAP).

Methods: A key service component of the LAP will be Child & Family Support Networks (CFSNs). The intention is to ensure that families who do not meet the threshold for provision of statutory child protection services but who need family support services are directed towards appropriate help through a Single Point of Entry. The approach is based on harnessing the expertise of voluntary and community sector organisations in supporting families.

Key tools for the operation of CFSNs are common assessment and case co-ordination to children and families with additional needs. A detailed design process for the LAP has been conducted taking into account international and national evidence-based and evidence-informed practice. Our aim is to pilot the implementation of the LAP in each of the 4 regions in the country. An implementation plan has been drafted for 2013.

Results: This will involve structural, process and practice change. The results of a readiness review will inform the implementation plan. A process of self-audit of the implementation of the LAP will be initiated and examined through the pilot process.

OS04.001
Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Partner Relationships (STIR): Connecting online and offline contexts and risks - Overview
11:00, 16 September 2013: Ulster
Christine Barter

US evidence indicates that physical violence in teenage relationships constitutes a profound impact on young people’s, and especially girls’ well-being in terms of health and long-term outcomes. However this body of evidence fails to include the role of new technologies, including social networking sites in perpetuating teenage partner violence. This symposium will report on a new EU funded project led by Christine Barter at the University of Bristol. This is the first study to address the incidence, role and impact of new technologies in instigating and maintaining control and violence in young people’s intimate (dating) relationships. As young people do not differentiate between online and offline worlds this project will reflect the interconnection of violence through new technology and in the physical world. The objectives of the project are to enhance EU understanding, document the incidence and impact of online/offline experiences of intimate partner violence, explore participants’ own experiences of partner violence through new technologies and views on prevention and to develop prevention/intervention resources for young people.

This symposium will report on the initial stakeholder meetings from each of the five EU countries involved in the project (England, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Italy and Norway) conducted as part of the first stage of the research. Future stages will involve a schools-based survey and interviews with young people.

This overview provides pan-European perspective on what is currently known about this neglected area of safeguarding children and will help to inform future stages of the research.

The availability of new technology and access to social media mean that young people’s exposure to new forms of harm can transcend national boundaries. Developing policy and practice in this field across Europe offers an effective strategy for preventing and intervening in abuse in young people’s intimate relationships.
OS04.002
Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Partner Relationships (STIR): Connecting online and offline contexts and risks – current knowledge in Norwegian
11:20, 16 September 2013: Ulster
Per Hellevik, Christine Barter, Carolina Overlien

Teenagers are among the most active users of digital media, such as mobile phones and the Internet. In Norway, 91 percent of those aged between 13 and 19, use the Internet every day, and 99 percent of them own a mobile phone. Recent studies show that cyberbullying and cyber harassment are prevalent among children and adolescents. We know that violence within teenage intimate relationships can have serious short-term and long-term effects on a teenager’s mental and physical health. Still, as yet no study has investigated the role and impact of new technologies in instigating and maintaining control and violence in young people’s intimate relationships in Norway.

Methods
This paper will report on the Norwegian findings from the STIR project’s first stage which comprises expert consultation on what we know about physical, sexual and emotional violence in young people’s intimate relationships, including policy and practice initiatives, and digital media’s role in this.

Results: The paper will show that the association between new technologies and teenage partner violence has not been directly addressed in Norway. Instead, focus has been put on cyberbullying in schools. Further, cyberbullying is used as an all-encompassing term including all forms of online harassment. This obscures the many-faceted nature of new media’s role in teenage intimate partner violence.

Conclusion: Comparative research can assist in defining and distinguishing between different forms of harm as well as acting as means of driving policy development.

OS04.003
Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Partner Relationships (STIR): connecting online and offline contexts and risks - Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Partner Relationships (STIR): The perspective of the Bulgarian experts
11:40, 16 September 2013: Ulster
Christine Barter, Georgi Apostolov, Luiza Shahbazyan

Violence in dating relationships is reported to be a common form of abuse among adolescents and is associated with a number of negative consequences, such as emotional and behavioural problems and increased risk of future violent relationship. Despite this, the phenomenon is rarely recognised as an important health and wellbeing concern. Even more alarming is the observation that internet and internet-enabled mobile devices create further opportunities for partner victimisation such as nonstop calling, monitoring profiles and accounts and cyber stalking. Currently, there is lack of systematic attempts to research the nature and prevalence of either offline or online teenage dating abuse in Bulgaria and the recently awarded DAPHNE funded European project Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Partner Relationships (STIR) will be one of the first initiatives on this significant topic in the country.

Method: This presentation will report on the expert consultations conducted during the first stage of the project with professionals from the State Agency for Child Protection, the National Agency for Social Support, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, Ministry of Justice, Bulgarian Safer Internet hotline and helpline, the child helpline 116 111, the missing children helpline 116 000 and a number of other non-governmental organisations that offer support, counselling and rehabilitation services for adolescents - members of the National Network for Children encompassing 109 NGOs working with different target groups.

Results: The consultation sessions to be held in 2013 will elicit expert views on policy and practice in the area as well as possible strategies for prevention of such incidents in the digital age.

Conclusion: The consultation will develop a picture of what is known about teenage dating abuse in Bulgaria and the impact of new technology on this form of harm. Current policy and practice initiatives will also be identified.
OS04.004
Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Partner Relationships (STIR): Connecting online and offline contexts and risks – The perspective of the Italian experts

12:00, 16 September 2013: Ulster

Christine Barter, Sarah Beal, Noemi de Luca, Gianna Cappello

CESIE, a European NGO based in Palermo, Italy, will draw on the knowledge acquired within the disadvantaged areas of Palermo, to conduct an expert consultation on the role of new technologies in violence in teenage intimate relationships. There is evidence of high rates of violence in young people's intimate relationships both on and offline. In those contexts lack of awareness of the risks and opportunities in the use of the new media may generate experience of abuse experience for young people.

Methods

National experts (e.g. the Italian Association for Media Education), policy makers (e.g. local Institution of Education) and media literacy experts will be consulted with a view to exploring the role of new technologies within teenage partner violence and to build new strategies to raise the awareness and to increase the knowledge on this issue with young people. Later stages of the study will involve surveys of and interviews with young people.

Results

The expert consultation will provide a picture of policy and practice in this field in Italy. There will be a particular focus on identifying appropriate approaches to communicating findings to young people.

Conclusion

At the end of the project CESIE and partners will develop a web based resource and downloadable app to disseminate research findings and provide support and information directly to young people themselves. CESIE will also integrate the STIR study findings with those of the project, Virtual Stages Against Violence (http://virtualstages.eu/), funded by Daphne III Programme across five countries to identify Internet use and behaviours of adolescents, parents and teachers, and the Toolkit - Digital & Media Literacy Education, which specifically addresses teachers and educators, offering a series of thematic paths and educational activities related to the internet and to the new media to be used in daily teaching activities.

OS04.005

12:20, 16 September 2013: Ulster

Christine Barter, Cath Larkins, Nicky Stanley, Marsha Wood

The STIR project is being undertaken between 2013 and 2015 across five European countries with the aim of increasing understanding about the role of new technologies, including mobile phones and social networking sites, in instigating and perpetuating teenage partner violence. The first stage of the study comprises expert consultation which will examine practice and policy in this area in the UK; the findings will be synthesised with those from similar consultations in Norway, Italy, Bulgaria and Cyprus with the aim of mapping policy and practice developments across the five countries.

Method: Interviews and consultation groups with experts in this field and with young people themselves will be combined with a review of policy documents to build a picture of policy and practice initiatives in the UK.

Results: The study is currently in the set-up phase and results of the consultation will be available by September 2013. They will include a picture of policy and practice initiatives across the UK as well as examples of positive practice.

Conclusion: In its final phase, the STIR study will synthesise the findings of the UK consultation with those of the other European partners to produce a pan-European account of the emerging policy and practice response to the impact of new technologies on abuse in young people's intimate relationships.
OS05.001
Talking about trauma. How the adults can help children to elaborate traumatic experiences - Reconstruction and narration the story of trauma in adopted children
11:00, 16 September 2013: Leinster

Sara Petoletti, Francesco Vadilonga

Often children who arrive to the adoption have experienced feelings of severe deprivation, lack of affection, abuse and neglect, in addition to trauma of rejection and loss. These early traumatic experiences effect suffering and affective and relational problems (Steele et al., 2003; Howe and Fearnley, 2003).

In order to help children to process these traumatic events, a precondition is that “it can be discussed” with the new parents. Indeed one of the fundamental tasks of the adoptive parents is to create and support an open communication in the family, which allows the child to explore and express feelings, moods, questions and thoughts (Brodzinsky, 2004).

This abstract presents the technique of construction and narration the adoption story during a family support intervention (Vadilonga et al., 2012). Firstly this intervention aims to help children to construct a meaning about their life experiences, which integrates past and present, events before and after adoption, and that change the negative experiences into information and explanations that might accompany children on their psychological development.

Secondly this intervention aims to support adoptive parents in children processing trauma, helping them to reflect and share emotions.

OS05.002
Talking about trauma. How the adults can help children to elaborate traumatic experiences - Abused women and parenthood: A women's crisis centre's intervention
11:20, 16 September 2013: Leinster

Fanny Marchese

We cannot think of taking care of children that have witnessed sexual abuse without also treating their mothers victims of their partners'violence. Very often an abused woman is affectively dependent on her aggressor; even if, in cases of persisting abuse, he is a partner or relative, she seems to be willing to protect him and shows ambivalent and chaotic feelings toward him; she is incapable of protecting herself and her children. In cases of chronic abuse the relationship with the aggressor becomes central and significantly affects interactions with the outside world; children are deprived of attention and they are often seen as adults in order to allow the mother not to cope with their fears and emotional needs.

In this paper we will present a case study in which the operator uses narrative techniques to help the victim of violence to become aware of the complex emotional state experienced by herself and her children without denying aspects of a non protective parenthood.
OS05.003  
Talking about trauma. How the adults can help children to elaborate traumatic experiences - Supporting communication between children and parents with mental diseases

11:40, 16 September 2013: Leinster

Sara Lombardi

Many studies (Solantaus, 2010; Hodgins, 2002; Beardslee et al, 1998) show how the presence of a mental disorder in one of the parents is significantly related to an increased risk in their children to develop problems related to mental health.

The CTA program called "Supporting children of parents with mental diseases" was realized with the objective to work on the prevention of risks in children through a group of pre-teens: aim of the program was to promote an open communication about mental disease into their family.

Speaking and sharing difficult experiences, both with caregivers and also with peer group, is an important activity for children to process emotions and thoughts about their experiences. This communication is also a possibility to find an explanation and a meaning for painful events.

OS05.004  
Talking about trauma. How the adults can help children to elaborate traumatic experiences

12:00, 16 September 2013: Leinster

Gloriana Rangone

Children traumatized by adults who should provide for their care, support and protection feel painful emotions as confusion, impotence, difficulty in understanding and give the correct meaning of these situations.

Firstly the therapy gives the opportunity to think about trauma through different steps: give meaning to feelings and emotions, and explaining the role of adults in these events.

During this work children could be supported also by caregivers that caused them trauma or by other caregivers. This is an important step both for children and for involved adults.

The symposium will present different experiences of trauma elaboration using narration. All these experiences share an active involvement of caregivers in the children therapy.

Symposium – Chair: Gloriana Rangone

Other Papers:

Gloriana Rangone

Sara Lombardi

Fanny Marchese

Sara Petoletti, Francesco Vadilonga

Gloria Soavi
OS05.005
Talking about trauma. How the adults can help children to elaborate traumatic experiences -
The narration as a tool for the elaboration of trauma in child victims of witnessed violence
12:20, 16 September 2013: Leinster
Gloria Soavi

Children exposed to domestic violence have experience of fear, terror, confusion, helplessness, anger and see the attachment figures on one hand as terrorized, helpless and desperate, and on other hand as dangerous and threatening.

If these experiences are not elaborated could cause serious consequences in the evolution of the child, that could develop feelings of guilt, a tendency to take too much responsibility for his age (Crittenden, 1994) and acquire dysfunctional gender patterns that will could shape negative emotional relationships in adulthood.

The therapist must lead sessions of sharing of the traumatic experience through storytelling between the child and parents. This modality offer an interpretation of the events, contrasts the guilt of the child, improves mutual understanding and promotes elaboration of trauma.

This document will present a clinical case of witnessed violence where a mother and a father have admitted their problems and both have chosen an individual psychotherapy. After this treatment they were able to help their children in the process of elaboration of the trauma using storytelling and listening.

OS08.001
Differential response: Looking at this child welfare reform from evidence and rights based perspectives - Family engagement and satisfaction
11:00, 16 September 2013: Elgin
Lisa Merkel-Holguin, Amy Hahn

The second significant hypothesis is that a differential response child protection system results in improved family engagement, and enhanced family satisfaction. Therefore, the second paper will look at the various Quality Improvement Center on Differential Response data sources to shed light on this complex matter. Focus groups, interviews and surveys were used to gather information about staff perceptions, attitudes, practice and preparedness related to implementation of differential response. Families were surveyed in each site and also interviewed in two of the sites to gain insight from the families directly. Case examples to explain the differences in engagement experience will be shared. Quotes from staff and parents will be recounted as well as survey results in regards to parent-identified feelings about the first meeting with a caseworker and their satisfaction with how they were treated and with the help they received. Lastly, the study attempts to transform the perception of the child welfare system from a punitive to helping system, in understanding the likelihood of parents who have been served by child welfare reaching out to the public agency for further assistance.

OS08.002
Differential response: Looking at this child welfare reform from evidence and rights based perspective - Services and costs
11:20, 16 September 2013: Elgin
John Fluke, Amy Hahn

Front loading services is one of the core assumptions regarding the alternative response approach. Rather than waiting until the investigation is complete and a finding has been made related to the allegation, caseworkers are able to offer services to a family immediately after an assessment of child safety is complete in the first few days of the case. In previous studies on differential response, services utilized in the alternative response were primarily poverty-related, such as subsidies to help with rent or transportation, food and clothing. This paper will describe the differences in services utilized by families in each random assignment group as well as the costs associated with them to see if this study had similar findings. The cost analysis component will examine the costs incurred in developing, maintaining, and sustaining a differential response system. It will also compare costs for families served in the control and experimental groups. Each site conducted their own cost analysis using unique methods, so each site will be explored independently rather than from a cross-site perspective. For policymakers and agency administrators, cost analyses help inform decisions on whether to move forward with new programs, and therefore represent the third of our three core questions posed for the evaluation.
**OS08.003**  
Differential response: Looking at this child welfare reform from evidence and rights based perspective - Outcomes for children and families  
11:40, 16 September 2013: Elgin  
Desmond Runyan, Amy Hahn

The major question asked about differential response is whether an alternative to regular investigative procedures for some child maltreatment reports correlates with reduced child safety. Or, stated another way, absent an investigation, will child safety be jeopardized? In the first paper for this symposium child and family outcomes will be shared. Child safety, a core concern by policymakers, will be explored first, from the standpoint of the results from the evaluation data. This paper will also include a general description of the family characteristics of the sample for both the control and experimental groups as well as distinctive aspects of the organizational contexts in which differential response was implemented. Findings related to subsequent re-reports, removal rates and length of time in system for those removed will be compared across each group.

**OS08.004**  
Differential response: Looking at this child welfare reform from evidence and rights based perspectives  
12:00, 16 September 2013: Elgin  
Desmond Runyan, John Fluke, Lisa Merkel-Holguin, Amy Hahn

The Quality Improvement Center on Differential Response in Child Protective Services has just concluded a five year, federally funded project dedicated to researching and evaluating differential response in three unique state child protection systems in the U.S. Differential response is a child welfare system reform effort that has been written into federal legislation. In a differential response system there are at least two possible responses to child protection reports. Agency response is based on the level of risk associated with the allegation. A safety assessment is completed with all reports, but there are several differences between the responses that make them unique. In the alternative response designed for low to moderate risk reports, an investigation proving the allegation true or false is considered unnecessary. Instead the focus for the caseworker is on identifying needs with the family and providing services or supports to meet their needs. Findings from the evaluation will be shared in three parts: Outcomes for Children and Families, Family and Caseworker Satisfaction, and Services and Costs. Policy considerations will be discussed at the conclusion.
OS15.001
Disabled children and young people in out-of-home care: Symposium overview
14:30, 16 September 2013: Landsdowne
Berni Kelly

Introduction: There is much concern nationally and internationally about the over-representation disabled children and young people in the out-of-home care population. These children and young people are at risk of multiple levels of adversity and are likely to require continued support during transition from care. Yet there has been limited consideration of their experiences in extant research literature.

Aims: This symposium aims to provide an opportunity for academics, policy makers and practitioners to: share findings from national and international research on the profile and needs of disabled children and young people in out-of-home care; explore relevant theoretical models; and examine transitions for disabled young people as they leave out-of-home care.

Methods: The papers in this symposium report on studies that employed a range of methods including: secondary data analysis; critical theoretical review; qualitative service evaluation; and interviews. Presentations will also explore the methodological challenges of research in this area, including definitional problems and barriers to collaboration across service boundaries.

Findings: Kelly et al. and Davidson et al. will report on Northern Irish studies examining the characteristics of disabled children in out-of-home care and theoretical models informing research, policy and practice with disabled care leavers. Two international presenters, Katz and Courtney, will report on findings from Australian and US studies examining disabled care leavers' needs and access to services as they transition into adult life.

Conclusion: The symposium will stimulate discussion and debate on the challenges of theorising, defining and supporting disabled children in out-of-home care and leaving care. It is hoped that the symposium will contribute to understanding of the varied needs and experiences of disabled children and young people in out-of-home care and effective interventions aimed at supporting their transitions into their young adult life.

OS15.002
Disabled children and young people in out-of-home care: Disabled children and young people leaving out of home care in Australia
14:50, 16 September 2013: Landsdowne
Ilan Katz, Berni Kelly

Introduction
It has been estimated that up to a quarter of children and young people in care in Australia are disabled and/or have poor mental health. These young people are particularly vulnerable in the care system, and even more so when they age out of care. They are particularly vulnerable to becoming homeless, involvement with the Juvenile Justice system and further institutionalisation in the mental health system. Despite this, the evidence base for effective interventions for these young people is very small, in Australia and internationally. Dedicated programs aimed at supporting disabled young people leaving care are rare, and few have been comprehensively evaluated.

Aim and Method
This presentation presents the findings from a qualitative evaluation of an innovative program in New South Wales which aimed to identify disabled young people in out of home care and support them until they reach their mid twenties.

Findings
The evaluation found that the program was generally successful in promoting the wellbeing of its clients and preventing homelessness and involvement in the justice system. Nevertheless there were aspects of the program which could be improved to better identify and support this client group.

Conclusion
The presentation will draw from these findings and from the international empirical literature to identify key factors underpinning effective interventions for disabled young people leaving care.
OS15.003
Disabled children and young people in out-of-home care: Prevalence of PTSD and depression and receipt of mental health services among care leavers

15:10, 16 September 2013: Landsdowne

Berni Kelly, Mark Courtney

Introduction: Given their experience of trauma prior to entering state care and the potentially iatrogenic effects of care, youth aging out of care might be expected to exhibit mental health disorders such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and depression. However, research using representative samples of care leavers and standardized assessments of mental health are rare (Garcia & Courtney, 2011; Keller et al, 2010; McMillen et al, 2005).

Objectives: This study describes the prevalence of PTSD and depression and receipt of mental health services among care leavers in the US.

Methods: Data came from interviews with youth making the transition to adulthood from care in three US states conducted at ages 17-18 (n = 732; 96% response rate), 19 (n = 603; 82% response), 21 (n = 591; 81% response) and 23-24 (n = 602; 82% response). Recent symptoms of PTSD and major depression were assessed using the Composite International Diagnostic Inventory and youth were asked if they had received any mental health services in the past year.

Findings: Recent PTSD and depressive symptoms were most common at age 17-18, with 36.7% of youth (n = 268) reporting depression symptoms and 24.5% reporting PTSD symptoms (n = 179). Approximately one-fifth of the youth reported depression symptoms at age 19, 21, and 23-24. The prevalence of PTSD symptoms ranged between 15% and 20% over that period. Over half of youth with PTSD symptoms (50.8%) and depression symptoms (50.8%) received mental health services at age 17-18, but by age 21, when the youth had all aged out of care, only about one-quarter with symptoms of either disorder were receiving services.

Conclusion: These findings call for greater efforts to maintain the continuity of mental health services for care leavers into adulthood.

OS15.004
Disabled children and young people in out-of-home care: Theoretical models for researching care leavers with mental health and/or intellectual disabilities

15:30, 16 September 2013: Landsdowne

Berni Kelly, Gavin Davidson, John Pinkerton

Introduction: This presentation will review the theoretical models used to help understand and research the child and adult services involved in supporting care leavers with mental health and/or intellectual disabilities transitioning to adult life. These young people are over-represented in the leaving care population; are at high risk of multiple levels of adversity, exclusion and oppression as they move into young adult life; and are likely to require continued support during transition and in young adult life. Yet there has been very limited consideration of the transitional experiences of this group of care leavers in extant research literature.

Objectives: The presentation will provide an overview of the three main theoretical models used in this complex area of policy and practice: resilience (from the leaving care literature); critical disability theory (from the intellectual disabilities literature); and the recovery approach (from the mental health literature).

Method: The literature on each of the three main theoretical models will be critically reviewed. This review is part of a wider research project that will use existing health and social care data collection processes to profile the characteristics of care leavers with mental health and/or intellectual disabilities and conduct case studies with a sample of these care leavers to examine transitional experiences and outcomes in young adult life.

Results: Each theoretical model will be critically reviewed with the common themes, relative strengths and limitations identified.

Conclusions: The use of different, if overlapping, theoretical models across different aspects of services for the same group of young people may create complexities, unnecessary jargon, barriers to positive joint working and difficulties for research, policy and practice in these complex interface areas.
OS15.005
Disabled children and young people in out-of-home care: Addressing the over-representation of disabled looked after children in Northern Ireland
15:50, 16 September 2013: Landsdowne
Berni Kelly, Sandra Dowling, Karen Winter

Introduction
The literature suggests that disabled children and young people are over-represented in the looked after population. However, challenges in recording and collecting accurate and consistent data regarding numbers of disabled children who are looked after are also reported. Differing definitions of disability, the conflation of terminology as well as inconsistent record keeping has meant that questions about the numbers looked after disabled children remain unanswered.

Objectives
The study’s overall aim is to investigate the over-representation of disabled children and young people who are looked after in Northern Ireland. This presentation will report on findings gathered with the aim of addressing two key objectives of this study, namely to describe the characteristics of disabled children who are looked after, and to identify factors that lead to disabled children and young people becoming looked after.

Method
This paper will focus on the first stage of the study involving the collection of anonymous data on the profile of disabled children and young people who are looked after. This data will be collected directly from social workers using a short pro forma which addresses a range of demographics including: age, gender, legal status, placement type, family composition, religion and ethnic origin and support services or interventions.

Results
Data will be analysed using SPSS to provide a descriptive profile of the characteristics of disabled children who are looked after in Northern Ireland and to examine the relationships between variables.

Conclusion
It is hoped that these findings it will be a key resource in informing the planning and delivery of services to disabled children in out-of-home care. They will also inform the next stage of this study, which will adopt a case study approach to investigate in detail the care experiences of a sub-sample of the total population identified.

OS16.001
Child welfare systems and migrant families in England, Canada, Finland, and Italy - Overview
14:30, 16 September 2013: Pembroke
Ravinder Barn

This symposium is one part of a two-symposia submission that compares the work of child welfare systems with migrant families in nine countries with different child welfare philosophies, histories and migration contexts: Canada, Estonia, Finland, Italy, Spain, Norway, the Netherlands, the UK and the United States. Symposium A, chaired by Professor Ravinder Barn, UK, will cover Canada, Finland, Italy and the UK. Symposium B, chaired by Assistant Professor Katrin Kriz, USA, will cover Estonia, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands and the USA. By comparing policies and practices in child welfare systems, especially in terms of how child welfare systems conceptualize and deal with migrant children and children of migrant parents, we address an immensely important and pressing issue in modern, globalizing societies. Migrant families in the child welfare system are a critical issue and seem to face serious challenges that are evident across countries.

Each individual paper will address five topics and questions: (1) law and public policy related to migrant families; (2) child welfare with migrant families at the organizational and institutional levels; (3) Training and education for child welfare workers with regard to migrant families; (4) the representation of migrant children and children of migrant parents in the child welfare system; (5) child welfare practice with migrant families based on an empirical study of how child welfare workers perceive risk and possible solutions in case vignettes involving migrant families.
OS16.002
Child welfare systems and migrant families in England, Canada, Finland, and Italy - The English child protection system and migrant families
14:50, 16 September 2013: Pembroke
Ravinder Barn

This paper reports from an empirical study to document the policy and practice considerations around child welfare, migration and social work in England. The paper will provide evidence from an on-line survey together with an account of extant knowledge in the area of child welfare in general and child abuse and neglect in particular by drawing upon literature in the areas of migration, child welfare and social services decision-making and provision.

The study combined a methodological framework which encompassed a review of the existing literature with an on-line survey. The survey included a range of questions on diversity and social work decision-making through the use of two case-vignettes. Child welfare social workers with experience of work with migrant families were invited to contribute to the study. A total of almost 100 social workers constitute the sample. Data analysis took place in the form of SPSS to highlight key areas of interest. This was contextualised within a broader epistemological framework to help make sense of the findings.

The findings reveal a complex picture of social work decision-making in the context of existing and ever-changing policy and legal framework that differentiates between settled and visa migrants, and refugees and asylum seekers. The use of case-vignettes provides a sound basis for understanding social worker conceptualisations. The findings also shed light on social work education and training and the challenging domain of cultural competence.

Given the on-going challenges of migration and the growth in super-diversity, the study sheds light on an important area of concern. By focusing on the United Nations convention on the rights of the child, the paper draws attention to the need for a framework which incorporates child rights in providing adequate help and support to families and children in need.

OS16.003
Child welfare systems and migrant families in England, Canada, Finland, and Italy - The Italian child protection system and migrant children
15:10, 16 September 2013: Pembroke
Ravinder Barn, Roberta Di Rosa Di Rosa

The aim of the research was to analyse the space given to minor migrants and their families within the Child Welfare System, comparing it with the laws and services available for native minors and families. Within this study, the role of the social worker, the characteristics of their typical workday and the discretionary areas in which their attitude towards differences could have an influence, are also explored.

Using the analysis of the policy framework and the characteristics of the presence of foreigners in Italy as a starting point, it was possible to observe the characteristics of the service system provided and implemented for foreign minors and their families, as well as those of the principal agents involved in the reception process and the social instruments available for their integration. In addition, the historic analysis of the laws issued on this subject has shown how the level of protection established for the families and minors is inversely proportionate to the definition of the issue of immigration as a question of security and public order. The stereotypical depiction of immigrants, which is prevalently negative, also affects the efficacy of the services, reflecting on the performance of the operators.

In the specific case of Italy, this study has revealed how here the presence of a consistent number of unaccompanied foreign minors has led to legal provisions and greater investment in the field of services being focussed specifically on these, while foreign minors accompanied by their families the are provided with same services that exist for Italian minors and families, without any particular distinction (except to some extent with regard to schooling). Only recently have immigrant families begun to be subject to legal provisions, even though this space, which is provided for in social policy, has yet to materialise in practice.
OS16.004
Child welfare systems and migrant families in England, Canada, Finland, and Italy - The Canadian child protection system and immigrant children and families

15:30, 16 September 2013: Pembroke

Ravinder Barn, Sarah Maiter

This paper discusses child protection services to immigrant and refugee families and children in Canada. The child protection system does not gather data specifically on whether families are immigrants. Thus data are not available on the numbers of immigrant families and children served. Indirect information is available through discussions of interpreter services being used or when the ethnicity of families is discussed with an assumption that racialized families served are more recent immigrants. Racialized families have been part of the Canadian landscape for many generations, however, the assumption is partly correct given the increasing numbers of racialized families coming to Canada since the change of racist immigration policies that prevented their migration to Canada previously.

Although data on the numbers of immigrant families being served by the child protection system are scant and oftentimes non-existent, the system recognizes its struggles in providing services to an increasingly racially, ethnically, and religiously diverse client population and has made some attempt to provide services that are termed 'culturally competent'. This approach has been critiqued for failing to address structural issues that confront immigrant families while tending to contribute to generalizations and stereotyping of diverse ethnic families.

What some deem a 'residual' approach to child welfare services which results in a protection/risk management focus rather than an overall welfare focus in the statutory system is discussed. Services to children and families which are provided through referrals by the statutory system to other governmental and non-governmental agencies that provide a range of services such as parenting groups, substance abuse counseling, and children and adult mental health services are examined. These agencies have an indirect impact on child protection outcomes as they are struggling to provide relevant and appropriate service within a context of immense diversity in Canada.

OS16.005
Child welfare systems and migrant families in England, Canada, Finland, and Italy - The Finnish child protection system and migrant children

15:50, 16 September 2013: Pembroke

Ravinder Barn, Tarja Pösö

This paper presents some key tendencies and challenges which the Finnish child protection system meets when working with migrant children and families.

The Finnish child protection system is welfare-orientated, aiming to provide a variety of services to meet the principle of the child's best interest. Finland is a country of low, but increasing migration. The notions of unity and uniformity have described traditionally the Finnish society more than those of diversity and differences. Very little is known so far about the ways how the child protection system meets and works with migrant children and families and how migrant children and families navigate in the system. Statistical and research information is very limited so far.

Based on reading relevant legislation, policy programmes, research and using the survey of 76 social workers working in statutory child protection, the paper recognises three major challenges: 1) distinctive definitional and knowledge based issues related to migration diversity, 2) the organisational boundaries in recognising children's needs for child welfare, and 3) the call for diversity in the normative basis of Finnish child protection practice. Some of these challenges may be met through the training and education of social workers but other measures are needed as well.
Objective

This paper aims to contextualise 'consent' to sexual activity within sexually exploitative relationships. Practitioner understanding of children's ability to consent to sexual activity emerges, in the main, from debates within the medical profession, with Fraser competences used to assess whether the child is able to give 'informed consent'. This paper reveals ways to help childcare practitioners understand how 'consent' is manipulated within sexually exploitative relationships and the implications this holds for the effective realisation of children's rights in this field.

Method

A literature review and a thematic assessment of research data from three research projects (Pearce 2009, Jago et al 2011, Beckett et al 2012) was undertaken using search words such as 'consent', 'choice' and 'agency' in relation to sexual activity to explore practitioners and children's understanding of the relationship between consent and sexual activity in exploitative relationships.

Results

Four typologies of abused consent emerge: a) coerced consent, where the child is groomed into believing that they want the abuse, b) normalised consent, where the child's peer group, family or environmental norms assume consent to sexual violence is 'normal', c) survival consent, where the child feels that consenting to sex provides opportunities for financial or other reward advancing their survival against adversity and d) condoned consent, where family, friends, and professionals accept that the child will consent and consequently fail to intervene to protect them.

Conclusions

Practitioner understanding of the way that 'consent' is distorted within sexually exploitative relationships needs developing. Although policy contexts and service provision to prevent sexual exploitation have improved, the related understanding of how exploitative relationships impact on young people's capacity to consent have not. The implications for those working to support and protect sexually exploited children and young people are explored to advance child-centred means of protection.
Objective

The author will explore the ways in which child sexual exploitation may be understood as a child rights concern and the challenges and opportunities inherent in such a conceptualisation.

Method

The presentation draws on a number of different studies conducted by the author and her colleagues over the last few years, including a large scale review of the state of children's rights in Northern Ireland (Beckett et al 2009), research into the nature and extent of child sexual exploitation in Northern Ireland (Beckett 2011), and research into gang-associated sexual violence in England (Beckett et al 2012).

Results

The findings of these studies clearly indicate that both the experience of child sexual exploitation, and current statutory responses to it, impinge upon young people's ability to enjoy a number of the different rights afforded them within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). In addition to the obvious right of protection from sexual exploitation, these include the general principles of the best interests of the child, the right to life and maximum survival and development, and respect for the views of the child. The presentation explores the practical implications of the State's failure to effectively realise these rights for young people affected by the issue under consideration.

Conclusions

In ratifying the UNCRC in 1991, the United Kingdom Government took on obligations under international law to effectively implement the rights contained therein. Although the concept of 'progressive realisation' recognises that lack of resources can hamper the full implementation of the Convention, the onus remains firmly on States to demonstrate that they have implemented the minimum standards contained within the Convention to the maximum extent possible (CRC 2003). This is not currently the case with regard to child sexual exploitation in the UK.
OS17.003
Child sexual exploitation and peer sexual violence: A rights-based approach; 'Just a link?'
Practice based learning from a participatory film project on gangs and sexual violence with young women
15:10, 16 September 2013: Munster
Camille Warrington

Objective: This presentation outlines learning from an ongoing participatory communication project on gang associated sexual violence with young people in England. The project has run in parallel to related academic research and aims to provide an alternative, young people led 'voice' on the issue. By engaging young people in the participatory production of a film-based response, the project hoped to explore the value of working in partnership with young people to address sexual violence and to provide an opportunity for realising young people's participation rights (in line with Article 12, UNCRC).

Method: The project is based on participatory principles informed by the work of Freire (1970) and Chambers (1997) and participatory action research (Cahill, 2007). The presentation details the process through which young women in two sites came together to develop practical story-telling and film-making skills alongside thematic work on gang associated sexual violence. It details distinct ethical and safeguarding issues emerging within this work and responses to them. In addition it outlines the challenges and value of working in participatory group based settings.

Results: Learning has emerged from the project about the process of participatory work on sexual violence and young women's relationships, sex and gender roles within the gang context. In addition knowledge has developed about the potential for marginalised young women to challenge traditional relations of representation while simultaneously recognising tensions and new power dynamics that develop within this process.

Conclusions: The project appears to demonstrate both the value and challenges of using participatory approaches to address sexual violence.

OS17.004
Child sexual exploitation and peer sexual violence: A rights-based approach; Young people, social rights and sexual exploitation
15:30, 16 September 2013: Munster
Margaret Melrose

Objective: The objective of this presentation is to show that undermining young people's social rights, by reducing their access or entitlement to welfare support in times of hardship, increases their exposure to poverty which may in turn increase their potential vulnerability to sexually exploitative situations.

Method: Literature and research that explores poverty among young people and the impact of welfare reforms on young people is considered, alongside previous research undertaken by the author that demonstrates a clear relationship between inadequate welfare provision, poverty, relative deprivation and adolescent susceptibility to involvement in commercial sex markets. The presentation also draws on literature that explores adult involvement in sex markets which also clearly demonstrates such a relationship.

Results: The literature suggests that inadequate welfare provision and undermining the social right of access to welfare support in times of hardship increases the risk that both adults and young people will resort to alternative income generating strategies, particularly in the case of young women, involvement in sex markets to generate the incomes they require in order to support themselves in times of hardship. This may make young people more vulnerable to involvement in sexually exploitative situations.

Conclusions: The presentation concludes that in order to safeguard children and young people from risk of involvement in sexually exploitative situations and commercial sex markets, their social rights, which should protect them from the risk of poverty and possible destitution, need to be protected alongside their right to individual protection from abusive and exploitative situations.
OS20.001
Contribution of the DC:0-3/Axis II: Relationship disorders' diagnostic criteria to detecting infant and toddler abuse and neglect in Spain: A pilot study

14:30, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1

Ruth Pérez-Robles, Lourdes Ezpeleta

As a part of a collaborative study in six countries (Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Cyprus and UK) in order to analyze the applicability and utility of some of the diagnostic criteria in Axis II (Relationship Disorders) of the "Diagnostic Classification for Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood", DC:0-3, (Zero to Three, 1994, 2005) in European populations, a pilot study was carried out in each country. In Spain, 10 parents from the general population with children up to 4 years old and 10 parents, referred for abusive relationship patterns were included in the sample. The results obtained by the assessment with the DC: 0-3R were, then, compared to the results obtained by the application to the same families of other independent validated instruments, which have already been proved effective on detecting caregiver-infant/toddler relationship difficulties and, especially, infant/toddler abuse and neglect. This presentation will be framed in the context of the symposium entitled "Contribution of the DC:0-3/Axis II: Relationship Disorders' diagnostic criteria to detecting infant and toddler abuse and neglect in six European countries: A pilot study". The use of DC: 0-3R diagnostic criteria for Relationship Disorders with European populations, as well as the Manual's contribution to detecting infant and toddler abuse and neglect, are discussed.

OS20.002
Contribution of the DC:0-3/Axis II: Relationship disorders' diagnostic criteria to detecting infant and toddler abuse and neglect in six European countries: A pilot study - Early diagnosis of infant and toddler abuse and neglect in Portugal: A pilot study

14:50, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1

Eunice Magalhães, Kornilia Hatzinikolaou, M. Manuela Calheiros, M. Clara Barata, João Graça, Joana Nunes Patrício

Early exposure to abuse and neglect can disturb brain growth and have dramatic consequences for development (National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, 2010). In Portugal, children under the care of the Child and Youth Protection Committees [CPCJ] face many challenges to their development (Alberto, 2004; Calheiros, 2006; Costa, 2009; Comissao Nacional de Proteccao das Crianca e Jovens em Risco [CNPCJR], 2011). Children up to age 5 constituted 28.6% (18,041) of CPCJ children in 2011. However, health care providers were responsible for only 6.9% of all referrals, despite their privileged contact with families early in the child's life. This low rate of referrals from the health system indicates that the percentage of infants and toddlers under CPCJ care is probably an underestimate; and diagnostic instruments for health professional are urgently needed.

The aim of this study is to pilot the DC: 0-3 (Zero to Three, 2001) diagnostic criteria for Axis II: Relationship Disorders, in Portugal. Abusive Relationship Disorders are a serious risk factor for infant and toddler abuse and neglect in the family context. Previous experiences with the DC: 0-3 in Portuguese clinical settings suggests that it could be a useful tool to evaluate the efficacy of therapeutic practices (Cordeiro, Silva, & Goldschmidt, 2003). In the pilot study, 10 families from the general population and 10 families referred for violence problems were included in the sample. The results obtained by the application of the DC: 0-3 were, then, compared to the results obtained by the application to the same families of other, nationally validated instruments, which have already been proven effective on detecting infant/toddler abuse and neglect. In this presentation we will discuss the preliminary results of this study, as well as health-related policy-making to protect infants and toddlers from violence.
OS20.003
Contribution of the DC:0-3/Axis II: Relationship disorders' diagnostic criteria to detecting infant and toddler abuse and neglect in Greece: A pilot study
15:10, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1
Kornilia Hatzinikolaou, Vasiliki Karveli, Aggeliki Skoubourdi, Eleanna Ritsou, George Nikolaidis

A pilot study aiming to test whether the DC: 0-3 Diagnostic Classification for Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood (Zero to Three, 2001) diagnostic criteria for Axis II: Relationship Disorders could be effectively used with European populations is presented. Six countries (Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Cyprus and UK) participated in the project. In each country, 10 families from the general population and 10 families referred for violence problems were included in the sample. The results obtained by the application of the DC: 0-3 were, then, compared to the results obtained by the application to the same families of other, nationally validated instruments, which have already been proved effective on detecting caregiver-infant/toddler relationship difficulties and, especially, infant/toddler abuse and neglect. The use of DC: 0-3 diagnostic criteria for Relationship Disorders with European populations, as well as the Manual's contribution to detecting infant and toddler abuse and neglect, are discussed.

OS21.001
Protecting children in adversity: Toward a whole of government strategy
14:30, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2
Valerie Maholmes, Richard Rinehart

The U.S. Government Evidence Summit on Protecting Children Outside of Family Care brought together leading researchers and technical experts to assess the available evidence to inform policies, strategies, and programs relevant to protecting children outside of family care in lower and middle income countries. While child vulnerabilities are clearly multi-dimensional, global programs are often fragmented, as exemplified by the multitude of U.S. agencies with responsibilities for global child protection. Leading multilateral, bilateral, government, and nongovernmental agencies are now embracing a more systemic approach consistent with a more holistic orientation towards children’s needs.

A case is made in this presentation for a more coordinated, evidence-based strategy for addressing the needs of children who are abandoned, abused, or severely neglected. Although a new U.S. Action Plan for Children in Adversity has emerged from the work of the summit, it must be acknowledged that there is a dearth of rigorous studies to complement information gleaned from practitioner experience, agency reports, case studies, and anecdotal evidence, with higher quality studies weighted towards children who can be captured by household surveys that too often miss large numbers of children outside of family care (e.g., those trafficked, abandoned). Although there are challenges in conducting rigorous, ethically responsible research in this area, there is also a cost of inaction.

There is a need for sufficient funding for research and high quality evaluation to develop a strong empirical base to support many of the practices in the field, thereby assisting in the cost-effective and more innovative utilization of other program funds. The papers presented in this symposium highlight the importance of the establishment of appropriate knowledge transfer and learning mechanisms across communities of practice.
OS21.002
Protecting children in adversity: What does the evidence say?
14:50, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2
Valerie Maholmes, Richard Rinehart

Objectives

Some of the most vulnerable children in the world live outside of family care and many children remain underserved by disjointed policies and services intended help them. To address this, the U.S. government convened agencies, child advocates, researchers and private partners in an Evidence Summit on Protecting Children Outside of Family Care. This objective of this symposium is to discuss the evidence reviewed at the Summit. Presenters will: 1-discuss critical gaps in the literature 2-present evidence regarding identifying and enumerating children, and 3-discuss the need for systems and strategies for supporting these children. The symposium concludes with a review of a unified strategy for child protection and engages the audience on global efforts to address the needs of vulnerable children.

Method

A structured literature search and review process identified the best available evidence for four categories of child vulnerability: 1-children of and on the street, 2- institutionalized children, 2-trafficked children, 3-children affected by conflict and disaster, and 4-child laborers. Papers presented will discuss the strength of the evidence as it relates to these categories and discuss the need for rigorous research.

Results

Through successive review phases and structured screening criteria, 457 peer reviewed papers and 195 gray literature documents were selected and reviewed by expert panels. Final documents were identified for analysis and discussed at the U.S. Government Evidence Summit on Protecting Children Outside of Family Care.

Conclusion

A stronger evidence-base to improve protection for vulnerable children requires evaluations that are integrated into program development, context-appropriate methodologies to assess intervention scalability, and longitudinal designs to explore children's trajectories. The papers presented during this symposium will discuss how programming for these children will benefit from systems-wide data coordination, international comparisons, and research that emphasizes coping and resilience.
OS21.003

Protecting children in adversity: Systems and strategies for identifying and enumerating children outside of family care

15:10, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2

Valerie Maholmes, John Fluke

Objectives: This presentation describes findings from a paper prepared as part of a US Government evidence review regarding effective response to children in adversity in low- middle income countries. The focus will be on the various methodologies applied to identify and enumerate often hidden or mobile populations. Such methodologies vary as do the vulnerability categories of the children themselves. Children outside of family care is a broad term encompassing institutionalized children, children on/of the street, institutionalized children, trafficked children, and children working in exploitive labor situations.

Methods: Methodologies that identify and enumerate children outside of family strive: 1) to estimate the number and characteristics of a specific vulnerability category, and 2) to determine eligibility to receive services. This presentation reviews eight methodologies; six are categorized as survey sample methods (time-location sampling, capture recapture sampling, respondent driven sampling, the neighborhood method, household surveys, and establishment surveys) and two are data management systems (child labor management system, and databases of institutions). Concise descriptions of the methodology, its strengths and limitations, as well as population relevance will be discussed.

Results: Children in these vulnerability categories often reside in hard to reach locations, or conditions of illegality and secrecy that may hinder the process of data collection. Official records and administrative sources underestimate the true magnitude of the affected populations. Reporting mechanisms, may be unreliable or compromised by high levels of inefficiency, corruption or stigma. The existence of records can lead to criminalization and increased vulnerability for the affected children.

Conclusions: Findings from the review advocate for tailoring a methodology to the specific circumstances for identifying or enumerating children outside of family care. In addition, further research and validation studies are needed to identify the conditions under which the strategies described here can be used and to develop appropriate protocols for utilization.

OS21.004

Protecting children in adversity: Strategies for strengthening the global evidence-base regarding needs of and interventions for children outside of family care

15:30, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2

Alastair Ager, Cathy Zimmerman, Valerie Maholmes

Objectives: Strengthening the evidence-base for policy and practice to support of children outside of family care requires effective, efficient and sustainable mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. Toward that end, two questions guided a systematic review of evidence: What strategies are appropriate for monitoring the needs and circumstances of children outside of family care? What strategies are suitable for evaluating the impact of programs intended to serve children at risk?

Methods. A structured document search and review process was implemented as part of the U.S. Government Evidence Summit on Protecting Children Outside of Family Care. Through successive review phases and thematic review process, 73 documents were identified for analysis.

Results. Analysis of models and strategies indicates that: (1) tools are available to assess children’s needs, but must be adapted for different contexts; (2) well-designed evaluations have been able to detect the influence of interventions; (3) long-term follow-up is crucial to developing stronger evidence of their effectiveness; and (4) insights into appropriate strategies for systems-wide monitoring are emerging. In addition to describing key components of monitoring and evaluation strategies, findings draw attention to the evaluation of children’s resiliency and protective factors, community-based monitoring, the role of caregivers, potential stigmatization of children (through data collection methods that lead to ‘labeling’ of children) and the importance of children’s participation.

Conclusions. Fostering a stronger evidence-base to improve protection for vulnerable children requires evaluations that are integrated into program development, use context-appropriate methodologies able to assess intervention scalability and employ longitudinal designs to explore children’s trajectories. Future programming will benefit from systems-wide data coordination, international comparisons, research that emphasizes coping and resilience and children’s participation in monitoring and evaluation.
OS57.001
European implementation of the Barnahus Model - The CAC/Barnahus model and the principles of the Council of Europe standard setting
11:30, 17 September 2013: Landsdowne
Bragi Guðbrandsson, Chris Newlin

The first CAC/Barnahus in Europe was set up in Iceland fifteen years ago. During the last decade about 40 Barnahus have been founded, mainly in Scandinavia, and many more settings in different countries are in the pipelines. The implementation of Barnahus in Europe demonstrates the value of the child friendly and multidisciplinary response to child sexual abuse and it’s viability across national/cultural boundaries.

During the past years the Council of Europe (CoE) has carried out extensive work on promoting the implementation of the CRC as well as CoE standards in the area of children’s rights under the heading “Europe for and with Children”. A significant part of this effort has been to identify strategies to enhance the child friendliness of the judicial, social and health systems among the member states. Toward this end a number of standards embodied in conventions, recommendations and guidelines have been developed, some of which directly or indirectly address child sexual abuse. The most important of these tools is the Convention on the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the Lanzarote Convention) signed by almost all member states and already ratified by 25 of the states. The CoE has promoted this comprehensive and exhaustive convention through it’s ONE in FIVE campaign “One in five” to stop sexual violence against children. These legal instruments, designed by governments are core to the improvement of the manner in which children’s rights should be respected. They also trigger the sharing of good practices among member states and professionals.

This presentation will include presentation of these instruments, their relevance to professionals and especially will look at the child friendly, multidisciplinary principles of the Barnahus, a practice promoted under the Lanzarote Convention and other CoE instruments.

OS57.002
European implementation of the Barnahus Model - Evaluation of the Norwegian Barnahus/CAC Model 2012
11:50, 17 September 2013: Landsdowne
Chris Newlin, Eirin Baugsto, Anne-Lise Farstad

There has been Barnehus/CAC in Norway since 2007. It started as a three-year project, to potentially become a permanent program for children. Today we have 8 Barnehus in Norway and two more are scheduled to start in September 2013.

In 2012 the Barnehus/CAC model were evaluated by the Norwegian Authorities - NOVA and Politihøgskolen.

We will present:

1) The key findings of this evaluation
2) Organizational affiliation of the projects and new opportunities that have developed because of assessment
OS57.003
European implementation of the Barnahus Model - A quality review of Swedish Barnahus - 2012. Strengths and weaknesses

12:10, 17 September 2013: Landsdowne

Chris Newlin, Åsa Landberg, Carl-Göran Göran Svedin

There has been a rapid increase in the number Barnahus in Sweden the last 6-7 years and today there are approximately 30 Barnahus. When such rapid development takes place several aspects of quality might be lost. This was the reason for initiating this study involving 23 Barnahus, which had been in operation at least one year before the start of the study. Following to a large extent the standards for accreditation to the National Children’s Alliance in the US we did a quality review based on documentation, site visits and interviews. The evaluation followed 12 different aspects from organisation to what’s in the best interest of the child.

This presentation will focus on the strengths of the Barnahus model such as multidisciplinary co-operation and forensic interviewing but also on weaknesses in the system that needs to be improved such as the low number of medical examinations and the lack of support and psychological treatment. The need for a regional competence centres and national responsibility will also be discussed.

OS57.004
European implementation of the Barnahus Model - Where is it being done and is it effective?

12:30, 17 September 2013: Landsdowne

Chris Newlin, Bragi Guðbrandsson, Carl-Göran Göran Svedin, Lou Ann Holland, Anne-Lise Farstad, Åsa Landberg

The Barnahus (Children’s Advocacy Center) Model was initially developed in the United States in 1985 and there are currently more than 850 Children’s Advocacy Centers in the United States which served more than 270,000 children in 2012 alone. The utilization of this innovative public-private partnership is unique to the United States, and the collaboration between government and Non-Governmental Organizations will be reviewed.

Beginning with Iceland in 1997, the Barnahus Model is being implemented in numerous European countries, especially Scandinavia. This presentation will provide an overview of the Barnahus Model, the research supporting the conceptual model, and existing research from both the USA and other countries regarding the effectiveness of this model. Additionally, significant time will be devoted to allowing each participating country to describe the implementation in their country with a particular focus on:

- Number of current programs
- Organizational structure of these programs
- Number of children served (gender, age, type of abuse/exposure, etc.)
- Collaborative partners currently involved
- Status of program evaluations
- Recent successes - what is going well?
- Current challenges - what is needed to improve?

The countries currently committed to participating are Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. If time is allowed, we will also include presentations from Denmark, Finland, Greenland, and possibly other countries in Europe who may be available to attend.

Additionally, the presentation will review the UN CRC and the Council of Europe’s Lanzarote Conventions application to the Barnahus Model, including future policy considerations related to this multidisciplinary, child-friendly response to child maltreatment.

This presentation will hopefully be allowed to cover two Symposium sections (180 minutes) as this will allow additional countries to participate.
OS58.001
Child welfare systems and migrant families in Estonia, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands and the USA

11:30, 17 September 2013: Pembroke

Katrin Kriz

This symposium is one part of a two-symposia submission that compares the work of child welfare systems with migrant families in nine countries with different child welfare philosophies, histories and migration contexts: Canada, Estonia, Finland, Italy, Spain, Norway, the Netherlands, the UK and the United States. Symposium A, chaired by Professor Ravinder Barn, UK, will cover Canada, Finland, Italy and the UK. Symposium B, chaired by Assistant Professor Katrin Kriz, USA, will cover Estonia, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands and the USA. By comparing policies and practices in child welfare systems, especially in terms of how child welfare systems conceptualize and deal with migrant children and children of migrant parents, we address an immensely important and pressing issue in modern, globalizing societies. Migrant families in the child welfare system are a critical issue and seem to face serious challenges that are evident across countries.

Each individual paper will address five topics and questions: (1) law and public policy related to migrant families; (2) child welfare with migrant families at the organizational and institutional levels; (3) Training and education for child welfare workers with regard to migrant families; (4) the representation of migrant children and children of migrant parents in the child welfare system; (5) child welfare practice with migrant families based on an empirical study of how child welfare workers perceive risk and possible solutions in case vignettes involving migrant families.

OS58.002
Child welfare systems and migrant families in Estonia, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands and the USA--Norway

11:50, 17 September 2013: Pembroke

Katrin Kriz, Marit Skivenes

This paper on Norway is part of a symposium (Symposium B) on child welfare systems and migrant families that compares the work of child welfare systems with migrant families in five countries with different child welfare philosophies, histories and migration contexts: Estonia, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands and the United States. The aim of this paper is to examine how the Norwegian child welfare system addresses issues involving immigrant/migrant children and their families that are considered to be at risk. The child welfare system has a child-centric orientation (Skivenes 2011) and is characterized as a family-service system (Gilbert, Parton & Skivenes 2011). In the child welfare system, we know that immigrant children are grossly overrepresented; in 2009, approximately 26.5 per 1000 non-immigrant children were in the child welfare system and 51.9 per 1000 immigrant children were in the system. Why is that so?

This chapter examines the particular problems, challenges and solutions that relate to migrant children and the child welfare system in Norway. It begins with an overview of the Norwegian context and system, followed by statistics and facts that are available to us in Norway. Thereafter, I provide an outline of descriptions of common problems found in the field, followed by an examination of legislation and policy perceptions. I present the training program for child welfare workers and the results from a survey of 168 child welfare workers that includes questions about perceptions of, and experiences with, immigrant families. In the concluding section, I discuss how barriers for communication may be an important component in understanding some of the problems and challenges facing migrant children and families in the Norwegian child welfare system.
OS58.003
Child welfare systems and migrant families in Estonia, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands and the USA — the Netherlands
12:10, 17 September 2013: Pembroke
Hans Grietens

This paper on the Netherlands is part of a symposium (Symposium B) on child welfare systems and migrant families that compares the work of child welfare systems with migrant families in five countries with different child welfare philosophies, histories and migration contexts: Estonia, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands and the United States.

The Netherlands have a long tradition as a host country for migrants. Since the end of the Second World War, the number of migrants has been increasing steadily. Being a social democratic/corporatist state, the Netherlands have a well-developed child welfare system. It is based upon The Youth Care Act, which states that all children living in the country have the right to care, irrespective of their cultural and socioeconomic background. Research, however, shows that migrant children and families face several problems when they are in need of help from child welfare services. First, getting access to services is difficult, in particular for first generation migrants. This results in migrants being underrepresented in preventive services and overrepresented in services at the end of the care continuum. Second, there is a lack of skills and knowledge (e.g., about intercultural communication) among child welfare professionals to provide culturally sensitive child welfare services. Third, only a small proportion (<20%) of the interventions recognized by the Dutch Youth Institute target migrant children and families and only a few are exclusively developed for them. The lack of culturally sensitive practice may particularly harm some groups of migrant children, for instance children in abusive families and refugees. Policy makers planning reforms of the child welfare system should take this into account and create new opportunities to better meet the needs of migrant children and families.

OS58.004
Child welfare systems and migrant families in Estonia, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands and the USA — Spain
12:30, 17 September 2013: Pembroke
Katrin Kriz, Antonio López Peláez, Sagrado Segado Sánchez-Cabezudo

This paper on Spain is part of a symposium (Symposium B) on child welfare systems and migrant families that compares the work of child welfare systems with migrant families in five countries with different child welfare philosophies, histories and migration contexts: Estonia, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands and the United States.

In this paper, we analyse some of the key characteristics of immigrant families in Spain focusing on the specific problems of minors and the institutional support they receive via the social services system. For this purpose, first, we analyse the characteristics of immigration flows in Spain. Second, we analyse the latest data on the immigrant population using as a reference data on immigrants with a valid registration certificate or residence permit (Spanish Immigration Observatory, 2012). Third, we analyse the challenges facing the social services system due to the massive influx of immigrants in recent years. Fourth, we examine the current model for the protection of minors. Fifth, we examine child protection from the perspective of social work, focusing specifically on the main programmes offered at Spanish universities, and the discourse of professionals working in the field. Finally, we analyse the available data on interventions by the social services with regard to minors and the immigrant population. It should be noted that minors are heavily protected by law, and that under the current integration model set out in the Spanish Constitution, social services do not distinguish between immigrant and non-immigrant minors.
OS58.005
Child welfare systems and migrant families in Estonia, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands and the USA-- Estonia
12:50, 17 September 2013: Pembroke
Katrin Kriz, Judit Strömpl, Merle Linno

This paper on Estonia is part of a symposium (Symposium B) on child welfare systems and migrant families that compares the work of child welfare systems with migrant families in five countries with different child welfare philosophies, histories and migration contexts: Estonia, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands and the United States.

The Estonian child protection system is still in its infancy with strong influences both by the former system and EU rules. In general this situation has resulted in contradictions between legislation and practice: demands prescribed by law are implemented formally, without deep understanding of concepts behind them. Most obvious example here can be the demands connected with the concept of the rights of the child and child-centred ideology. Estonia is a country of emigration and the number of immigrants during the last twenty years is very low, also asylum seekers and refugees are a totally new phenomenon in Estonia. Nevertheless, approximately one third of population is of immigrant origin consisting from people immigrated to Estonia during the Soviet period and their descendants. The third and fourth generation of immigrants officially are not defined as immigrants, but they have similar integration problems characteristic to newcomers; statelessness, foreign citizenship, insufficient Estonian language skills and weak connection with Estonian state and society. Children of this group are not seen as immigrants in official definitions and their cultural diversity does not receive special attention by the child protection system; however they are overrepresented as service users. The extremely small number of child protection workers who filled out the questionnaire of the cross-country study demonstrates deep confusions tied with the topic of immigrant children among social workers working in the child protection system. In our presentation we are going to give some explanations for these confusions.

OS58.006
Child welfare systems and migrant families in Estonia, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands and the USA-- The United States of America
13:10, 17 September 2013: Pembroke
Katrin Kriz, Ilze Earner

This paper on the United States is part of a symposium (Symposium B) on child welfare systems and migrant families that compares the work of child welfare systems with migrant families in five countries with different child welfare philosophies, histories and migration contexts: Estonia, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands and the United States. By comparing policies and practices in child welfare systems, especially in terms of how child welfare systems conceptualize and deal with migrant children and children of migrant parents, we address an immensely important and pressing issue in modern, globalizing societies.

This paper discusses the intersections between immigrant families and child protection services in the United States. The U.S. is currently the country with the highest number of foreign born individuals in the world (Pison, 2010). In this paper, we first discuss the main characteristics of child protective services in the United States before providing some background information about immigrants and highlighting the risk factors faced by children of immigrants. We then describe the policy and legal platforms that affect immigrant children and their families when they come into contact with child protective services. Next, we discuss the challenges immigrant families face when interacting with child protective services and the representation of immigrant children in the child welfare system. We continue to discuss how child protective services are organized to practice with immigrant families. Lastly, we discuss the main findings from a survey conducted with child welfare workers (n=103) in Fall 2012.
OS59.001
Public health nursing and the protection of children: Current practice and future challenges - a symposium
11:30, 17 September 2013: Munster
Jane Appleton, Sue Peckover

This symposium aims to draw attention to the role of public health nurses in the protection of children. It brings together a range of papers that will examine child maltreatment as a public health issue and outline the role and contribution of nurses. This is wide ranging and includes prevention and protection work at primary, secondary and tertiary levels delivered through a range of approaches and settings. The papers will showcase different types of public health nursing - health visiting, school nursing and specialist roles - demonstrating the wide range of roles and practices of public health nursing across Europe, and how this contributes to the welfare and protection of children and young people. Issues such as policy reform, changing public health priorities and how child maltreatment is understood all create challenges for developing this work. There are also tensions due to the preventive and early intervention nature of such work which can be both hard to evidence and subject to resource constraints particularly in times of fiscal crisis. Such issues are faced in different ways across Europe and the symposium will examine commonalities and differences in how this area of child protection work is developing.

OS59.002
Public health nursing and the protection of children: Current practice and future challenges; Paper 1, Child maltreatment: a public health issue
11:50, 17 September 2013: Munster
Sue Peckover, Jane Appleton

Child maltreatment is increasingly being understood within a public health framework. The rationale underpinning this reflects the extent of the problem and its associated costs measured in fiscal, social and health terms. This has led to calls to shift the focus in addressing child maltreatment to an upstream approach concerned with populations rather than just individuals and advocating early intervention and prevention. Whilst these developments are evident in contemporary policy, the adoption of a public health approach is not without tensions; this is due to the socially constructed nature of child abuse and neglect, and the multiple discourses associated with public health. The regulatory aspects of public health also intersects with debates about the extent of state intervention in the lives of children, young people and their families. These issues will be examined within this paper which will critically discuss a public health approach to address the problem of child maltreatment. It will also draw attention to the important role played by nurses working in public health who are well placed to work with children and young people and their families and undertake preventative and early intervention work to address this problem; their role and contribution will be outlined drawing upon some examples from policy and practice in the UK.

OS59.003
Public health nursing and the protection of children: Current practice and future challenges; Paper 2, The distinctive contribution of British Health Visiting to child protection practice
12:10, 17 September 2013: Munster
Jane Appleton, Sue Peckover

The British health visiting service first established over 150 years ago provides a universal and public health preventative service to all pre-school children and their families. A health visitor is a registered nurse who has undergone a further 1-year full-time or 2 year part-time Specialist Community Public Health Nurse training programme which focuses on improving child and family health and wellbeing, and reducing inequalities. A unique aspect of the health visitor's role is that these public health professionals make home visits to children and their families, which has meant that the service is viewed as available to all and non-stigmatizing. This paper will begin by outlining health visiting's track record in safeguarding and child protection; it will discuss the importance of the health visitor role in this area, yet how eroded that role has become. Drawing on the body of health visiting research evidence and recent policy drivers, it will outline some of the obstacles to good safeguarding practice. The paper will conclude by emphasising the distinctive contribution of health visitors' work in child protection, acknowledging that this should be part of a continuum of public health activity including universal preventative work, identifying and working with vulnerable children and their families, as well as protecting children from abuse and neglect.
OS59.004
Public health nursing and the protection of children: Current practice and future challenges; Paper 3, Public health nursing in Finland: some challenges of child protection work
12:30, 17 September 2013: Munster
Jane Appleton, Eija Paavilainen, Sue Peckover

The objective of this paper is to describe public health nurses' work in child protection in Finland, and present some results from a recent survey conducted in 2012 about how these professionals identify and intervene in cases of child maltreatment. Public health nurses in Finland provide care to children and families across a wide age range, including both pre-school and school aged children, in many different settings including clinics, clients' homes and schools. Before school age (7 years), children and their families visit child health clinics at least 16 times, and once in school, children and young people will see a public health nurse at least once a year. According to recent evidence (National Institute Social Welfare and Health, 2011), most children are, and feel well and healthy. Yet families increasingly face many challenges, with increasing numbers of children known to child protection services, and children and adolescents accessing more mental health services. Finnish public health nurses are in a key position to identify and intervene in children and families' problems, in particular around child maltreatment. In Finland we have a National Guideline concerning identification and intervention in child maltreatment (2005), based on a systematic literature review. According to a national survey (2012) of public health nurses (n=367), 77% (n=283) knew about the guideline, and 46% (n=170) had read it. Public health nurses try to work according to the guideline but only 54% (n=198) think that there are enough resources for that. Sixty-five per cent (n=238) say they are clear about how to inform child protection professionals when needed. This paper will conclude, by stressing that while nurses are increasingly aware of their role in child protection, there is a need for further training in this area of work.

OS59.005
Public health nursing and the protection of children: Current practice and future challenges; Paper 4, Child protection and specialist public health nursing roles in England: where are we now?
12:50, 17 September 2013: Munster
Catherine Powell, Jane Appleton, Sue Peckover

Following the passage of the Health and Social Care Act (2012), the National Health Service (NHS) in England has been transitioning through the largest and most far-reaching reforms since its inception. The aim of this transformation is to ensure that the service is both clinically-led and patient centred. Furthermore, despite difficult economic times, there is an emphasis on improving health, practice and outcomes. This inspirational rhetoric includes a commitment by the Government to ‘ensure continued improvement and the development of effective arrangements to safeguard and promote children’s welfare.’ The role of health professionals in protecting children is well recognised and valued within multi-agency contexts. Universal health services and public health nurses in particular, are well situated to identify and respond to emerging concerns within families. Given this tradition, it is not surprising that a typical ‘career pathway’ into specialist child protection roles begins with qualification and experience as a public health nurse. This includes the roles of the Named and Designated Nurse, as defined in statutory guidance.

There are early indications that the professional leadership and expertise of named and designated professionals (doctors, nurses and midwives) will continue to be recognised within new structures and guidance. The eagerly anticipated new edition of Working Together will no doubt provide support in this respect. But what of these roles in the future? I have previously argued that safeguarding is a fundamental responsibility for all nurses, midwives and health visitors; including those whose primary patient is an adult. This is important because mental health and substance misuse, for example, may feature as a risk or contributory factor in child maltreatment. This paper will provide an update on policy, but also question whether it is timely to embrace a more eclectic career pathway to specialist safeguarding and child protection roles.
OS59.006

13:10, 17 September 2013: Munster

Julie Taylor, Caroline Bradbury-Jones, Jane Appleton, Sue Peckover

There have been a number of recent comparative analyses of the roles of public health nurses (and their equivalents) in the European Union (EU). These indicate huge variability across countries regarding the role and function of public health nurses for example, in relation to preparation and training. Other differences exist in provision of services: in some countries, all families of young children are allocated automatically a public health nurse at birth; in others the role of public health nurse does not even exist; and in many countries a role exists somewhere between these extremes. Summarising these nuanced differences is important in gauging the extent to which different countries recognise the crucial role that public health nurses can play in the support and surveillance of children. Despite a fairly robust knowledge base however, little is known about the specific child protection remit of public health nurses across the EU. Further, it is not known if there is uniformity in involvement in child protection proceedings; what formal relationships may exist between partner agencies; and what informal help might be offered where multiple adversity and risk exist. It could be assumed that a universal screening role (where it exists) is helpful in identifying those children and families where more support is needed. But recent evidence from the UK suggests that many opportunities for identifying such need are missed at early appointments and due to a lengthy time lag until the next contact, identification comes too late. We will explore what this means for other EU countries. Overall this final paper provides a scoping of public health nursing in relation to child protection from a pan-european perspective. It highlights areas of interesting and innovative practice from individual countries that can serve as exemplars for other countries and sharing of best practice across Europe.

OS60.001
Policy to protect adolescents affected by abuse, exploitation and violence in 2013: is it time for reform?: Ms

Understanding peer-on-peer abuse: reframing child protection policy to account for young people’s experience of gender-based violence

11:30, 17 September 2013: Ulster

Carlene Firmin

Objective: This presentation presents a conceptual framework for peer-on-peer violence and abuse within adolescent intimate relationship, peer groups and street gangs. Drawing upon Anastasia Powell (2008) and Pierre Bourdieu (1999), the proposed framework places children's relationships within harmful hegemonic social fields, and asks whether children can be groomed to abuse, and if so whether child protection policy should protect those who harm their peers as well as those who are harmed.

Method: Building upon cases of peer-on-peer abuse identified during research into girls' experiences of gang-related physical and sexual violence (Firmin 2009, 2011), this presentation will employ theoretical thinking from Bourdieu (1999) and Connell (1995) to construct a framework for analysing violence in young people's relationships. Drawing together literature on gender-based violence, youth violence, and child protection, and analysing policy developed to tackle child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, and serious youth violence, the author assesses whether gendered social fields navigated by children are accounted for by current child protection policies.

Results: The process demonstrates that current child protection policy insufficiently accounts for adolescents' experiences of abusive relationships, as victims and as perpetrators. Processes to protect children from harmful attitudes, ideals, and social fields that can influence their behaviours and lead to them committing violence against partners are lacking. Finally, children navigate gendered social fields that reinforce hegemonic ideals of masculinity which suppress alternative masculinities and subordinate femininities, influencing their individual gendered identities and their relationships.

Conclusions: The presentation concludes that child protection policy should account for harm posed to children outside of the home, whether this is harm posed by their peers or by children's interaction with harmful social fields. The definition of child protection allows for such policy to be created, and it is vital that this takes place.
OS60.002
Policy to protect adolescents affected by abuse, exploitation and violence in 2013: is it time for reform?: Lessons learned from a multi-agency learning review of Operation Kern, Derby, where eight men were sentenced for sexual exploitation offences
11:50, 17 September 2013: Ulster
Mandy MacDonald, Carlene Firmin

Objective
This presentation will outline clear learning and best practice in respect of handling complex cases and young people’s experiences of support and court processes pre, during and post trial. This is very much a practice based presentation. Learning reviews are invaluable to address areas for improvement and for sharing good practice. We aim to share the results of the learning review of the young people involved in Kern, (3 victims and 2 witnesses in the trial, but up to 15 young people were involved) and their families. The multi agency input allows us to include a focus on the prosecuted perpetrators, the support of the victims and professional and victim's perspectives.

Method
We will draw on the learning from the SCR of Operations Retriever and Operation Kern in Derby. These cases have been central to the development of the CSE work in Derby, which has a child/family centred approach and equal focus on supporting young people and disrupting and prosecuting offenders.

Conclusions
The benefits of the symposium are that professionals will be able to:

• Identify organisational or procedural obstacles in similar cases
• Identify opportunities for better practice or service delivery
• Combine the learning of the professionals involved
• Reflect on the collective responses of the young people

This is an excellent opportunity to identify what works for young people and their families. It will also assist our understanding of how complex investigations impact on all involved. By sharing this information at the conference we hope to raise awareness for other professionals and to share good practice.
OS60.003  
Policy to protect adolescents affected by abuse, exploitation and violence in 2013: is it time for reform?: Is risk of sexual exploitation effectively addressed at the gateway to the youth justice system?

12:10, 17 September 2013: Ulster

Katy O’Brien, Carlene Firmin

Objective

The objective of this presentation will be to explore whether policy should further address early identification of young people at risk of exploitation. It will highlight diversionary policing practice, which take place separately from young people's services and consider whether diversion in youth justice sits in tension with policy of early identification in Children's Services.

Method

This paper uses a review of the research literature about early indicators of vulnerability to sexual exploitation and policies about early identification of risk of poor outcomes. A small literature about diversionary policing practice of 'informal resolution' (CJII 2012) will be highlighted. Possible theoretical tension will be explored. In addition some research into models of practice such as 'Triage' or 'Bureaux' at the lower tiers of youth justice will be drawn upon.

Results

Common themes exist related to the identification of early indicators of risk as they present during youth across sexual exploitation policy and crime prevention policy. There is under-researched policing practice of 'informal resolution' taking place and widespread change in lower tiers of youth justice system structures. Empirical research is required to investigate whether policy needs to articulate how these approaches work together and to identify models of good practice.

Conclusions

As the use of informal resolution expands as a proportion within youth justice settings and also work at the lower end of the penalties framework is passed into widely varied structures in the context of preventive young people's services, policy which calls for early identification of risk of exploitation is at odds with diversion unless carried out with great care. There is a need for on-going research to test the hypothesis that opportunities for prevention are being missed through diversionary processes and to establish if policy needs to articulate how these approaches sit together.
Policy to protect adolescents affected by abuse, exploitation and violence in 2013: is it time for reform?: Missing from discourse: Black and minority ethnic young women and child sexual exploitation

12:30, 17 September 2013: Ulster
Nicola Sharp, Carlene Firmin

Objective

The literature on child sexual exploitation has been criticised for remaining implicitly centred on young white women as victims, with research presenting them as a homogenous group, assuming similarities across racial and ethnic boundaries (Ward and Patel, 2006). This presentation seeks to address the neglect of black and minority ethnic young women within dominant sexual exploitation discourse through exploring 'going missing' as a widely recognised indicator of child sexual exploitation vis-à-vis young women seeking to exit the threat or reality of forced marriage.

Method

Forced marriage/Misper case files are analysed using the realist evaluation methodology developed by Pawson and Tilley (2004). This approach enables the author to explore 'the different layers of social reality which make up and surround programmes' – in this case the dominant exit approach to abuse – and to test the hypothesis that young people who run away in order to exit threatened or actual forced marriage are at risk of child sexual exploitation.

Results

Current practice identifies particular types of risk for young black and minority ethnic women to the exclusion of other forms. The author argues that practitioners fail to consider how the intersection of age, gender and ethnicity leads to particular experiences for black and minority ethnic young runaways which, when mediated through wider systems of inequality, result in high levels of vulnerability to sexual exploitation.

Conclusions

The presentation concludes that in order to recognise the risks associated with going missing as they are experienced by black and minority ethnic young women, a constitutive model of intersectionality needs to be adopted (Thiara and Gill, 2010). In so doing, professionals will be better able to understand and assess risk of child sexual exploitation and identify suitable strategies for engaging and supporting victims from diverse backgrounds.
OS64.001
European child maltreatment data collection programs: ISPCAN Child Maltreatment Working Group symposium

11:30, 17 September 2013: Elgin

John Fluke

There have been several calls for data collection to meet countries reporting requirements, for instance, the UN’s Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Child maltreatment data collection, analysis, and expert interpretation for action are key components of such efforts. This workshop focuses on the development of national data collection programs drawn from the experiences of at least three European countries or regions including: The Balkan Region (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Romania, Serbia, Turkey), France, and Switzerland. The symposium will describe and discuss the national contexts of the data collection program, provide a brief history of the program and its status.

The session will highlight the plans, developments, and results of the data collection programs in terms of strengths and limitations in the abovementioned countries. Methods of data collection range from surveys to the collection of data from automated administrative sources. The workshop will conclude with discussion and questions regarding the future and sustainability of such systems within changing policy frameworks of child maltreatment. The importance of knowing the objectives, ethics, and limitations of data collection efforts before setting up a system will be addressed. Other concerns include legislation, appropriate methodologies, and the independence of data collection and analysis. Challenges include political, resource concerns, and considerations of cross sector responsibilities for addressing child protection.

Confirmed Paper 1: Results of the Balkan epidemiological study on child abuse and neglect (BECAN)

Confirmed Paper 2: France setting up a new process for collecting data on children in the care system: a challenge at local and national levels

Confirmed Paper 3: Knowledge mobilization to overcome barriers to national incidence data on child maltreatment in Switzerland

OS64.002
European child maltreatment data collection programs: ISPCAN child maltreatment working group symposium - Knowledge mobilization to overcome barriers to national incidence data on child maltreatment in Switzerland

11:50, 17 September 2013: Elgin

Andreas Jud

In Switzerland, nationally representative incidence data on child maltreatment are presently unavailable. A sustained effort is needed to overcome barriers inherent to a complex child protection system: the 26 cantonal (provincial) variations of organizing child protection result in a pronounced diversity of agencies and organizations, amplified by linguistic and cultural differences. Furthermore, private agencies play an important role.

The Optimus Agency Study II is approaching stakeholders using a knowledge mobilization framework, in order to improve the commitment of the Swiss child protection system to data sharing on child maltreatment. It builds on imperatives such as how data should be used to address relevant issues that decision-makers are currently grappling with. The method includes analyzing previous regional data collection efforts by researchers and stakeholders. A previous study has for example shown that the caseload of public child welfare agencies is dominated by cases of intimate partner violence. Benefits and costs of data sharing for individual stakeholders will be discussed and barriers identified. Furthermore, we offer stakeholders a continuous monitoring of developments in legislation, practice, policy and financing in the Swiss child protection system. This effort to improve the accountability of the Swiss child protection system will help to address biases that went undetected before, e.g. regional disparities in serving different types of child maltreatment.
OS64.003
European child maltreatment data collection programs: ISPCAN Child Maltreatment Working Group symposium - France setting up a new process for collecting data on children in the care system: a challenge at local and national levels

12:10, 17 September 2013: Elgin
Adeline Renuy, Flora Bolter, Maud Gorza, John Fluke

France has limited data and indicators concerning children at risk, making it problematic to assess the effectiveness of services and decisions made regarding children’s trajectories (i.e., rate of placement, rate of child assistance in open custody). This situation has been underlined by several reports since 1995.

Created by law in January 2004, the National Observatory for Children at Risk (ONED), is a combined State and département service, and the development of more coherent data is part of its mission.

A March, 5, 2007 law mandated a system to collect data from all administrative and judicial officials working on the child protection system. Each of the 100 départements (local authorities) must create a local observatory to analyze data, produce statistics and indicators, assess practices, and counsel local policy makers. The challenge for the départements is to develop this program despite differences in organizations, workforces, and resources. An initial difficulty should be resolved early in 2013; the different interpretations made by the départements of the functional scope of this requirement.

Once a year, data are sent to the ONED. 130 variables are included about the child protection system, children’s characteristics and their family context, type of neglect and decisions. Criteria of anonymity and individuality insure the quality and homogeneity of data. The data are also longitudinal and centralized to analyze children’s trajectories, to allow uniform treatment and calculation and make comparisons between departments.

An indicator study will be published annually in a report to the Parliament and Government to provide a better understanding of the population of children in care, local practices and activities, and improve national public policies.

The data-collection process has begun with 15 départements that have transmitted their data and initial tests and analyses are in progress.
OS64.004
European child maltreatment data collection programs: ISPCAN Child Maltreatment Working Group Symposium - Results of the Balkan epidemiological study on child abuse and neglect (BECAN)
12:30, 17 September 2013: Elgin
John Fluke, George Nikolaidis

The BECAN project was an EU/FP7-funded epidemiological survey on CAN prevalence and incidence in 9 Balkan countries (Greece, Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Romania, Serbia and Turkey) including (a) a field survey in 11-, 13- and 16-year-old schoolchildren and their parents using a modified version of the ICAST-P and ICAST-C questionnaires (producing linked pairs of child-parent questionnaires while preserving anonymity of responders) and (b) a case-based surveillance study via a specifically developed data extraction form to measure CAN reports in official CPS agencies in participant countries. The design sample for the field survey was 59,763 children and their parents. Modified versions of the ICAST tools were developed via consensus panel methodology and pilot testing in focus groups involving around 400 children and 100 parents. Children's response rates differ from country to country (50-90%) resulting in a final sample of 43,598 children (R.R.: 76%) and 29,377 parents (R.R.: 67%). Preliminary results are presented and discussed; in respect to preexisting epidemiological findings in Europe, results in general show:

• Relatively higher rates on severe while equal or even lower rates on overall exposure to physical and psychological violence
• Decrease by age of incidence and increase of prevalence rates of exposure to physical violence while respectful rates for psychological violence indicate the reverse trend
• Relative equation of boys : girls ratios in most categories of adverse childhood experiences
• Relative predominance of experienced feelings of neglect in girls (growing by age group)
• Relatively higher rates of boys' reports of adverse sexual childhood experiences and almost equation of boys : girls' ratio in most Southern Balkan countries (unlike even Northern Balkan countries) for both contact and non items
• Substantial increase of response rates by passive or no parental consent in questionnaires' delivery

OS99.001
09:00, 18 September 2013: Landsdowne
John Fluke

Decisions in child protection, for example removal decisions, are made under uncertainty. The Decision Making Ecology (DME) model considers child welfare decisions to be a function of case (e.g. type and severity of maltreatment, risk, poverty), decision maker (e.g. experience, values), organizational (e.g. policy, workload, resources), and external characteristics (e.g. critical events, funding). Research has shown that while workers attend to case information similarly to arrive at an assessment, the factors determining their willingness to take action vary; the General Assessment and Decision Making (GADM). Workers, supervisors, administrators, and judges reach individual decision thresholds where assessment information resulting in action in combination with competing views of consequences.

The goals of this symposium are to describe: (1) the usefulness of the DME and GADM process (2) the usefulness of understanding the decision-making process as it informs risk assessment, (3) the role cultures and poverty play in risk assessment and decision-making and (4) how decision making thresholds differ throughout the decision-making continuum.

Four presentations are planned:

Paper 1: Temporal and regional stability in factors associated with child welfare referrals to family services

Paper 2: Decision Making Ecology: The decision to provide child welfare services after a maltreatment investigation: Analysis with the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS)

Paper 3: Do decision-maker characteristics matter in reporting suspected child maltreatment by school professionals?

Paper 4: Organizational proclivities: A Decision Making Ecology analysis of system level differential response utilization thresholds and safety outcomes
OS99.002

09:20, 18 September 2013: Landsdowne
Fred Wulczyn, John Fluke

Although the emphasis on evidence-based interventions is a major step toward improving child protection systems, there are other equally important decisions to be made if we expect to use prevention as a way to reduce exposure to and the consequences of child maltreatment. Among them, allocating preventive service capacity is perhaps the most important. It is surprising therefore to learn just how little attention is devoted to understanding whether current allocations are at all related to need or outcomes when both are measured at a public health level.

In this paper, we address three empirical questions. First, we examine the extent to which social disadvantage is related to basic indicators of contact with the child welfare system. Contact with the child welfare system is measured as maltreatment investigations, reports of abuse and neglect, substantiated reports, preventive case openings, and foster care placements, all of which are rates per 1000 children. We next examine the allocation of preventive services relative to need and contact with the child welfare system. Preventive services allocation is defined as the number of preventive service slots available in a community. Service slots are similar to foster care beds in the sense that they represent a basic measure of service supply. If slots are open, services are available, and referrals are a measure of utilization. Finally, we examine the relationship between placements, the number of service slots per maltreatment victim, and socio-structural characteristics of the neighborhoods where children live.

Findings suggest that the allocation of preventive services follows need, but that within the cluster of high-need communities, allocations vary considerably with some high-need communities receiving smaller prevention investments. To close the paper we argue that closer attention to these hotspots would help advance preventive service initiatives.

OS99.003

09:40, 18 September 2013: Landsdowne
Gartenhauser Regula, Andreas Jud

Through day-to-day contact, professionals in schools can play a valuable role in recognizing problems and difficulties in children’s lives. The decision to report to child welfare, however, is not only dependent on case characteristics, but also relies on the characteristics of the decision-makers. The evidence on decision-maker factors affecting reports to child welfare is still scarce.

The sample consisted of n=549 principals from public schools, school social workers and school psychologists in Switzerland. Data were collected using an online self-report survey. For two case vignettes, participants rated their likelihood of reporting incidents of suspected maltreatment. Additionally, participants responded to questions on demographics, knowledge of and experience with the child protection system.

Preliminary analyses suggest that female professionals indicated greater familiarity with situations of suspected maltreatment but had fewer prior reports than their male counterparts. Furthermore, prior reports were positively related with the tendency to report in case vignettes. The gap between female professionals’ recognition and reporting is striking. Future research should consider an in-depth examination of this discrepancy.
OS99.004

10:00, 18 September 2013: Landsdowne

Andreas Jud

Few studies investigate the impact of the policy context on service provision in child welfare. This lack of research was addressed by examining trends of family service rates for their temporal stability over a period of marked economic change. Multi-level analyses were applied to U.S. administrative child welfare data combined with county-level data on social structural context such as the rate of numbers of persons in poverty. States are compared for their revenues and expenditures. Years included were 2007, 2008 and 2009 with each year covering around 3,000,000 reports per child and date. Not only was there a marked difference in the level of family services rate between states, but also different directions for trends of family services rate across years. Restricting financial resources on the level of the child welfare system is likely to have an impact on service provision as the dramatic decline of family services in certain states indicate.

OS99.005
Prospects for an Uncertain Response: Advances in Research on the Decision Making Ecology (DME/GADM) in Child Maltreatment and Child Welfare - The decision to provide child welfare services after a maltreatment investigation: Analysis with the CIS

10:20, 18 September 2013: Landsdowne

John Fluke, Barbara Fallon

Organizations serve diverse populations, but studies examining differences in worker and organizational characteristics have not controlled for differences in the population served. The organizational theoretical literature stresses the social, political and economic influences of an organization’s environment in understanding the full complexity of its functioning. Given this, a potentially useful model for understanding the impact of organizations is the decision making ecology (DME), which has increasingly been applied in child welfare literature to assess all of the potential influences on decision making. It is a multi-level model that describes domains that influence decision-maker thresholds for action, which in turn influence client outcomes, including case factors, external factors, individual factors, and organizational factors. Our knowledge of the influence of the organizational domain on decision-making and client outcomes is in need of deeper understanding and refinement.

The DME was used to explore the influence of clinical and organizational characteristics on the decision to provide ongoing child welfare services in the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect - 2008 (CIS -2008), 2003 and 1997. The CIS datasets contain information about key clinical factors collected during the course of a child maltreatment investigation, with each investigation also linked to the characteristics of the workers who conducted the investigation and the organization from which the investigation originated. Building on the work of previous analysis, the contribution of worker and organizational factors in the decision to transfer a child and family to ongoing child welfare services is assessed using a dataset of 15,980 child maltreatment-related investigations.
OS100.001
Connecting evidence, policy and practice: what the Centre for Effective Services has learnt about improving outcomes for children and young people
09:00, 18 September 2013: Pembroke

John Bamber

The Centre for Effective Services (CES) is an independent organisation working across the island of Ireland that helps children, youth and community services to make better use of evidence of what works so that they can deliver more effective services. This symposium will be introduced by John Bamber who will present an overview of the Centre’s contribution to building the evidence base in Ireland. Stella Owens will then discuss how the CES led, Capturing the Learning Project, is synthesising the collective learning from more than 50 prevention and early intervention programmes. The paper covers how some programmes have used evidence at each stage of their project life cycle, for example, deciding which approach to use, how to implement it effectively, how to work with independent evaluation teams to generate their own evidence about impact, and how to use their findings. Stella Owens will then consider key messages from the international research literature regarding interagency working in children’s services. The input also considers how evaluations of the recently developed Children’s Services Committees in Ireland, have the potential to significantly inform understandings of how to improve outcomes for children and young people at local level. Finally, John Bamber will discuss how an evidence-informed approach can support youth service providers to access an array of sources including: independent research and evaluation, theory, grey literature, practice wisdom, consultation, monitoring and self-evaluation, and situation analysis, and how drawing appropriately from such a range can help providers better to understand issues, to improve planning processes, and to show results.

OS100.002
Connecting evidence, policy and practice: what the Centre for Effective Services has learnt about improving outcomes for children and young people - Evidencing youth work: problems and possibilities
09:20, 18 September 2013: Pembroke

John Bamber

Reductions in Government spending, inevitably increases competition between public services and it is axiomatic that those that can demonstrate effectiveness are better placed than those that cannot. The evidence base for youth work is slim; there is a need to build the case. Evidence from research is important but not sufficient to fill the gap, especially if experimental methods are held up as the ‘gold standard’. When this view holds sway it leads to the view that only proven, evidence-based programmes should be funded. Although such programmes can be appropriate, in general the standard itself can be challenged on a number of grounds.

For example there are epistemological issues, trials are often complex and time-consuming with delayed findings, and the associated costs can be prohibitive. There are two fundamental issues for youth workers. Evidence based programmes often target those deemed to be troubled or troublesome, whereas youth work focuses more on assets and development. Evidence based programs work best with known problems and predetermined outcomes, while youth work is more open and often leads to outcomes that cannot be predicted in advance.

A more holistic and evidence-informed approach is needed to support youth service providers. This means putting the best available evidence at the heart of decision-making. In this case, evidence comes from an array of sources including: independent research and evaluation, theory, grey literature, practice wisdom, consultation, monitoring and self-evaluation, and situation analysis. Drawing appropriately from such a range can help providers better to understand issues, to improve planning processes, and to show results. For practitioners an evidence-informed approach needs to be incorporated into real time responses to needs and issues. Over time the learning gained from such activity can contribute to the overall evidence base for youth work.
OS100.003
Connecting evidence, policy and practice: what the Centre for Effective Services has learnt about improving outcomes for children and young people - Building the evidence base for interagency working to improve outcomes for children and young people

09:40, 18 September 2013: Pembroke

Stella Owens, John Bamber

Recent child death review reports and reviews of children's services, both in Ireland and internationally, have all pointed to the devastating consequences of the failure of agencies and departments to work together and to share information about children and families at risk.

The evidence base for interagency working to improve outcomes for children and young people is accumulating steadily. It is widely accepted however that interagency working takes considerable time to become embedded in systems, and that it is unrealistic to expect evidence of early measurable impact on outcomes for children and young people. Most research evidence relates to changes in processes, experiences and practice. However the literature identifies that where the evidence does exist for the impact of interagency working, it is mainly positive. There have been reported changes for service users, professionals and agencies.

Challenges to interagency working include changes in political steer, financial uncertainty, a climate of constant organisational change, differing agency policies, procedures and systems, and in terms of commitment obstacles, a lack of leadership and reluctance to buy in to the collaborative process. The literature emphasises the collective and shared responsibility of all professionals working with children – including teachers, social workers, public health nurses, general practitioners, psychiatrists, psychologists, speech and language therapists and others, for the welfare and protection of children.

The National 'Working Together for Children Initiative - Children's Services Committees' (CSCs) in Ireland are a structure for bringing together a diverse group of agencies in local county areas to engage in joint planning and co-ordination of services for children. CSCs are viewed as a key mechanism for interagency working in Ireland, and through ongoing evaluation have the potential to significantly improve outcomes for children and young people at local level.

OS100.004
Connecting evidence, policy and practice: what the Centre for Effective Services has learnt about improving outcomes for children and young people - Capturing the Learning from the Prevention and Early Intervention Initiative of over 50 evidence informed

10:00, 18 September 2013: Pembroke

Stella Owens, John Bamber

The Atlantic Philanthropies, sometimes with government, funded the Prevention and Early Intervention Initiative to improve outcomes for young people. This includes 20 agencies/community groups running 52 programmes in Ireland and Northern Ireland. These use diverse approaches offered in a wide range of settings to improve parenting, children's learning, health, behaviour and social inclusivity. All organisations used evidence about what is known to be effective in designing and implementing their approaches. Each was independently and rigorously evaluated.

The Capturing the Learning project, led by CES is synthesising the collective learning from many of the projects in the initiative: collating data and information from multiple sources and perspectives, and distilling out overarching messages about what works. In-depth interviews were also undertaken with 16 organisations to learn how they used evidence at each stage of their project life cycle (eg. deciding which approach to use, how to implement it effectively, how they worked with independent evaluation teams to generate their own evidence about their impact and how they are using their findings).

Learning from the Initiative has been used alongside existing literature to highlight effective ways of improving specific outcomes to policy makers, service commissioners, service providers and researchers. We will present how we distilled key learning from the Initiative, how the organisations used evidence to make decisions and how this knowledge has been translated to various audiences. Integrating evidence into planning and running services took time, effort and specialised support. Evaluations were challenging to manage.

Approaches should be tailored to different groups' needs and attention paid to how parents can be successfully engaged. Organisations should provide quality staff training and ongoing support. Specialised implementation teams can support change. Organisations should use Expert Advisory groups to help broker relationships with evaluation teams. Practical implications and recommendations will be discussed.
OS105.001
Multisystemic Therapy for Child Abuse and Neglect, MST-CAN dissemination
09:00, 18 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2

Cynthia Swenson, Brand Odette, Brigitte Squire, Rhiner Bruno

MST for Child Abuse and Neglect (MST-CAN) is an adaptation of Multisystemic Therapy. MST-CAN focuses on physically abused and/or neglected children between the ages of 6-17 and their families. It is an intensive home-based treatment with a duration of 6-9 months focused on ending child abuse and neglect with the intention to have the children stay safely with their parents. MST-CAN offers new possibilities for a client group that is hard to reach using evidence-based treatment protocols for psychiatric problems such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for trauma and Reinforcement Based Treatment (RBT) for adult substance abuse, all focused on reestablishing safety in the family.

MST-CAN provides integrated care to families in which all psychiatric and social-economic problems are addressed by one clinical team in close alignment with community stakeholders. This is thought to be more (cost) effective than standard care.

A Randomized Clinical Trial performed in the United States (Swenson et al, 2010) with 86 families showed MST-CAN to be more effective than Enhanced Outpatient Therapy (EOT) in reducing youth mental health problems, parent psychiatric distress, parenting behaviors associated with maltreatment, youth out-of-home placements, and changes in youth placement. In children, self-reported PTSD symptoms were lowered by half after MST-CAN treatment whereas they had heightened in the EOT condition. The reabuse rate was low in both treatment conditions but did not differ significantly (2 children in MST-CAN vs. 5 children in EOT).

Starting 2010 the program has been disseminated to 3 European countries (UK, Netherlands, and Switzerland).

In this symposium we would like to introduce the method of MST-CAN, the local implementation of the program and the results so far in 3 different European countries, the Netherlands, the UK and Switzerland.

OS105.002
Multi System Therapy for Child Abuse and Neglect: Implementation and treatment results of MST-CAN in a Dutch population
09:20, 18 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2

Brand Odette, Monique Slot, Femke Kamphuis, Johan van Gogh

Child abuse affects about 31 cases in 1000 children in the Netherlands. While there is public pressure to detect child abuse in an early stage, it appears to be a problem to start appropriate care. MST for Child Abuse and Neglect (MST-CAN) is an adaptation of Multisystemic Therapy (MST) which focuses on children between the ages of 6-17 who are victims of physical abuse and/or neglect.

MST-CAN is a new treatment model which is expected to be more effective than existing treatment models and with a potential high cost-effectiveness.

This pilot study intended to study the possibilities for implementing MST-CAN in a Dutch health and youth care population as well as effectiveness.

We will present our experience with implementing the MST-CAN model as well as our first outcomes, showing MST-CAN to be effective in reducing reabuse, the number of care givers involved in families and ending obliged youth care.
OS105.003
Multi System Therapy for Child Abuse and Neglect.; MST-CAN in the UK.

09:40, 18 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2

Brigitte Squire, Brand Odette

MST for Child Abuse and Neglect (MST-CAN) is an adaptation of MST. MST-CAN focuses on physically abused and/or neglected children between the ages of 6-17 and their families. It is an intensive home-based treatment with a duration of 6-9 months focused on ending child abuse and neglect with the intention to have the children stay safely with their parents. MST-CAN offers new possibilities for a client group that is hard to reach using evidence-based treatment protocols for psychiatric problems such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for trauma and Reinforcement Based Treatment (RBT) for substance abuse, all focused on reestablishing safety in the family.

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Starting 2010 the program has been disseminated to 3 European countries (UK, Netherlands, and Switzerland).

We will present characteristics of successful MST-CAN implementation, challenges, and cultural and systems considerations in a UK population, illustrated with a case presentation.

OS105.004
Multi System Therapy for Child Abuse and Neglect. MST-CAN in Switzerland

10:00, 18 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2

Rhiner Bruno, Tania Perez, Ute Fuerstenau, Brand Odette

MST for Child Abuse and Neglect (MST-CAN) is an adaptation of MST. MST-CAN focuses on physically abused and/or neglected children between the ages of 6-17 and their families. It is an intensive home-based treatment with a duration of 6-9 months focused on ending child abuse and neglect with the intention to have the children stay safely with their parents. MST-CAN offers new possibilities for a client group that is hard to reach using evidence-based treatment protocols for psychiatric problems such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for trauma and Reinforcement Based Treatment (RBT) for substance abuse, all focused on reestablishing safety in the family.

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Starting 2010 the program has been disseminated to 3 European countries (UK, Netherlands, and Switzerland).

We will present characteristics of successful MST-CAN implementation, challenges, and cultural and systems considerations in a Swiss population.
OS106.001
Perspectives on Protecting Australia's Children
09:00, 18 September 2013: Elgin
Stella Conroy

Child abuse and neglect continue to be among Australia's most serious, urgent and deeply compelling challenges.

The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 created a new dynamic for bringing together major collaborators to tackle Australia's persistent and crisis driven responses to child protection.

The central strategic message is that, as a national policy based on a public health model, the National Framework needs to give greater emphasis to prevention, aimed at tackling the underlying causes and precedents of child abuse and neglect, and to responding early to the needs of 'at risk' or vulnerable families and children. Of vital importance is the development and translation of child protection research for Australia to better inform policy makers and service providers to strengthen systems and responses to children, young people and their families.

A key proposal is to refocus existing investments towards targeted local or place-based funding responses to better harness the efforts of all Governments and NGOs to meet the specific requirements of high-needs families and children, including responses to mental health, substance abuse, homelessness, disability and other factors which can impede economic and social wellbeing. In these locations, crisis services should be co-ordinated with programs to support families and linked with practice knowledge about children in danger or those being restored to their parent's care where abuse and neglect had occurred. Such integrated services could respond to situations out of reach of early intervention programs, such as babies abused early in their lives, children whose parents avoid services until a crisis arises, and those affected by substance abuse, mental illness and homelessness.

This symposium will demonstrate the importance of building on the knowledge and goodwill and which continues to strengthen partnerships and linkages across Governments, NGO and academics sectors.

OS106.002
Perspectives on Protecting Australia's Children: Challenges and next steps for the NGO Coalition and the National Framework
09:20, 18 September 2013: Elgin
Stella Conroy

Child abuse and neglect continue to feature as one of Australia’s most serious, urgent and deeply compelling challenges.

The National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009-2020 is a landmark policy and program with a vital role to play in making a paradigm shift in how Australian society values, nurtures and protects all its children. Adopted in 2009 by all Australian Governments and supported by Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), the National Framework: is Australia’s first ever national plan designed to tackle child abuse and neglect; and adopts a public health model which emphasises early intervention and prevention measures.

This challenge needs a collaborative approach, requiring the continued and combined efforts of Governments, NGOs which includes academic sectors in joint analysis and planning and implementation. Greater effort is urgently required from parties to this unique collaboration including the community at large—to ‘join-up’ their respective efforts and make sustained and substantial improvements in helping vulnerable children and young people.

The National Framework is based on an innovative partnership between NGOs, academics and National, State and Territory Governments in policy development and monitoring of progress and improvements for children in out-of-home care, their families and carers.

This presentation analyses the many lessons learnt in the first three years of the National Framework and the challenges that lay ahead, particularly in the priority area of improving outcomes for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children and their families.
The National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009 – 2020 (the National Framework) is an initiative of The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) which focuses on reforms that are of national significance and need co-ordinated action by all Australian governments. The National Framework was developed following recognition of the urgent need for a strategic and shared agenda for change with national leadership and a common goal to reduce child abuse and neglect.

This paper explores the development and implementation of the National Framework in the complex federation of Australian governments including the roles of the State and Territory governments with their statutory child protection systems, the coordination of the Australian Government’s programs, policies and payments, and the contribution of the non-government sector.

The first three years of the National Framework have laid a firm foundation for reform across both levels of Australian governments and the non-government sector with a plan for the next three years of implementation focussing on making protecting children everybody’s business across governments and community. This second phase of the National Framework will require governments and the non-government sector to work with others across other sectors including mental health, domestic and family violence, drug and alcohol, education, health and other services.

In the context of escalating concerns about child abuse and neglect in Australian communities, the National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009-2020 was developed as a landmark agreement between Federal, State and Territory Governments and with a coalition of non-government organisations including service delivery agencies, advocacy groups, peak bodies and academics.

In this presentation, we will explore the use of research and research translation in national policy setting, implementation and measurement of this public health framework for preventing and responding to child abuse and neglect. With a particular focus on the challenges and opportunities inherent in inter-sectoral collaboration posed by the common, and at times, competing priorities of the three cultures of research, policy and practice, we will describe the strategies used to facilitate an evidence-based approach to national policy setting, implementation and monitoring with regard to the “wicked problem” of child abuse and neglect.

The presentation will describe linkage and exchange mechanisms and power-sharing arrangements with the third sector, and their role in sustaining momentum for and commitment to evidence-based policy in the field of child protection in the face of changing political priorities and in resource scarce environments.
OS106.005
Perspectives on Protecting Australia's Children - The Research Agenda for Australia's National Framework for Protecting Children: Working together to fill the gaps

10:20, 18 September 2013: Elgin

Morag McArthur, Stella Conroy

In 2009 The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children was launched with a broad and ambitious agenda for reform. One of the priority actions under the National Framework was the development of a National Research Agenda. This recognised that a key element to effective and sustainable improvement to the wellbeing and safety of children is the use of evidence to enable decisions about what to do, based on knowing ‘what works’. Australia’s unique characteristics (e.g., geographical size, remote regions, Indigenous cultures) makes the direct application of international research difficult and sometimes inappropriate. Currently research about child abuse and neglect that is related to the Australian context is limited. The aim of the Research Agenda was to identify research opportunities and priorities and expand the evidence base around issues in Australia relevant to protecting children from abuse and neglect.

This paper outlines the Agenda, its underpinning principles and the iterative and collaborative processes that were undertaken as part of its development. These include the use of research audits to assess the state and nature of evidence in Australia about child abuse and neglect, which enabled critical gaps in policy and practice knowledge to be highlighted. In the paper we examine the implications of the content and methodological gaps identified through these collaborative processes. We also assess the Agenda’s potential for successfully increasing the knowledge base available to policy-makers and practitioners, given the modest government funding allocated to fund the Agenda. Finally, we identify other possible strategies that will be required to increase the resources – this will be critical if improved outcomes for Australia’s children are to be achieved.

OS106.006
Perspectives on Protecting Australia's Children – Growing our children up strong: providing healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and their families

10:40, 18 September 2013: Elgin

Richard Weston, Stella Conroy

Established on the first anniversary of the Apology to Indigenous peoples in Australia the Healing Foundation supports culturally strong, locally run Indigenous healing programs around Australia and funds education and research on Indigenous healing. The forcible removal of children from their families continues to have a devastating impact on our communities. Most forcibly removed children were denied the experience of being parented and cared for by kin and therefore often lacked the experiences necessary to become ‘successful’ parents themselves. This is a significant factor in why Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continue to be removed from the care of their families today. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children make up 4.6% of Australian children aged 0-17 years, yet in 2010-11, they comprised 26.1% of children in substantiated notifications and 31.4% of children subject to care and protection orders. In July 2011 the Healing Foundation provided funds to 3 sites to develop healing programs for our children and families that acknowledged and addressed the devastating impact of intergenerational trauma.

The projects improve the wellbeing of young people by strengthening cultural connectedness and identity, providing opportunities for individual and family healing, and building skills to manage pain and loss in a way that allows for a hopeful future.

The presentation will seek to outline the following:

• Why it is important to move from a problem-focused approach that relies heavily on tertiary interventions to one that promotes safety and wellbeing for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people

• Key elements of healing programs for children and young people, drawing on the wisdom and strength of culture and marrying this with best-practice approaches to trauma recovery

• Early outcomes and emerging trends from the Intergenerational Trauma Initiative
The National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children launched in 2009 was in large part the product of sustained lobbying by Child Welfare advocates and NGO’s seeking national leadership and approaches to promoting the wellbeing and safety of children and young people.

Expectations were high about its ability to produce coordinated policy and improved child and family welfare practices in a traditionally fragmented environment. After almost 4 years into the Framework’s 12 year life, it’s important to test how well the Framework has lived up to expectations.

This paper examines the deliverables from the perspective of non-government agencies operating on the front-line in providing child and family welfare services. Specific focus is given to how the Framework has performed in shaping and improving practice from early intervention programs to the provision of out-of-home care.

Through direct input from a coalition of more than 100 NGOs operating across Australia, an assessment is made about the level of penetration achieved by the Framework on Child Welfare practice. Particular reference is given to the impact of ‘headline’ reforms such as the development of national out-of-home-care standards, increasing the responsiveness of adult-focussed human services to address the needs of children and parents under the guise of the Building Capacity Building Bridges initiative, and efforts to improve young people’s transitions from out-of-home-care.

Examples of how these reforms have gained traction and changed practice of those delivering services to children and families provides optimism for how a national multi-jurisdictional reform agenda can have an impact. At the same time evidence suggests that the rate and extent of change remains both slow and patchy and it remains premature to rate the Framework a major success at this point in its history.
Workshop Presentations
OS34.001
Making a difference to the child's lived experience in cases of neglect
16:30, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1
Jan Horwath, Tracey Holyhead, Clare Lawson, Jo Britton

Over the last twenty years considerable attention has focused on assessing the needs of children where there are concerns they are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. There has, however, been far less attention paid to planning and intervening effectively in these cases. As a consequence many practitioners struggle to know what is best practice when planning interventions and measuring the effectiveness of these interventions. This can be a particular challenge in cases of chronic neglect as is evidenced by the high rates of re-referral among these children. Between 2011 and 2012 Horwath completed a study of child protection planning in such cases. She identified a number of factors that affected meaningful planning: a lack of focus on the lived experience of children, limited attention to parental ability and motivation to change and effectiveness measured in terms of completion of tasks rather than outcomes for children. Over the last year she has been working with members of four Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to identify ways in which the findings from the study can be utilized to improve planning in cases where children are likely to suffer harm as a result of neglect. Through action learning sets consisting of front-line practitioners and child protection conference chairs, models and tools have been developed and systems and processes adapted to promote a more child-centred approach towards planning.

During the workshop consideration will be given to tools and models enabling practitioners to integrate: making sense of the child and family's daily lived experience; taking account of models of change and establishing qualitative measures to monitor progress, into practice. Participants will also be provided with detail as to how these three concepts have been incorporated into child protection systems and the challenges experienced by staff making changes to practice.

OS35.001
Partnering with domestic violence survivors to promote safety and well-being for children
16:30, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2
Kristen Selleck, David Mandel

Working with domestic violence survivors can be challenging for child welfare professionals who may struggle to find approaches that both support survivors and keep children safe. Using principles of the Safe and Together™ model, this presentation provides participants with strategies for partnering with survivors towards a shared outcome of child safety and wellbeing.

The Safe and Together™ model is an international field tested model based in the United States that promotes ways to enhance the safety and wellbeing of children through interventions with domestic violence perpetrators and partnerships with survivors in child serving systems.

Using the principles of partnership and working to keep children in the safe care of adult survivors of domestic violence, this presentation will provide participants with skill and support to enhance engagement with survivors as well as interviewing, case planning and safety planning.
OS36.001
Coaching: Enhancing competencies and improving outcomes
16:30, 16 September 2013: Elgin

Rose Wentz

Classroom training is the most common method of training child welfare professionals. Research shows that this type of training leads to a 10-20% knowledge retention and application to field work. Other professions have shown that coaching can increase retention and application rates to 80-90%, yet coaching is not a frequently used in child welfare. This workshop will provide opportunities to practice coaching skills, learn about coaching tools, and review research. Participants will learn how coaching is being used in child welfare agencies to improve competencies, ensure fidelity to practice methods and thereby allowing for evaluation of practice methods to assess if the method can improve outcomes for the children and families.

Objectives:
1. Learn to identify effective coaching techniques.
2. Practice coaching techniques.
3. Complete a self-assessment of coaching skills.
4. Assess which coaching tools for coaches, learners, and agencies would support competencies development in your agency.

Child welfare coaching videos will be viewed and participants will assess the skills and techniques. The participants will learn how to use coaching tools that can be used to assess the learner’s readiness to be coached, the skills of the coach, and the agency’s ability to support coaching. In class demonstrations will occur and participants will have the opportunity to practice their coaching skills during the workshop. The participants will be provided a link to a free online coaching book co-authored by the presenter “The Coaching Toolkit for Child Welfare Practice”. Other resources to be provided: coaching videos, how to evaluate your agency’s readiness to implement coaching, information on implementation science methods that can increase practice fidelity, and how to evaluate whether coaching did improve the outcomes for children and families.
Multi-disciplinary interventions from an education perspective in a culturally diverse borough

10:00, 17 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1

Fiona Gren, Julia Heath

Fiona Gren: Social Work Team Leader, Services Supporting Behaviour
Julia Heath: SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) and Manager
Helen Huntley: Head Teacher Haybrook College for pupils with SEBD

Objectives

Research (Davies and Ward 2012) has identified the need for effective multi-disciplinary practice across services

This workshop will share experiences of how Slough Borough Council

- supports children and families experiencing poverty, dislocation and trauma
- uses a range of interventions and programmes to maintain vulnerable children in mainstream education
- employs a multi-agency team across mainstream and specialist emotional and behavioural provision to enable the most challenging children to keep their place in mainstream education, or to plan specialist provision with zero exclusion policy
- assesses through evidence based assessment tools children potentially at risk of harm

Methods

Enable delegates to

- explore the intervention pathways available to families and children
- understand how Slough matches interventions and programmes to a child or family
- explore the identification of children potentially at risk of harm, where initial evidence has been gathered by the classroom teacher/SENCO
- explore the assessment process and tools used by different professional disciplines

This workshop uses case and interactive material to help delegates explore the effectiveness of interventions and programmes

Results

Slough annually evaluates the effectiveness of its emotional and behavioural provision with data from children, family and schools.

Data is compared and measured against national outcomes

Conclusions

- A multi-disciplinary, universal service approach with a range of interventions and programmes for schools has proved effective in supporting children and families experiencing adversity
- Clear pathways to targeted services enables schools to plan support more effectively for pupils
- Safeguarding concerns are clearly and quickly raised. Teachers, often the professional who first identifies a concern, which may not initially meet safeguarding thresholds, can consult with key link colleagues for advice and assessment.
OS49.001
Co-working relationships: A key dynamic in child sexual abuse interventions

10:00, 17 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2

Pamela McEvoy, Daire Gilmartin

A workshop, to explore the often hidden but critical role co-working relationships play in child sexual abuse interventions. The presenters work in a multi-disciplinary child sexual abuse assessment and therapy service. Potentially a sensitive topic to broach, the presenters facilitated an in-service project where co-working relationships within their own team were explored with a view to improving this dynamic. The presenters developed and disseminated a co-working questionnaire to individual team members. The responses were collated, anonymised and grouped under salient headings. These were relayed back to the team as a group and formed the basis for a gradual and deeper examination of the topic by the team over the course of a year. This method allowed for each workers view to be noted and considered in relation to those of their colleagues. Having emerged from the team, the information was immediately accessible and relevant to the staff group. End of year review revealed that co-working dynamics were being actively considered in intervention planning and implementation. The presenters will share the learning that emerged from the project. Additionally, the workshop will offer participants an opportunity to complete a mini ‘taster’ questionnaire, modeled on the original, with a view to stimulating self reflection and group discussion. The workshop will provide an opportunity to explore what we as individuals, with our various professional orientations, training and experience bring to and assume of the co-working relationship. We will also consider parallel process; how powerful case specific dynamics can seep unwittingly into the mix and influence how we find ourselves relating as co-workers. Ideas will be shared that may enhance and maintain effective co-working relationships, which ultimately, it is argued, help optimise the therapeutic experience for children and families attending child abuse services.

OS50.001
Working with men and boys – A child protection strategy

10:00, 17 September 2013: Elgin

Joan van Niekerk, Jenny Gray

In order to continue building on the learning which emanated from the first Denver Thinking Space (Round Table), which focused on Child Sexual Abuse, convened in May 2011, ISPCAN sent a set of questions to international experts and researchers in the field to identify evidence based programmes on preventing child sexual abuse through working with men and boys. The responses were collated and a document developed in order to initiate and stimulate further discussion on the subject at the second Denver Thinking Space, convened by ISPCAN in Denver 13th and 14th March 2013, and through a virtual internet discussion on the same subject, convened to run parallel to the Denver Meeting Space. The research report was then further extended and refined with inputs from these processes.

This workshop serves to present the findings of this research, invite comment, and identify further questions and ideas on this critical issue. The document is not seen as a finalized research product, but will be used to stimulate ongoing debate and innovative, evidence based practice and should therefore be regarded as a continuing work in progress.
OS51.001
Child protection decision-making: Safeguarding assessment and analysis framework

10:00, 17 September 2013: O’Connell

Stephen Pizzey, Bill Joyce, Simon Tapp

The Safeguarding Assessment and Analysis Framework (SAAF) (Bentovim, Bingley-Miller, Cox and Pizzey 2009) was developed to be used following the gathering of evidence-based information about the child and family in situations where there are concerns a child is or is likely to be suffering significant harm (Children Act 1989).

In 2012 the Department for Education published its research report Systematic review of models of analysing significant harm by Barlow, Fisher and Jones which concluded that the SAAF was the only tool that incorporated an assessment of the family’s ‘capacity to change’ and ‘how success or otherwise might be gauged’.

The SAAF encourages assessment and analysis of information, which covers the full range of assessment domains that are known to be associated with children’s optimal development, and thereby consistent with the Assessment Framework (Department of Health, Department for Education and Employment and Home Office 2000) and is relevant for use with a range of cultures. It uses a systemic model of analysis focusing on processes and their impact on the child providing predictions of the likely outlook for the child if the situation remains unaltered (Angold, Prendergast, Cox, Harrington, Simonoff and Rutter 1995).

The SAAF requires an analysis of the:

a) profile of harm to the child and/or the risk of future harm to the child for example the severity of harm suffered by the child and its impact on their health and development and the extensiveness of the difficulties being experienced by the parents; and

b) prospects for successful intervention

The workshop will give participants an opportunity to use aspects of the SAAF with a shared case using DVD material and evidence their recommendations about future interventions in the interests of the child and their health and development (Bentovim, Bingley Miller, Pizzey and Tapp 2011).

OS76.001
Medical evaluation of the sexually abused child: understanding component parts and formulation of an objective and defensible diagnosis

15:00, 17 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1

Martin Finkel

Physicians have primarily focused their concerns over the last 30 years on the interpretation of physical findings that are found in less than 5% of child sexual abuse cases. Many physicians are uncomfortable talking to children about their victimization and thus limit their ability to formulate a defensible diagnosis. This workshop will focus on educating clinicians how to obtain medical histories of sexual victimization that are forensically defensible and contribute to the formulation of a sound medical diagnosis. The presenter will provide examples of ways to comfortably engage children in conversation to obtain the idiosyncratic details that reflect sexual victimization. Law enforcement and CPS professionals will develop an understanding of the importance of the role of the clinician in obtaining a detailed the medical history. There will be an emphasis on obtaining details that reflect signs and symptoms that are temporally related to sexual contact. Their will be a discussion on the meaning of “penetration” from a child’s, medical and legal perspective. The pattern and healing of genital and anal injuries will be reviewed that follow the spectrum of sexual contact. Examples of appropriate documentation and the formulation of a defensible and balanced medical diagnosis will be explored interactively. This workshop will assist CPS, law enforcement and mental health clinicians in understanding the benefit of a comprehensive medical assessment, how to address discrepancies between a child’s description of a sexual act and the physical examination findings can be understood and addresses when sexual abuse is suspected. This will be a state of the art presentation that will be beneficial to professionals whether new to the field or experienced.
OS77.001
New technologies, new forms of child abuse: How to deal with it?

15:00, 17 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2

Asa Landberg, Ethel Quayle, Jasmina Byrne, Barbara Lilliu

The Internet has had a profound effect on children’s and young people’s lives all over the world, bringing huge benefits but also a significant number of unwanted consequences. Some of these can put children and young people at risk of significant harm. For example new types of bullying and new forms of sexual solicitation, such as harassment and sexting, of children and young people have been facilitated by the Internet perpetrated both by adults and peers.

There is little therapeutic assistance available for children who have been generally and sexually abused online. Child welfare services, for example, in most countries do not include information about Internet-related abuses of children in their education systems or training of personnel. In order to address the needs of abused children and to provide adequate care and support, social workers and other professionals must be made aware of the added trauma posed by the use of new technologies by perpetrators or peers which increase the children feeling of guiltiness and shame.

This workshop aims at strengthening knowledge and skills on child sexual exploitation and abuse through the use of new technologies, of professionals involved in child maltreatment and abuse interventions. To this end, international experts in the field, such as Ms. Ethel Quayle and Ms. Asa Landberg, will share their knowledge and experience with the audience. Interactive learning will be ensured through dynamic lectures, the analysis of case studies and proactive discussions.

The expected outcome would be a better or new understanding of issues related to child sexual and other abuses in relation to new technologies.

In conclusion, all professionals in contact with children in general and abused children in particular should have updated knowledge of the forms of abuse related to the use of new technologies and its consequences on children.
Hope for children and families – Modular Systemic Interventions: Targeting abusive and neglectful parenting and the associated impairment of children and young people

15:00, 17 September 2013: Elgin

Arnon Bentovim, Barbara Simpson

Introduction

The Hope for Children & Families Modular Systemic Intervention (MSI) is an evidenced approach to assess capacities of parents to address abusive and neglectful parenting, and to reverse the emotional, behavioural and developmental impairment of children.

Common Practice Elements Approach

- Barth et al. (2011) advocated the value of a Common Practice Elements Framework, which conceptualises clinical practice in terms of generic components which cut across distinct treatment protocols, identifying specific clinical procedures common to evidence-based practices. Chorpita and Daleidon (2009) distilled over 600 evidence based interventions in the Child Mental Health field, and developed a Modular approach to deliver an effective intervention.
- An approach to distilling the Common Practice Elements was adopted to from interventions in physical, emotional and sexual abuse, neglect, witnessing DV, attachment disorganisation, and sexual harmful behaviour. (Bentovim and Elliot 2012)

Steps to constructing the MSI Manual

- A set of practice elements were integrated into practice guidelines developing a set of modules which could be used across the field of maltreatment and which could fit to the specific needs of parents and children.
- A goal for each module was established, a briefing for practitioners, a step by step approach to achieve goals, material to foster therapeutic work, measures to assess a successful outcome, skills required to deliver the module and advise how modules could be integrated.

This work shop will introduce training in

- Core therapeutic skills required to work in the field of child maltreatment
- Common Therapeutic Factors
- Common Therapeutic Approaches

The modules which form the Hope for Children and Families - MSI Manual include:

- Promoting engagement and hope and a working agreement
- Psycho-education with parents and children
- Targeting abusive and neglectful parenting
- Addressing emotional/traumatic responses, disruptive and sexually harmful behaviour
- Conflictual family and community relationships
OS79.001
Practitioners perceptions of child to parent violence and the NVR Programme: First impressions
15:00, 17 September 2013: O'Connell
Declan Coogan

Until relatively recently, the focus of research, policy and intervention responses to domestic abuse and violence within families has been almost exclusively on the behaviour of adults rather than on the violence within families carried out by children and adolescents. As a consequence, child to parent violence (the aggressive and violent behaviour of children and adolescents at home) has received scant attention in practice, policy and research literature and this form of family violence remains poorly understood. Policy makers, practitioners and researchers face uncertainty in relation to developing effective responses to this under-recognised form of family violence.

Addressing the themes of interventions and programmes and building an evidence base, this proposed workshop presents the preliminary findings of interviews with practitioners from social work, family support, psychology and other disciplines who were interviewed about policy and practice with families where child to parent violence occurs. Participants in this research also described their responses to their participation in a two day training Non Violent Resistance (NVR) Programme for practitioners working with parents. Practitioners for the research were from Dublin and the west of Ireland.

The objectives of the workshop include increasing practice and policy awareness about violence and abuse in families by examining the use of violence by children and young people at home towards parents and developing practitioner and research skills in responding to this problem. Case examples and direct responses from the research participants will be shared. Delegates will be invited to take part in small and larger group discussions about their initial responses to the NVR Programme and about their views on how best to respond to this emerging issue in policy and practice.

OS90.001
Sparks in the Dark: Vicarious resilience, introducing a new concept to the area of child sexual abuse
16:30, 17 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1
Adele Moorhouse

This workshop will invite participants interested in the area of sexual abuse to explore the relevance of a new concept, which has emerged within the trauma literature recently, known as vicarious resilience. Vicarious resilience is a term first used to describe how psychotherapists working with survivors of torture and political violence respond positively to their clients’ stories of resilience (Engstrom, Hernandez and Gangsei, 2004). Up until now most of the literature in the area of sexual abuse has centered on the potential negative impact on professionals listening to clients’ stories of sexual abuse. This is a very thin description and fails to capture the potential for this work to have a positive effect on us as professionals.

The workshop will blend interactive/ experiential and didactic components. In the presentation the concept of Vicarious Resilience will be explained along with how it evolved. Drawing from the findings of a recent Irish Qualitative study undertaken by the presenter with a group of professionals working in the area of child sexual abuse (Moorhouse, 2011), some of the knock on benefits of integrating this perspective into clinical practice will be highlighted along with implications for therapeutic and supervisory practice.

Participants will be invited to reflect on a number of exploratory questions which tap into vicarious resilience, the challenges of the work and how these are overcome. We will also explore what factors influence how we as professionals make decisions in relation to what gets spoken about regarding impact, where we speak about it and what gets left unsaid. Following the presentation participants will be invited to discuss and reflect in groups on their responses to this new concept and consider how this might enhance their own practice.
OS91.001  
Parent-Child interventions in cases of fabricated or induced illness  
16:30, 17 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2  
Emma Hewson, Marta Neil

Fabricated or induced illness (FII) is a term used to refer to parents who fabricate or induce illness in a child and who go on to repeatedly present that child to medical professionals for diagnosis and treatment resulting in multiple medical procedures. Children subject to parental FII are at risk of physical and emotional harm (in some cases, death) and to developmental impairment. Due to chronicity, complexity and risk these cases are difficult to manage and present significant challenges for paediatricians, child mental health and social care. Legal intervention is often needed.

In the Parenting & Child Service at Great Ormond Street Hospital, we have experienced a growing number of cases referred by paediatricians and Social Care requesting clarification on whether a case constitutes FII, advice on management and prognosis for parental change in the interests of the child.

We have developed an intervention model which assesses, via a focussed and time-limited therapeutic intervention, whether parents can be assisted to accept the conclusions reached about their child’s health status and demonstrate this by co-operating with a rehabilitation plan and by adjusting their behaviors and interactions with their child.

We describe the various components of the model which integrates narrative and attachment-based approaches. A comprehensive literature review and relevant case examples will be included. Group exercises, using case vignettes, will provide opportunities for participants to gain experience in identifying the challenges in managing these cases and to practice applying the model to a range of scenarios.

OS92.001  
Working group on qualitative research on child abuse and neglect  
16:30, 17 September 2013: Elgin  
Bert van Puyenbroeck, Carolina Overlien

A small scale meeting for debate on qualitative research on CAN and two illustrative paper presentations on qualitative research on CAN operate as an important lever for discussion on methodology, ethics, future international scientific publications, ...

This meeting and discussion is open to everyone interested in qualitative research on child maltreatment: researchers, social workers, psychotherapists, editors of scientific journals, ...

The overall aim is to set up a Working Group on Qualitative Research on Child Abuse and Neglect. This first gathering with researchers and other attendees at the congress aims to discuss on various aspects of qualitative research in the area of child maltreatment, on topics of research methodology, ethics, organizing and preparing international publications, ...

Core questions leading the debate will be:

- what’s the role of qualitative research in the debate on CAN treatment & prevention?
- what’s the place of findings of Qualitative Research in policy on CAN treatment & prevention?
- what journals are eager on publishing findings from Qualitative Research on CAN?
- what could be the merits of a working group on CAN Qualitative Research in terms of publications, knowledge network, ...?
- any next conferences?

Depending on the amount of participants, various interactive methods will be used to lead the discussion: paper & pencil; small group-discussions; ...

Key objectives:

we may learn a lot from each other by converging various ideas and upgrading the state of the art on qualitative research on CAN.
Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) is one of the most effective evidence-based practices for decreasing child behavior problems, improving parenting skills, and enhancing parent-child relationships. Recent research has demonstrated that PCIT is highly effective in decreasing risk of child abuse and child abuse recidivism; as well as decreasing trauma symptoms in young children. While very effective, there is limited use of PCIT except in regionalized areas in the United States – due to problems with effectively disseminating this intervention.

The UC Davis PCIT Training Center was created to aid programs in developing independent and high fidelity PCIT programs. Our success has resulted in training more than 130 community mental health programs throughout the United States and a few additional countries. Our training model use a Trainer of Trainer (ToT) model, training core group of therapists at an agency to be PCIT therapists, then to become 'in-house' PCIT trainers with the capacity to train additional ‘generations’ of PCIT therapists – thus developing a mechanism to effectively sustain treatment and fidelity within their agency. A description of this ToT training model will be presented, with client, therapist, trainer, and agency outcome data describing the successes of the PCIT ToT training model.

With the benefit of two technological advances, the PCIT Training Center has developed the capability of training programs throughout the world. First, in August 2012 the ‘PCIT for Traumatized Children’ web course was launched. This web course provides video-based information and examples of ‘informational’ aspects of delivering PCIT services. Second, with the advent to telemedicine technology, trainee therapists can acquire in vivo training while treating their clients within their clinic. Attendees to this presentation will be given full access to the web course and provided information about how to become fully competent in delivering PCIT.
Oral Presentations
OS03.001
Sexual exploitation: How does the meaning attached by the young people involved, to risk and protective factors impact on their involvement and ability to see alternatives as possible?

11:00, 16 September 2013: Munster

Jane Dodsworth

Objectives: To explore, by examining retrospective accounts, the meaning given to childhood experiences of adversity by young people involved in sexual exploitation and how this cognitive appraisal impacts on a sense of self, self-esteem, identity and agency, and to use that knowledge to inform practice.

Methods: A qualitative grounded theory approach was used to ensure that analysis was derived inductively from the narratives. Semi-structured interviews were undertaken using a chronological interview schedule to gain reflections on childhood and adulthood relationships and experiences from participants. Recruitment of participants was via specialist projects in two areas of the UK. Half of the sample; twelve participants, became involved in sexual exploitation or as some of them defined it, in selling sex, pre-18 and these participants are the focus of this paper.

Results: The findings indicate that those who are likely to be the most vulnerable and those most able to manage life experiences is determined by the accumulation of risk factors in early childhood, the personal, familial and wider ecological resources available to individuals from childhood and the meaning attached by individuals to early experiences of adversity. Different coping strategies and perceptions of agency were identified from analysis of the data which determined the levels of vulnerability or resilience each participant felt they had and influenced the route they took through sexual exploitation and or sex work.

Conclusion: Planning for effective service provision must recognise the impact, not just of cumulative experiences of adversity in assessing young people's safeguarding and well-being needs, but also the meaning young people attach to those experiences as this influences not only self-perception but perception of others and will impact on receptiveness to services which the most vulnerable of these vulnerable young people may reject but desperately need access to.

OS03.002
Young persons self-harming through sex

11:20, 16 September 2013: Munster

Linda Jonsson, Åsa Lundström Mattsson

"My body has no value for me. Therefore I can hurt it, starve or have sex...It is so destroyed anyway."

Little evidence has been found in the literature describing sex as a way to self-harm. When listening to young peoples own voices and interviewing professionals, it is a clear pattern that some youth use sex of the same reasons (e.g. for anxiety reduction or to feel alive) as those who e.g. cutting or burning themselves.

In a Swedish pilot project interviews with effected young people together with interviews with professionals were carried out. The findings together with existing international research showed that there are reasons to regard sex as a self-harming behaviour.

The presentation focuses on the results from the project that was published in the Swedish book "Young persons self-harming through sex". Similarities and differences between self-harming trough sex and other self-harming behaviours will be discussed as well as suggestions of a definition.
OS03.003  
**Still vulnerable: A review of the impact of early childhood experiences on adolescent suicide and accidental death**  
11:40, 16 September 2013: Munster  
John Devaney, Lisa Bunting, Gavin Davidson, David Hayes, Anne Lazenbatt  

**Background to Study:** Suicide is not usually considered within filicide research as it does not involve an act by another individual, even where the death has been caused by the experience of adversity in childhood. In Northern Ireland a formal review must always be undertaken when a child dies, including death by suicide, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor.

**Objective of Study:** To explore whether including reviews of children who die by suicide within the study of filicide can help inform our understanding of why some children die, and how systems and processes could be developed to provide better support to these vulnerable children.

**Method:** Drawing upon research undertaken on the formal reviews into the deaths by suicide of eight children where abuse or neglect was believed to be a contributory factor, the authors explore how the experience of multiple adversity in childhood increases children's vulnerabilities and risk to dying by suicide in either childhood or as young adults.

**Conclusion:** The research challenges our understanding of how we conceptualise the outcomes of the child protection system, and child death reviews. It appears that the number of individuals dying from adversity in childhood is much greater than previously recognised, and that professionals must be more alert to the increased risk to children of a wider range of multiple adversities.

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OS03.004  
**Child maltreatment and social connectedness among high-risk youth: Links with depression**  
12:00, 16 September 2013: Munster  
Ivanka van Delft, Catrin Finkenauer, Janna Verbruggen, Catrien Bijleveld  

Child maltreatment is associated with depression and decreased well-being in adulthood. However, a growing body of literature suggests that the risk of depression varies as a function of subtype, co-occurrence of subtypes, and protective factors. For example, the right level of social involvement and interaction with others might protect women from the negative consequences of child maltreatment.

This study aimed to examine the independent effects of child maltreatment subtypes on depressive symptoms. Additionally, we examined to what extent social employment status and romantic relationships in young adulthood can diminish the negative consequences of child maltreatment later in life.

The sample consists of 124 women who were treated in a Dutch juvenile justice institution during adolescence. Information on child maltreatment and depression at intake was extracted from treatment files. Conducting face to face interviews (using a life history calendar) with respondents at age 32, we collected retrospective data on social connectedness (romantic relationships and employment) during young adulthood. In addition, the CES-D was used to measure depression in adulthood.

Results show that 85% of the participants reported child maltreatment and 60% of the participants experienced two or more subtypes of maltreatment. Neglect, physical abuse and interparental violence co-occurred most often. Subtypes were not independent predictors of depression in adulthood. Employment was strongly related to less depressive symptoms in adulthood. In contrast, having romantic relationships was not related to depression. However, the quality of the relationship was a stronger predictor of depression in females with a current romantic relationship than employment.

High-risk youth are at risk for experiencing various forms of child maltreatment. However, employment might serve as a buffer for negative effects of child maltreatment. This implicates that treatments of these youth should include education and guiding these youth towards increased opportunities on the labor market.
What is Family Support? - The question answered

11:00, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1

Carmel Devaney

Family Support is a relatively new approach within the realm of services provided to children and families in Ireland. Debate on the benefits of this way of working and the distribution of resources towards it continues in academic, policy and practice arenas.

The objectives of this research study include:

1. To review the growth of Family Support in Ireland as an approach to working with children and families;
2. To examine current perspectives on Irish Family Support practice as perceived by selected pioneers and practitioners in the field;
3. To identify and assess the impact of, and academic learning attained through a purposely designed postgraduate programme in Family Support Studies in Ireland.

A mixed method, triangulated approach was used over two phases in this study. In the first phase, pioneers and key informants in the area of children and families participated in a one-to-one narrative inducing interview. This sample group comprised of participants from the USA, UK and Ireland, some of whom had been working in this area since 1947. Current practitioners who are graduates of, or students in the postgraduate programme on Family Support Studies, participated in phase two. This sample group completed a narrative inducing interview and a postal questionnaire.

Overarching findings from the study include:

- Family Support in Ireland grew as a result of arbitrary and subjective developments in children and families policies and services;
- An agreed understanding of Family Support is necessary with specific characteristics required in the delivery of Family Support. This includes both service and practice characteristics.
- The Family Support Studies programme has had a strong influence on a group of practitioners trained, skilled and confident in the Family Support approach.

This study definitively concludes the debate on what Family Support is, who delivers it and how.

Conflicting timeframes in safeguarding babies and very young children from neglect and abuse

11:20, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1

Rebecca Brown, Harriet Ward

Evidence concerning the impact of abuse and neglect in the early years points to the importance of taking swift and decisive action when very children are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. The decisions made by professionals who have safeguarding responsibilities are extremely difficult and will have long-term consequences for children’s life chances. Moreover intense public interest means that those who make the decisions can be publicly vilified by the media both if they are perceived as having left children too long in dangerous situations or as having removed them unnecessarily from their families.

This presentation focuses on the factors that influence decisions made by a range of professionals both before and after referral to children’s social services in England and draws attention to the mismatch between timeframes for professional decision-making and early childhood development. Illustrations are taken from a prospective longitudinal study of the decision-making process influencing the life pathways and developmental progress of a sample of very young children who were identified as suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm before their first birthdays and have now been followed until they are five. Implications for policy and practice are discussed.
OS06.003
Perinatal Family Conferencing for at risk Infants
11:40, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1
Katrina Hurley, Christine Witherdin, Michelle Maiese, Nadine Meredith

Objectives: Perinatal Family Conferencing is a collaborative project between the New South Wales Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) and Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) using family conferencing to promote early engagement and interagency planning with pregnant women and families at risk of their newborns entering out of home care at birth. It aims to reduce the number of infants placed into out of home care at birth and/or where this is not possible promote participation in planning for parents and families for the care of the infant.

Method: All women who are enrolled for antenatal care at Royal Prince Alfred Women’s and Babies Hospital, Sydney who have been the subject of a risk of significant harm report in pregnancy to FaCS are eligible to participate. Independent perinatal family conferencing facilitators conduct three meetings in the pregnancy utilizing the Three Houses Tool with the final case plan developed before birth.

Results: Twenty one families have been referred since the commencement of the pilot in April 2012. Fifteen infants have birthed with 10 safe with plan to go home with mother, 2 referrals did not proceed, 4 referrals resulted in assumption of care at birth, 1 referral moved interstate.

Evaluation is occurring via a mixed methods approach using qualitative interviews of family and professionals and quantitative measures:

1. Number of assumptions of care at birth and in next 12 months after birth.
2. If in out of home care number in kinship care and number in foster care.
3. Hospitalisations to 12 months of age accessed via electronic medical record.
4. Immunisations via National Register at 12 months.
5. Developmental assessment by paediatrician at 12 months via SLHD community outreach paediatric service.

Conclusion: Results to date are promising with final evaluation yet to occur regarding outcomes for infants.
OS06.004
Evaluation data from 12,000 family cases in California and prevention policy recommendations for family resource agencies and child welfare partners
12:00, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1

Jerry Endres

Child Welfare agencies and their non-profit partners, community-based Family Resource Center Agencies (FRCs) have public/private partnerships providing intervention and support services to families considered at-risk for child abuse and neglect. This is a report funded by the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) from a cross-sectional study conducted by Matrix Outcomes Model using the Family Development Matrix (FDM). It is a carefully designed family assessment process conducted within 140 FRCs in 23 California county-based collaboratives and tribal communities. The purpose of the paper is to describe the case results from 12,000 families during the period from 2009-2012. The paper will present the data in the context for policy development:

Question 1: What do we know about how family changes move from in-crisis and at-risk to stable and self-sufficient status over 3-6 months with family resource agency support? Data results from 12,000 families using an empowerment process focused on family engagement and interventions from Harvard University’s Pathway to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect?

Question 2: What is the role for a strength based family assessment in addressing early intervention issues related to the prevention of child abuse and neglect? Particularly with cases referred from child welfare to community based agencies.

Question 3: Based on this data what are the recommendations for voluntary prevention programs in the organizational context of public/private partnerships?

Presentation information includes community collaborative prevention planning; alignment of assessment measures with Pathway and Protective Factor goals; assessment, engagement, strengths/barriers and working with family outcomes; data from child welfare referrals compared to FRC non-child welfare results.

OS07.001
Community based child protection mechanism: An initiative to create safety net for children in community
11:00, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2

Sushri Sangita Puhan

1. Objective: To promote community based child protection and their effective integration into the state/national child protection system to prevent and address child abuse and neglect.

2. Method: Formation and strengthening of Community based Child Protection mechanisms which are recognized and directly linked to the formal child protection system. Processes for mobilizing communities, strengthening children’s clubs and ensuring sufficient sensitization on child protection in order to establish effective child protection structures and mechanisms.

3. Results: The emphasis on Community based child protection mechanism is to mobilize community involvement through child protection committees. However, more explicit focus has been given on engaging with, sensitizing and strengthening local government actors to fulfill roles and responsibilities for child protection either directly or through government support. In India it has been advocated to recognize the Child Protection Committee as the lowest level Child Protection structure with formal links to the local government and to strengthen links with protection structures at various levels as envisaged in the Government of India’s Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). Furthermore, the children’s clubs are strengthened and educated on child protection issues and reporting mechanism which has been found more effective through creating opportunities for children to be involved in and contribute to their own protection.

4. Conclusion: Community ownership and support for meaningful and inclusive children’s participation are key components of effective and sustainable efforts towards community based child protection. However, considering traditional attitudes towards children, adults continue to under-estimate children’s capabilities and limit opportunities for children’s expression and participation (especially the participation of girls, children with disabilities and other marginalized groups) in governance processes. Training children in child rights and responsibilities, child protection, life skills, support for child led advocacy initiatives can significantly contribute to a strengthened child protection system.
OS07.002
Communities putting CHILDREN 1ST; A community capacity building approach
11:20, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2
Annie Taylor, Fiona McBride

CHILDREN 1ST believes that it is everyone’s responsibility to protect Scotland’s children. We must all play a part in keeping children safe by not ignoring a child’s cry for help or turning a blind eye to abuse, violence, neglect, bullying or other harm.

In many incidents of reported serious child harm, neglect or death, community members come forward after the event saying that they had concerns and either did not feel confident to raise these, or felt they were not taken seriously.

Objectives

The aim is to turn the statement that ‘it’s everybody’s job to make sure children are alright’ into a reality. We will know this has been achieved if:

- Children and young people are better supported by their communities
- Families are more able to keep their children safe
- Children have better relationships with their families and communities
- Community based organisations are more skilled and confident in promoting children’s safety

Method

Our pilot projects will mobilise teams of volunteers to promote a child friendly and protective ethos in their local communities through training and building confidence about how we can work together to ensure children’s safety.

Experienced project workers will recruit, train and support volunteers in local communities and workplaces. A flexible programme of information sharing and experiential child protection training packages will be developed and delivered by the volunteers to local groups and individuals. Volunteers will encourage participants to provide informal support to vulnerable families and to take action to alert relevant authorities when necessary. The model is based on cascading knowledge and skills in order to change behaviour.

Results and Conclusions

This pilot is currently a work in progress, and by September 2013 we will have feedback on progress and outcomes to share at the conference.

OS07.003
Community education as a strategy for child abuse prevention: A case study of Ivory Park Informal Settlement, South Africa
11:40, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2
Motlalepule Nathane-Taulela

The global prevalence of child abuse and neglect has been estimated at 19.7% for females and 7.9% for males. According to a 2009 study published in Clinical Psychology Review that examined 65 studies from 22 countries, the highest prevalence rate of child abuse geographically was found in Africa (34.4%), primarily because of high rates in South Africa (Pared, Guilera, Forns & Gomez-Benito, 2009). Children in informal settlements are especially vulnerable to child abuse due to the high levels of violent crime, overcrowded living conditions, high levels of poverty, teenage pregnancy, and limited child care resources. Prevention strategies and programs on child abuse require the active participation of communities in addressing structural issues and changing prevailing perceptions, behaviours and norms at the societal level. Through a comprehensive community based training programme under the auspice of Guild Cottage Treatment Centre an NGO in Johannesburg. One week participatory educational workshops were held on monthly basis in Ivory Park Community. Community members who participated in the training were encouraged to work together with the greater community in making child abuse prevention a priority and to safeguard children from abuse and neglect. The trained community members also became the Eye on The Child in the community and had a working relationship with the local Police Station, City of Joburg Social Development Department, Municipal Clinics and Churches. This programme became a powerful method of prevention and resulted in huge community awareness and dialogue about child abuse and neglect. It proved to be successful and is now being applied in other areas in the province of Gauteng, South Africa.
**OS07.004**  
Predictors of family discipline strategies with babies in their first year of life  
**12:00, 16 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2**  
Julie Lawrence, Gray Andrew.gray@otago.ac.nz, Rachael Taylor, Barry Taylor

Disciplinary practices in families is a controversial topic which has been debated for centuries, and which are known to have life-long effects on the well being of children. The nature of the discipline used in families is clearly influenced by the context of risk or support within communities. Poverty, parental mental illness and unemployment, for example, are all factors which impact unfavourably on how families interact with their children, and these factors are influenced by the policies, institutions, laws and values of the wider society.

There is limited knowledge about the strategies parents use during the first year of a baby's life and, utilising data from an ongoing longitudinal study, this paper describes the strategies that 804 New Zealand families use in the task of guiding their children to behave appropriately. It describes the prevalence and the psychosocial predictors of the mothers and their partners' use of discipline strategies with their babies at age 6 and 12 months.

Nearly a quarter of mothers and their partners reported they had used at least one negative discipline strategy (smacking; shouting; warning or time out) in the previous week with their baby at 6 months old rising to over half when their child was 12 months (55% mothers and 70% mothers partners).

These findings are particularly interesting in the context of New Zealand where in 2007, the passing into law of the Crimes Amendment (Substituted Section 59) Act, changed the policy framework for families and their children by abolishing the use of force for the purpose of correcting children.

**OS09.001**  
"Social worker experience of fatal child abuse; An interpretive phenomenological analysis"  
**11:00, 16 September 2013: O'Connell**  
Lee Pollard

This research project undertook detailed exploration of the lived experience of four social work practitioners who have been directly involved in cases of fatal child abuse. The research located the experience of social workers involved in cases of fatal child abuse within its organisational context in order to identify and inform potential areas of practice development. The findings will enhance the understanding of how involvement in cases of fatal child abuse may impact upon social work practitioners both personally and professionally and contribute to further research and development initiatives relating to cases of fatal child abuse and the child death review process.
OS09.002
Fatal child abuse in South Africa – exploring the patterns and outcomes
11:20, 16 September 2013: O'Connell
Shanaaz Mathews, Naemah Abrahams, Rachel Jewkes

Background and Objectives
Child abuse and neglect is considered a pervasive problem in South Africa, yet there is an absence of national prevalence and incidence data. This paper aims to describe the incidence of fatal child abuse, the injury patterns associated with such deaths and case outcomes.

Methods
A national retrospective study at a proportionate random sample of 38 mortuaries was conducted to identify all child homicides (until 18 years) for the year 2009. Data was gathered from mortuary files, autopsy reports and police interviews.

Results
This study found that 454 children died as a result of child abuse for the year 2009. Children under the age of 5 were more likely (73.8% vs 26.2%) to be killed in the context of abuse. Most (40.7%) child abuse deaths were due to abandonment with these deaths occurring mainly during the first week after birth, followed by strangulation deaths (23.7%) and blunt injuries (22.3%). Strangulation deaths were more likely associated with sexual assault homicides with this form of child homicide almost exclusively a problem affecting girl children. Nearly two thirds (64.8%) of child abuse fatalities were perpetrated by a mother with father's and step fathers implicated in only 11.5% of cases. Only 28.9% of cases had a court conviction and 26% of perpetrators had disappeared before they were prosecuted. 7% of cases identified had no police investigation and there was evidence of limited police investigation in most cases impacting on case outcomes.

Conclusion
There is an urgent need to strengthen reporting and inter-disciplinary management of fatal child abuse in South Africa. There is a need to introduce multi-disciplinary child death review teams in order to review all child injury deaths to inform intervention strategies to prevent fatalities.

OS09.003
Analysis of significant case reviews (SCRs): Building the evidence base in Scotland
11:40, 16 September 2013: O'Connell
Sharon Vincent, Alison Petch

Objective: National guidance for undertaking SCRs was introduced in Scotland in 2007. There was a commitment within the guidance to promote national, as well as local, learning. However, in contrast to England and Wales where national analyses of case reviews are commissioned bi-annually, until this study was undertaken the findings from SCRs had not been collated at national level in Scotland. Accessible data on the number of SCRs that had been undertaken was not, therefore, readily available and lessons had been insufficiently shared beyond local boundaries. The aim of the analysis was to identify the main themes for Scotland and compare these with evidence from analyses undertaken in other parts of the UK.

Methods: A content analysis approach was used with analysis undertaken on a case by case and cross case basis.

Results: A particularly significant finding was the high number of SCRs which relate to the care and protection of children living in families whose lives are dominated by drug use and the associated issues this brings, including criminality and neighbourhood problems. Another challenging finding was the lack of suitable resources for the placement and support of troubled teenagers. Finally there were a number of concerning SCRs involving long term neglect and/or sexual abuse of school age children who had been known to statutory services for many years.

Conclusion: The findings of this study raise a number of important national policy issues for Scotland. The study also provides important baseline information that will now be used by the Care Inspectorate to develop a national database of information from SCRs.
**OS09.004**

Child abuse deaths: A study of police records in Victoria, Australia

12:00, 16 September 2013: O'Connell

John Frederick, Christopher Goddard

Objective: This paper will report on a research project to examine the closed case records of the Victoria Police Homicide Squad obtained during their investigations of child abuse death cases over the past 20 years. Homicide squad investigations are comprehensive and detailed, offering an invaluable source of data for examining the family and systemic circumstances which have contributed to the death of a child. A range of factors, such as key demographic information, were obtained from the case files. In addition, significant features of the cases including prior injuries to the victim, history of family violence, and service use history were noted. The research project aims to contribute to building a knowledge base about child abuse deaths in Australia and to improve the protection of vulnerable children.

Method: Both quantitative and qualitative data were obtained from the case files, with qualitative data used to illustrate a number of key contextual themes which emerged from the data analysis. The method of qualitative data analysis used in this study was the grounded theory approach. In this method, the researcher reviews the data systematically and intensively on three separate occasions.

Results: The category which included most children was ‘severe physical assaults’, with the following key themes being evident: (1) previous injuries; (2) previously seen by professionals; and (3) lack of reporting to child protection authorities and mandatory reporting guidelines not being followed.

Conclusions: Preliminary analysis suggests that most of these child deaths could have been prevented. A preventable death is one in which an individual, community or system could have reasonably done something that would have changed the circumstances that led to the death. A particular concern is the lack of reporting to child protection authorities by professionals and other responsible adults in cases where children were clearly at risk.

**OS10.001**

Infant mental health and child protection work - A collaborative approach

11:00, 16 September 2013: Leeson Suite

Nicola O'Sullivan


Chronic stress in infancy results in a flooding in the baby’s brain with the chemical cortisol for prolonged periods and results in an eventual lowering of the arousal threshold (Barlow and Underdown, 2008). There are established links between high cortisol levels and a range of psychological problems in adulthood inter alia, depression, anxiety, eating disorders and alcoholism (Ward et al, 2012). Thus, the role that the caregiver plays both in pregnancy and afterbirth, is critical in the infant’s neuropsychological development (Ward et al, 2012, Howe, 2005, Barlow and Underdown, 2008, Gerhardt, 2004).

Child protection work has traditionally focused on immediate safety and prevention of physical harm to children; however recently, with emerging research literature, there has been a shift towards protecting children from long-term emotional harm (Howe, 2005, Buckley 2003, 2005, Horwath, 2005, Hodson, 2011).

The Bessborough Centre Parent and Baby Unit are using this research to develop a best practice approach when engaging with parents and babies at high risk. Using a collaborative approach, it is argued that infants are receiving more thoughtful care and protection. This paper aims to explore the benefits and challenges of using an infant mental health model in child protection cases in the absence of robust legislation and policy.
OS10.002
ISPCAN's World Perspectives on Child Abuse and Neglect 2012
11:20, 16 September 2013: Leeson Suite
Howard Dubowitz, Jenny Gray

ISPCAN issued its 10th edition of World Perspectives in September 2012. It offers a valuable snapshot of child maltreatment and protection efforts in 69 countries, including data on laws, policies and programs. These data were analyzed by geographic region and country income level categories—low, middle, and high.

There are both striking commonalities and differences. For example,

the need for greater service capacity is widespread, but low-income countries face much more daunting challenges when even basic infrastructures and services may not exist.

This session will highlight key findings from this edition of World Perspectives.

Participants will be invited to suggest information they think should be gathered for the next edition.

OS10.003
Clinical audit of missed dental appointments in a city-wide salaried/community dental service in relation to child maltreatment
11:40, 16 September 2013: Leeson Suite
Jenny Harris, Lauren Firth, Barbara Chadwick

Children's missed healthcare appointments may be an alerting feature of neglect. The dental team must ensure children are brought for essential treatment and must share any concerns appropriately.

Objective: To assess management of missed dental appointments for children in a city-wide salaried/community dental service.

Method: Locally-agreed standards for communication with (a) the family, (b) other professionals and (c) child protection referral to children's social care were developed using NICE clinical guidance 89: When to suspect child maltreatment and the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry's policy document on dental neglect. A retrospective audit was conducted of a random sample of 100 clinical records of children appointed in October 2009, cycle 1 (C1). Information collected was: age, attended or missed appointment, current dental issue, medical history, all actions taken within 6-months of missed appointment, dental outcome. Policy and procedures were modified and staff training provided. Data collection was repeated annually (C2, C3).

Results: The missed appointment rate was 12% in C1 and 11% in C2. Communication with the family took place in 92% (11/12) and 100% (11/11) of cases. In C1, four children with risk of pain/infection or significant medical history (rPIMH) missed appointments. Three cases remained unresolved at 6-months: two communicated with other professionals but none referred to children's social care. In C2, five children with rPIMH missed appointments: three communicated with other professionals, two referred to social care. One outcome remained unresolved at 6-months. Dental treatment was complete at 6-months for 58% (7/12, C1) and 64% (7/11, C2). C3 data analysis is ongoing.

Conclusion: Although appropriate communication occurred in most cases, there were omissions. Communication and referral increased in cycle 2 but occasional omissions continued, indicating insufficient consistency to ensure protection of vulnerable children.
OS10.004
Social work and child protection in Australian Health Services – a harmonious association?

12:00, 16 September 2013: Leeson Suite

Mary Haire, Amanda Hamilton, Allison Moffatt

In Australia, the Queensland Child Protection System has undergone significant change since the introduction of Mandatory Reporting for Registered Nurses in 2005. The Department of Communities now employs fewer Social Workers than staff from other professions, such as Police and Teaching, attracting criticism from those who believe the demise of social work has led to increased out-of-home care (Madigan, M, The Courier Mail, July 2012). However, within Queensland Health, Child Protection remains the domain of Social Work and Nursing.

At The Prince Charles Hospital, a Child Protection Unit provides advice and education to all associated health services. In line with the British Munro Review (Munro, E, 2011, A child-centred system), Social Work is viewed as the appropriate profession to lead this Unit, as its core competencies and values are imperative to successful child protection work. The Social Work skill set includes a holistic approach to families and systems; comprehensive psycho-social assessments; non-authoritarian engagement with families; implementation of early therapeutic interventions; and ensuring appropriate follow up. Furthermore, Social Workers are often leaders in capacity building, system research, policy reform and program development, essential to effective child protection work.

Social Work is encouraged in all Child Protection cases, with Social Workers often managing the most complex child abuse and neglect cases within the Health District.

New initiatives have required ‘champions’ from Social Work to build capacity. A specialist Mental Health Child Protection Social Work position has improved prevention of child abuse and neglect when families are experiencing mental health issues.

This presentation will describe attitudes to the Social Work profession at The Prince Charles Hospital, using case discussions to demonstrate how Social Work intervention has improved outcomes for consumers, the Health District and its partner agencies, through early and sustained involvement.

OS11.001
'Teachers matter': The impact of the introductory mandatory reporting on teacher training and education

11:00, 16 September 2013: Clyde Suite

Ashling Bourke, Catherine Maunsell

The role of teachers in safeguarding the welfare of children is long acknowledged. However, recent research in primary schools in Ireland found that the training provided to teachers on child protection issues was lacking (Buckley & McGarry, 2011). This paper discusses the impact of the proposed introduction of mandatory reporting in Ireland on teachers' on-going training on child protection matters and makes recommendations for such training. The frequent interactions teachers have with children and their expertise in terms of typical child development and age-appropriate norms place them in an ideal position for identifying possible signs of abuse. However, this advantage is useless if they are not adequately trained in the identification of, and referral procedures for, child abuse. While research indicates that schools have the highest child protection reporting rates of all professionals (Crenshaw et al., 1995), schools have also been found to fail to report a substantial proportion of suspected child abuse cases (Kenny, 2004). One of the most frequently cited reasons for this, is a lack of knowledge or awareness around child abuse issues (Horwath, 2007). Additionally, teachers may struggle in making decisions about concerns warrant referral, particularly in the case of neglect, where evidence may be ambiguous. Thus a logical response to these barriers would be to provide better, more comprehensive training to student and in-service teachers. This is of particular importance as teachers will be legally mandated to report suspicions rather than following policy guidelines, as is currently the case. The current changes in initial teacher education and the proposed introduction of mandatory reporting for professionals in Ireland, is an ideal opportunity to raise this issue and the need for specific targeted training in child protection for children. Recommendations are made for this training, in particular at the initial teacher education stage.
OS11.002
It shouldn't hurt to be a child school community project

11:20, 16 September 2013: Clyde Suite

Christianah Akindolie

OBJECTIVE
To prevent child sexual abuse in local schools by educating and empowering the children.

METHOD

"It shouldn't hurt to be a Child School Community Project was developed by Christianah Fate Foundation (CFF), a non-governmental organization in collaboration with the Local Education District of Eti-Osa Local Government in Lagos, Nigeria. CFF was granted access to 36 local nursery/grade schools in the District. In the last quarter of 2012, five (5) pilot schools were identified for Phase One. In preparation for the project, 19 volunteers consisting of medical personnel, educationist and other professionals were trained. The 5 pilot schools were evaluated to ascertain the knowledge level of the pupils.

Using educative materials developed by CFF, the pupils were taught what child sexual abuse is, where abuse can take place, who can abuse them, defensive/protective skills, proper names of their private parts, breaking the silence (talking about past and on-going abuse). Pupils were also opportune to ask mind-bothering questions on child sexual abuse.

RESULTS
During the Phase One of the project, a total of 2,275 pupils were educated in the five (5) pilot schools. CFF discovered over 50 incidences of the grooming process for abuse and 22 cases of on-going sexual abuse. The social workers took the appropriate steps to rescue some of the children. CFF discovered that parents created the environment for abuse as most of them live in densely populated areas and they are hardly home. The pupils are now empowered to identify, resist and report any predator.

CONCLUSIONS
We could see very visibly, innocence and pains of the past written on some faces of children. Guardian Counselors were trained and a club known as War Against Sexual Harassment (WASH) launched to provide and avenue for children to report abuse cases.

OS11.003
Corporal punishment by teachers in Zimbabwean schools: A cultural dilemma in the new millennium

11:40, 16 September 2013: Clyde Suite

Almon Shumba

Corporal punishment is a form of child abuse that has become very difficult to eliminate in our schools because it is considered as part of the African culture. Although corporal punishment is banned in Zimbabwean schools, some teachers use it against the law. As such, this is a violation of children's rights as enshrined under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (1989). This study sought to examine the current extent and causes of corporal punishment by teachers in Zimbabwean schools. Data on reported cases of corporal punishment were collected manually from the perpetrators' files from one of the regional offices. The study found 17 cases of corporal punishment in schools reported to the Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture through the regional offices. Records of all reported cases of corporal punishment committed by teachers from 2005 to 2011 are recorded and kept within its regional offices. Each of the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe has a regional office where all records of child abuse by teachers are kept. Data were analysed using percentages and tables. The study found that 17 cases of corporal punishment were committed by teachers and that the practice was still prevalent in some schools. The study found that 4 of the perpetrators were charged with child abuse and discharged from the teaching service and the rest were either warned or found not guilty of the offence. These findings are merely a-tip-of-the-iceberg because most cases of corporal punishment are never reported to the authorities by the victims for fear of reprisals by the perpetrators.
**OS12.001**  
**Innovative transitions for highly vulnerable young people in 'out of home' care**  
11:00, 16 September 2013: Appian Suite  
Peter Jackson, Hayley Clark

Objectives: To demonstrate the positive impact of specialist supported housing on highly vulnerable young people with deeply entrenched patterns of self-destructive behaviour, who are leaving residential care. To enhance understanding of how transition services can work to stabilise these behaviours and create an opportunity to increase self esteem, raise aspirations and increase the chance of successful adulthood for young people who have experienced trauma and displacement in their lives.

Method: George Street is a specialist supported housing scheme for 8 highly vulnerable people leaving care. Its team of highly trained staff work creatively with young people using a variety of engagement methods and experiential activities to increase aspirations and address behaviours. Using engagement summaries, outcome stars and internal monitoring Solas collated evidence to demonstrate positive impacts this service has had on young people accessing the scheme and transitioning into independence.

Results: 100% of young people supported have accessed engagement activities on site.

- 60% reporting increase in confidence of self esteem;
- 25% reporting raised aspirations;
- 80% showing a reduction in ASB or Offending Behaviour;
- 75% showing a reduction in self harm based on young people who reported self harming behaviour at commencement of placement;
- 80% reporting they are reconnected with their families/friends/local area.

Conclusions: Specialist transition placements increase the number of positive outcomes for highly vulnerable young people leaving care. Intensive support in skills for independent living and support to address behaviours can increase a young person's chance of successfully maintaining a tenancy and transitioning from 'out of home' care.

**OS12.002**  
**Support to previously cared-for children in Denmark**  
11:20, 16 September 2013: Appian Suite  
Mette Lausten

It is generally known that previously cared-for children suffer disadvantages in later life. Based on the longitudinal survey on Children in out-of-home-Care (CiC), an extension to the Danish Longitudinal Survey of Children (DALSC), covering all children born in 1995, who currently are or formerly have been in care in Denmark, this paper investigates whether support for previously cared-for children is lacking when they return to their family.

The CiC survey, conducted in 2003, 2007 and 2011 (by then including 1.700 15-year-olds), contains questionnaires to the care environment and the mothers from age 7 as well as the children from age 11. As the survey also contains previously cared-for children we are able to follow children from foster or residential care to home. In addition DALSC contains children receiving in-home social support, giving us the opportunity to make comparisons between children receiving in-home social support, cared-for children and children previously cared-for.

In CiC, we find significant differences in behaviours according to health, risk taking (through DAWBA questions on Depression, Behavior, and Dieting), wellbeing (through the strength and difficulties questionnaire, SDQ), and school attention between children receiving in-home social support, cared-for children and children previously cared-for. This paper explores if these results relate to the support or lack of support given to previously cared-for children and their mothers, when the children are back home again, both from the child’s and from the mother’s point of view.
OS12.003
From specific to universal....learning from a study of young people leaving care in Romania.
11:40, 16 September 2013: Appian Suite
Caroline McGregor, Ela Dima

This paper reports on the outcomes of research into the experiences and views of young people leaving care in Romania. The objective of the study is to demonstrate the learning derived from this specific study for a wider European and International audience. The research was based on mixed-methodology, qualitative in nature, relying primarily on an interpretative, phenomenological analysis (IPA) framework. It is highlighted that while some outcomes and learning related specifically to the Romanian context, many had wider universal resonance which contributes directly to the field of leaving care research. In particular, outcomes in relation to impact of stigma on care leavers' identity; the priorities identified in relation to attending to psychological as well as social processes of transition and the power of the service user voice are emphasised.

OS12.004
Preparing youth in residential care for the transition to adulthood: The Haven's experience
12:00, 16 September 2013: Appian Suite
Eliarani Kanak Rajah

Research and practice in the area of transitional services for young people leaving residential care upon reaching the age of majority still remains an unexplored field in Singapore. Existing literature asserts that a majority of these youths, who leave care upon aging out, are most likely to face poor outcomes across the domains of education, employment, parenthood, and community reintegration. However, these negative developmental outcomes are preventable. The Salvation Army Haven is a residential home in Singapore for abandoned, abused and neglected children, offering continuous support for youths even after they have reached the age of majority. Although the Haven has been delivering services to these young people in various ways, there has thus far, been limited efforts to conceptualize a practice framework that incorporates both the best practices of the staff as well as theoretical knowledge related to this phenomenon. Based on the ecological risk/protective paradigm, this study strived to examine how social workers in a residential care setting can best prepare and support youth as they transition into adulthood. Using the four-D model of Discovery, Dream, Design, and Destiny under the Appreciative Inquiry research method, the research aimed to identify how best practice in the Haven can be developed and maintained. It utilized in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with youths, social work professionals and volunteers in the Haven to facilitate information gathering. The findings revealed six core protective processes as crucial for preparing and supporting young people in their transition to adulthood. A practice framework grounded in the ecological risk/protective paradigm and encompassing the six core processes was thus, conceptualized. Recommendations for practice and policy, and limitations of the study were discussed.
OBJECTIVES: "Unspoken Words" is a school based child sexual abuse primary prevention programme aiming at increasing - among schoolchildren aged 9-11(4th and 5th grade) - awareness of the risks, enhancing their resilience in case they find themselves in dangerous situations and knowing who to turn to for advice and support. This programme was created to address the elements of complicity, secrecy, shame and fear, so children feel able to tell a trusted adult and know they will be listened to and can be protected.

METHOD: The theoretical framework within the contents of "Unspoken Words" have been developed is the one described into the model "Life Skills Based Education" (LSBE) by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The programme consists of five lessons realized in the school's gym-hall, enhancing the children's awareness and understanding of how they can protect themselves from sexual abuse; encouraging them to consider issues of respecting others and themselves, teaching how to recognize positive and negative touch, empowering body awareness and sharing concerns with a trusted adult. Each lesson runs on a weekly basis and lasts two to three hours, is based on active involvement of children and includes also relaxation techniques to enhance body self-confidence and to reinforce educational goals.

RESULTS: Thanks to an EEC grant in the context of the DAPHNE programme, this programme has become a European resource implemented and used in five different European countries: Italy, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Spain. Since 2003, it is also the official CSA prevention program for children attending elementary schools in the Italian part of Switzerland.

CONCLUSIONS: Thousands of children, hundreds of parents and teachers have been participating into this prevention programme. Research showed that children involved learn protective skills and enjoy being active participants.
OS13.002
Modèle d'une collaboration multidisciplinaire de détection des enfants exposés à la violence conjugale de leurs parents (Multidisciplinary model detection of child exposure to domestic violence between partners)

11:20, 16 September 2013: Adelaide Suite

Sarah Depallens, Jean-Jacques Cheseaux, Nathalie Romain Glassey

Introduction

La violence conjugale concerne un nombre important de familles. En Suisse, elle touche 20% des femmes et représente 55% de tous les homicides. Ses conséquences sont graves pour les enfants qui y sont exposés puisqu'ils présentent des séquelles psychologiques aussi importantes que celles notées après des mauvais traitements physiques ou des abus sexuels.

Objectifs: Afin de pouvoir dépister et prendre en charge efficacement cette maltraitance psychologique, une collaboration a été mise en place entre l’Unité de médecine des violences (UMV, consultation médico-légale pour adultes) et le CAN Team de pédiatrie. Les enfants exposés aux violences conjugales sont identifiés lorsqu’un de leur parent consulte l’UMV et ils bénéficient alors de mesures de protection et de soins psychologiques et/ou somatiques mises en place par le CAN Team.

Résultats: Durant l’année 2011, 573 patients ont consulté l’UMV pour des violations communautaires ou domestiques. Une exposition à cette violence a concerné 76 enfants et, pour la moitié d’entre eux, un signalement a été effectué au Service cantonal de protection de la jeunesse.

Conclusion: La collaboration entre un service de pédiatrie et un service de médecine légale clinique adulte permet de mettre à jour des dysfonctionnements familiaux qui ne sont généralement pas détectés dans d’autres structures pédiatriques ou scolaires, celles-ci n’étant pas identifiées par les victimes comme des lieux permettant la révélation de la violence subie. Des efforts doivent être entrepris afin d’élargir une telle collaboration à d’autres systèmes d’accueil pour familles vulnérables afin de protéger le plus tôt possible les enfants exposés à ce type de violence.

English:

Introduction: Domestic violence is a common problem. In Switzerland, 20% of women are victims of domestic violence and 55% of all homicides are a result of domestic violence. For children witnessing parental domestic violence, psychological consequences can be as severe as the ones resulting from physical abuse.

Objectives: To improve the screening of this type of child abuse, a collaboration has been created between the Violence Medicine Unit (VMU, a medico-legal consultation in the adult emergency service) and the CAN Team (Child Abuse Team in the pediatric department). Children exposed to parental domestic violence are identified when one of the parents is consulting the VMU. Safety plan, psychological support and/or somatic care and Child Protection can be established after evaluation of the situation by the CAN Team.

Results: During 2011, 573 patients have consulted the UMV for community violence or domestic violence. 76 children have been exposed to domestic violence. The CAN Team reported 50% of them to the Child Protective Service (Justice).

Conclusion: This new collaboration between a pediatric service and a medico-legal consultation for adult is useful to detect family dysfunctions that could not have been screened in other pediatric or school departments. We recommend expanding this collaboration to other reception centers dedicated to vulnerable families in order to protect children exposed to domestic violence.
Introduction: La révélation d'une situation d'inceste peut conduire à des interprétations simplistes du positionnement des parents et en particulier celui de la mère.

Objectifs: La complexité de ces situations nécessite de mieux comprendre les réactions maternelles face à l'inceste : de la mère protectrice, à la mère ignorante, en passant par la mère informée mais refusant de protéger son enfant ou à celle témoin des abus ou elle-même auteur, les réactions sont multiples. L'objectif de cette communication est :

- de proposer une typologie des réactions des mères face à l'inceste
- d’envisager les perspectives de prises en charge possible

Méthodologie: Notre communication s’inscrit dans le cadre de l’expérience d’une équipe pluridisciplinaire composée de psychiatres, pédiatre, psychologue, juriste, directeur d’une maison d’accueil spécialisée dans la prise en charge des victimes d’inceste. Notre réflexion s’inscrit à partir de l’analyse rétrospective des prises en charges effectuées.

Résultats : Nos résultats permettent de constater que les réactions des mères face à l’inceste ont une influence inévitable :

- sur les suites judiciaires (plainte ou non ; adhésion aux mesures judiciaires éducatives décidées ; acceptation des prises en charge thérapeutiques, etc.)
- la mobilisation des ressources résilientes
- le devenir de ces victimes en particulier leur devenir mère.
- les réactions des professionnels et les prises en charge proposées.

Conclusion: Face au tabou que représente encore aujourd’hui la question des lèvres face à l’inceste, notre communication propose de mieux comprendre les enjeux à l’œuvre non seulement du côté des victimes, mais également de ces mères et des professionnels intervenants.
OS14.001
Child abuse and neglect surveillance systems via minimum data set indicators
11:00, 16 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite
Athanasios Ntinapogias, George Nikolaidis

Child abuse and neglect (CAN) case-based data across the EU are derived from a variety of intersectoral sources and collected via different methodologies; therefore, follow up of victims at local and national level is not sufficiently coordinated among the involved services. At international level, given that existing monitoring systems vary considerably, comparisons are not feasible.

This study aims at identifying scientific evidence-basis and necessary tools for establishing Europe-wide compatible national CAN monitoring systems using a minimum data set (MDS). Methodology employed includes an extensive literature review for recording pre-existing CAN-surveillance mechanisms throughout Europe and the type of indicators that such mechanisms regularly collect; research evidence from prior studies (such as the case-based surveillance study of the BECAN project); expert's consensus panel methods to identify the minimum set which would be at the same time informative and feasible in as many European countries as possible. Insofar efforts for European unification of CAN related information resources have focused mainly on juridical cases; this study targets at providing a common ground also for CAN cases that are handled by services in health, welfare and educational sectors as evidence suggests that the vast majority of CAN cases will never enter the juridical system.

Data comprising CAN-MDS to be presented, derive from specific variables on the basis of 4 axes: child, incident, family and services provided. Moreover, within the presentation of results, the outline and fundamental provisions of a respectful Toolkit as well as of a Policy and Procedures Manual will be illustrated, which will be the main instruments with which existing surveillance national or regional mechanisms could harmonize their regular administrative function in order to produce compatible outcomes with pan-European mechanisms; also new such systems could be designed and implemented in countries without prior such structures.

OS14.002
Transforming inter-agency practice activity in an Irish context: Practitioner research from social work and addiction treatment agencies
11:20, 16 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite
Liam McCarthy, Robert O'Driscoll

International and Irish literature suggest that child protection and addiction treatment practitioners can enhance outcomes for children in care through more effective inter-agency practice. Further, little attention has been paid to the types of professional learning required to develop interagency practice competence, especially where practice is occurring within systems facing dramatic change. This medium scale, qualitative practitioner research was conducted by social work and addiction professionals. Methodologically Cultural Historic Activity Theory (CHAT) gives practitioners a systematic lens with which to analyse their shared inter-agency work. The objectives were: (1) To enhance outcomes for adolescent client service users who are in receipt of social work and addiction treatment services; (2) To transform the inter-agency practices of practitioners working with this client group; (3) To advancing recommendations in the Ryan Report; (4) To assess the potential of the methodology to contribute to transformation; and (5) To develop research competence and disseminate learning. Twelve practitioner and six adolescent interviews and a series of five Development Work Research (DWR) workshops were conducted during 2011. The research surfaced tensions in key practice processes such as: practitioner working relationships; referral procedures, case management protocols; and the degree of client and carer inclusion. The methodological approach proved effective in exploring these tensions which have considerable implications for client progression along rehabilitation pathways that are highly dependent on interagency working. The conclusion is that the existing inter-agency architecture needs to be augmented so that the full potential of interagency activity effort is achieved to meet the evolving needs of children in care with alcohol and drug problems. Specifically, processes must be embedded that will tend in an on going way to the repeatedly evidenced practice tensions in inter-agency work.
OS14.003
Consulting inner city English children and young people about their protection services

11:40, 16 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite

Annabel Goodyer

Objectives

This abstract sets out a research project whose objectives are to gather children and young people's views on identifying and meeting their safeguarding needs, to better understand how children's services in XXX district can respond effectively and work in partnership with children, young people and their families.

Methods: Three methods will be employed:

A) A small-scale consultation with groups of children & young people already known to Children's Safeguarding Services

B) Individual interviews with 20 children and young people again those who have been the subject of a child protection plan

C) An action-research project: setting up a consultation/focus group of young people subject to a protection plan and offering support and training for them to provide expertise to develop policy, practice and training to XXXZ Children's services

Results

Our project has not yet gathered data, this will be happening when the funding is in place. However, a central finding in other studies of young people's experiences of seeking and receiving help from statutory agencies is the importance of trusting relationships with professionals. Young people's expectations and needs are not always met by current safeguarding systems, which may need to become more child-centred if they are to address the concerns that maltreated young people have consistently voiced through various research studies (Bell 2002, Rees 2011, Jobe & Gorin 2012). Some studies also highlight's young people's wish to be more included in decision-making about their safety (Woolfson et al (2010, Cossar et al. 2011).

Conclusion

In the UK there is a policy emphasis on localised strategies and services, rather than a pre-occupation with centrally imposed targets and processes. We hope to help identify both the barriers and the drivers for child-centred child protection services.

OS14.004
Children and evaluation challenge fund: The challenge of building evidence around violence prevention and child protection in low- and middle-income countries

12:00, 16 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite

Barbara Gallo, Sara Bensaude de Castro Freire

Although a wide range of programmes for preventing violence against children in low- and middle-income countries exists, their degree of effectiveness is not always known. Most interventions are based on assumptions from studies conducted in developed countries or on the experience of individual child protection staff that may lack access to the full body of evidence-based good practices. The Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund aims at expanding the evidence base in the field of violence prevention and child protection by supporting rigorous evaluations of interventions aimed at preventing violence against children in low- and middle-income countries. These evaluations are expected to contribute to generate knowledge about what works/does not work and to be used to improve existing programmes and policies. More broadly, this is expected to contribute to build a stronger culture of evaluation among child protection stakeholders, fostering cooperation between researchers and practitioners. Set up in 2011 by Foundations willing to work together for a common objective, the Evaluation Challenge Fund is a grant-making initiative operating through open calls for proposals. Two calls have been launched, over 730 applications were received, 9 evaluations are under implementation and others are to be funded. Parenting education, community-based child protection mechanisms, community sensitization through men and boys' engagement, children's life skills building and housing programmes indirectly preventing child maltreatment at home are among the interventions under evaluation. Methodologies vary from randomized controlled trials and quasi-experimental designs to mixed methods and more qualitative approaches. As the findings are made available, their dissemination and uptake will be critical. The presentation would be an opportunity to share experiences, lessons learnt, achievements and challenges encountered while striving for building a more solid evidence base around child abuse prevention in low- and middle-income countries.
OS19.001
What’s the meaning of documentation? The diverse roles of quantitative outcome measures in Child Welfare Services
14:30, 16 September 2013: Leinster
Stine Tankred Luckow, Turf Jakobsen

In the last decade, welfare policies have increasingly emphasized the value of effective interventions. Accordingly, Child Welfare Services have pursued to build up an evidence-based social work practice, initiated primarily by the lack of positive outcomes for children and youth placed in out-of-home care.

In Denmark efforts to obtain more effective Child Welfare Services are expressed in a number of ways. One of the main initiatives is the introduction of new types of documentation aimed at providing simple quantitative measures of the results obtained by children receiving social services.

This paper explores the meaning of documentation, using practices in Child Welfare Services as an exemplary case. The paper draws on an ethnographic study carried out in one of Denmark’s largest municipalities. The study included qualitative interviews with a broad range of professionals within the municipality, such as social pedagogues, psychologists, consultants and politicians.

The analysis shows that the attempt of welfare authorities to provide quantitative outcome measures takes on different roles in different contexts. First, documentation functions as a governance tool intended to be used for prioritizing costs, for example by reducing institutions that demonstrate poor results. Second, documentation is a tool for framing policy, by which general strategies are defined to improve areas that show low scoring across interventions. Third, documentation is framed as a pedagogical tool that should lead to professional reflection and adjustment of care services. Fourth, documentation is seen as a tool for improving case work quality, adding clarity to the plans for development that caseworkers set out for the child. The paper concludes that the success of these new types of documentation can partly be explained by their multiple meanings and the fact that they are flexibly adjusted to the needs and demands of the shifting contexts in which they operate.

OS19.002
'Practice needs to be braver': The role of risk decision panels
14:50, 16 September 2013: Leinster
Tony Stanley, Helen Lincoln, Paul McGee

In this paper we examine the benefits of moving toward a more critical approach to risk discourses in practice. We show how a more culturally responsive and risk sensible practice emerged in our organisations when both a supportive practice framework and social work practice culture was put in place to enable reflection on the narrative around family functioning where care was being sort as a solution. We show an application of the same values across two very different local authorities. In Tower Hamlets a group of practitioners spoke back to the dominance of euro-centric risk decisions for Bengali young women. A sharp spike in the numbers of young Bengali teenagers entering the care system in 2007 - 2009 prompted the introduction of a care entry gate-keeping panel. Responding to the calls of euro-centricity, the introduction of this 'gate keeping' risk panel invited our social workers and managers' to work differently with risk, and we show how this has resulted in more humane decision making. In Essex one of the consequent responses to being on an improvement notice had moved practice to the extreme end of ‘safe certainty’, and the introduction of a locally based Care and Resource panel has helped shift this. A narrow risk mitigation approach has now given way to a more reflexive ‘risk sensible’ practice for both organisations where narratives about youth risk taking behaviors are thought about in terms of identity, desire, pleasure, gender, culture and power. Practice myths about care offering risk mitigation were organisationally exposed leading to a less risk averse and more culturally responsive practice. We argue that a 'child and family balance' invites a risk sensible approach that values children and their families helping shape the practice narratives of safety, risk, and family functioning.
OS19.003
The suffering of parents in the child protection system: A 'failure' of recognition?

15:10, 16 September 2013: Leinster

Brid Featherstone, Kim Holt

This article is concerned with the parents of children being received into care, a group who often occupy the paradoxical position of being invisible and yet demonised. Indeed the term 'child protection' exemplifies their invisibility. The article draws from the authors' research and a wider literature to render parents visible and to explore their experiences through the language of suffering. It will be suggested that the language of 'suffering' is necessary to challenge the way in which rational vocabularies of expertise divert attention from the human significance of the hurt, pain and loss often experienced by the economically and socially disadvantaged parents who become involved with the system. The work of Judith Butler will be used to articulate an ethical framework that places recognition at its centre.

OS19.004
The contemporary politics of child protection in England: The emergence of the authoritarian neoliberal state

15:30, 16 September 2013: Leinster

Nigel Parton

The aim of this paper is to critically analyse policy and practice developments in England since 2008 and to locate them in their social and political contexts. The paper will draw on research carried out by the author to be published in a book in 2014. It will be argued that the impact of the economic downturn, high profile child abuse scandals and the election of a Conservative led Coalition government in 2010 have had a major impact on child protection policy and practice. The period has witnessed to increases in: applications to court; the number of children with child protection plans; in the numbers of children in care; and the level of child and family poverty and deprivation. There have been major cutbacks in all areas of public services and at the same time fundamental changes to 'open up' such services to privatization. At the same time the government has put a new priority on increasing the number of children in care being adopted. Taken together - and in the context of the other changes in policy for children and families - it will be argued that such developments point to important changes to the way child protection policy and practice is being organised and that this is most usefully characterized as a move towards an authoritarian neoliberal state.
OS22.001
Risk factors for physical, emotional and sexual abuse victimization amongst vulnerable youth in South Africa
14:30, 16 September 2013: Elgin
Franziska Meinck, Lucie Cluver, Mark Boyes

Background: Little is known about risk and protective factors for physical, emotional and sexual abuse victimization amongst vulnerable youth in South Africa. Previous research has relied on university or high-school student’s child abuse recollections and data from official records, which may all be subject to bias. This is South Africa’s first prospective study which aimed to establish factors associated with abuse victimization of vulnerable youth.

Methods: Confidential self-report questionnaires were completed by youth aged 10-17 (n=3515, 57% female). Participants were randomly sampled from communities with at least 30% HIV-prevalence and followed-up a year later (n=3401, 97% retention). Standardized measures of abuse, risk factors, and socio-demographic variables were used where possible.

Results: Prevalence rates at follow-up were 16% for physical abuse and 20% for emotional abuse. 4% and 5.5% of respondents reported sustained physical or emotional abuse respectively (i.e. monthly abuse at both baseline and follow-up). 8.4% of respondents reported contact sexual abuse in the last year. Risk factors for sustained physical and emotional abuse included poverty (p<.003), domestic violence (p<.001), experience of AIDS-related stigma (p<.001), and living with an AIDS-sick caregiver (p<.001). Protective factors for physical and emotional abuse included living with a healthy caregiver (p<.001) and availability of basic necessities (p<.001). Risk factors for sexual abuse victimization included poverty (p=.037), school drop-out (p<.001) and community violence (p<.001).

Discussion: Youth in deprived areas of South Africa experience high levels of abuse victimization. Identifying modifiable risk and protective factors at community-, family- and household levels has the potential to reduce the risk for abuse of vulnerable youth in South Africa. This study identifies important targets for future prevention and intervention efforts.

OS22.002
So how much child sexual abuse and sexual victimisation is there in the UK today?
14:50, 16 September 2013: Elgin
Lorraine Radford

Objectives: In light of recent public debate in England about child sexual abuse by people in positions of trust, this paper will review the state of the research evidence on the prevalence of child sexual abuse and child sexual victimisation in the UK; consider who are the main perpetrators; the relationships between perpetrators and victims; risk factors; harm resulting and implications for child protection policy.

Method: The paper will draw on published sources of data on the prevalence and impact of child sexual abuse in the UK and overseas, including major national studies of childhood victimisation, vulnerabilities, risks and impact.

Results: There are few studies of the prevalence of child sexual abuse in the UK which comprehensively cover risks of victimisation to children and young people of different ages. Risks from different types of perpetrator vary developmentally. While considerable media attention is given towards the sexual abuse of young children by adults in positions of trust, the most common perpetrators are not adults but peers, other young people under the age of 18. It cannot be concluded that sexual victimisation by peers is 'less harmful' than abuse by an adult. The impact of sexual abuse and sexual victimisation varies from person to person and it is important that researchers take into account the age and vulnerabilities of the victim, the traumogenic nature of the relationship between victim and perpetrator, the overlapping risks of sexual abuse and sexual victimisation with other compounding and cumulative victimisation experiences from a range of perpetrators.

Conclusion: Next steps for developing a comprehensive approach to research trends in the prevalence and impact of child sexual abuse will be considered.
OS22.003
Child sexual abuse in Latin America and the Caribbean: Conceptually grounding evidence on prevalence and gender differences
15:10, 16 September 2013: Elgin
Karen Polonko, Nicholas Adams

Scientific understanding of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) still draws predominantly on findings for North America and Europe, showing that CSA is more prevalent among girls than boys and the majority of perpetrators are males, underscoring the role of patriarchy in sexual violence against girls and women.

Experts have stressed the need for research on CSA in non-Western cultures that might provide additional insights. Using the same methodology as for this paper, Polonko et al (2011) found evidence suggesting that CSA of boys in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) was similar to or even higher than that for girls in MENA, reflecting in part the extremes of patriarchy in terms of gender segregation etc. Research for South East and South Central Asia showed girls having higher rates of CSA than boys except in certain contexts for example when CSA was conflated with Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (Polonko et al 2012).

The objective of this paper was to review data on CSA in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to search for patterns by gender, prevalence by region and situate globally. Results from a comprehensive search of scientific outlets, government and NGO documents on CSA in LAC yielded data for at least one gender for 8 countries in Central America, 7 in South America and 6 in the Caribbean (N=21). Of these, only 2-3 countries in each region had data comparable for males and females (N=7). While preliminary results point to variations within and across regions, overall, girls are more likely to be victims of CSA than boys in all three regions (similar to North America and Europe). Results are explained within the context of patriarchy, adultarchy and factors unique to regions. Implications for CSA prevention and relation to risky sex are discussed.
OS23.001
Youth prostitution in The Netherlands: 'Loverboys' and their victims
14:30, 16 September 2013: O'Connell
Francien Lamers-Winkelman

Objectives: To present data from a sample of juvenile prostitutes (N = 104), forced into prostitution by Loverboys, young men who fake love for girls to seduce them into prostitution.

To introduce (description, video fragments) the participants to elements of a treatment program for Loverboy victims, developed in a specialized, secure residential treatment facility (Asja).

Method: Files of 104 girls were analysed, using a format developed for this research and based on the CTS. Files contained information derived from the girls, referring professionals, and staff working with the girls while residing in Asja. ANOVA's were used to analyse differences within the sample.

Results: Mean age 17.4 (s.d. 2.57); from immigrant family 35%; maltreatment at home 50%; extrafamilial sexual abuse 60%; IQ under 90, 38%; living at home before Loverboy 86%.

At entry, 63% reported PTSS, 12% depressive, and 30% dissociative symptoms, suicidal ideation 56%; suicide attempts 21%, (psycho)somatic complaints 88%.

The majority reported violence during the Loverboy period: executed by the Loverboy (91%), clients (41%), others in the scene (46%). 40% of the girls reported a pregnancy, 37% miscarried due to violence of the Loverboy

Significant differences were found between immigrant and indigenous girls on maltreatment at home, DSM-IV diagnosis, comorbidity and involvement of parents in the treatment. Comorbidity was high (85%).

Conclusions: Treatment programs for Loverboy victims need to address the whole range of difficulties, disadvantages, and oppressions that brought them into the scene. Themes include unconditional acceptance and involvement of the girls in designing the program, incorporation of peer support, services tailored to immediate and long term needs, multidisciplinary approach, support to stay in the program, and involvement of parents in the treatment.

OS23.002
What behaviours do foster carers find difficult? Using foster carers' views to develop targeted intervention
14:50, 16 September 2013: O'Connell
Sara McLean, Connie Smith

Objectives: Children placed in care due to abuse or neglect can display a range of challenging behaviours that can be difficult for foster carers to manage. While much is known about the prevalence of behavioural disorders amongst children in care, little quantitative information exists about which behaviours are problematic for carers and/or threaten placement stability. Effective behaviour support can only be developed by directly responding to foster carers’ perceptions and needs in relation to challenging behaviour.

Method: 201 foster carers completed ratings on a range of potentially problematic behaviours via online survey. Problem behaviour items were drawn from existing clinical measures, a review of practice literature and a focus group consultation. Results: A Principal Component analysis yielded four distinct profiles, or groups, of behaviours that carers identified as problematic. The first group were behaviours related to underlying cognitive difficulties (e.g., executive functioning, language and memory). Group 2 comprised sexual or otherwise high risk behaviours. Group 3 contained behaviours of an aggressive, controlling and violent nature. Group 4 contained anxiety-based behaviours and related items (e.g., obsessive compulsive behaviour). Collectively, these four components accounted for around 60% of the variance in the sample. Conclusions: This methodology has resulted in new information about the needs of carers that can inform the development of supports for children with complex behavioural presentations. Four discrete profiles of problem behaviours were identified by carers. These distinct behavioural profiles identify critical areas for targeted training and support that may ultimately help enhance the stability and continuity of foster placements. Implications for intervention in each of these problem areas will be discussed.
OS23.003  

Prevention of youth in foster care from becoming juvenile delinquents: San Diego County, California’s collaborative approach  

15:10, 16 September 2013: O’Connell  

Carolyn Levenberg, Candi Mayes, Tilisha Martin  

A Presentation Regarding Children in Out of Home Care  

This presentation aims to educate the audience about the pervasive problem of youth in out of home care, who are removed from their families and eventually transition from the foster care system to the delinquency system. An analysis of the nature, extent and causes of this phenomenon will be presented and discussed. The discussions will address California's experience, the problem as it exists in the United States as well as internationally. Information will be presented on why entering the delinquency system from the foster care system is detrimental to the individual youth and society.  

Next, the presentation will focus on San Diego County's collaborative approach to reducing the number of children in this situation. This approach recognizes that a number of professionals working from different theoretical perspectives are involved with the youth and their roles and responsibilities will be explained. The potential for conflict among these various professionals, all charged with serving the youth and their best interests, will be discussed. The approach also accepts that for almost every youth, the desire to be back with family is paramount.  

Finally, the collaborative system San Diego utilizes will be presented which includes employing non-traditional communication between professionals, engaging the youth with a united approach and including the youth in treatment decisions as well as reexamining return to family. Collaboration focuses on both prevention strategies and reduction of time youth spend in the delinquency system.  

The overall goal of the presentation is to educate audiences so that they will be able to replicate a collaborative approach in their jurisdictions to promote better outcomes for youth in foster care.

OS23.004  

Young people's experiences of going missing from care: a qualitative investigation using peer researchers  

15:30, 16 September 2013: O’Connell  

Caroline Bradbury-Jones, Julie Taylor, Helen Hunter  

Background: Looked-after children are more likely than all children to go missing. They face significant risk of harm through for example, exposure to alcohol, drugs and sexual victimisation. Research identifies some factors which may reduce the likelihood of looked after children going missing. However greater understanding of effective practice is needed to help prevent those at risk of going missing.  

Objectives: The aim of the study was to investigate young people’s experiences of going missing from care and to identify the: 1) issues that contributed to them running away; 2) trigger factors that prompted episodes of going missing; 3) support received during or following instances where they went missing; 4) factors that might prevent future absconding.  

Methods: Research on children’s experiences is often reported from adults' perspectives, rather than allowing children to have a voice. We therefore recruited two young people as peer researchers. A qualitative study was undertaken using the Critical Incident Technique (CIT). Twenty eight young people with a history of running away were recruited from different locations in Scotland. They took part in six focus groups. Data were generated during May 2012. Data were analysed using a framework approach.  

Results: Four themes were identified regarding reasons for running away: authority and power; friction; isolation and environmental issues. Commonly cited consequences were being ‘grounded’ and having shoes removed (to prevent further running away). Young people were critical of lack of support on return and lack of boundaries. They stressed the importance of being heard, being treated with respect, being able to exercise autonomy and feeling someone cares.  

Conclusions: Approaches to responding to young people who go missing should be supportive and facilitative, rather than punitive. Being heard, being treated with respect, being able to exercise autonomy and feeling someone cares are crucial preventative factors.
OS24.001
Development of evidence based guidelines for out of home placement in the Netherlands

14:30, 16 September 2013: Leeson Suite

Cora Bartelink, René van Vianen, Ingrid Ten Berge

Objectives: Out of home placement is a major occurrence in a child’s life. It can have both positive and negative effects on a child’s development and should therefore always be based on careful decision making. At this moment evidence based guidelines for out of home placement that support the healthy development of children are being developed in the Netherlands. The guidelines should contribute to more evidence based knowledge of practitioners and to create more consensus on the process. The most important themes in the guideline are: decision-making on placement; interventions to prevent out of home placement and interventions to promote successful reunification.

Method: The EBRO method was used for evidence based guideline development. The guideline development started with identification and analysis of bottlenecks in practice. Then a literature review was done. Because this review showed major scientific gaps, focus groups with practitioners (mainly behavioral scientists and social workers) were organized.

Results: In this presentation we would like to focus on the process of decision-making regarding out of home placement. For this, the English Framework for Assessment of Children in Need and their Families was a useful framework. In our process it was used to construct a structured decision-making model showing the most important considerations for the decision on out of home placement and reunification. Focus groups confirmed the relevance and usefulness of this model.

Conclusions: At this phase of the development of the guidelines, we have established the main elements that should be taken into considerations concerning out of home placement. This is as much as possible based on scientific evidence. However, much in the decision making process is still based on practice based knowledge, experience and common sense of the practitioners. Further research should be done to validate the guidelines on out of home placement.

OS24.002
Designing with care? What makes a children's home a child-friendly space?

14:50, 16 September 2013: Leeson Suite

Ian Milligan, Graham Connelly

In this presentation the issues involved in the development of external and interior designs for children's homes - which have recently been built in two local authority areas in Scotland - will be examined. The design process was heavily influenced by ideas about 'consultation' with young people and staff, and the final designs were intended to incorporate both safety (child protection) and 'family-like' (non-institutional) features. For example, the question of how the designs could facilitate ease of staff monitoring of the living areas combined with the creation of a 'homely' environment was a central concern.

The presentation will critically examine these ideas and also include findings from an empirical research study which sought the views of children and staff about the homes, in the 2 -3 years since the new homes were opened. The presentation will set these findings in the context of literature on 'children's spaces' (Clarke, 2010 - Transforming Children's Spaces; and Moss and Petrie, 2002). The authors will present key features of the design and appearance of new children's homes (supported by photographs) to illustrate what small-scale residential homes look like.

The presentation will be shared between Drs. Ian Milligan & Graham Connelly. It will further develop ideas initially addressed in a chapter of a recent text-book: Residential Child Care: Between home and family, Dunedin, 2012.
**OS24.003**  
**Decision making in child welfare: A cross-country comparison**  
**15:10, 16 September 2013: Leeson Suite**  
Marit Skivenes, Jill Berrick, Tarja Pösö, Sue Peckover

Decisions about removing a child from their home and placing them in a foster home or a residential unit are some of the most invasive and important decisions that a State can make. However, decision makers have considerable leeway in exercising their discretion in these issues, challenging the rule of law and the principle of contradictory processes, two important legitimacy criteria for a democratic welfare state. The research literature tells us little about the quality of decisions being made, raising questions about decision makers’ comprehensive review of evidence and arguments, and the potential for biased information gathering. Other signals from the field suggest systems challenges such as qualified staff and turnover, which may leave decision makers excessively dependent upon alternative sources of information.

In an international context, the State deals with these challenges differently. Our ambition is to examine how four countries – England, Finland, Norway and USA, deal with and facilitate decisions about involuntary care orders. Each of these countries uses the court as the ultimate arbiter for care orders, however, we see substantial variation in types of decision-making models, time, processes before and in court, guidelines for interpretations of principles, control systems, and central participants.

Our ambition is to examine the organizational and procedural framework including formal and informal factors, for decision-making processes in care order cases in the four countries. We identify the structures and procedures in place, and examine the goals they seek to achieve and the differences and similarities in how they set the standards for decisions in this difficult and sensitive area. This presentation includes preliminary findings of this ongoing research project.

**OS24.004**  
**Reconceptualising care in the case of young people**  
**15:30, 16 September 2013: Leeson Suite**  
Elina Pekkarinen

In this presentation, the concept of care is explored and re-conceptualised to meet the special features of out-of-home care of young people. Unlike many countries, the Finnish child protection system places a lot of young people into care. In 2011, the number of children aged 13-17 made 54 per cent of all the children who were taken into care; teenagers were overrepresented also among the receivers of in-home child protection services. Several historical, legal and social reasons explain why the child protection system focuses so much on young people (e.g. the welfare instead of the justice approach to youth delinquency). However, there has been only limited interest so far in analysing what care really is in the case of young people entering care. Young people’s needs and rights differ from those of small children, as do the institutional responses and protocols.

Based on a literature review, policy analysis and empirical data, we claim that there is a need to expand the notion of care to recognise the different experiences, contradictory objectives, forms of placement and restrictive practices that are typical in the cases of young people. The agency of young people should be paid attention to in order to recognise the different dimensions of care of young people. A process and ‘insider’ view and related research methodology are needed.
OS25.001
The pattern of bruising and mode of presentation in preschool children with suspected physical abuse:
14:30, 16 September 2013: Clyde Suite
Alison M Kemp, Sabine Maguire, Diane Nuttall, Frank Dunstan, Peter Collins

A cross-sectional study of mode of presentation and bruising pattern in consecutive children< six years old referred to the paediatric child protection team with suspected physical abuse.

Method: The mode of presentation, the number, anatomical distribution, size and appearance of bruises were recorded and analysed according to outcome: PA confirmed or PA excluded.

Results: PA was confirmed in 67.4%(350/519) of the children, in: >84% when abuse was witnessed, admitted, alleged or where there was no or an implausible explanation, 76% of the children caught up in domestic abuse, 10% who were referred for assessment because their siblings had been abused and 7.5% of the children who presented to hospital where there was concern about the explanation given for injury.

Significantly more children with PA had bruises (89.4%,CI:85.8-92.2%), than PA-excluded (69.9%,CI:62.3-76.5%), they had significantly more bruises and sites affected (p<0.001). The odds of a PA child having a bruise on the buttocks or genitalia, cheeks, neck, trunk, head, front of thighs, upper arms were significantly greater than in children with PA-excluded. Petechiae (OR9.30,CI2.86-30.24), linear or bruises with distinct pattern (OR5.9,CI2.16-16.2), bruises in clusters (OR4.0,CI2.5-6.4), additional injuries (OR2.94(95% CI1.66-5.20) or a child known to social services for previous child abuse concerns, (OR2.87(95%CI1.32-6.23)were significantly more likely in PA.

Conclusions: There were features in the presenting history and the extent and pattern of bruising that differed significantly between children with confirmed abuse and those where abuse was excluded. These factors had different diagnostic values and the potential to reinforce decision making about the probability of physical abuse.

OS25.002
How does the pattern of bruising found relate to the mechanism of injury in children?
14:50, 16 September 2013: Clyde Suite
Rhiannon Watson, Sabine Maguire, Alison Kemp, Sophie Pearson, Bethan Amphlett, Diane Nuttall, Anne-Marie Jennings

Objective: Paediatricians assessing children with suspected physical abuse must identify when the explanation for bruising is implausible. Several studies describe bruising patterns in abused and non-abused children but few describe the relationship between precise mechanism of injury and bruise pattern found.

Methods: The mechanism of unintentional injury, the number of bruises, location and size were recorded for: 351 children aged 0-11 years attending a Children’s Emergency Department (ED) at a tertiary centre and children in the community (4-11 years at school, 0-4 year olds at two nurseries). We analysed associations between mechanisms and bruise patterns (Students T-test, Chi-squared and Fisher’s exact test).

Results: Nine mechanisms of injury were recorded (Table 1). 81% (p<0.001) of non-ambulant children (mean age= 9.9 months, SD= 6.3) sustained impact injuries whilst 60% of ambulant children (mean age= 4.17 months, SD=30.4) fell from <1m or standing height (p<0.001). The majority of children presented with small (mean size= 17.4mm, range= 2-115mm (ED), 1-75mm (Community)), and single (86.9%) bruises relating to each incident.

Falls from <1m, or standing height hitting an object and impact injuries accounted for 79.5% (279/351). Bruises were commonly found on the forehead (n=114, 29.7%) knees and shins (n=88, 22.9%) and head (n=39, 10.2%) whilst bruising to the front trunk (1.3%), back of thigh (0.9%) and genitalia (0.3%) were rare.

Conclusion: This defined pattern of unintentional bruising can aid clinicians to determine the likelihood whether patterns of bruising found are consistent with the proposed mechanism of injury, and contribute to the detection of physical abuse when the bruises do NOT fit with the proposed mechanism.
OS25.003
A proposed clinical tool to estimate the probability of abusive head trauma in children aged less than three years
15:10, 16 September 2013: Clyde Suite
Charlotte Morris, Sabine Maguire, Daniel Farewell, Patrick Watts, Alison Kemp

Background: Abusive head trauma (AHT) is the most common cause of death and disability in abused children and presents significant diagnostic challenges. Previous research identified six individual features (retinal haemorrhage, rib and long bone fractures, facial bruising, apnoea and seizures) associated with AHT. We created and validated a statistical model to determine the probability of AHT based upon different combinations of these features in young children with intracranial injury.

Objectives: To validate the statistical model on a novel dataset; to quantify the association between AHT, the original six features and further features not included in the model; to propose further refinement.

Methods: Retrospective, notes-based review of 44 children, < 36 months admitted to hospital with intracranial injury (20 AHT), identified at neuroimaging (01/01/2007-31/02/2012). Sensitivity, Specificity, Positive Predictive Value and Negative Predictive Value were calculated to determine the model's accuracy. Fisher's Exact and logistic regression were used to test for association between individual features and AHT.

Results: Sensitivity ranged from 84.2 - 87.5%, specificity 29.2 - 86.4%, negative predictive value 70 - 76.2%, positive predictive value 51.4 - 84.2%. Values varied with imputation for missing data. Significant association: between AHT and retinal haemorrhage (p<0.001), seizures (p<0.02). Strong but not significant association: between AHT and apnoea (p<0.08), and non-AHT and skull fracture (p<0.25). Features not included in the original model significantly associated with AHT were subdural haemorrhage (p<0.04) and too numerous to count retinal haemorrhage (p<0.04).

Conclusions: When validated the model had similar sensitivity and specificity to the original study. The high sensitivity suggests that the tool has the potential to identify cases of suspected AHT that warrant further detailed assessment, and could be useful for clinical practice.

OS25.004
Abusive head trauma (AHT) outcome at long-term follow-up and the role of elective neurosurgical approach: A report of 22 cases
15:30, 16 September 2013: Clyde Suite
Francesca Menegazzo, Melissa Rosa Rizzotto, Martina Bua, Luisa Pinello, Elisabetta Tono, Paola Facchin, Roberto Faggin

OBJECTIVES: AHT is a severe form of child abuse caused by violent shaking leading to head injuries, long-term disabilities or death. Aim: to assess medium/long-term AHT consequences, comparing children undergoing neurosurgery (haematoma evacuation, cranioplasty) with those with haematoma evacuation or no surgery. METHOD: All children with AHT, admitted to the Child Abuse Unit of Paediatrics Department in Hospital University of Padova (2003-2011), were reviewed. Clinical record was reviewed collecting information on onset, acute course, ophthalmologic examinations, neuroimaging treatment and procedures, family history and social background. Cases were followed-up at 3, 6 and 12 months after trauma, and every year. Assessment included fundus evaluation, visual function, neuroradiological exams (MRI), cognitive-behavioural (Griffith's Mental Development Scales, Child Behaviour Check List) and family stress evaluations (Parenting Stress Index).

RESULTS
- 22 cases were reviewed (M:F=14:8), 59% italians, 41% foreigners. Mean age at onset: 5.7 months (range 1.3-20.1). Mean follow-up duration: 24.6 months (range 1-73.5).
- Acute phase: 21/22 showed retinal haemorrhages, 22/22 cerebral haemorrhages, 11/22 cerebellar haemorrhages, 5/10 spinal subdural haematoma, 6/22 skull fractures, 8/22 other fractures.
- Neurosurgery: 11/22 underwent neurosurgical intervention, 1/22 underwent eye surgery. None died after surgery. None had major or minor complications in the subacute phase. No relapse of subdural haematoma was observed. Surgical procedure's video will be shown.
- Last follow-up evaluation: 4/22 hemiplegia, 1/22 tetraplegia, 2/22 cortical visual impairment, 3/22 visual field deficits, 4/22 strabismus. 11/22 underwent cognitive and behavioural assessment demonstrating in 7 cases global delay and in 4 cases delay in specific functions.

CONCLUSIONS: AHT causes severe long term sequelae on motor, visual, cognitive function. Follow-up is strongly indicated and surgical approach seems relevant.
OS26.001
Enhancing fatherhood: Strategies to strengthen fathering skills in new fathers
14:30, 16 September 2013: Appian Suite
Alberto Pellai, Donata Dalessandro, Andrea Guala

Objectives: To present and discuss prevention intervention specifically targeting men who become fathers aimed at reinforcing their parenting skills

METHODS: Three different methodologies of interventions have been created and implemented:

a) a research involving 600 new fathers and exploring their information, attitudes and behaviours related with transformations occurring in men when they become fathers

b) the "circle of fathers" experience: an innovative prevention intervention targeting fathers to be and new fathers (whose children are aged less than 6 months) based on the model of self-help groups and aimed at reinforcing parenting skills and fathers' involvement in the first stages of life and development of their newborns. Right now almost 500 fathers have been participating into the Circle of fathers.

c) an interactive exhibition/ experience for fathers and children whose age is 3-6 ys old (those attending pre-elementary schools) helping fathers to connect with their children through playing and having fun together. This exhibition has been taken into many different areas of Italy, involving thousands of fathers and children.

RESULTS: The research involving 600 new fathers showed that during pregnancy and in the first months after their child is born, fathers to be and new fathers must be considered a potential target for educational interventions aiming at promoting their parenting information and reinforcing their positive attitudes and beliefs related with their fathering status. The two prevention interventions called "Circle of fathers" and "The interactive playing exhibition" for fathers and children proved to be effective actions to help fathers to better emotionally connect with their children and to improve their parenting skills.

CONCLUSIONS Innovative prevention actions specifically targeting men who become fathers are needed. The actions we implemented in Italy are easy to be done and replicated and could represent good examples to inspire new programmes addressing this goal.

OS26.002
What happens after children tell? Conversations with women who as children disclosed intra-familial sexual abuse
14:50, 16 September 2013: Appian Suite
Sheri McConnell

Contrary to depictions of strangers and perverts lurking in the shadows, most children are sexually abused by 'normal' people known to them, often in their own families. The majority of child sexual abuse, especially when it occurs within families, is neither disclosed nor reported. It has been argued that disclosure is a necessary prerequisite for protecting children and ending abuse, as well as for child welfare, criminal, therapeutic, and other individual and societal interventions. Although disclosure opens the door for intervention, it is also a potential source of further trauma and revictimization, depending on responses to disclosures.

There is a great deal of research addressing the prevention, prevalence and incidence, antecedents, etiology, impact, disclosure, and treatment of child sexual abuse. However, what appears to be lacking in the literature are victim's stories of what happened after they as children disclosed intra-familial sexual abuse. Thus, 16 women living in Saskatchewan, Canada were interviewed about their experiences of disclosing, before age 18, intra-familial child sexual abuse. Employing an applied grounded theory research design, this research explores and describes the process of disclosing, what happened after they disclosed, how the abuse ended, and the impact of socio-demographic and contextual factors on these experiences.

This research is grounded in feminist, constructivist, and social work traditions of witnessing individual subjective experiences and transforming what is learned into individual and social change through social action. In addressing concerns raised through women's personal narratives, this research aims to increase awareness and understanding among peers, families, formal and informal support systems, and communities about how to respond appropriately, supportively, and helpfully to children's disclosures of sexual abuse. Further, this research aspires to contribute to prevention and intervention strategies and policies, with an ultimate goal of ending child sexual abuse.
OS26.003
Maternal beliefs and attributions: A comparative study between abusive and non-abusive mothers

15:10, 16 September 2013: Appian Suite

Claudia Camilo, Margarida V. Garrido, M. Manuela Calheiros

From a cognitive-behavioral perspective, child maltreatment may be explained by the application of a social information processing model specifying parental cognitions associated with child abuse (Milner, 1993).

This framework suggests that parents hold pre-existing schemas, including beliefs that influence the way they perceive and act towards their children (Bugental & Goodnow, 1997; Sigel, 1985). The perception of child behavior is also related to parental attributions, defined as the parents’ explanations about child behavior that derived from beliefs and determine parental practices (Dix & Grusec, 1985).

Based on the literature (e.g., Dix & Grusec, 1985; Oliva et al., 1995), we proposed to test this model, evaluating the role of maternal beliefs and attributions in the explanation of child maltreatment and neglect.

The sample consists of 160 mothers, with children aged 6-12 years old, of which 80 are abusive and referenced to child protection services and 80 are non-abusive. The instruments used were Parental Beliefs Evaluation Scale (Calheiros, 2005), to evaluate the maternal beliefs about childhood, child development and education; and Maternal Attributions Evaluation Scale (Calheiros, 2006), to address the maternal attributions about child behaviors, including child intentionality and control, mother control and locus (internal/external).

Results indicate a relationship between abusive practices and maternal beliefs. Specifically, maltreatment was shown to be associated with traditional beliefs, related to obedience, order and authority. Abusive mothers make less positive attributions of child intentionality and control, but also less control maternal attributions. Neglect seems to be associated with beliefs of permissiveness with mothers showing lower levels of care and lack of rules. The neglectful mothers also tend to attribute the behavior of the children to external causes.

Theoretically this work is likely to contribute for clarifying the cognitive factors underlying child maltreatment, with practical implications in future interventions with abusive mothers.

OS26.004
Irish Child Abuse Inquiry Reports: Gendered processes in child protection

15:30, 16 September 2013: Appian Suite

Majella Mulkeen

The Inquiry Report of the Roscommon Child Care Case (HSE, 2010) was the first Inquiry Report into intra-familial child abuse and neglect in the Irish context to explicitly identify a gender dimension to its findings. This paper seeks to build on these observations and argues that an analysis of the gendering processes that underlie understandings of and responses to neglect, violence and abuse can make child protection policy and practice more effective. It examines the range of abuse inquiry reports published in Ireland since 1993 and offers a critique of the gender dimensions of child protection work. The paper argues that constructions of femininity and masculinity within child protection which systematically exclude fathers and mitigate sexual abuse by mothers must be addressed in order to enhance the support offered to parents and the quality of protection available to children. A discourse of ‘mother-blaming’ which renders women responsible for matters over which they have little control, and the reinforcement of men’s power when their abuse remains invisible in professional interventions are the unintended consequences of ignoring the gender dimensions of work in this challenging field. Such discourses are evident in all of the intra-familial abuse inquiry reports published in Ireland over the past 20 years. The findings of this paper suggest that a gender lens may contribute to better practice in child protection and the greater likelihood that children will be protected and parents supported, each according to their need.
OS27.001
The experiences of non offending parents of children who have been sexually abused

14:30, 16 September 2013: Adelaide Suite

Dympna Browne, Anne Morrison

Parental support following a child's disclosure of sexual abuse has been identified in the literature as a key resiliency factor. Unfortunately, given the traumatic nature of child sexual abuse, parental resources are often at their lowest following disclosure. Empirical evidence indicates that non offending parents experience a range of psychopathological symptoms such as depression, anxiety and PTSD. Consequently, recent literature emphasises the importance of treatment programs targeting non offending parents in order to promote their ability to respond to their child's needs.

Despite the strong association between parental support and a child's adjustment following sexual abuse, there is a dearth of research examining the underlying mechanisms related to parental functioning following disclosure. This is remiss given that knowledge of the key psychological variables related to parental functioning would allow for a better understanding of treatment needs.

This paper will discuss this issue and argue for the need for research to examine psychological pathways that predict adaptive or maladaptive functioning in non offending parents. In particular, it is argued that shame and guilt in non offending parents may be a set of constructs that would be a fruitful area of study.

OS27.002
Non-offending mothers of sexually abused children: How they decide whom to believe

14:50, 16 September 2013: Adelaide Suite

Lynn McMillan

Professionals continue to study and refine their understanding of the complex dynamics of child sexual abuse and the role of the non-offending mothers, from the point at which the mother first learns about the abuse, during the investigation, and throughout the child's abuse recovery process. Of particular clinical and research interest is the response of the mother once she first learns that her child has disclosed being sexually abused and the child names a perpetrator who is mother's current or former intimate partner.

This study is an exploratory, qualitative study using in-depth interviews and constructivist grounded theory methods. The focus is how the mothers of sexually abused children make decisions about believing their child's disclosure, both in terms of what happened to them and who perpetrated the abuse. The study addresses various factors that 1) contribute to a mother's belief, b) override a mother's ability or willingness to believe, and c) contribute to any change in her belief.

Findings highlight the mother's own childhood experiences as well as relationship dynamics with the perpetrator which influence the context within which mothers decide whom they believe. Findings further highlight the toll of this experience on the mothers as they are forced to navigate the abuse investigation process and suggest implications for therapeutic work with mothers during her and the child's recovery.

Learning Objectives: 1. Identify factors that contribute to a mother believing her child's disclosure. 2. Identify barriers to a mother believing her child's allegations of abuse. 3. Explain how her decisions about believing are rooted in the context of her relationships and current situation.
OS27.003
Supporting parents with learning disabilities when there are welfare concerns

15:10, 16 September 2013: Adelaide Suite

Beth Tarleton, Danielle Turney

Objectives: This paper explores the challenges of providing effective services to parents with learning disabilities. Parents with learning disabilities are reported as being over-represented within the child protection system, with concern about the welfare of their children typically expressed in relation to neglect. Adults with learning difficulties are recognised as being ‘vulnerable’ themselves and as struggling with the complexities of everyday life. These parents often do not have appropriate informal support networks or access to easy to understand information about parenting. They tend not to access universal family support services and may not be eligible for support from adult learning disability services. Mainstream services have been shown to lack experience and training in tailoring support to the needs of adults with learning disabilities, and may struggle to provide a joined-up response that draws on both adult and children’s services.

Methods: Using an example of good practice identified from an earlier evaluation study, the presentation discusses the Valuing Parents Support Service (VPSS) in the UK, which is jointly funded by adult and children’s services. It describes the development of this specialist support service for parents with learning difficulties and how on-going, pro-active, individually tailored support is provided to parents involved in child protection processes.

Results and Conclusion: The VPSS team worked through three levels of relationships to enable parents to engage firstly with this service and then with services concerned with the welfare of their children. The team also promoted positive multi-agency relationships. The service was praised, by parents, for its respectful yet challenging relationships and was also valued and trusted by child protection workers, who saw the VPSS team both as committed to the welfare of the children and as central to the support provided to the parents.

OS27.004
Building an evidence base around the abuse and protection of disabled children and young people

15:30, 16 September 2013: Adelaide Suite

Kirsten Stalker, Katherine McArthur

Introduction: This paper reports findings from a review of research about the abuse and protection of disabled children and young people. It was conducted as part of a wider scoping study on this topic, funded by the Sir Halley Stewart Trust, which also involved UK policy analysis and interviews with key informants and disabled children.

Objectives: The objectives of the study were to scope current knowledge about disabled children and child abuse/protection, review current social policy and practice in the field, and identify appropriate research questions and methods for a larger study.

Method: The research review was informed by a framework for scoping studies (Arksey and O’Malley 2005), comprising five stages: identifying the research question; identifying relevant studies; study selection; charting the data; collating, summarising and reporting the results. Having applied various exclusion/inclusion criteria, 38 peer reviewed journal papers about research conducted in 11 countries were reviewed.

Results: Disabled children are between 3 and 4 times more likely to experience abuse than their non-disabled peers and particular impairments carry increased risk. The interaction of impairment with characteristics like age and gender appears to lead to different patterns of abuse from those experienced by non-disabled children although the reasons are not fully understood. Child protection and criminal justice systems often fail to take account of disabled children's needs and vulnerability.

Conclusions: The evidence base around the abuse and the protection of disabled children has increased over recent years but more research is urgently needed on various aspects. In many, if not most countries, the topic has not received the attention it should be given at research, policy or practice levels.

OS28.001
Empirical assessment of creative arts therapy program for children exposed to intimate partner violence
14:30, 16 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite
Linda Jeffrey, Carol Penn, Michael Frisone

In 1998 an innovative creative arts therapy program, Peace: A Learned Solution (PALS), was launched in New Jersey for children exposed in their homes to intimate partner violence (IPV). Program outcome measurement of creative arts therapies treatment was a key goal of the original PALS Project clinical services research. It was recognized that monitoring program outcome indices can itself benefit clients and increase treatment effectiveness. The PALS Project was subsequently disseminated to ten additional New Jersey counties. In the fifteen years since the creation of the pioneering PALS Project, a network of PALS programs has been established across the state, serving a diverse population in a variety of settings. A fidelity study in 2011-2012 found that many modifications had been made to the original program design in response to local environmental conditions, cultural practices of populations newly served, developments in the fields of trauma treatment and the creative arts therapies, and changes in the philosophy of program evaluation. In this practice paper we address questions raised in the dissemination of a program model originally validated empirically, developed at a particular point in time for a specific locale serving clients generally sharing demographic characteristics, when it is applied across a wide geographical area serving diverse clients without consistent empirical validation. Results from the original PALS Project, the fidelity study, and the current clinical services research are reported. Implications in an age of evidence-based practice for the need for on-going empirical client and program assessment are discussed and recommendations for effective dissemination of validated program models are offered.

OS28.002
Recent Research Affecting Child Abuse Investigations and Prosecutions
14:50, 16 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite
Chris Newlin

This workshop is intended for all levels of professionals who are involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse. We are working in a continually changing field, and it is critical that direct service providers stay abreast of the current research affecting our work. However, many front line professionals do not have the opportunity to access or review the immense research now being published on these topics. This workshop will provide a review of important research published within the past three years which affects child abuse investigations and prosecutions with a particular focus on studies which challenge some of the current practices in the field. While many presentations of this nature may seem boring or uninteresting to professionals, the format for this presentation is very engaging and has been very well-received by past participants. Attendees will be challenged to relate this information to their current practices and identify opportunities for program improvement with an enduring focus on looking out for the rights of children involved in these cases.

This presentation is based on more than twenty years of experience in this field and has been provided at numerous conferences throughout the world, but since there is always emerging research, this presentation is constantly being updated to assure it is timely and relevant.
OS28.003  
**Understanding the relationship between child maltreatment and language competence: An evidential interviewing perspective**  
**15:10, 16 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite**  
**Pamela Snow, Martine Powell, Jarrad Lum**

Prosecution and conviction rates for child abuse are low in Australia, similar to most of the developed world. Improving these rates requires improvement in the quality of child witness statements which form the main evidence in child abuse cases. This study seeks to improve the quality of children’s testimony by providing a comprehensive and controlled examination of the oral language profiles of maltreated children and the ways in which these profiles impact children’s performance in the context of an investigative interview. This study builds on our previous work, in the investigative interviewing field and in the field of oral language competence in high-risk young people.

A detailed understanding of maltreated children’s language and communication skills is essential for developing strategies for improving the elicitation of evidence from child witnesses. The ultimate aim of this research is to improve interviewer knowledge and skills about the language skills of vulnerable children and the ways in which anomalies in children's language development might be identified and understood, in an effort to reduce the extent to which hidden impairments can compromise the investigative interview process. A screening tool to assist forensic practitioners to identify children needing specialised language assessment / intervention will be an outcome of this study. Expressive and receptive language skill findings from a sample of 90 children will be presented. Indicative data to date yields a mean age of 8.5 years (Range 7-11; SD=2.12), with 65% being male.

Measures included the Clinical Examination of Language Fundamentals – 4th edition (Australian standardisation), Test of Narrative Language, Raven’s Coloured Progressive Matrices, Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale, Social Skills Improvement System Screening tool, and the Modified Maltreatment Classification System.

Implications for the training of investigative interviewers will be emphasised in the discussion of the study findings.

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OS28.004  
**Can RCT treatment effects be achieved in community practice of trauma treatment?**  
**15:30, 16 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite**  
**Ben Saunders, Rochelle Hanson**

Research has found that treatment effects of EBTs delivered by community therapists often fall below those reported in treatment outcome studies. Project BEST uses a unique "community-based learning collaborative" approach to disseminate TFCBT in community service agencies in South Carolina (USA). It was hypothesized that this implementation approach would result in clinical outcomes close to those achieved in research studies.

**Objective:** Assess the pre to post-treatment clinical outcomes achieved in TFCBT training cases treated by community therapists working in service agencies while being trained in TFCBT through Project BEST and compare them to pre to post-treatment changes reported in recent academic studies of TFCBT.

**Method:** As part of their training, therapists being trained in Project BEST register their training cases with the project and administer the UCLA PTSD Index and the Moods and Feelings Questionnaire to the child and a supportive caregiver prior to beginning TFCBT and at the end of treatment. To date outcome data from 188 children and caregivers who completed TFCBT have been analyzed. Information from an additional 104 children has been collected and will be analyzed prior to the conference for a total sample size of 292.

**Results:** Children reported a pre-post treatment effect of d=0.92 on the UCLA, indicating a large positive effect size. Children with a pre-treatment UCLA score of 12 or greater had a larger effect size of d=1.16. These effect sizes were compared to data from two recent TFCBT RCTs. Cohen et al. (2011) had a pre-post effect size in the TF-CBT group of d=0.64. Deblinger (2011) reported d=0.94.

**Conclusions:** Results of this project indicated that effect sizes similar to those found in academic studies can be achieved by community therapists working in front-line service agencies.
**OS29.001**

**Getting it right for children affected by parental substance misuse**

16:30, 16 September 2013: Landsowne

Catriona Rioch

Change is a Must (CIAM) provides intensive support and assessment of families affected by parental substance misuse where the children are aged from pre-birth to 8 years and deemed to be at significant risk of harm. CIAM brings together 7 staff from Children’s Services, Health Services and Adult Drug and Alcohol services in a multi-agency team. Recent research indicates the need for greater understanding of the impact of delay in decision-making on infants’ life chances, of how to engage potentially abusive parents and develop effective interventions to improve parenting capacity. (Ward et al (2010) 1. The project model demonstrates an innovative approach which focuses on these themes; underpinned by adult attachment theory and includes assessments of parenting capacity within time scaled, contract based interventions involving the whole family. The in depth assessments evidence parenting capacity, contributing to earlier decision making about the children’s future care plans. Learning from this model is being cascaded and embedded into mainstream services across adult and child care agencies. Both parents and practitioners have found that the process of reflecting on parents’ life experiences is an empowering one for the parents, and helps them reconsider their relationships with their child(ren) and others, engagement has been high and there have been significant improvements in all the children’s health and wellbeing. Where decisions have been made for children to remain at home there has been an improvement in parental availability and mindfulness of their children as well as improved parental health and substance reduction.

The adult attachment approach was researched as part of an Msc in Child Welfare and Protection programme at Stirling University.


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**OS29.002**

**Improving family functioning in families with parental substance abuse: The Parents Under Pressure Program**

16:50, 16 September 2013: Landsowne

Sharon Dawe, Paul Harnett, Jane Barlow

Background: Children raised in families with parental substance misuse are exposed to many other risk factors including parental psychopathology, poverty, social isolation and inconsistent parenting. These cumulative risk factors are associated with high rates of child maltreatment, in particular child neglect. Intervening to reduce risk and improve family functioning requires intensive family support addressing multiple domains of family functioning.

Method: The Parents Under Pressure program was designed specifically for high risk families. Using a structured but individualized approach for each family, this home visiting program aims to improve the quality of the parent child relationship, parental risk factors such as depression, anxiety and substance misuse within a case management framework. Improving parental emotional regulation is a key aspect of work using mindfulness strategies embedded within a parenting context.

Results: The findings from single case series and a pilot randomized controlled trial indicate that there were significant reductions in child abuse potential, parenting stress and an improvement in child behavior in families on methadone maintenance. A reduction in parental methadone dose was also found. These results were sustained up to 6 months.

Conclusions: Intervening to reduce child abuse risk in high risk substance misuse families is a complex task. Individualized and intensive programs addressing multiple domains of functioning are necessary as individual and ecological factors all impact on quality of parenting. The results are promising and indicate that further evaluation in other countries is warranted. Current work includes a randomized controlled trial conducted by the NSPCC (UK).
OS29.003
Do maternal and paternal mental illness and substance abuse predict treatment outcomes for children exposed to violence?
17:10, 16 September 2013: Landsowne
Heather Risser, Adam Messinger, Deborah Fry, Paul Schewe, Leslie L. Davidson
This study examined whether having a parent with a mental illness or a parent who abuses substances predicts treatment outcomes for children receiving community-based services for exposure to violence. From 2001 to 2011, data were collected from 492 children from one-and-a-half to seven years old and their primary caregivers enrolled in Safe From the Start services. Results indicated significant pre-intervention to post-intervention in child emotional and behavioural problems, as measured by the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL). One-way bivariate analyses indicated that children of mothers or fathers with a mental illness and children of mothers who abused substances had higher CBCL scores at intake. Repeated-measures analyses of variance revealed a main effect such that maternal and paternal mental illness and maternal substance abuse were associated with poorer CBCL scores. The only parental risk factor to moderate the association between treatment and CBCL scores was paternal mental illness. Treatment was associated with greater improvement in CBCL scores for children of fathers with, relative to those without, mental illness, and the effect was due to higher CBCL scores at intake for children of fathers with mental illness rather than lower outcome scores. Results suggest that Safe From the Start services, which provide early intervention, can be effective in improving children's emotional and behavioural functioning. Additionally, the effectiveness of services appears to be robust to parental risk factors such as mental illness and substance abuse.

* Disclaimer: This project was supported by Grant 10-SFSE01-06 awarded by the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority to the University of Illinois at Chicago. Points of view or opinions in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority.

OS30.001
A review of the international literature on families experiencing multiple adversities
16:30, 16 September 2013: Pembroke
Gavin Davidson, Lisa Bunting
Introduction: There is a well-established association between multiple adversities and an increased likelihood of harm and/or other negative outcomes. The Adverse Childhood Experiences study (Felitti et al, 1998) established a strong, graded relationship between the number of childhood adversities experienced and a wide range of negative outcomes in adulthood. Effective intervention with families experiencing multiple adversities therefore has the potential to decrease the likelihood of harm with all the related health, welfare and economic benefits for the children and families involved, the communities they live in and for society in general.

Objectives: This literature review aimed to provide an overview of the relevant definitions, theoretical models, research, policy developments and service responses for families experiencing multiple adversities. It is the first stage of a wider research project by Barnardo’s, NSPCC and NCB.

Method: The literature review was based on four main sources of information: the work of researchers at Queen’s University Belfast; previous literature reviews; electronic database searches; and grey literature searches.

Results: A review of definitions, prevalence, theoretical models, research, policy developments and interventions is presented. The evidence is strongest for early intervention approaches but caution is urged about an over-emphasis on this aspect of the range of services needed. The research on integrated services and whole families' approaches is less strong but these may be more complex/diverse interventions to research.

Conclusions: The review highlights the complexities involved across researching and responding to the nature of adversities, the relevant processes, interventions and services. It identifies the need for a systemic approach to understanding and supporting families experiencing multiple adversities. Concerns are raised about the lack of agreed definitions and the current estimates of the number of families involved.
OS30.002
Children whose parents visited the emergency department due to domestic violence, substance abuse and/or a suicide attempt: preliminary results of a cohort study

16:50, 16 September 2013: Pembroke

Eva Hoytema van Konijnenburg

Background: To improve identification of maltreated children in hospitals, a new policy has been developed, stating that adults visiting the emergency department (ED) due to domestic violence, substance abuse and/or a suicide attempt are asked whether they have children in their care. If so, these children are referred to the outpatient pediatric department (OPD), where the home situation is evaluated and (voluntary) support can be arranged.

Objectives: A cohort study is being performed to evaluate this policy by assessing: 1) characteristics of the referred families and results of a physical examination of the children, 2) signs of child maltreatment, 3) parents’ cooperation and opinion on patient-doctor relationship.

Methods: All children 0-17 years referred to the OPD according to the policy between 01-08-2012 and 30-04-2014 are included in a multicenter cohort study to be followed for a year. Outcomes are assessed through information given by health care professionals and by the Patient-Doctor Relationship Questionnaire (PDRQ-9) filled in by parents.

Results: Up to June 2013, 156 children of 96 households have been included. In 78 households (81%), a female caregiver visited the ED, in 18 households (19%) a male caregiver, due to domestic violence in 52 cases (54%), substance abuse in 21 cases (22%) and a suicide attempt in 21 cases (22%). 104 children (67%) attended the OPD, where physical signs of child maltreatment were found in four. Overall, a form of child maltreatment was suspected or confirmed in at least 82 children (53%). A large majority of parents rated the patient-doctor relationship as positive.

Conclusions: Preliminary results indicate that the majority of parents are willing to cooperate voluntarily with this new hospital-based policy, which leads to a suspicion/confirmation of child maltreatment in over half of the children.

OS30.003
From policy to placed based practice: Seeing and hearing the child in adult specialist services

17:10, 16 September 2013: Pembroke

Helen Francis, Fiona Arney

The challenge of ending child abuse is the challenge of breaking the link between adults’ problems and children’s pain. (UNICEF A league Table of Child Maltreatment Deaths in Rich Nations, September 2003)

In child death inquiries and reviews the role of adult specialist services such as mental health, alcohol and other drugs, homelessness and family violence, has been identified as a policy priority. There is compelling evidence that such parental problems are high risk factors for children. Consequently, attention is being directed to developing “child and family sensitive practice” in these adult specialist sectors. As part of the National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children, the Australian Government has funded the Australian Centre for Child Protection to develop an innovative initiative, ‘Protecting and Nurturing Children: Building Capacity, Building Bridges’. This Initiative is supported at the strategic level by a National Steering Committee, and partners with 12 Communities for Children programs across Australia. The aim is twofold: to enhance the knowledge and skills of practitioners in understanding the impact of adult problems on the lives of children so they can better support parents to meet the needs of children in their care (“building capacity”); and to strengthen collaboration between services in the child and family sector and those in adult service sectors to change the way families with multiple needs experience the service system (“building bridges”). Through this initiative over a thousand practitioners from the 12 Communities have undertaken a two day workshop coming together to explore how we increase our social response to children and their families. This paper explores the process of translating inter-sectoral social inclusion policies into practice through a place-based, community development approach to create sustainable and transferable learning.
OS30.004
Examination of problem solving skills with childhood trauma experiences among university students
17:30, 16 September 2013: Pembroke
Hatice Demirbas, Ebru Hasibe Tanju, Canan Gursel

Background: Problem solving skills are an important handle with childhood trauma experiences. The aim of this study was to examine problem solving skills with childhood trauma experiences among university students.

Methods: Participants were 647 students from a Faculty of Education. The Problem Solving Inventory, Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ) and Sociodemographic Form were administered to the students. Childhood Trauma Questionnaire scores were calculated as the low and high childhood trauma experiences. The independent samples t-test was used to assessment.

Results: There were statistically significant differences between the means of Problem Solving subscales (impulsive style, reflective style, avoidant style, monitoring style, confident style and planful style,) and the low and high childhood trauma experiences scores. Also, the students with high suicide probability use avoidant style and reflective style in the students with high childhood trauma experiences.

Conclusions: The results showed that the students with high childhood trauma experiences differentiate about problem solving skills from the students with low childhood trauma experiences. Therefore, improving the problem solving skills in risk groups that high childhood traumatic experiences is important well being and health-damaging and life-threatening behaviors.

OS31.001
Historical child sexual abuse in foster care: Victim reports from the Netherlands
16:30, 16 September 2013: Munster
Hans Grietens

There is a growing body of research on (allegations of) sexual abuse of children placed in out-of-home living arrangements. Most of the research is about abuse in residential care settings. Very little is known about sexual abuse of children in family foster care (non-kinship or kinship). Recently, the Dutch Ministers of Youth and Family and Justice decided to investigate possible signs of sexual abuse of minors who were placed out-of-home between 1945 and 2010 under the authority of the government (Commissie Samson, 2012). One study focused on children in foster care (Grietens, 2012). Reports from 149 victims were analysed using qualitative methods in order to learn about the nature and context of the abuse, risk factors (in children, families and the child welfare system), ways of coping and disclosing, and long-term consequences. Results showed that abuse often was severe (e.g., very intrusive sexual acts, chronic, with co-occurring violence), with long-lasting negative effects. Multiple placements and previous sexual abuse seemed to be important risk factors, as was a lack of control by child welfare professionals. There was a time trend with regard to reactions to disclosure. From 1980 on, allegations of foster children were taken more seriously. The results of this study will be compared with those from other studies on historical child sexual abuse of children in foster care. Recommendations based on the victims’ reports to prevent sexual abuse of foster children will be given.

References
OS31.002
Acknowledgement, accountability and action: Historic abuse and protecting children in care

16:50, 16 September 2013: Munster

Andrew Kendrick, Moyra Hawthorn

In countries around the world, the issue of the historic abuse of children in care is being addressed in various ways. Ireland was one of the first which both acknowledged the seriousness of this issue and took action to address the needs of survivors. Scotland is now taking a range of actions to support survivors of abuse in care, to acknowledge their experiences and to ensure the protection of children and young people currently in care. This presentation will draw on research and consultancy for the Scottish Government in setting up a National Confidential Forum for care leavers and survivors, and for the Scottish Human Rights Commission's InterAction on Historic Abuse. It will highlight positive developments and areas which need much more attention.

This presentation will address the role of professionals both in accounting for the past and in protecting the future of children in care by using a historical justice framework. This has been developed in the context of transitional justice following genocide, political oppression and ethnic and colonial wars and oppression.

This framework embraces

Acknowledgement
- Apology and apology legislation
- Survivors' testimony and confidential committees
- Commemorative activities

Accountability, reparation and redress
- Justice – prosecution of abusers
- Compensation and restitution
- Counselling and support
- Medical, educational and vocational support

Access to records and history
- Personal records
- Memory, narrative and identity

There has been an increasing awareness of the abuse of children in residential and foster care and reports and enquiries have highlighted this over the past 30 years or so. However, despite this there is still evidence of the continuing failure to protect children. The session will draw up priorities for safeguarding children in residential and foster care.
OS31.003

Sexual exploitation of looked after children in Scotland: A small study

17:10, 16 September 2013: Munster

Moyra Hawthorn, Vicki Welch, Jennifer Lerpiniere, Helen Happer

Sexual exploitation of looked after children and young people involves exploitative situations where children and young people receive 'something' as a result of being involved in 'sexual activities'. Recent research has shown that very little reliable data is available about the prevalence of child sexual exploitation in Scotland. This presents problems for services, practitioners and those tasked with responsibility for inspection and regulation.

With this in mind the Care Inspectorate (CI) commissioned the centre for excellence for looked after children in Scotland (CELCIS) to undertake a short but intensive study to gather information about prevalence and factors associated with sexual exploitation and to gather expert views on how regulation could be used in future, both to improve data collection and to reduce prevalence. The initial focus on the 'in care' population was supplemented to include all looked after children (which in Scotland includes those living at home with Supervision Orders).

The research consisted of a four-strand study comprising an audit of case files in a small number of Local Authorities, an electronic Delphi study with up to 30 expert participants, a review of relevant secondary data, and a national rapid-response survey of local authorities.

Whilst the study was very challenging in terms of time, resources and the availability of data we feel that it has made a useful, if small, contribution to knowledge.

In this paper we will provide a brief overview of the key findings of the study and a discussion of methodological issues. This will be followed by a discussion about how the results will be used to inform the on-going work of the CI and CELCIS in this area and how we hope this will contribute to the wellbeing of looked after children and young people in Scotland.

OS31.004

Intercultural adoption: knowing the needs but failing (to) care

17:30, 16 September 2013: Munster

Lampo Annik, Vanfraussen Katrien

Objectives: The child psychiatric clinic of the UZ Brussel yearly receives approximately 500 new out-patients of which a considerable part (± 30%) has various cultural backgrounds. We examined internationally adopted children presenting multiple problems, whose adoptive parents were desperately seeking help.

Methods: Over a period of 30 months, 35 adopted children from various worldwide countries and their parents consulted our clinic. The children's age varied from 3 to 15 years old. Uptill now 24 children received a full multidisciplinary assessment.

Results: Only 3 children were adopted at the age of 1 year or younger, 10 were around 2 years old and 11 were older than 3, the oldest being 11 years old. In most cases information about the life conditions was scarce or absent but almost all families reported extreme negative pre-placement experiences. Although a delay in cognitive, emotional (especially attachment), verbal and/or motor functioning was obvious, all adoptive families had been desperately searching for help for at least 1 year, most of them feeling left alone with their problems or not taken seriously. Next to this the impact of culture and radical change of life were underestimated and expectations too high.

Conclusions:

The above findings are not ground-breaking: risk (disruptive life events) and protective factors (realistic parental expectations) are well-documented in literature. Strangely enough very little is done to influence these. Therefore it is still necessary to plea for what everybody already knows that these children need:

- quality care in the land of origin
- in-depth assessment of adoptability
- elaborate information about the child's condition at the country of origin
- post-placement coaching and guidance for the "new family"

instead of putting an end to the adoption inflow from these countries where adoption procedures are estimated obscure and care for adoptable children insufficient.
OS32.001
Analysis of the visual function: Tractography and visual outcome in abusive head trauma

16:30, 16 September 2013: Ulster

Lara Dal Zotto, Francesca Menegazzo, Melissa Rosa Rizzotto, Cristina Ranzato, Rodica Mardari, Paola Facchin

OBJECTIVES Aim is to apply tractographic brain analysis techniques in children with Abusive Head Trauma (AHT), studying particularly the optic nerve, the optic tract and compare the results with visual outcome.

METHOD We report 2 cases with AHT diagnosis, selected from the casuistry of the Child Abuse & Neglect Unit of the Paediatrics Department of Padua University Hospital. Information was collected on age, sex and visual outcome. Four healthy patients (MRI without focal lesions), were selected as controls for comparison and post-processing quality control. The cases were subjected to ophthalmologic examination and visual function study with visual field (Befie Test) and visual evoked potential (VEP). Controls had normal visual function. All patients underwent brain 3D T1-weighted MRI and diffusion tensor imaging (DTI). Post-processing analysis of the images acquired was performed with software ANALYZE 10.0. The 2 ROI’s approach was used. The optic nerve and optic tract were drawn.


The picture of the optic tract was drawn for both patients: in case 1 (severe visual impairment) fibres were few and did not join the visual cortex while in case 2 (nearly normal visual function) the left tract was worse than the right one and did not completely join the visual cortex. Controls’ pictures showed numerous fibres, all joining visual cortex on both sides.

CONCLUSIONS Tractography is an interesting tool to reveal precocious subtle impairments not demonstrated by clinical assessment and could be helpful in defining patient prognosis and in drawing tailor-made rehabilitation.

OS32.002
Child protection medical assessments – Are they truly child centred? An evaluation of the child's experience

16:50, 16 September 2013: Ulster

Davina MacKenzie

Objectives: To consider whether the Child Protection Medical Assessment (CPMA) is truly child centred as viewed by the child. To establish whether more can be done to improve the experience for the child.

Methods: Prospective small-scale qualitative study of children attending a busy community health centre in inner London for an initial CPMA.

All children aged seven years and above who attended during the 15 week study period, were invited to complete a questionnaire. This was designed to capture their views in relation to their experience, and what could be done to improve the service for other young people. In all cases the views of the parents/carers, as well as those of the social worker and examining paediatrician were sought in relation to how child focused and child friendly the CPMA was.

Results: A total of 56 initial CPMAs were completed (seven were for child sexual abuse). Results suggest a generally positive experience for the children. Fifty percent of child respondents reported they did not want to attend but none described themselves as feeling unhappy after seeing the doctor. The children’s responses indicate that they felt listened to and involved with the assessment.

A minority of parents reported their child to be anxious about attending, and none rated their child as finding the CPMA extremely distressing. This was also the observation of the social workers and the paediatricians.

Conclusions: Although there was a level of anxiety amongst children attending for a CPMA, this was linked with the Section 47 enquiry as a whole. The majority of children were not overly distressed by the experience and typically families felt supported. Communication with children and families by allied professionals regarding the process of the CPMA can be improved and would be aided by the use of a leaflet.
OS32.003
The value of interprofessional collaboration in changing child welfare practices and policies that affect young patients suffering from life threatening diseases

17:10, 16 September 2013: Ulster

Patricia Martinez

Families impacted by life-shortening metabolic diseases are frequently affected by the lack of adequate home care services which include, but are not limited to nursing care and respite care services. Children suffering from terminal conditions need constant parental and specialized care because they are medically fragile and it is something that parents cannot do alone. Canadian social policies do not guarantee parents (mothers) and their ill children in-home professional services to maintain an intact family. For the purpose of this discussion, we will focus and reflect on one specific family whose infant was affected by a metabolic /genetic disease. One of the biggest difficulties for professionals was understanding how the nature of this disease impacted the family unit and the challenge for some to understand the "social construction" of parental neglect. In supporting this family, many of professionals involved managed to set goals for interprofessional collaboration and supported the child welfare agency to maintain their focus on supporting both the child and the mother until the patient passed away. The literature on social support (inclusion) of young mothers of children with genetic metabolic conditions is underdeveloped and this case demonstrates the need for professional education and our ability to develop working partnership amongst professionals in different fields but with similar mandates: protecting the best interest of the child and supporting young families in extraordinary circumstances. The professionals were able to work more effectively together when they were able to hear the mother's voice and understand their own role in advocating for this family. The most important method used to successfully advocate for this young patient was the collaborative dialogue among professionals/mother and intraprofessional collaborative practice.

OS32.004
Self-inflicting harm (cutting) in young adults: Did social support make a difference?

17:30, 16 September 2013: Ulster

Mogens Christoffersen

Abstract

Objective: Teenagers and young adults who had experienced child maltreatment, being bullied in school and other serious life events have an increased risk of self-mutilation, but some individuals manage to escape serious stressful adversities. The research question is: does social support make a difference?

Methods: A national representative sample of 2,900 persons interviewed about their childhood, maltreatment, serious life events and social support in order to test if social support during childhood is a statistical mediator between childhood disadvantages and self-inflicting harms. The study used a computational modelling and survey based on a national sample of young people born in 1984. The survey then obtained a 67% response rate which measures up to 2,980 interviewed persons.

Results: incidence rates of self-mutilation are estimated to 2.7 per cent in young adults. Child maltreatment, being bullied in school or other traumatic life events was associated with self-mutilation (odds ratio: 6.0). The correlation between traumatic life events during adolescence and self-mutilation is narrowed down when lack of social support is accounted for in the statistical model.

Conclusion: The results showed that social support is a partial mediator for self-mutilation.

Practical implications: The knowledge can help us to understand the social psychological process through which loss of social support operates in e.g. the stress reaction outcome. It is of importance that adolescents who are engaged in self-mutilation are treated with respect and dignity when they are treated in the health care system.
OS33.001
Intergenerational transmission of child sexual abuse: Is this a global concern?
16:30, 16 September 2013: Leinster
Kellie Gergely

Despite the overwhelming evidence of the intergenerational transmission of many forms of child abuse, the estimates regarding the mother’s history and transmission of sexual abuse to her children has not been adequately captured in the literature, especially outside of the United States. This underestimation has led to countless children remaining at risk of sexual abuse by the mothers who are supposed to protect them. This initial inquiry is the first step in bridging the gap between the research in the United States and abroad, allowing for this issue to be addressed globally.

The objective of this paper is to review the international research on the prevalence of child sexual abuse coupled with a review of international literature regarding intergenerational transmission of child sexual abuse. From the review of the literature, recommendations are made regarding methods of obtaining more precise intergenerational estimates of child sexual abuse. For example, one avenue to explore in the United States is the use of Forensic Interviews as a point of data collection as the mother and victim child are often seen simultaneously. By addressing potential intergenerational transmission of sexual abuse early in the assessment/investigative phase, child welfare professionals can address the issue immediately. In addition, by capturing the prevalence at that time, accurate estimates can be made.

Intergenerational transmission of child sexual abuse has been primarily researched in the United States, leaving the phenomenon largely unaddressed in other countries. Understanding the true prevalence of intergenerational transmission of child sexual abuse and the severity of the phenomenon, adequate treatment of and prevention of child sexual abuse can be provided. By ensuring that the mothers with childhood histories of sexual abuse and her victimized children receive comprehensive treatment, the first step of breaking the sexual abuse cycle can occur.

OS33.002
Genesis of an art therapy assessment tool in the context of working with child sexual abuse
16:50, 16 September 2013: Leinster
Michelle Dunne

Art Therapy is the merging of psychotherapy and art; it enables individuals to communicate thoughts, experiences and feelings non-verbally. Art therapy works with the visual form.

When I first commenced work as an Art Therapist in the area of Child Sexual Abuse, there were no assessment tools available which suited the needs of my clients.

In this practitioner workshop, I will outline how I developed this Art Therapy assessment tool. It consists of six themes/tasks and was designed to be used in an initial six weeks assessment. It aids the assessment of the needs of the child which then informs the therapeutic formulation and the ongoing therapy plan. These themes and how they are administered will be outlined using case studies. The images created from these themes/tasks form the backbone of the therapeutic process and can be used as a pre and post-measure during therapy.

Findings will be outlined in the context of the literature on the current use of Art Therapy Assessment Tools, both in America and Europe. The conflict between using traditional and non-directive approaches to assessment and the use of structured assessment tools will also be addressed.
OS33.003
It takes a village to heal a child: Community-based mentoring for sexually abused adolescents

17:10, 16 September 2013: Leinster

Javonda Williams, Debra Nelson-Gardell

The presenters, both possessing dual identities as social work practitioners and researchers, will describe an innovative approach to mentoring as an intervention for adolescents with a history of sexual victimization. The intervention was crafted through a reliance on Bronfenbrenner’s Ecological Systems theory, both in conceptualization of the problem and in design and initial implementation of the intervention. The resulting mentoring curriculum created and presented in this workshop emerged from a community-based participatory research model meaning that the researchers relied upon community professionals to guide its creation and content. Designed as a culturally relevant training curriculum for mentors for sexually abused adolescents, the intervention was based both on existing empirical research and practice wisdom shared by community professionals. The paper describes the process of the intervention design along with research results of early implementation efforts. We believe the intervention has the potential to effect positive change at multiple systemic levels, from the child/adolescent, to the mentor, to the community. Participants will learn what the professional literature currently says about mentoring as a therapeutic intervention for sexually abused adolescents, appreciate the benefits of collaboration between human service professionals and researchers by seeing how the results of their collaboration was used to create a mentoring curriculum for adolescents with a history of sexual victimization, and be able to identify at least one implication for using mentoring as an intervention with sexually abused adolescents.

OS33.004
Evil & the devil: False allegation of child sexual abuse hiding Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy

17:30, 16 September 2013: Leinster

Eleonora Sgaravatti, Martina Bua, Lara Dal Zotto, Francesca Menegazzo, Elisabetta Tono, Giulia Meneghel, Paola Facchin

OBJECTIVES Unsubstantiated Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) allegations may occur in the context of Munchausen syndrome by proxy (MSbP). We report a case of suspect CSA hiding a MSbP.

METHOD A 9-years old girl was referred to our Child Abuse&Neglect Unit, a multi-professional team working within the Paediatrics Department, with a suspect of CSA. Initially, the mother reported that the daughter was victim of CSA from the paternal uncle. In the clinical history were reported: progressively increasing body weight in the last year despite a hypocaloric diet (Weight 77.5 kg; Height 153 cm), enuresis (she slept in her mother’s bed wearing a diaper), glaucoma (treated with Timolol maleate), progressively reducing visual acuity in the last year, hypothyroidism (treated with L-tiroxine), religious hallucinations with visions of the devil for which she was brought to the exorcist. Diagnostic pathway included: Gynaecologic, Ophthalmologic, Urologic evaluation; blood sampling, Head MRI; Abdomen US; child psychiatrist assessment and psychological testing; parents psychiatric and psychological assessment.

RESULTS Patient was admitted to hospital. Clinical work up resulted normal (glaucoma was excluded); hypothyroidism was judged subclinical and treatment was dramatically reduced; enuresis episodes were never observed. I type obesity due to hypercaloric diet was diagnosed. Hypocaloric regimen was introduced and strictly monitored. CSA was excluded. Patient never reported hallucinations. She started a physical activity program in the hospital rehab department.

Mother psychiatric diagnosis: Mood disorder, Depression with psychotic symptoms and anorexic symptoms. Father psychiatric diagnosis: Alcohol abuse. Admission duration: 40 days. At discharge the child weighted 70 kg (-7,5 kg). She is still reducing her body weight and the mother is in charge of local mental health unit.

CONCLUSIONS CSA is a very complex diagnosis and the hospital setting in this case allowed its unsubstantiation and the confirmation of MSbP.
OS38.001
Online safety for preschoolers
16:30, 16 September 2013: Leeson Suite

Lukasz Wojtasik

Increasingly younger children use electronic media. Research shows that over two thirds of Polish preschoolers (3 to 6 years old) use the Internet more than once a week, their average session lasting approximately 45 minutes. Therefore it is very important that parents ensure online safety of their children – by choosing age appropriate content and being actively involved in their kid’s online life. First steps in the world of virtual media provide a great opportunity to teach young Internet users about basic principles of online safety.

Since 2005 Nobody's Children Foundation - within the Safer Internet Programme - has been running various awareness-raising actions promoting online safety of kids and youth. In 2012 NCF has launched a new interactive project “Necio – playing online together” for preschoolers, their parents and educators. The aim of the project is to educate children aged 3 to 6 about online safety.

Main feature of the project is a website www.necio.pl, where a friendly robot Necio, teaches children how to use computers and guides them through basic rules of online safety such as: not trusting strangers and content, talking with parents about anything that is disturbing etc. The website allows parents to actively participate in all the activities. Moreover its contents can be used to conduct educational workshops for preschoolers.

Kindergarten teachers are provided with educational packages including lesson scenarios, fairy-tales, songs, posters and workbooks based on which they can conduct 5 thematic workshops and prepare with their pupils a show about online safety.

The project is being successfully realized in kindergartens across Poland. It's authors are open to share their experiences and the project itself free of charge with interested non profit organizations working towards children's safety.

OS38.002
Grooming and the online exploitation of children
16:50, 16 September 2013: Leeson Suite

Ethel Quayle

Article 23 of this Council of Europe Convention introduces the new offence of grooming or solicitation of children for sexual purposes, which has never before been addressed in international instruments in the field. Our understanding of these problems have been largely informed by research from the University of New Hampshire who conducted two major population surveys (YISS 1 & 2) in 2000 and 2005 (Wolak et al., 2008). The overall incidence and 5-year trends of reporting unwanted sexual solicitations, harassment, and unwanted exposure to pornography varied by age, gender, race, and household income.

The EU Safer Internet Project (ROBERT) (Ainsaar & Loof, 2011) outlines a range of individual and environmental risk factors, but is clear that these are complex and intertwined. It identifies online risk-taking behaviour as the most important and most studied of these risk factors but we have 'at best a partial and somewhat US-centric picture of who may be particularly vulnerable to specific contact and content risks' (Munro, 2011, p 13). Lansdown (2012) suggests that adolescents who have been victims of childhood abuse may be at particular risk because they are more likely to visit chat rooms, be solicited sexually online and offline, and receive aggressive sexual solicitations than their non-abused peers.

This presentation examines two studies conducted as part of an EU funded project (ROBERT). The first reflects a qualitative analysis of interviews with a sample of 25 young people who had been groomed online and the second an analysis of 14 interviews with men convicted of grooming offences. The presentation will use these empirical studies to critically look at the process of grooming behaviour, the impact on young people, and the role of abusive images in the offending process.
OS38.003
Child victims of online grooming
17:10, 16 September 2013: Leeson Suite
Helen Whittle

This research explores the experiences of child victims of online grooming, from the perspective of the victim. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with eight young people who have been groomed online to the point of sexual abuse online and/or offline. The interviews were analysed using Thematic Analysis. Following completion of the victim interviews, some of the offenders who groomed these victims were then interviewed. Among the results to be discussed are the development of victim vulnerability scenarios which contributed to these young people becoming victimised. Links will be made between the way in which the young people were vulnerable before abuse and the impact the abuse had on the victim. Furthermore the different grooming techniques used by the offenders will be outlined and the subsequent effect these techniques had on the victim's experience will be presented. Finally, there will be an overview of the comparative analysis highlighting the similarities and differences between the victim and offender perspectives of the same events.

Results will be interpreted with particular emphasis on the practical implications of this research for professionals who work in this area.

OS39.001
Developments in provision for young people displaying harmful sexual behaviour
16:30, 16 September 2013: Clyde Suite
Connie Smith

Objectives
This paper reports on research on provision for children and young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). It compares the current position with the findings of previous research on services for young people who display HSB (Hackett et al 2005).

Methods
This research comprised two main elements:

- Interrogation of national youth justice and child protection guidance and local procedures, using Framework Analysis.
- A small-scale survey of a sample of local authorities on aspects of provision and the young people.

Results
The final report is due in 2013. The draft findings suggest referrals of young people who have displayed HSB include, along with adolescent males: younger children, females, minority ethnic and those with a learning disability. There continues to be variation in the nature and depth of content on HSB in guidance and local procedures. The importance of assessment and use of recognised tools seems well established and local authorities reported use of intervention techniques including CBT, family work and community based one-to-one.

Conclusions
The key aspects in identifying and assessment of young people who display HSB seem to be established. The requirement to intervene with these young people, in terms of their needs, possible risk management and child protection matters was set out, but there was an absence of guidance on evaluated interventions. In Scotland policy developments to reduce number of young offenders dealt with through the formal criminal justice process may produce significant differences between Scotland and England in this field.

OS39.002
Turn the page: A harmful sexual behaviour manual for young people – the challenge of implementing a quantitative evaluation

16:50, 16 September 2013: Clyde Suite

Emma Belton, Trish O’Donnell

Turn the Page is a manualised treatment programme for young people with harmful sexual behaviour, delivered by the NSPCC. The evaluation involves a battery of standardised measures administered pre and post programme to measure distance travelled. While this is an accepted method for evaluating adult sex offender programmes, their use with young people raised concerns amongst both practitioners and the NSPCC research ethics committee. Concerns were based on the potential burden of completing so many measures and distress due to their explicit content. The measures were piloted for a year and this presentation will outline the learning from the pilot gained from interviews conducted with young people, parents/carers and practitioners.

The findings were that the skill of practitioners in engaging young people and pacing the administration of the measures to their individual needs has meant that young people have been able to complete the full set of measures with few difficulties and without it feeling burdensome. It was reported that young people did sometimes have questions about particular words or items on the measures, but the support and reassurance they received from practitioners overcame these difficulties. Views were mixed on the content of the sexually explicit questionnaires with some young people feeling surprised or shocked at the content, but others being used to this language.

The pilot concluded that with the appropriate support and guidance in place it is possible to ask young people to complete a number of standardised measures, so strengthening the evidence base on harmful sexual behaviour programmes. However, it is important to give appropriate support and guidance to practitioners who can feel concerned about asking service users to complete measures. Practitioners also need sufficient time to get used to administering the measures and seeing the response of service users before feeling comfortable about this.

OS39.003
Sexual Abuse Management Teams: Partnering for management of juvenile sexual offenders and their victims

17:10, 16 September 2013: Clyde Suite

Janice Church, Karen Worley

The Sexual Abuse Management Team (SAMT) is a multidisciplinary team of professionals at the judicial district level who partner to monitor and effectively manage each sexual abuse case so the juvenile sexual offender, victim(s), and the family or families are receiving appropriate services from appropriate agencies in a timely manner. The innovative SAMT project initially began in 2002 with grant funding from the US Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women. A pilot SAMT was established in two counties in central Arkansas, USA, and local funding was approved in 2003 to fully support the project and services of a full-time SAMT Coordinator. Additional funding beginning in 2006 from the Division of Youth Services, Department of Human Services, provided for training and technical support to other judicial districts across Arkansas for the establishment of additional SAMTs to further enhance collaboration among community stakeholders on cases involving juvenile sexual offenders. Collaborative SAMT partners include law enforcement, juvenile intake and probation officers, social service caseworkers, aftercare workers, community-based victim advocates, attorneys, treatment providers, and school counselors. While focusing on the juvenile sexual offender and the services available in the community to comprehensively address their needs, the project was also designed to address the needs of victims by assisting with referrals for advocacy, therapy, and development, implementation and oversight of safety plans for offenders and victims. This workshop will use lecture, case presentations, and interactive participant discussion to overview the history of the multidisciplinary SAMT project in Arkansas, identify SAMT composition and roles, delineate duties and responsibilities of the SAMT Coordinator, detail Court policies for referrals to the SAMT, and discuss special challenges to the effectiveness of SAMT communication and case management. The SAMT concept is indeed an innovative approach to protecting children in a changing world.
OS39.004  
**Interviewing young & reluctant children to assess for sexual abuse**  

17:30, 16 September 2013: Clyde Suite  

*Viola Vaughan-Eden*  

The responses children provide when questioned by adults is directly influenced by their language development. The interview is a critical tool for gathering information in child maltreatment cases. Participants will understand the importance of conducting developmentally sensitive interviews, establishing rapport and learning idiosyncratic differences in children's use of language. They will also learn how barriers created by cultural differences can interfere with the ability to gain important information, and often lead to misunderstandings and misinformed decision making. Additionally, the best ways to assess child victims of sexual abuse including developmental, social, and behavioral considerations will be addressed. The updated APSAC Practice Guidelines on Forensic Interviewing (2012) will be discussed.

**Objectives**

1) Participants will be able to recognize and demonstrate interview techniques that address developmental barriers.

2) Participants will be able to translate adult words and questions into developmentally appropriate use for children.

3) Participants will be able to differentiate the key points to being able to assist reluctant children make accurate disclosures.

OS40.001  
**A Cautionary tale from the shadows: Turning tales into evidence to improve child protection interventions**  

16:30, 16 September 2013: Appian Suite  

*Pamela Davies*  

Uncertainty is a key feature in child protection work. It is a tricky business weighing up who is at risk and those who pose a risk. Professionals working in multi-agency partnerships to protect children continue to be in the firing line because they are judged to have failed to intervene or that they intervened too zealously. Professionals may think parents are lying when they are in fact telling the truth and the injuries are accidental. This is one of the uncertainties facing professionals at the start of an investigation. Parental perception studies research, where respondents are usually mothers, offers valuable insights into child protection work and evidences otherwise private, emotive and often painful experiences of child protection interventions and impacts. Qualitative studies of parental experience reveal less positive satisfaction levels with interventions than other types of research and professionals can leave parents feeling vulnerable, fragile, frightened and powerless.

This paper suggests that the research agenda and evidence base is under-developed and exposes a gap in knowledge about families' experiences of child protection investigations. It shows the impact a child protection investigation can have on a family and the fine line that professionals tread in determining how best to support families. Sometimes investigations are inappropriate or misjudged and intervention is neither wanted nor needed. Resources are wasted. The paper demonstrates how, through reflective accounts, the evidence base for interventions in cases of child abuse and neglect is enriched. The paper explores this and other medium/avenues for disseminating experiences and findings. It exposes gaps in quantitative research to determine the 'dark figure' of false positive interventions and in qualitative research to explore parental perceptions of the front end of the process of child protection investigations.
OS40.002  
**Economic costs of violence against young children in Turkey**  
*16:50, 16 September 2013: Appian Suite*  
Duygun Fatih Demirel, Eylul Damla Gonul Sezer, Melek Basak  

The extent of violence against children and its consequences are only now becoming visible as a worldwide problem. The consequences of violence on children include physical damage and injuries, disorders in mental health, loss of self-confidence, loss of adaptation skills to the social environment, possibility of reflecting violence to others in future and many others. In order to be able to quantify, provide a clearer picture of violence on young children, utilizing economic data related to the above mentioned consequences is expected to have a highly significant value. In this study, the target is to construct an applicable framework to be able to estimate economic costs of violence against young children in Turkey. This framework is founded on definitions, classifications and rankings related to violence and cost concepts. The variables that take place in the framework are not limited to direct costs only, but a study to relate indirect costs to direct costs is carried out to include the cost of major physiological and sociological effects. For computation of the cost of violence, the methods in existing literature, expert opinions, and application of the financial impacts of similar incidences as basis and reference are utilized. Aggregating the mathematical framework and data, the costs for individual services and actions are calculated; and then the outputs are integrated to compute the total economic cost of violence against young children in Turkey.

OS40.003  
**Monitoring the private sector: Methods for understanding differential performance**  
*17:10, 16 September 2013: Appian Suite*  
Fred Wulczyn  

Public child welfare agencies in the U.S. are increasingly reliant on the private sector for the provision of out-of-home care. In one state, for example, 80 percent of the 23,000 children in foster care are in the custody of private agencies. Simply put, practitioners working in private child welfare agencies are as basic to placement outcomes as schools are to how well students read.  

Despite the critical role private agencies play in shaping outcomes, private providers of child welfare services have rarely been studied in a focused, theoretical way. In particular, the private sector in the U.S. has been regarded in a singular, almost monolithic way: privately provided services are always better than the same services provided by a public child welfare agency. The possibility that private agencies may in fact vary with respect to the time needed to achieve permanency is rarely considered in the literature.  

In this paper, we examine the performance of individual private agencies. The focus of the paper is on the methods used to detect performance variation. Among the issues addressed, risk adjustment is particularly important. To properly assess performance variation, one has to properly control for the fact that providers differ with respect to their target populations. It is also important to account for the nested structure of the data, which is an issue that arises frequently in studies of foster care.  

Results from the study suggest that there is wide variation in the performance of private agencies even after child level differences have been taken into account. Implications for how public agencies regulate the private sector are discussed. Finally the discussion touches on the meaning of these findings for how monitoring of child protection services in general can be improved.
This paper draws on the methodology devised for a PhD study on hearing the voice of the child in child protection proceedings in the Irish District Courts through a Barnardos’ Guardian ad litem. The study involved interviewing Barnardos’ Guardians and a number of District Court judges who preside in child protection cases. Central to the study, however, was the inclusion of interviews with a sample of children aged between 7 and 12 years who had a Barnardos’ Guardian ad litem appointed to them. A contemporary timeframe for the child-Guardian relationship was selected, but cases that were currently before the courts were excluded. In conjunction with Barnardos, it was originally anticipated that 25-40 children could be identified using the selection criteria, with an expected final sample of 12-15 children being achieved. The reports provided to the courts by the Guardians ad litem in respect of the final sample were also to be sought. With considerable effort a final sample of 8 children aged between 9 and 17 years was achieved and court reports for only 7 of these were obtained. This paper aims to identify the various gatekeepers and facilitators that were involved in the process of identifying and accessing these 8 children and preventing access to others. In place of presenting firm conclusions, the paper poses a number of ethical, methodological and practical questions in relation to consent and ascent when seeking to include vulnerable children in research. These are considered in the overarching context of extending the right of the child to be heard not only in administrative and judicial matters that affect them, but also through research.

The perennial problem of child protection cases falling between gaps when referred 'out' to partner agencies has long been a concern in Child Protection Services (CPS). Not only can there be delays but families may default entirely, escalating risk to the child.

In 2002 the Counselling and Intervention Unit (CIU) was set up as part of the CPS in Singapore to address this issue. The team members of the CIU are trained counsellors led by a systemic psychotherapist. CIU would provide an in-house service with an open door policy and endeavour to work systemically with all parties; the child, the family, foster families and professionals from agencies such as Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and our Singapore equivalent of CAMHS. The team would support the 'working together model', the service would be child centred, it would attempt to build bridges with partner agencies and the community while taking on the therapeutic aspect of some of the cases deemed to be of higher risk. In addition we incorporated a therapeutic crisis intervention model for high risk cases with active, timely, direct and dynamic components. CIU would be a source of support both to families and the child protection team.

Ten years on we are in a position to chart the progress of the team, share the benefits to the CPS and show how different programmes were developed using evidence from research to meet emerging needs of the families referred to us. In order to achieve our goals programmes have been developed such as Family Group Conferencing, FGC, Anti Disruption Intervention Programme (ADiP) Solution –Focused Agreements with Families (SAFe) and Sharing (difficult) Information with Parents (SIP) and these will be briefly presented.

Associate Professor Corinne Ghoh swkgsnc@nus.edu.sg
Dr Trish Mylan trishm2@hotmail.com
OS41.002
Using trauma-informed care in educational settings to scaffold those impacted by abuse and neglect
16:50, 16 September 2013: Adelaide Suite
Peggy Mayfield

Abstract
Using Trauma-Informed Care in Educational Settings to Scaffold Those Impacted by Abuse and Neglect
Those impacted by abuse and neglect can experience long-term consequences that exist in myriad contexts. In the aftermath of abuse and neglect, trauma-related symptoms may occur that challenge the individual's functioning in the academic and relational aspects of children and adolescents. Educational performance may be improved by helping teachers understand trauma and how to work empathetically and effectively with those affected by abuse and neglect.

Objectives:
Inform Participants of the Definition for Trauma-Informed Care (TIC)
Inform Participants of the Implications of TIC for Children, Adolescents, and Educators
Suggest Ways of Advancing TIC in Schools and Alternate Settings

Method:
A Free Paper that reviews the current scholarship related to TIC will be presented.

Results:
Participants will be better informed about TIC.

Conclusion
Participants will be able to work more effectively and collaboratively with providers of care for abused and neglected children and adolescents.

OS41.003
Changing the system's response to children and youth victims of abuse in Canada
17:10, 16 September 2013: Adelaide Suite
Karyn Kennedy

This workshop will provide an overview of an innovative new model and offer participants the opportunity to discuss issues in their communities and explore new approaches. Stakeholder partners in Toronto, Canada have been working collaboratively to establish the first Child & Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC) in Toronto to improve the quality of service and reduce revictimization of children and youth who have been abused. The CYAC model for Toronto was developed in response to rising dissatisfaction and criticism with how child abuse investigations were being handled and how children and families were being treated during the abuse investigation process. A 2-year pilot project was launched in March 2011 and through evaluation has demonstrated the value of the CYAC model and specifically, the role of Advocates in providing support to children and families.

Boost Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention, a community agency with a 30-year history of working with children and families will become the CYAC for Toronto and plans are underway to open the first phase of the centre early in 2013. The CYAC model brings together professionals from law enforcement, criminal justice, child protection services, medical and mental health, and advocacy under one roof, to work together as a team in child abuse cases. The idea of "real-time" co-located system partners has revolutionized the community response to child abuse. Today it is a world-wide movement that is regarded as leading practice in how to respond to child abuse cases.

Toronto has the highest number of child abuse cases in Canada. The objective of the CYAC is to replace the city's current fragmented system of investigation, treatment and prosecution of child abuse cases with a collaborative, real-time system that results in a coordinated, seamless, interdisciplinary response to child abuse victims in a "child-friendly" environment.
OS42.001
Public-Private partnership in child protection – a model for the future? A pilot project in Switzerland providing new perspective
16:30, 16 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite

Franziska Reich Von Ins

Efficiently protecting children from violence and abuse is the stated aim of all countries that have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, nations organised according to a federalist system face specific challenges when it comes to the creation of an effective child protection system. This applies to Switzerland, where responsibility for child protection mainly lies with cantonal and local authorities. While this enables local needs to be addressed, it can prove challenging when it comes to maintaining coordination and harmonization. How can a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) fit within this landscape and catalyse change?

Until now, little is known about PPPs in the area of Child Protection as the model is new and not documented. The recently launched ‘Swiss Project Fund for Child Protection’ can deliver insights and answers on that question as it has been designed to bridge knowledge and innovation gaps in the field of child protection through the piloting of evidence-based prevention projects, the support of applied research and the active dissemination of research findings.

Launched in 2012, this unique partnership brings together private and public actors with a pedigree in child protection in Switzerland: two private foundations, the Oak Foundation and the UBS Optimus Foundation, and one public partner, the Federal Social Insurance Office (FSIO). By bundling the know-how, network and financial resources of each founding member, this PPP is situated to complement and further connect the existing structures and organisations existing in the field.

As the model is a very new approach within this field, great effort has been made to establish an efficient organizational structure as well as monitoring & evaluation processes both for the fund itself and its grantees. The experiences of the first year will be shared with the participants at the conference.
**OS42.002**

**Decision making in multi-agency child protection systems: An exploratory study**

16:50, 16 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite

Deborah Lynch, Kathleen Felton

In child protection policy and practice, multi-agency systems have been promoted as critical to assessment, decision-making and enabling a coordinated response to the protection of children experiencing harm/at risk of harm. In Queensland, Australia, the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) system was established to enable a coordinated multi-agency response to children's protection needs. Government inquiries, reviews and evaluations have focused on the strategic and operational functioning of SCAN. However, these reviews have struggled to capture the complexity of tasks and processes inherent in multi-agency working. The question of whether multi-agency approaches deliver the outcomes that they promise remains. The paper focuses on the conceptual and methodological challenges encountered in researching such complex and dynamic systems. Using critical realism as a theoretical tool, we draw on the SCAN system as a case study to examine the deeper complexities of multi-agency working. This exploration will inform the design and conduct of a larger research project on multi-agency decision making and practice outcomes for children, young people and families. The research will bring together a range of child protection literature on the discourse of risk and decision making, group decision making practices and inter-agency collaborative processes. The findings will apply a different lens to our understanding and build a richer analysis that will enhance the capacity for reflexive professional practice. We envisage that this will have broader application for multi-agency practices within the field of child protection and welfare.

**OS42.003**

**Providing a social work service to the British military community serving overseas**

17:10, 16 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite

Glenis Vann

**OBJECTIVES:**

i) To highlight contemporary issues facing Service children and families living overseas.

ii) To identify common themes adversely affecting children and families and their inner resilience.

iii) To emphasise the multi-culturalism of working with the British Army overseas.

**METHOD:**

i) Set out the context of frontline Social Work provision in overseas Commands.

ii) Give examples of the challenges facing children and families.

iii) Note the differences from UK practice.

**RESULTS:**

i) Greater awareness and understanding of the role of the Social Work service overseas

ii) Shared information on factors affecting children and families in overseas Commands

**CONCLUSIONS:**

This abstract is submitted for an Oral presentation summarising the challenges facing a small team of UK registered Social Workers covering children and families living in Germany as part of the British Military presence in 2013. It will present some of the issues for children growing up and living in the military environment, and examples of the multi-cultural nature of the population for whom we provide the range of statutory social work services.
OS42.004
Building an evidence base- The development of an online outcome evaluation tool

17:30, 16 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite

Tess Noonan

Author: Tess Noonan, ISPCC Manager, Services & Quality Assurance.

Application to present a paper:

ISPCC services increase coping ability and individual resilience. We know our work makes a difference but how do we prove it?

We have developed an online Outcome Evaluation Tool (OET) to allow clients to self report on their achievement of outcomes and enable us to analyse the data in an increasingly comprehensive manner. This custom built design, developed with the support of Viewpoint, is based on a model of evaluation by Kirkpatrick and will provide an outcomes orientated approach to evaluating work.

The OET will help determine the effects of an ISPCC intervention at four different levels from level 1 (client satisfaction) to level 2 (learning and development effects), level 3 (behavioural effects) and level 4 (the benefits to stakeholders, the family and community). Levels 2-4 will show short, medium and long-term outcomes respectively and it is this journey of change for the client that we are keen to capture.

The OET is fun, interactive and user friendly and will enable ISPCC to generate data and report on outcomes in a highly detailed and transparent fashion allowing cross comparisons of data across a range of fields such as intervention type, gender, region etc.

The Outcome Evaluation Tool is undergoing validation testing through a national pilot which commenced in November 2012. This pilot is due to complete in November 2013. Though the tool is custom designed for ISPCC we believe it could be used effectively across a range of sectors and services and therefore we are interested in sharing our learning and experience of designing the OET with members of the Ispscan audience.

OS43.001
Stop it Now! NL. Who are the people you're trying to reach?

10:00, 17 September 2013: Landsowne

J Mulder, Joan van Horn

In 2012 a Stop it Now! helpline opened in the Netherlands, thanks to a subsidy given by the Ministry of Health. Because of Dutch regulation we were able to offer anonymous telephone help free of costs, but also two or three specialized psychotherapeutic contacts (by telephone or face-to-face), completely anonymous and free of costs. In the process of getting to know the group of people with pedophilic feeling who did not offend (yet) that we wanted to reach with the helpline, a study was conducted with a hundred men who were in outpatient treatment in the forensic outpatient facility de Waag who had all offended against children or downloaded child porn. They were asked about the time before their first hands-on offence and about the a start of their child porn offending. In this presentation we shall report on the results of this study and on the process of starting a helpline. Stop it Now! NL is doing very well and gets lots of (positive) media attention. We shall report on the number of calls and referrals for treatment in the first year and a half and on the plans for the future.
OS43.002

Sex offender risk assessments in the child protection context: Helpful or not?

10:20, 17 September 2013: Landsowne

Karen Broadley

Objectives

When a convicted or alleged child sex offender is living or having contact with his or her own children or stepchildren, the concern is that these children are victims or will become victims of sexual abuse. One way of determining the risk of this occurring is for the individual to undergo a forensic sex offender risk assessment to categorise the risk as being either 'low', 'moderate', or 'high'.

The primary aim of this paper is to question whether sex offender risk assessments can accurately predict the risk posed to children.

Method

An extensive literature review was undertaken in relation to forensic sex offender risk assessments and child protection.

Results

Most instruments are designed to test only males and cannot be used with females.

Actuarial instruments that measure static risk demonstrate only moderate predictive accuracy. They only predict the risk posed by a group of individuals rather than a particular individual.

Many tools that measure dynamic risk involve self report. Many self report instruments are available on-line, and some self motivated offenders may be able to 'fake good' on the tests.

Measurements of dynamic risk are likely to change as the individual's life circumstances and risk factors change, certainly over years, sometimes within weeks or days. Within the child protection context this is a problem because monitoring of sex offenders is not considered to be a child protection responsibility.

Conclusions

This paper concludes that 'high', 'moderate' and 'low' risk outcomes of sex offender risk assessments in the child protection context are unreliable. They can undermine the child protection practitioner's holistic assessment, and this can have consequences that are dangerous to children.

OS43.003

Lifetime impacts of children's experiences of trauma in 'care': Forgotten Australians struggle for identity and wellbeing explored

10:40, 17 September 2013: Landsowne

Caroline Carroll, Stella Conroy

Australia has a long and traumatic history of childhood trauma, neglect and abuse whether in impoverished family settings or in its orphanages and asylums. Since the late 1800s, numerous inquiries have met and taken evidence of great harm perpetrated on children and young people from the survivors and other witnesses.

The latest inquiry establishes the most comprehensive inquiry ever undertaken in Australia: the Australian Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse was commissioned in January 2013 and has far reaching powers to obtain evidence. It is expected that the Commission will make recommendations to Government on system wide improvements; to create an environment and culture that works better to provide for the safety and wellbeing of its infants, children and young people.

Despite a National Apology on 16 November 2009 by the then Prime Minister, and a new national network of support services, many Forgotten Australians continue to live on the edge, marginalised by the impact of stigma and the impoverished outcomes of a childhood dominated by complex trauma and lack of love and care.

This presentation will demonstrate the lifelong impacts of a childhood hidden from the eyes of a more caring world, where families were denied access to their children, where improper staffing and lack of propriety towards children allowed enormous harm to be done to children and young people taken into care.
OS44.001
A systematic review defining emotional, behavioral and developmental features indicative of neglect / emotional abuse in the preschool child

10:00, 17 September 2013: Pembroke

Aideen Naughton

Objectives: Early intervention for neglect or emotional abuse in pre-schoolers may mitigate lifelong consequences, yet practitioners lack confidence in recognizing these children.

This systematic review aims to define the emotional, behavioral and developmental features of such maltreatment in preschoolers.

Method: A literature search of 18 databases, six websites and snowballing techniques: 1960-2011, identified 22,669 abstracts. Standardized critical appraisal of 164 articles was conducted by two independent, trained reviewers. Inclusion criteria: children 0-6 years with confirmed neglect / emotional abuse, who had emotional, behavioral and developmental features recorded, or where the carer–child interaction was documented.

Results: 28 case-control (matched for socio-economic, education and ethnicity), 1 cross-sectional and 13 cohort studies were included. Insufficient scientific studies exist of emotional neglect /emotional abuse of preschool children by fathers, therefore included studies describe characteristics of Maternal-child interactions. Key features: hostility (6 studies) exhibited as criticism, verbal aggression, babies seen as irritating and demanding, tendency to resort to physical punishment. More often a pattern of disinterest, poor sensitivity and uninvolved is found (9) demonstrated through limited engagement from birth, impoverished speech contributing to child’s language delay, lack of praise, failure to respond to their child’s cues for help. Older children view their mothers as unlikely sources of support.

Child features: aggression (11 studies) withdrawal / passivity (12); developmental delay (17), poor peer interaction (5).

Conclusions: Pre-school children who have been neglected or emotionally abused exhibit a range of serious emotional and behavioral difficulties and adverse mother-child interactions that highlight children requiring prompt evaluation & interventions. It is especially important to identify negative aspects of care-giver interactions in the very young baby as the earliest signs of neglect and emotional abuse because evidenced based interventions are available to mitigate this.

OS44.002
Defining the characteristics of dental neglect in children: A systematic review

10:20, 17 September 2013: Pembroke

Sabine Maguire, Shannu Bhattia, Barbara Chadwick, Lindsay Hunter, Alison M Kemp, Mala K Mann

Background: Neglect of a child's oral health can lead to pain, poor growth, reduced school performance and reduced quality of life. In populations where dental caries are common, the challenge for dentists is to distinguish which children are experiencing dental neglect. We aim to Systematically Review the features of oral neglect in children

Methods: We searched 15 databases from 1960-2012, supplemented by hand searching of 4 specialist journals, 5 websites and references of full texts and textbooks. Included: studies of children 0-18 years undergoing a standardised dental examination, with confirmed oral neglect; Excluded: physical / sexual abuse. All relevant studies underwent two independent reviews (+/- 3rd review) using standardised critical appraisal.

Results: Of 3,863 abstracts scanned, 83 studies were reviewed and 9 included (2 case control, 2 cohort, 1 cross-sectional, 4 case study/series). This represents data on 1595 children aged 0-15 years. Features included: failure or delay in seeking dental treatment (8 studies), failure to comply with / complete treatment (5 studies), provide basic oral care (3 studies); co-existent adverse impact on the child e.g. pain and swelling (4 studies). Three studies addressed the oral features of children who were experiencing other forms of maltreatment, noting high prevalence of dental caries with associated pain/ infection (2 studies) and high levels of decay, plaque and gingival bleeding (1).

Conclusions: There is a small body of literature addressing this important topic, using varying definitions of neglect, and standards of oral examination. While failure/ delay in seeking care with adverse dental consequences were highlighted, differentiating dental caries from dental neglect is difficult, and there is a paucity of data on precise clinical features to aid in this distinction.
OS44.003
Making sense of the child's lived experience in cases of neglect
10:40, 17 September 2013: Pembroke
Helen Richardson Foster

Objectives: The presentation will provide findings from a study exploring the promoters and inhibitors to child-focused decision making in cases of neglect. Recent inquiries and ‘serious case review’ analyses in the UK have highlighted that practitioners can struggle to maintain a focus on the child’s needs in child protection processes. In England, the child protection conference is the statutory decision making forum and it is central to the child protection process. Other jurisdictions have similar systems. Despite their integral role to decision making, there has been limited research on the efficacy of conferences, and to date no studies have specifically focused on conferences convened due to concerns about neglect.

Method; This doctoral research is a qualitative analysis of the information shared at child protection conferences where there are concerns a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, serious harm as a result of experiencing neglect. The methodology consisted of: audio recordings of 14 child protection conferences and the documentary analysis of reports created for these meetings; interviews with 26 staff who chair or minute conferences; and focus groups with 35 practitioners who attend conference meetings. The research took place in one rural and one urban part of England.

Results: The results will demonstrate how information is shared at conference meetings regarding children’s needs, parenting capacity, the parenting context and children’s lived experience of neglect. In particular the analysis will explore what information is shared, and by whom; how this information has been obtained about the child’s wishes, experiences and feelings; and how this information is used to inform the content of future work with the family.

Conclusions: The research will provide an in-depth account of the way in which practitioners maintain or lose the focus on the child when making decisions about their welfare.

OS45.001
10:00, 17 September 2013: Munster
Catherine Maunsell, Ashling Bourke

This paper draws on a study of Irish teacher’s human rights and human rights education knowledge, perspectives and practices (Waldron, Kavanagh, Kavanagh, Maunsell, Oberman, O'Reilly, Pike, Prunty and Ruane, 2011). Teacher’s self reports of the perceived main issues in relation to human rights generally and children’s rights, more specifically, across educational contexts are examined. The emergent data on teacher’s perceptions have implications for child protection policies and practices in educational settings within a human rights framework.

A team of researchers in the Centre for Human Rights and Citizenship Education (CHRCE) in St. Patrick’s College undertook a survey to ascertain the understanding of and dispositions towards human rights and human rights education in a sample of Irish teachers. The survey employed as its primary research tool, the Human Rights and Human Rights Education Questionnaire, a structured questionnaire format specifically designed for the purpose of the study. The survey was responded to by 182 teachers working in primary schools across Ireland.

A subset of qualitative responses on teacher’s perceptions of the main issues in relation to children’s rights and human rights were categorised using the constant comparative method (Glaser, 1965; Lincoln and Guba, 1985). Five categories of responses emerged from this data subset.

This paper focuses specifically on the data emerging from the category of responses labelled, ‘Safety and Protection’. Key themes which emerged under this category included; specific references to safety and the right to live without danger of harassment, and the right to live protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The implications of these findings for child protection policies and practices in educational contexts are discussed from within a human rights framework.
OS45.002
Professional perspectives on District Court child care proceedings in Ireland
10:20, 17 September 2013: Munster
Kenneth Burns, Conor O'Mahony, Caroline Shore, Aisling Parkes

The Child Care Act 1991 provides the legal foundation for the Irish child protection system and regulates the crucial District Court proceedings that determine whether and how the State intervenes to protect children who are suspected victims of neglect or abuse. However, although the Act has been in operation for over 22 years, little or nothing is known about what happens behind the closed doors of in camera District Court child care proceedings. No official or media case reports are available; no written judgments are made public; and virtually no empirical research has ever been conducted to build a picture of practices and trends. The result is an undesirable lack of transparency in the exercise of one of the State's most far-reaching powers, and a lack of an adequate knowledge base on which to base discussions about potential reform.

This paper will, for the first time, present findings from a qualitative study undertaken in 2012 that explored the perspectives of 33 professionals (judges, solicitors, social workers and guardian ad litems) currently working at the coalface of these proceedings. The objectives of this study were to explore these participants' views on the adequacy of these proceedings; the adversarial process; the participation of children; representation of parents; timeframe of proceedings; interaction between professionals; legal and constitutional framework, and facilities. The findings of this study indicate that children's participation is often limited, there is a diversity of practices between courts, there was strong agreement regarding the unsuitability of certain facilities which sometimes led to the mingling of child care cases with criminal cases, the advantages of dedicated child care courts and judges was a prominent theme, and professionals frequently used 'battle' metaphors to describe proceedings that are often adversarial in nature rather than an 'enquiry' into the child's circumstances.

OS45.003
An international review of child protection research: Key messages and their influence on child welfare reform in Ireland
10:40, 17 September 2013: Munster
Colette McAuley, Caroline McKeown

A review of international evidence on child protection and children in care (McAuley and McKeown et al, 2013) will be completed in Spring 2013. Funded by the Irish Research Council and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, its publication could be said to be timely. The new Child and Youth Support Agency, responsible for statutory child protection across Ireland, is being launched in January 2013 with policy and practice development high on its agenda.

The objectives of this paper are

1) to briefly provide contextual background on child protection in Ireland from data, child abuse inquiries and previous research
2) to distill the key messages from this extensive review of the international literature
3) to consider the relevance of these messages to child protection services in Ireland today
4) to reflect more generally on the strengths and limitations of using research evidence from other countries and different contexts
5) to consider the extent to which research evidence influences policy and practice development and why that might be the case.

Method: Free paper with time for audience questions

Results: The review collated evidence on the assessment of needs of children and families; the impact on children of living with domestic violence, parental substance misuse and/or parental mental health difficulties; the educational outcomes and mental health needs of children in care. Evidence was drawn primarily from the UK, USA and Australia. The paper will summarise the key messages and consider the implications for child welfare reform in Ireland today.
OS46.001  
Safe care for separated migrant children in Ireland: Issues arising in the transition to a foster care system  
10:00, 17 September 2013: Ulster  
Deirdre Horgan, Jacqui O’Riordan  

Objectives: The research examines the position of separated migrant children in Ireland, charting recent policy and practice developments. In particular, it analyses changes in child care arrangements for this group of children and young people, implemented under the Health Service Executive’s ‘Equity of Care’ policy (2009). Under this policy the largely Dublin-based hostel system, through which separated migrant children were being accommodated and cared for since the early 2000s, was replaced at the end of 2010, by a countrywide foster-care system for separated migrant children. It is argued that this transition to foster care brings their care arrangements in line with other children in state care in Ireland.  

Method: This paper draws on research funded by the Children’s Rights Alliance and published in 2012, on the views and experiences of professionals working with separated migrant children across a range of statutory, voluntary and private service providers in Ireland. It incorporates a review of the literature along with interviews with key stakeholders in the provision of services to this group of children and young people.  

Results and Conclusions: Research findings cover a broad range of issues related to care, migration, and child protection policies, formal and informal practice, as well as those pertaining to hearing and listening to the voices of separated migrant children. This paper focuses on the potential that this new foster care approach has to contribute to the development of supportive environments for migrant separated children. It examines this potential in the context of assumptions about family settings and local communities associated with this transition in care arrangements. Furthermore, it raises questions about cultural matching, training and appropriate support of foster carers; questions that, if addressed, could assist in reaching this realisable potential.

OS46.002  
Trans-racial mothering and child maltreatment risk  
10:20, 17 September 2013: Ulster  
Mary Rauktis, Rachel A. Fusco, Ph. D, Dr  

Background and Study Objectives  
Despite the increase in the number of multiracial children in the United States, little is known about the experiences of White mothers parenting Black/White children. Previous research indicates that these children are at greater risk of entering the child welfare system compared to their mono-racial peers.  

The objectives of this presentation are to:  
Present the results from an analysis of data from the Longitudinal Studies of Child Abuse and Neglect (LONGSCAN) comparing the profiles of White mothers of White children to White mothers of Black/White children (Study One);and  
Present preliminary results of a qualitative study of White mothers of Black/White children focused on identifying the reasons why these families may be more likely to be involved in child welfare (Study Two).  

Methods: Study One is a secondary data analysis of high risk mothers and children testing the hypothesis that interracial mothers would have less social and community support. Study Two used focus groups to gather information. Results: Study One found no differences in maternal age, employment status or the presence of a partner. However, mothers of biracial children were poorer, reported more alcohol use and reported less social support. They experienced more intimate partner violence and lower neighborhood satisfaction. These findings supported the hypothesis that white mothers of biracial children have less community and familial support. It could not be determined if this was the consequence of partnering across racial lines, the function of limited personal “safety nets” or having less social and economic capital prior to having a child with an African-American man. We are still in the process of collecting and analyzing data for Study Two.  

Conclusions: Biracial families may have unique needs that increase their vulnerability for child maltreatment.
Exploring early marriage in fragile states

10:40, 17 September 2013: Ulster

Hannah Stevenson Doornbos

If current early marriage trends continue, 142 million girls worldwide will be married this decade (2011–2020), an average of 14.2 million each year. Early marriage, particularly when the girl is younger than 15, has wide-ranging – and often damaging – effects on the lives of the girls involved and, by extension, their children and communities. This research seeks to add to the body of evidence regarding early marriage in fragile states, including the main factors that influence prevalence of early marriage in fragile states; and the most effective responses to address early marriage and its harmful impacts on children and communities.

This research is based on primary evidence gathered by World Vision staff in Bangladesh, Somaliland and Niger. Each country was chosen according to their prevalence of early marriage, and the level and nature of fragility. The methodology included the use of drawing, mapping, diagrams and games within focus group discussions, and over 30 key informant interviews with various stakeholder groups.

Our research found that insecurity, distress and fear make early marriage seem like a refuge for many families wanting to safeguard their daughters. Threats to the protection of girl children during crises and periods of greater stress include the fear of rape and sexual violence, and of malnutrition and hunger. Further, that early marriage is deployed as a perceived protection strategy in times of crisis to protect girl children from particular threats.

This research found that the international humanitarian response must be better joined up with its initiatives to tackle violence against women and girls, and must specifically include prevention of early marriage in order to protect against increases in the practice as a means of survival.

The relation between playing brutal computer games and displaying violent behaviours by adolescents

10:00, 17 September 2013: Leinster

Monika Szpringer, Grazyna Nowak-Starz, Małgorzata Markowska, Edyta Laurman-Jarząbek

Playing computer games, containing elements of aggression and violence, on a regular basis may lead to the occurrence of the phenomenon of desensitisation. The violence in computer games is not subject to a punishment; on the contrary – it is rewarded with a sense of success or justified by the fact that the “game fight” is for a good cause. Thus, players do not experience negative emotions of a victim and they can easily excuse themselves. Young people come to realise that in order to win they need to resort to any means, even the violent ones.

The aim of the presented researches is to establish a relation between playing brutal computer games and the occurrence of violence-marked behaviours of children and adolescents in families and peer groups.

This thesis employs the method of diagnostic survey that uses questionnaire techniques. In the period of 2011-12, 1004 junior high school students were surveyed, of which 501 were boys and 503 were girls.

The conducted research indicates that children and adolescents play computer games on a regular basis, which is put down to a lack of other interesting activities. A major part of the surveyed students prefer computer games with an aggressive and brutal content.

Computer games have an impact upon the conduct of children and youth, resulting in, among other things, their worse performance at school, changes in behaviour, inability to control emotions after defeat, spending less time with their friends and becoming more aggressive. Brutal computer games influence the behaviour to a considerable extent, providing the sense of superiority and uniqueness as well as provoking aggression, aimed towards both members of family and peers.
**OS47.002**

**Social networking sites: Children's experiences of harm**

10:20, 17 September 2013: Leinster

Claire Lilley

**Objective**

This presentation will examine the results of a survey into children's self-reported experiences on social networking sites. The use of social networking sites has grown rapidly in recent years, particularly amongst children and young people; 67% of children aged 9-16 and 92% of 15-16 year olds who use the internet have a profile on a social networking site (Livingstone et al, 2010). Although these sites offer users, including children and young people, new and varied ways to communicate and opportunities for self-expression and creativity, there are fears that they may also be used to facilitate abuse such as cyberbullying, sexual grooming and cyberstalking.

**Method**

In December 2012, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) hosted an anonymous online survey of 1024 children aged 11-16. Topics included: websites accessed, device used, prevalence and type of experiences which caused upset or concern, who was involved, the impact and duration of these experiences, prevalence of simultaneous victimisation offline and the help, support or reporting strategies used.

**Results**

Over the course of a year almost a fifth of all children have had a personal direct experience on a social networking site which has upset or bothered them. For one in ten this happened every day or almost every day. A range of concerning behaviours were reported, from 'trolling' (sarcastic, nasty or negative comments or rumours) to violent or aggressive language, to receiving unwanted sexual messages. A third of children were confused or frustrated by their experiences and a third felt ashamed or humiliated by them.

**Conclusions**

The presentation will provide details of the research results, and explore the implications for children and parents, public policy, schools and social networking sites themselves.

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**OS47.003**

**The role of social media and technology on the experiences of vulnerable children who have been referred to a specialist sexual abuse unit**

10:40, 17 September 2013: Leinster

Anne Morrison, Jacqueline Lorimer

Clinical experience suggests that primary school children are becoming more frequent users of social media and very often their use is inappropriate and may have a negative impact on their development.

The current study sought to examine this premise by reviewing referrals to a specialist sexual abuse unit, over a five year period.

The cases identified were analysed and it emerged that these technologies were being used in a diverse manner such as sexting, cyberbullying and inappropriate use of Facebook. It was noteworthy that although the majority of children actively using social media were in the adolescent and preadolescent age group, there were some situations where younger children were accessing and being exposed to technology in an inappropriate manner. The study also highlighted situations where internet technology featured in the sexual exploitation of a number of children.

We live in a digital age and the use of internet and other technology is now a common feature in the lives of children and their families. While there are many positive aspects to this, this paper emphasises that with such technology there is the potential for harm to vulnerable children.

The implications for professionals involved in child protection are discussed.
OS52.001
Voices of youth from Romanian residential care homes about rights and participation
10:00, 17 September 2013: Leeson Suite
Anca Bejenaru

After the fall of communism, Romanian child protection system has evolved gradually. Romania was among the first countries that signed the UN Convention for the protection of children’s rights, but only after 2004 did child rights become part of the discourse in the field of child protection. The present paper adopts a constructivist approach and presents the results of an empirical study conducted on a sample of 44 young people from six Romanian public and private residential care homes, 6 of them with learning deficiencies. The overall objective of the study was to examine children’s rights in residential care homes and their participation in decisions that concern them. Narrative interview was used to give young people the opportunity to advocate their particular understanding of risks through exploring their individual and collective experiences. The results indicate an increase in the quality of services offered in residential care homes, showing better conditions for the children's development, but their participation in decisions that concern them is still low. Child protection rights are largely respected in private and small public residential care homes, but are often violated in public care homes that have a large number of children, heterogeneous in terms of children’s age and sex. Here, psychological and physical abuses are still common. The paper presents implications for research, social policy and practice.

OS52.002
Does the out-of-home placement of children prevent the effects of intergenerational marginalisation? - A Finnish perspective
10:20, 17 September 2013: Leeson Suite
Kati Kataja

Aims: Various studies have shown that marginalisation tends to continue over generations. In a primary growing environment, the child adopts his/her parent's lifestyle, both the advantageous and adverse prerequisites to cope independently when reaching majority. Placing the child outside the home offers him/her an alternative material, social and cultural growing ground. Thus, it could be hypothesized that the placement affects the mechanisms of trans-generational adversity. In this research, we aim to trace the intergenerational transmission of poverty, educational level and mental problems within the children who have been placed outside the home.

Data and method: The data of the study covers all the Finnish children who were born in 1987 and who have been placed outside the home at some point in their lifetime (altogether 1900). The data is a combination of information on both the children and their parents from different population, social and health registers enabling also explorations that extend over generations. In our research, the life courses of the children will be followed from birth to the age of 21. The analysis will be conducted in spring 2013 and the results will be shown in presentation.

Conclusions: We assume that the trans-generational inheritance of low living conditions varies depending on the placement history of the child when compared to non-placed children. However in case the nature of over-generational marginalisation seems to remain despite the placement, it will be arguable to consider the phenomenon from different perspectives. Moreover, the chances and limits to reach answers to this with register study will be discussed in presentation.
OS52.003

Effectiveness of out-of-home care versus in-home care for children who have been maltreated: A systematic review

10:40, 17 September 2013: Leeson Suite

Miriam MacLean, Melissa O'Donnell, Ruth Gilbert

Background: Decisions regarding the placement of maltreated children in out-of-home care (OOHC) have a substantial impact on families. Maltreated children are increasingly being placed in OOHC in some countries, and placed at an earlier age, in the expectation of better child outcomes. As there is potential for both benefits and harms of OOHC, it is extremely important to assess the evidence for effects on child development and wellbeing.

Objective: To determine the effect of OOHC compared to in-home care for maltreated children for developmental and wellbeing outcomes.

Method: We systematically reviewed cohort studies that compared outcomes for maltreated children placed in OOHC and those remaining at home and evaluated the risk of bias in each study.

Results: There were 17 studies that met our inclusion criteria. There was high risk of selection bias, which favours worse outcomes for children placed in OOHC in 15 studies. Cohort inception and comparability of OOHC and in-home care groups was poorly defined in most studies. We found no clear evidence of benefits of OOHC compared to in-home care. There was some evidence of potential harms, but as a result of the high levels of selection bias risk, we cannot conclude that OOHC is harmful.

Conclusions: Quantifying the effectiveness of OOHC requires randomised trials. Such trials should focus on maltreated children where there is collective uncertainty about the benefits of placement. High quality cohort studies are also needed in different jurisdictions to characterise the diversity of indications for OOHC and to determine the variation in outcomes according to placement.

OS53.001

Looked after children and social media

10:00, 17 September 2013: Clyde Suite

Robin Sen

The use of mobile phones and the internet offers young people the potential to extend networks and social interaction, but also has risks associated with it, including accessing inappropriate content, online grooming and cyber bullying. Previous research has identified that practitioners may accentuate the risks and downplay the rewards of such use for looked after children (Sen, 2010). There has however been little research in this area focused around the perspectives of those who are, or have been, in out-of-home care. This study started to address the gap by exploring the insights of six recent care leavers and four looked after young people. Data consisted of two interviews with each participant: the first a structured interview gaining responses to four vignettes which considered 'sexting', a friend's request from Facebook, unsolicited contact from an absent parent and cyber-bullying; the second an unstructured interview based around a daily log which young people had kept of their mobile phone and internet use in the previous week.

Drawing on the work of Castells (2001) and social capital theory this presentation will explore the risks and rewards of internet and mobile phone use for looked after children focusing on three areas arising from the study's findings:

• Supporting young people to manage the risks of mobile and internet communication
• Differences in the use and perceptions of young people who have had disparate experiences of mobile phone and internet use during their childhoods
• The need for professional practice with looked after children which, while risk aware, recognizes the benefits and centrality of mobile phone and internet use.


Social networking, risks and harm among younger users: findings from EU Kids Online

10:20, 17 September 2013: Clyde Suite

Brian O’Neill

Social networking sites (SNS) are now among the most popular online activities for children and young people in Europe today. Our findings show that three quarters of all European children aged 13-16 years old and more than 38% of 9-12 year olds use social networking platforms, including many restricted to 13 years and over. Alongside the attractions and benefits of online communication and interaction, lie a host of risks including inadequate protection by service providers, exposure to unwanted content or contact and increased risks of harassment and online bullying for which younger users have been shown to be unprepared. Drawing on the findings of the EU Kids Online* survey of 9 to 16 year old European children, this paper highlights a number of repeated risk behaviours evident in young people’s SNS use. These include the vexing question of underage use, contact with strangers, personal information disclosure and inadequate management of privacy settings. Cyberbullying – while it affects only a minority of children – has the highest impact and in this context, the paper addresses who is bullied online, how many young people are affected, how frequently it occurs and in which contexts? From a policy perspective, the response mechanisms provided to support young people when they encounter difficulties are of particular importance. The paper concludes by considering the effectiveness of policy responses such as those of the CEO Coalition initiated by the European Commission and the industry’s own ICT Coalition, designed to provide high level industry support to make the internet a better place for kids.

* The EU Kids Online survey was funded by the EC Safer Internet Programme from 2009-11 to enhance knowledge of children’s and parents’ experiences and practices regarding risky and safer use of the internet and new online technologies.

Development of a training program on safe use of social networking sites for adolescents in Australia

10:40, 17 September 2013: Clyde Suite

Mubarak Rahamathulla

Adolescents in Australia have been very quick in embracing the recent trend of using social networking sites to develop friendship networks. While these social networking sites are useful to young people in many ways, there are also potential dangers such as children getting bullied, children exploited by individuals such as pedophiles, peer pressure to perform well in social networking sites, time management problem due to excessive use of social networking sites, etc. This paper will address the urgent need of empowering children with information related to safe and healthy use of social networking sites. The author developed a training program on safe use of social networking sites for adolescents in Australia. This paper will describe the process by which this training program was developed. This training program has been currently offered to schools in South Australia. Adolescents who participated in this training were provided with a pre and post training assessments. This paper will present a summary of the pre and post assessments and the ways in which the training program was useful to adolescents. This paper will also suggest the ways in which this training program can be improved to suit a wider audience.
OS54.001
Disclosure of child sexual abuse experiences: A thematic qualitative analysis of interviews with 70 survivors
10:00, 17 September 2013: Appian Suite
Delphine Collin-Vezina, Andrea Palmer, Mireille de La Sablonnière-Griffin

CONTEXT: Disclosure plays a significant role in finding solutions to address child sexual abuse, a social issue of utmost importance; disclosure is often the only way of knowing what has happened and the narrative of individuals who have been abused is one of the only sources of information (Kuehnle & Connell, 2008). However, most individuals who have been sexually abused do not disclose promptly and those who do may not always provide clear statements (Hanson, et al., 1999; Hebert, et al., 2009; MacMillan, et al., 2003). Many models and hypotheses have been developed to explain the sometimes very complex patterns of disclosure being observed clinically (Liang, et al., 2005; Spaccarelli, 1994; Summit, 1983), but few studies have documented the barriers at work that prevent people from disclosing the abusive situation.

OBJECTIVE: Grounded in the most recent conceptual models of disclosure processes put forth by Alaggia (2004) and Hunter (2011), the objective of this paper presentation is to explore and analyze the perceptions of survivors on the individual and social barriers that prevented them from disclosing the sexual abuse they were subjected to. METHOD: Using a grounded thematic qualitative approach, 70 interviews with adult male and female child sexual abuse survivors were analyzed and coded by two independent raters. RESULTS: Through case vignette presentations, the themes that emerged from the analysis will be presented: (1) feelings of guilt and shame; (2) apprehension of not being believed, of being blamed; (3) feeling alienated; (4) fear of retaliation; (5) lack of trust in others' capacities to deal with the situation, and (6) lack of resources. CONCLUSIONS: This research brings to light many of the barriers that prevent child sexual abuse victims from disclosing. Implications for prevention and intervention programs to address these barriers will be discussed.

OS54.002
Informal disclosures of child sexual abuse: What the research tells us
10:20, 17 September 2013: Appian Suite
Rosaleen McElvaney

This paper reviews the research on the informal disclosure of child sexual abuse with specific reference to delays in disclosing and the factors identified that influence the process of disclosure as well as discussing the clinical implications of such research. Findings from large scale surveys highlight the prevalence of both non-disclosure and delays in disclosure while small scale qualitative studies portray the complexity, and individuality of experiences. Both types of studies enhance our understanding of the factors that inhibit disclosure and the factors that facilitate disclosure. Such an understanding has significant implications for professionals and significant people in a child’s environment in how to address the issue of child sexual abuse from the perspectives of child protection, legal, and therapeutic needs. The importance of understanding the need of young people to maintain control over the disclosure process, the role that peers play in this process, the responses of adults in both informal and formal networks and the opportunities to tell that can be provided to children are key to helping young people tell more promptly about their experiences of sexual abuse.

OS54.003
How children tell: An analysis of children's files
10:40, 17 September 2013: Appian Suite
Annette Lloyd, Rosaleen McElvaney, Keith Oreilly, Suzanne Guerin

Accessing data on the process of children's disclosures of child sexual abuse and what helps children tell is challenging given the sensitive nature of the topic and the vulnerability of this population. However, children are routinely asked about their experiences of disclosure during formal assessment when investigations are conducted in relation to children's allegations of abuse. This information is often used to inform child protection decision making processes and assessments of therapeutic need. A pilot study examining 39 files in a child sexual abuse unit suggests that such files contain valuable information about children’s experiences. This study aims to investigate children's experiences of disclosure as recorded on their files in child sexual abuse assessment services. The study expands on the pilot study and examines a sample of 150 files where children have spoken about their experiences of sexual abuse. Preliminary analysis highlights the importance of the child's psychological distress as a trigger for both peers and adults to ask young people about their psychological well being, thus providing an opportunity for the young person to disclose.
OS55.001
A systematic review of population-level interventions with a mass media component for the prevention of child physical abuse
10:00, 17 September 2013: Adelaide Suite
Mary Kathryn Rains, Cathy Taylor, Stacie Leblanc

The purpose of this review was to investigate population-level interventions with a media component that focus on the prevention of child physical abuse (CPA). Our final review included seventeen studies featuring 15 campaigns conducted from 1989 to 2011 in 5 countries. Seven studies used experimental designs whereas most were quasi-experimental. Less than half (41%) included formative evaluation and nearly all (91.4%) used at least one form of process evaluation. CPA was specifically assessed in 3 studies and decreased significantly in each. Other significant outcomes related to CPA that were assessed included reductions in child problem behaviors and improvements in parental knowledge and awareness of campaign subject matter. The following risk factors were addressed most frequently by campaigns linked with statistically significant changes in CPA-related outcomes: parental negative attribution biases, lack of knowledge regarding child development or inappropriate expectations for a child's developmental stage, impulsivity, lack of knowledge or skills regarding positive parenting techniques, the stigma associated with asking for help with parenting, lack of social support and lack of knowledge regarding the consequences of hitting, corporal punishment, or shaking an infant. Overall, the evidence-base for CPA primary prevention campaigns focused on universal targets remains inconclusive based on the limited availability of rigorous evaluations; Triple-P is a notable exception. Given the potential of population-level interventions to shift population norms and reduce rates of CPA, there is a tremendous need to develop and rigorously evaluate campaigns that target strong, modifiable risk factors for CPA.

OS55.002
'Now I'm more positive on life and everything': Children's views on an animal therapy program
10:20, 17 September 2013: Adelaide Suite
Neerosh Mudaly, Nerys Lewis, Amanda Graham

This paper will present preliminary findings from a pilot evaluation of an innovative animal therapy program designed to help children traumatised by family violence and the resultant homelessness. Living with and often being the recipients of violence has a severe impact on all aspects of children's development. When these children become clients of homelessness and family violence services they are usually in a heightened state of anxiety, terror, helplessness and depression. This is manifested in severe hyperarousal and/or dissociative behaviours which often prevent them from engaging with traditional therapeutic services.

An innovative animal therapy program was developed by a primary homelessness service in collaboration with animal therapy consultants in Victoria, Australia. This program actively uses small animals in an activity based group setting to reduce children's trauma symptoms and help them resume healthy development.

The presentation will feature the voices of children who participated in the pilot evaluation. It will include children's views about and learnings from the program. Essential foundations to the program such as the welfare of the animals and the program's principles will also be discussed.
Using Family Interaction Planning to reduce trauma effects

Christine Secrist, Lori Mozena

Objectives:

Participants will gain knowledge about:

- Family Interaction Planning and how it has reduced trauma for children removed from their family.
- How to implement Family Interaction Planning to reduce the risk associated with traumatic stress for children

Method:

Children who have been removed from their family due to abuse and neglect and placed in substitute care have an extremely high risk for mental health problems, especially traumatic stress. The degree of trauma can be impacted in a number of ways. The length of separation is one variable, however, the primary concern is the availability of significant people who can provide support and comfort for the child. The availability of the parents, siblings, relatives, and others can significantly reduce the traumatic effects of the separation.

One avenue to reduce traumatic stress for children who have been removed from their family due to abuse and neglect is Family Interaction Planning. Family Interaction provides the opportunity for families to; maintain relationships, the opportunity to learn, practice and demonstrate new behaviors and patterns of interaction to reduce trauma stress. A written family interaction plan, tailored to meet the safety needs of the family and the effects of being separated, should be conducted as soon as the child has been removed.

Results:

Family Interaction Planning has helped children reduce trauma effects as demonstrated by:

- Trusting that people will love and keep them safe
- Feeling less anger toward their parents
- Improving relationships
- Learn to solve problems
- Increase self esteem
- Decrease problems with aggression

Conclusions:

Through good Family Interaction Planning, children are able to live in a safe, secure environment. Quality Family Interaction planning ensures the child understands their caregivers have the ability to keep them safe. In addition, permanency for children is achieved much quicker, thus decreasing the effects of traumatic stress.
OS56.001
Children’s rights and participation in Finnish open care child protection assessment

10:00, 17 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite

Tiina Muukkonen, Hanna Tulensalo

Objective: Finnish child protection in open care has been developed and research years in child-centred way. Main point in this development work is to hear children’s own voice during the social work process.

In this presentation we describe how it is possible to strengthen child’s own voice in assessment process and how it is done in Finnish model. We also describe three different category of hearing children’s voice: participation in principles, assessment process and in each encounter during the process.

Method and results: In our presentation we concentrate on Encountering Child Protection -model (from now on we use ECP-model) process and its characteristic principals: focus is on child’s and families everyday life and its aim to get holistic picture of the Child’s life situation. Essential in ECP is to keep work child-centred so the themes’ (home situation, day care/school, free time and child’s self-image) leads the process. Different tools (cards, forms, drawing and lists) main function is to support dialogue and help child and parents in their self expression. In conversation it is important to increase clients own understanding about this particular Child’s needs and parents tasks in their parenthood.

Conclusions: ECP has been developed in Helsinki from 2001 and used in Helsinki Metropolitan area (Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa) since 2003. In Finnish law of child protection this assessment model came 2007. The ECP model principals are the same as e.g. in British assessment model, but in ECP model we have different methods.

OS56.002
Keeping them in mind

10:20, 17 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite

Tim Moore, Morag McArthur

Over the past 30 years a growing number of Australian researchers have directly engaged children in studies about their lived experiences and the issues that affect their lives. Although the academic community in Australia has generally supported this practice, dialogue about the ontological, epistemological, methodological and ethical tensions and challenges has been limited, as has the academic field’s engagement in collaborative reflexive discussions. The paper draws from a PhD study which provided a group of experienced researchers the opportunity to reflect on their practice and the practice of research with children in Australia: to consider how they understand children and childhood; and how their research is underpinned and influenced by the assumptions they hold. It asked researchers to consider how factors in the research environment (i.e. funding bodies, ethics committees, the broader academic field) influenced their research practice.

This paper argues for and stresses the importance of co-reflexive practice; as an endeavour for the individual practitioner, for teams of researchers and for the broader academic field within which research is conducted. Exploring notions of vulnerability, competence and participation, we will account for researchers’ approaches and the ethical, methodological and ideological challenges that emerge. The paper will promote a reflexive practice framework that might be used by individual researchers, within teams and with and for children and young people themselves.
OS56.003
Children’s reactions to participation in research on violence at home: An Icelandic study based on general population
10:40, 17 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite
Guðrún Kristinsdóttir

A survey aimed at studying knowledge of domestic violence among children in a general population (N=1125). This paper focuses on the form and extent of participation among children who were invited to add comments or express them by drawing when completing questionnaires.

Researchers and children share interests regarding research participation. Children are only interested in providing views to those who are genuinely involved. They wish that their recommendations will be applied. Although it is trustful to talk in a small group children consider questionnaires favourable. However, surveys can be ‘boring’. Participatory research involving children intends to maximize autonomy and influence of subjects in favour of child-centred knowledge production. Surveys are in general rarely considered to be participatory. Are children participating in school-based surveys as „prisoners of conditions “as some have argued? How is their engagement when invited?

Efforts were made to enhance participation in this study. One-fourth of the children wrote comments or drew pictures with messages. Most common was to say that DV was forbidden or should be stopped. Some suggested action while others underlined that they had there was no trouble at their home. Prior to the study some gatekeepers considered the topic of DV too delicate to handle in a survey but the results revealed that familiarity of DV was widespread among the children although depending on age and gender. The results confirm that children respond when invited to participate in rather traditional research if they sense that the topic is worthwhile and they are treated with respect.

Their input is helpful in interventions against domestic violence children are exposed to.

OS61.001
Hearing the 'voice' of the child? A systems approach to understanding practice in child contact centres in England
11:30, 17 September 2013: Leinster
Louise Caffrey

Objectives
The importance of hearing and taking account of the ‘voice’ of the child is recognised internationally in the UNCRC. In England it is further emphasised in the ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ guidelines, which apply to all organisations that work with children. However, when it comes to adult engagement with children, practice may not always match rhetoric. Child contact centres are voluntary and private sector organisations that facilitate contact between children and parents who do not live together. They receive referrals from the courts, solicitors, Cafcass Officers and social workers as well as ‘self-referring’ parents. This study sought to examine how contact centre workers engage with children and what factors might affect their practice.

Method
A Systems Approach was adopted. Data collection included ethnographic observations of practice in six case study child contact centres; interviews with volunteers and staff in these centres and with social workers, solicitors and judges who had referred to a child contact centre.

Results
A typology of child engagement was developed from the data comprised of three categories: ‘coercive engagement’, ‘limited engagement’ and ‘meaningful engagement’. Differentiated constructions of children’s ‘best interest’ and capacity were identified across the system. It is contended that these constructs affect the local rationalities of contact centre workers but are part of broader, system-wide discourses. These combined with ambiguity amongst all actors concerning the role of contact centres in implementing court-ordered contact and a mismatch in some centres’ and referrers’ understandings of each other’s capacity to engage with vulnerable children.

Conclusions
Engagement with children can be seen to take place along a continuum from pseudo to meaningful engagement. In a complex system, local rationalities affect actors’ behaviour. Guidance in the absence of an enabling environment is unlikely to be effective.
OS61.002
Involved by right – The voice of the child in the child protection system
11:50, 17 September 2013: Leinster
Helena Jelicic, Jennifer Gibb, Ivana La Valle

The literature has consistently shown the need for the voice of the child to be heard in the child protection process so the system can work more effectively for children. One way of ensuring the child’s voice is heard in child protection is to provide an advocacy service, which can enable children to put across their views and ensure their rights are protected. Through Involved by Right – an EU grant-funded programme, one London borough in England implemented an advocacy service for child protection conferences with the aim of incorporating children’s views during the decision making process.

The programme also involved conducting research into the implementation and effectiveness of the advocacy service with the aim of gathering evidence on:

- The key features of an effective advocacy service for children going through the child protection process
- The benefits of advocacy from the perspectives of children, their parents and professionals, and the challenges of providing an appropriate service.

The research involved analysis of anonymised child protection records for 41 children and conducting 20 interviews with children, their parents, the advocate and social workers.

The findings suggest that the skills of the advocate were essential to the success of the service, providing children with various options for expressing their views and reassuring them if they had any concerns about the advocacy service or social services involvement. The benefits of advocacy included enabling children to better understand the child protection process and influence decisions, as well as professionals having a greater understanding of the child’s needs and wishes, which resulted in better targeted services for children and their families.

The findings are of interest to anyone wishing to improve their understanding of how the advocacy model works and how it can be used to improve policy and practice in child protection.

OS61.003
The role of the Family Court Advisor in pre-proceedings – is it a workable model? Findings from an English case study in Coventry, Warwickshire and Liverpool
12:10, 17 September 2013: Leinster
Kim Holt, Dr Karen Broadhurst, Dr Nancy Kelly, Paula Doherty

The Family Justice Review (2011) proposes a statutory time limit of six months for the completion of care cases and where appropriate cases should be progressed more quickly. One consequence of this is an emphasis on ensuring that pre-proceedings work is robust, in particular that all appropriate family assessments have been carried out. There has been a long-standing suggestion that the expertise of the Family Court Advisor should feed into mainstream practice (e.g. Hunt et al., 1999) and this paper outlines the findings to date of a pilot study evaluating the potential impact of contributions of Family Court Advisors in pre-proceedings. Evidence from multi-stakeholders as part of our study suggests there are clear advantages of an early intervention model when the Family Court Advisor can contribute experience; expertise and confidence to ensure the rights of children and their families are upheld. Evidence so far suggests involvement of the Family Court Advisor is most effective when supporting and developing robust pre-proceedings practice, and that the impact can result in diversion from court, or in a reduction in delay in proceedings.

There are potential obstacles with this model as the Family Court Advisor currently has no legal mandate for an early intervention role within the pre-proceedings process, and with the number of care applications continuing to rise with no corresponding increase in resources, the question is raised as to whether this is a sustainable model for all cases. There are inevitable difficulties when decision-making is challenged, but this paper contends that these obstacles can be overcome if all stakeholders engage in effective dialogue and planning.
OS61.004
Children's right to care, protection and participation in complex child custody cases with allegations of violence and abuse
12:30, 17 September 2013: Leinster
Solberg Anne, Stang Elisabeth Gording

The objective for the present paper is to explore how professionals within the Child Welfare Service in Norway deal with high-conflict cases where there is a concern about violence or sexual abuse by one of the parents after a separation or divorce. A core question is whether and how children's right to care, protection and participation is sufficiently attended to, within a legal framework which may limit the scope of action of child welfare professionals. A mix of legal regulations applies in these cases and creates a double-traced system which may hinder an effective protection of the child.

A multi-disciplinary, qualitative, dialogue based and on-going study of child welfare practice forms the basis of the presentation. The methodological approach consist of in-debt-interviews with case workers, analyses of case documents and sources of law. Results and conclusions are preliminary. Findings show that instruments of power, that child welfare workers have at their disposal, may work productively to strengthen a child's perspective by guiding and strengthening the parents' attention away from the parental conflict and towards the situation of the child. However, it is possible to conclude that there are structural and legal hindrances to the scope of action of child welfare workers. Since interventions in some cases may depend on a court decision or evidence in a police report, the challenge is how to take care of the child's best interests when e.g. a father, who assumingly is abusing his daughter, is getting access by a court decision.

The study aims to a) contribute to learning in the field of practice by demonstrating productive moves and positive outcomes, and b) consider relevant proposals of change in practice or/and regulations to strengthen the implementation of a child's perspective.

OS62.001
Predictors of parental psychological abuse towards young adolescents
11:30, 17 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1
Marina Ajdukovic, Miroslav Rajter, Nika Susac

As a part of international BECAN project, epidemiological research of violence against children was conducted in Croatia using a multi-stage stratified cluster sample of children in three age groups (11, 13 and 16 years old) and their parents. The sample includes 3644 children and 2808 parents. The study was conducted using modified ICAST-CH and ICAST-P questionnaires. In Croatian adaptation ICAST-CH was expanded with questions regarding peer violence and ICAST-P with questions regarding exposure of family to stressful and traumatic events, parental victimization in childhood and perceived social support. Psychological violence against children was divided into two subcategories – psychological aggression (9 items) which includes less severe forms of psychological violence, and psychological abuse (9 items) with severe forms of psychological violence.

Psychological abuse perpetrated by parents shows one year incidence rate of 12.2%. In this study, potential predictors of experienced psychological abuse were divided into five groups: characteristics of the child, child behavioural characteristics, characteristics of the parents, experienced stressful events in family and parental perceived level of social support. To examine the results 5-step hierarchical logistic regression was performed using incidence of psychological abuse as the criterion variable. The results show that the most significant predictor of psychological abuse is experienced peer violence (exp(B)=1.789), followed by positive attitudes of parents towards corporal punishment (exp(B)=1.387) and parents' divorce in the last 3 years (exp(B)=2.695). Other predictors were not significant in the last step of the analysis. Total variance explained by this model is 15.9%. Practical implications of these findings will be discussed in the context of prevention programmes and interventions for protecting children against psychological abuse in the family.
OS62.002
A systematic review of the effect of personality disorder on parenting
11:50, 17 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1
Sarah Laulik, Kevin Browne, Shihning Chou

Objective: To systematically review the literature on the effect of Personality Disorder (PD) on parenting capacity and efficacy.

Method: Using a comprehensive search strategy, 4 electronic databases were searched systematically for relevant studies. Those studies that met a predefined inclusion criteria (structured assessment procedures for diagnosis of PD; observed and self-reported parenting behaviours; substantiated incidents of child maltreatment) were quality assessed using checklists from the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP, 2004). Data was then extracted and synthesised from the included studies using a qualitative approach.

Results: Fifteen thousand and sixty one hits were found. A further 22 studies were identified through expert contact, and 2 from references lists. Two thousand eight hundred and eighty five duplicates were removed and a further 11,926 irrelevant studies were excluded. Of the remaining 250 articles, 229 were removed in accordance to the inclusion/exclusion criteria and 2 articles were unobtainable. A further 19 studies were removed following quality assessment, leaving a total of 11 studies to be included in this review. Data synthesis of the majority of the included studies supported the notion of an association between a diagnosis of PD, poor parent-child interactional quality and problematic parenting practices.

Conclusions: Evidence from this review (tentatively) identifies PD as a risk factor for impaired parenting behaviours and disturbed parent-infant interactions. It is recognised, however, that the findings of the included studies may be specific to maternal, rather than parental psychopathology on parenting. Currently, there are significant gaps in the literature with regard to the effects of PD in male caregivers. Future research would benefit from determining how mental illness with PD and PD alone influence the broad dimensions of parenting capacity for both mothers and fathers. Furthermore, whether the current findings are applicable to only some or all PD clusters/types.

OS62.003
The relationship between personality disorder and child maltreatment
12:10, 17 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1
Kevin Browne, Sarah Laulik, Jayne Allam

Objective: The study aimed to extend limited knowledge on this topic by investigating whether a relationship exists between borderline and antisocial personality disorder (PD) and child maltreatment.

Method: A sample of 81 individuals (46 females and 35 males) who had undergone psychological assessment as a legal requirement during Care Proceedings were utilised in the study. All individuals were classified into three groups on the basis of personality dysfunction either: PD (N= 23); PD features (N= 25; or no PD (N=33). Information regarding individuals’ personal history, current psychological functioning and the type of child abuse perpetrated were collated and extracted from individuals’ case files, primarily from their psychological report.

Results: Bivariate analyses indicated that borderline PD in females was significantly associated with the perpetration of physical abuse and neglect (92% PD; 40% PDfeatures; 28% NoPD) as opposed to neglect only . No significant associations were found between antisocial PD in males and maltreatment type with males most likely to perpetrate all forms of abuse (100% PD; 90% PDfeatures; 67% NoPD) and much less likely to commit neglect only. Significant associations were found between individuals with and without PD and various developmental variables, adulthood variables and current presenting difficulties. A series of multinomial logistic regressions indicated that, when other variables related to child maltreatment were controlled for, PD was highly predictive of physical abuse and multiple types of maltreatment.

Conclusions: Overall findings suggest that females with borderline PD and males with anti-social PD may represent a particularly high-risk subgroup of maltreating individuals. The research tentatively concludes that PD appears to be an important risk factor for physical abuse for female caregivers and multiple types of maltreatment for male caregivers as opposed to neglect only.
OS62.004
Family support, coping with stress and family discipline
12:30, 17 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1
Julie Lawrence, Anne Smith

An ecological perspective on families suggests that they lie within networks of supporting and undermining influences. The capacity of families to nurture children and provide an effective context for their development, is related to the amount of support they receive, for example from spouses, relatives, friends, as well as the context of risk or support within communities. The present paper reports on some of the results of a multi-method study focusing broadly on how families with young children approach the task of disciplining their children (Lawrence & Smith, 2009). The findings presented in this paper, report on the level and type of support families with young children receive with parenting their young children, and if they received support, the nature of the support. We also examined the extent to which having support with child rearing makes a difference to the disciplinary techniques reported by parents, and the extent to which they have parenting hassles. We carried out semi-structured interviews with 117 caregivers, which were audiotaped and coded. We also asked parents to keep diaries of disciplinary incidents, and asked them to fill in the Parenting Daily Hassles scale, a measure of the frequency and intensity of parenting hassles. Most parents in the study had at least three sources of support, most often family, early childhood teachers, and friends. Professionals played a supportive role but only for a third of parents. We found that parents with less support used more negative disciplinary techniques, and had more parenting hassles. The paper looks at the implications of these findings for enhancing the role of professionals in supporting families, and for providing effective early intervention.

OS63.001
Patterns of re-reporting and recurrence of child maltreatment: A police study in Sweden
11:30, 17 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2
Tanja Hillberg, Carl-Göran Göran Svedin

This study is part of a three-year Marie Curie COFAS project to address a gap in knowledge about re-reporting and recurrence of child maltreatment (including experiences of intimate partner violence) in Sweden, by investigating its extent and prediction within a police sample. Data is collected from police case records alleging child maltreatment in one of the largest counties (with respect to population) in Sweden, and cross-referenced with additional data from the social services and district court archives. Approximately 400 alleged maltreatment cases of children (and their families) reported during the sampling year of 2007 that met the study eligibility requirements, has been collected and will be followed up over a five-year period (i.e., 2007-2012). The year of 2007 was chosen because the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act (1978:413) and the Social Services Act (2001:453) in Sweden were enacted in November 2006, to recognise a child who are living in partner-violent families as a victim of crime, and not only as a witness of crime. Multiple reports to the police regarding different incidents of maltreatment (including the same child or family) and multiple incidents of maltreatment (within the same report) in these records are coded as re-reports and recurrence respectively. Detailed notes are also taken regarding any reports prior to year 2007, as well as the outcome of child protection and police involvement. Corroborating with recurrence research amongst children referred to child protection services in the U.S. and the U.K., preliminary results suggest that although most child maltreatment cases reported to the police were single reports, others were re-reports of a new incident of maltreatment. Findings of characteristics associated with re-reporting and recurrent maltreatment will be discussed in the light of child protection issues and practice implications.
Consequences of introducing mandatory reporting legislation for child sexual abuse

11:50, 17 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2

Ben Mathews

Objectives

To improve detection of child sexual abuse, many jurisdictions have enacted mandatory reporting laws requiring selected persons to report known and suspected cases. In Ireland, the Child First approach previously incorporated only a policy-based approach to reporting. Due to a perceived lack of efficacy, the Children First Bill was drafted in 2012 to shift this policy guidance to a legislative approach.

What effects will the new legislative reporting duties have on numbers of reports, and outcomes of reports, of suspected child sexual abuse? This paper will shed light on these important questions by presenting results of analyses of the introduction of legislative reporting obligations in two Australian States.

Three questions will be explored:

1. Does introducing reporting legislation result in enhanced detection of child sexual abuse?
2. Do different reporter groups have different patterns of reporting?
3. What do the patterns of report numbers and outcomes indicate for child protection systems and communities?

Method

For New South Wales, published statistics were re-analysed. For Western Australia, government data were accessed and analysed. Trend profiling was conducted using the government data for periods before and after the introduction of reporting legislation. Trends in reporting practices and outcomes for different reporter groups were identified and described using univariate descriptive statistics.

Results

Legislative reporting (together with associated factors including reporter training) produces higher numbers of reports by mandated reporter groups, but not necessarily by members of the public. The duty produces higher numbers of substantiated cases, and higher numbers of ‘unsubstantiated’ reports. Substantiation rates remain fairly constant. Different reporter groups have different reporting patterns.

Conclusions

Legislative reporting and associated factors appear to increase numbers of detected cases of child sexual abuse. To create effective systems, the duty must be accompanied by high quality education and support for reporters and agency staff.
OS63.003
An inter-reporter analysis of mandated child maltreatment reporting in the U.S.
12:10, 17 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2

John Kesner, Bridget Dever

Although all 50 states currently have laws mandating the report of suspected child maltreatment by certain professional groups, there is a lack of consistency across these reporters. The present study sought to describe and compare the reporting data of five mandated reporting groups: 1) education personnel, 2) legal/law enforcement personnel, 3) medical personnel, 4) social services personnel, and 5) mental health personnel. A random sample of 1,000 cases from the 2010 National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) was utilized for these analyses. Legal/law enforcement personnel contributed the most reports of all the mandated reporters and they had the highest substantiation rate. However, educational personnel were the second largest contributors of child maltreatment reports, yet they also had the second lowest substantiation rate. Significant differences were found across reporter groups by age of child, prior maltreatment of child, substantiation rate, type of alleged maltreatment among all reports of maltreatment. When considering only substantiated reports of maltreatment, significant differences were found across groups by age, ethnicity, and living situation of the child, and type of alleged maltreatment. These results suggest the context surrounding why and when particular mandated reporting groups choose to report suspected maltreatment, which provides information about how mandated reporting laws are implemented by various reporters in practice.

OS63.004
Mandatory reporting: Comparison of the European approaches
12:30, 17 September 2013: Connaught Suite 2

Thomas Meysen

Throughout Europe, improving flow of information about suspected child maltreatment to responsible authorities is an issue for recurring discussions both on political and practical levels. In national and international debates about child protection the question of mandatory reporting is often considered to be key issue (Svevo-Cianci et al. 2010; WHO & IPSCAN 2006). However, the causal influence of such a duty on the effectiveness and quality of child protection is disputed. Research indicates good grounds to reflect the issue closely (Ainsworth & Hansen 2006; Melton 2005).

The presentation will unfold the main results of recent comparative research in Europe (European Commission 2010; Meysen & Hagemann-White 2011). Political debates as well as evaluation of child protection systems have identified systems of “mandatory reporting” as mainstream. A great range has been found of different policies and laws on reporting across Europe, from strict legal duty for all citizens to notify both child protection agencies and criminal justice system, underpinned by criminal penalties for failing to report, to no legal obligations and duties to maintain confidentiality – with many variations in between.

The frequency with which suspected child maltreatment is brought to the attention of competent authorities seems to bear little relationship to the legal situation on mandatory reporting. When professionals associate reporting with potentially negative consequences, they may find it difficult to recognise a risk of harm. Legal obligations to report seem to have little effect when the provision of child protection is overall weak and not trusted.

In the majority of cases identifying child maltreatment is only possible if either the child or a parent is able and willing to disclose the situation. The percentage of cases that enter the child protection system via self-referral and self-signalling could be a strong indicator of the quality of the system as a whole.
OS65.001
« Multi-problems» youth victims and evidence-based practices : Working on structural conditions to reduce assault on the clinical staff in a out-of-home care unit
11:30, 17 September 2013: O’Connell

Nadeau Danielle, Tremblay-Roy Julie, Chouinard Alain, Morel Brigitte, Pilote Chantal

Some adolescents victim of abuse showing heavy disruptive behaviors and psychiatric disorders, present significant management problems for out-of-home child welfare facilities. They often challenge their own personal security and the one of the clinical staff. Clinicians, then, can no longer stay connected and tolerate the « underlying suffering » of thesee adolescents (Berger, 2004). At the CJQ-IU (a university-based child protection agency), up to 30% of thesee youngsters get a criminal record under the Youth Criminal Justice Act after assaulting clinical staff. This communication will present data from 2 files studies (N=36; N=12) and from a qualitative research (with staff members; N=20), conducted in order to develop a pilot program design to reduce such acts of assault. The project is aimed to a) share evidenced-based clinical practices with multi-problems and poly-traumatized youngsters, in order to reduce assault on educators in the out-of-home care unit; and 2) Identify with staff and management teams the most efficient ways to implement such practices. This research-action project focusses a lot on structural conditions allowing the implementation of best clinical practices. Concepts regarding relational stability (between staff and youth abused victims), interdisciplinary clinical assessments, multi-targets and individualized intervention plans and the sharing of relevant clinical information among team members are some of the central concerns of this program (Nadeau, 2009; Vincent & Corrado, 2002; Vernaghen & Borum, 2006). Four (4) case-studies illustrating the evolution of the most violent and suffering youths will also be presented.

OS65.002
Professional constructions of children in special care and detention
11:50, 17 September 2013: O’Connell

Siobhan Young

Introduction

The Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse Report (the Ryan Report) was published in 2009. The report highlighted what happened to the many children who were placed in industrial and reformatory schools, a system which thrived in Ireland until well into the 1970s. Today, the placement of choice for children who need out of home care is foster care with a minority placed in residential care. However, there continue to be a small but vulnerable group that are placed in modern day industrial and reformatory schools - special care units and children detention schools. These children are recognized as having complex needs and many will have received multiple service inputs prior to placement.

Objective: This PhD research aims to inform future policy by generating an understanding of decision making in relation to special care / detention. Taking a sociological perspective, it examines how professionals across the health, education and justice sectors view these children and how these 'constructions' affect subsequent decision making.

Method: Parental / guardian consent was sought to review files of children placed in special care and detention from January 2011 until December 2011. In total, 32 files were reviewed which contained professional reports from services children had attended prior to placement (e.g. psychology, child and adolescent mental health, social work, probation etc). These reports were reviewed and analysed using aspects of grounded theory.

Results: This qualitative study demonstrates how these children are excluded from mainstream services and how professionals across health, education and justice unite in their efforts to secure placements in special care and detention.

Conclusions: If children’s complex needs were better addressed by community services, placements in special care and detention might be avoided. This would mean that the principle of detention as a last resort emphasised in legislation and policy could be upheld.
OS65.003
Moving on? Young people's experiences of transitions from custody
12:10, 17 September 2013: O'Connell
Nicola Carr, Siobhan McAlister

Resettlement is usually defined as reintegration back into the community following a period in custody. Typically, the policy focus on resettlement tends to be on reductions in rates of re-offending (recidivism) in the period following release from custody. However, the social and personal context of resettlement is also of critical importance. This is particularly apposite in the case of young people, who because of their age, circumstances and developmental needs are likely to have a wide range of support requirements.

This presentation reports on findings from ongoing empirical research exploring the transition and resettlement patterns of young people exiting a youth custodial facility in Northern Ireland. The research adopts a qualitative longitudinal approach to explore the experiences of transitions of young people from custody over time. A range of literature has identified difficulties in transitions of young people from secure settings. For young people with multiple service involvement, the transition from custodial facilities raises issues for services regarding the need for effective inter-agency working. Of particular, relevance are young people who have had previous or ongoing contact with child protection and welfare services, and /or those who have been placed in the care system. This presentation explores the patterns and dynamics of transitions for these young people and relevant policy implications.

OS65.004
Bullying: Differences between children who are victims and those who are violent
12:30, 17 September 2013: O'Connell
Ivana Cosic Pregrad, Sena Puhovski, Ana Marija Španić, Bruna Profaca, Gordana Buljan Flander

In the recent decade there has been a lot of effort invested in raising public awareness about the violence among children and at the same time intervention algorithms in the field of children protection have also been developed. In Center for child protection children and families can get treatment for different types of traumatic experiences, including bullying.

The aim of this paper was to explore possible differences between children who are victims of bullying and those who are in any way violent to their peers /bullies/. The differences were analyzed from different perspectives: a) individual characteristics /anxiety, depression, extraversion/introversion/, b) earlier experience of abuse and c) some general characteristics /gender, school grades/. The research was done on clinical sample of 574 children.

The data shows that boys are, more likely than girls, to be violent to their peers /X2=30,18, df=1, p<0,01/. Furthermore, children who act violently to their peers have more experience of physical abuse /X2=34,40, df=2, p<0,01/, witnessing of domestic violence /X2=19,36, df=1, p<0,01/, neglect /X2=4,54, df=1, p<0,05/ and are more likely to have divorced parents / X2 = 17, 86, df= 2, p<0,01/. On the other hand, children who are victims of bullying are more likely to be introverted /X2=8,49, df=2, p<0,01/ and show more social anxiety (N=200, Mann Whitney test = 3452,500; p=0,01). The other results will be shown in the presentation.

The presentation will also include prevention program activities intended to educate children and parents, as well as the wider public, about issues of bullying. We will also present some of the challenges that we encounter in protecting and treating such children.
Measuring tools of ICAST group for evaluation of child abuse spreading in Russian Federation

11:30, 17 September 2013: Leeson Suite

Oksana Isaeva, Elena Volkova, Anna Grishina

Introduction: Current Russian information on spreading of child abuse and maltreatment as well as on crimes against children is gathered in Annual report on children situation in the Russian Federation. This information sometimes differ from the data collected during research on assessment of child abuse spreading. On the one hand this mismatch can be connected to latency of suffering and lack of parental or child ability to report the reality of abusive behavior. On the other hand it can be caused by invalidity of measuring tools. So it is safer to evaluate the tendency of child abuse spreading on the basis of public survey focused on the larger society. The survey avoids factors which are usually impeding children or parental reporting to the authorities about child abuse. Child abuse spreading can also be estimated by questioning youth and adults (it is not covered by official reports).

In 2006-2008 ICAST international group developed and tested measuring tools – three questionnaires for assessment of child abuse spreading. However comparative analysis of the data was not performed.

Research goal:

to estimate child abuse spreading by means of ICAST-C, ICAST-R, ICAST-P; to compare results obtained with ICAST-C, ICAST-R, ICAST-P.

Research results:

The data gathered with ICAST's instruments cohere significantly.

On the scale of Physical abuse the data of ICAST-C, ICAST-R, ICAST-P cohere significantly with an exception of item "Pushed, snatched or kicked".

On the scale of Child neglect the data of ICAST-C not cohere to ICAST-P.

On the scale of Psychological abuse the results cohere for all three questionnaires in following points: insulting, shouting, humiliation, threatening children.

We must notice here that according to all three samples children are equally psychologically abused at home and at school by both parents and peers.
OS66.002
Recording information about children and families: what, how, who and why?
11:50, 17 September 2013: Leeson Suite
Philip Gillingham

Background
The current forms of electronic information systems (IS) being used in human service organisations, sometimes known as "Case Management Systems" or "Case Recording Systems", that provide services to children and families across the world have been heavily criticized. The author is engaged in a long term program of research which aims to contribute to the future designs of IS that will enhance practice with children and families. An acknowledged problem is that, because IS can record vast amounts information about children and families, practitioners have been compelled to spend increased time entering information, at the expense of working time with children and families. How this information is subsequently used or discarded by organizations and governments has also been questioned, as has the reliability of the data produced.

Objectives: The objective of this presentation is to provide a critical framework for practitioners and organisations as they engage with the redesign of IS, with respect to the information about children, families and service activity that IS are designed to record and process.

Methods: Ethnographic research, involving participant observation, interviews and documentary analysis, was conducted during IS implementation and development projects in non-government agencies in Brisbane, Australia. Data have been analysed thematically and according to an iterative process which draws from theory within the field of social work and beyond, to generate new ideas.

Results: A critical framework for considering the kinds and forms of information has been developed.

Conclusions: The critical framework can support decision making during a crucial part of the design of an IS, namely about what information needs to be recorded, how, by whom and for what purpose.

OS66.003
The metaphorical 'jigsaw' in multi-agency child welfare information practices: Is establishing a 'full' picture rhetoric or reality?
12:10, 17 September 2013: Leeson Suite
Kellie Thompson

Objective: Since a number of high profile public inquiries into child fatalities, information sharing has now become a moral and political imperative for improving the welfare and protection of children. More specifically, under the umbrella of 'information sharing' the familiar 'jigsaw' metaphor is used to describe the process of piecing information together to ascertain a 'full' picture of children's lives, in pursuit of protection. Examining the 'local' enactment of information practices in the context of multi-professional responses to children in need and their families, at the stage of referral, this paper seek to highlight the inherent complexities of jigsaw practices in the 'everyday' of child protection work.

Method: A mixed methods qualitative study that has included direct observation of referral processes, and semi-structured interviews (n=44) with a range of professionals from health, social care, education, the police, and a number of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs).

Results: Inter-professional interview accounts highlight there is something of a mismatch between the jigsaw, as articulated in the conceptual abstract accounts, and jigsaw practices operating on the ground. This paper challenges objectivist assumptions about stability of meaning, and further highlights that the 'endpoint' of reaching a 'full' picture is not finite, or has the same meaning for all, but rather it is a complex process involving sense making, translation in context, as well as organisational relevance.

Conclusion: The stock vocabulary of 'information sharing' glosses the micro practices of child welfare professionals working on the ground, missing some of the very important complexities of how professionals work together to create, share, act on and decipher 'information'. Trying to understand what information is, and how it works, requires a significantly more complex set of ideas than is currently offered through the broadly objectivist assumptions within policy discourses.
OS66.004
Incommensurable measures of child development? The introduction of Performance Management in Danish Child Protection Social Work

12:30, 17 September 2013: Leeson Suite

Turf Jakobsen

In recent years, a number of tools for measuring outcomes of social interventions have emerged across the Western world. This trend is particularly salient in child protection social work, a development fuelled by the high costs of interventions and a growing awareness (and evidence-base) that social services for vulnerable children do not bring about the level of long-term positive outcomes that one would hope for.

In Denmark, this development is reflected strongly by the presence of Performance Management (PM) tools in a growing number of municipalities. The tools are expected to provide simple measures of results for children receiving social services. In the case of out-of-home care, individual child development during the intervention is being scored by professionals, e.g. in terms of behavior, family relations, school attainment and health.

This paper explores how such tools are received and interpreted by child protection practitioners. The objective of the paper is to discuss if PM tools are compatible with the thinking of professional care takers and their view of how to properly measure child development. The paper is based on an ethnographic field study in a Danish municipality. The study included qualitative interviews with a wide range of professionals, all involved in child protection social work at some level (social pedagogues, psychologists, managers, consultants).

The analysis demonstrates that most practitioners find that the linear and individual notion of child development, lying at the heart of the PM tool, is not in tune with the contextual understandings that rule in the field of everyday social work. The paper concludes that practitioners increasingly find themselves in a dilemma: in the 'what works'-age of public administration, interventions must be proved effective to stay legitimate, but this may involve ascribing to professionally unsatisfying measures of developmental progress for vulnerable children.

OS67.001
Twofold adversity: Maternal incarceration and child protection

11:30, 17 September 2013: Clyde Suite

Caroline Long Burry, Margarette Parrish

As the incarceration rates continue to grow in both Europe and the US, so do the numbers of children affected by the incarceration of their parents. This paper focuses on maternal incarceration. There are many substantial risks for children with incarcerated mothers, including poverty; loss of contact, not only with their mothers but also with siblings and other relatives; emotional reactions; disrupted attachments; behavioural difficulties; and custodial and residential changes. Unfortunately, significant common consequence for these children also include abuse and neglect. In addition, many children already in the child protection system have incarcerated mothers.

The concerns of children who have incarcerated mothers are often overlooked; at the same time, their mothers may be hard to engage due primarily to systemic barriers. This paper describes the evidence-informed strategies for supporting and protecting children with incarcerated mothers and on supporting staff in responding to the needs of this increasing population. Special attention will be given to the disproportionate numbers of children from ethnic minorities whose mothers are imprisoned.

Objectives:

- At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will:
- Know the incidence rates of incarcerated mothers and children;
- Know the potential risks for children of incarcerated mothers, including maltreatment;
- Understand barriers to engaging incarcerated mothers, including staff reluctance to work with this population; and
- Know evidence-informed skills and strategies to support staff in responding to the needs of this increasing population, including those for supporting the needs of incarcerated mothers and their children who are members of ethnic minorities.

Method: The presenters will provide substantive written resources for participants in this session, in addition to their oral presentation and responses to questions.

Results and Conclusions: This paper, based on practice and policy, is underpinned by research findings. Successful intervention strategies will be shared, needs for further study will also be identified.
OS67.002
Children of prisoners: Uniquely vulnerable?
11:50, 17 September 2013: Clyde Suite
Vicky Saunders, Morag McArthur, Tim Moore

Current Research informs us that children whose parents are imprisoned are likely to be affected by higher levels of disadvantage than their peers; for example they are more likely to experience multiple, complex, health, social and welfare problems including poverty, family violence, substance abuse and mental health issues. Children of parents who are or have been in prison commonly experience significant disruption to their care, often receive negligible material support and experience difficulty maintaining family ties.

Knowledge about the effects of parental imprisonment on children in Australia is limited. Similarly knowledge about children's perceptions of parental incarceration and the effect on their families is limited. Most of the research and information about children's experiences is filtered through adults, usually service providers, who may or may not have spoken with children about how they experience everyday life.

This qualitative research study conducted in Canberra Australia explores with 20 children and young people aged 8-18 years old how children see their parents and the parenting role whilst incarcerated; how the parenting relationship is encouraged/discouraged during incarceration and how service systems respond to and support children when their parent is in prison.

This research study provides new theoretical and practical insights into how service systems might work more effectively together to reduce future involvement in these systems, improve children’s well-being and increase their participation in society.

OS67.003
Reforms in child protection and welfare policy - The application of lessons learned in the UK sport’s sector to an international context
12:10, 17 September 2013: Clyde Suite
Sally Proudlove, Anne Tiivas

The Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU), is a specialist team within the UK’s leading non-government child protection charity, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The CPSU has over 11 years’ experience of working with sports bodies, both nationally in the UK and internationally, to support these organisations to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities towards children. This presentation will highlight the lessons learned from the CPSU’s UK experience of supporting organisations to develop robust child protection and safeguarding policies; and describe how sport’s bodies are progressing from minimum operating standards to embedding good practice throughout their organisation. This presentation will also illustrate how these lessons are being shared across Europe and in other countries. This presentation will reference two specific projects:

- 'Prevention of sexualised violence in sports – impulses for an open, secure and sound sporting environment in Europe'. This project has focussed for two years on scooping what work is going on across Europe to address sexualised violence in sport. This has highlighted significant inconsistencies in the extent to which countries have embraced the issue of safeguarding in sport and in levels of confidence to address incidents of abuse as they arise.

- In partnership with UNICEF, and others the CPSU has contributed to the development of a set of International Standards for Safeguarding Children in Sport. The overriding principle of these Standards is that ‘all children have the right to participate, enjoy and develop through sport, in a safe and inclusive environment, free from all forms of abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation. The presentation will describe the development of these Standards, including mapping current practice from sport for development projects to international sport’s federations and piloting the Standards over the coming year in multiple different cultural contexts, using action research principles.
OS67.004
Addressing harm in sport through children's rights and participation
12:30, 17 September 2013: Clyde Suite
Anne Stafford Stafford, Sally Proudlove, Anne Tiivas

Objective:
Sport is often perceived as a positive in children's lives. They may learn new skills, build confidence and participate as part of a team. While this is often the case, over the past 20 years, research has emerged highlighting that a sporting environment exists in the UK where young people may be at risk of maltreatment; also that this sporting culture may contribute to abusive power relationships between coaches and young athletes.

The presentation will report findings from a three year study examining children’s experiences of harm and abuse in sport; and outline the process of disseminating findings and recommendations and embedding them in policy and practice.

Method:
The research was based on an online survey of more than 6,000 students in the UK (age 18-22) about their negative and harmful experiences of sport as children: follow-up interviews were conducted with a sub-set of 89 young people.

Results:
Young people reported widespread emotionally harmful treatment (75%); high levels of sexual harassment (29%), a sporting ethos which normalised bullying and humiliating treatment, sexualised behaviour, and training and competing through injury and exhaustion. There was widespread acceptance of these as just what happens in sport'. Peers were the most common perpetrators but sporting adults were also implicated. Young people found it difficult to speak out about concerns.

Conclusion:
The presentation suggests the need for a more children's rights based approach to sport participation as an effective way of addressing children's harmful experiences of sport. The presentation will describe the process of uptake of the research by the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit, of working in partnership with sport bodies and organisations in athlete welfare; and the challenging process of engaging sports bodies in working in participative ways with children and young people.
OS68.001
What are children saying about child protection systems?
11:30, 17 September 2013: Appian Suite
Tracy Shields, Abebe Abate, Bill Forbes, Andrew Ware

This paper reviews children's perspectives on child protection (CP) issues and child protection systems across 13 countries. The findings provide a unique child-focused contribution to the global discussions on CP systems strengthening.

The research is based on a meta-analysis of the voices of close to 8,500 children. Data has been collected through participatory child protection system assessments, prior to child protection interventions in the area. Input from these children were analysed according to five themes: what children think are protection issues and causes; what child protection actors can help; how does the existing child protection system include children's participation; and what can be improved?

Children identified five major child protection issues:

- Sexual abuse and exploitation
- Neglect
- Physical and emotional abuse
- Child labour
- Teenage pregnancy and early marriage.

There were also patterns in the identification of perpetrators and the root causes of issues (including limited access to justice). There was a notable discussion on informal child protection actors, and the lack of children's influence on the child protection system that impacts them.

This research contributes to an understanding, by children themselves, of the child protection issues, and the child protection system, that impacts their lives. Specific recommendations were made by the children for children themselves, for parents, for schools, for communities, and for governments. This research demonstrates that children's perspectives and voices must play a foundational role in the design, monitoring and evaluation of efforts to strengthen these systems.

The presentation will conclude with recommendations for future child protection systems strengthening programmes. It will also outline how World Vision is building on this learning in our ongoing programmes and research into the inclusion of the most vulnerable children in child protection initiatives.

OS68.002
Promoting meaningful participation of children and young people
11:50, 17 September 2013: Appian Suite
Helen Whincup, Margaret Bruce

A key message from policy and inquiry reports, including Munro (2011, 2012) is that the child should be at the centre of child welfare and protection practice. This would seem to imply that a key feature of good practice is that children and young people are supported to participate in ways that are meaningful to them. This paper draws on contemporary and complementary doctoral research undertaken by the contributors to explore child-centred practice from two slightly different perspectives. The paper will consider experiences of direct social work contact from the standpoints of children, social workers and those involved in supervising practice, highlighting what areas of direct work children experienced as meaningful. It will go on to discuss how children and young people were supported to participate in particular aspects of child protection decision-making processes within one local authority in Scotland. The data from children, young people, and practitioners comes from in-depth, semi-structured interviews, file audits and a review of the children's participation in child protection case conferences. The research was undertaken in Scotland, and while the legal system and policy underpinning practice differs, core messages from the research are relevant across the UK and contribute to the conference theme of enabling children's participation. The first finding is that the relationship children and young people have with their social worker is key, and can be summed up by the words of one teenage boy who asked: "Do they really care?" The other message is that developing a culture which enables children and young people to participate meaningfully in child welfare and protection processes takes time, effort and care. Achieving this also requires that social workers take cognisance of the child's history and current circumstance, including the impact of adversity.
OS68.003
Children's view of participation in Swedish Children House and right to partnership with the social worker in the social investigatory process

12:10, 17 September 2013: Appian Suite
Ann-Margreth Olsson

While the best interest of the child has a long standing in Swedish social work discourse, it's currently challenged and complemented by the themes of rights and of voice. Current critique of social work and ideas on enhancing the quality of services stress the importance of social workers making contact and enticing the participation of parents and children. Thus making the social investigations more of a participatory venture. Assessments, planning, interventions and reviews should be less a punctuated decision and more of a continuous process allowing involvement by clients/users/customers. In the area of child protection there has been a growth of themes that can make up for the rise of goal conflicts. Several initiatives have been taken to amend this situation. Among those is an idea of social workers working from the perspective of being the child's advocate. There has also been critiques of the outcomes of cases were children are exposed to crime especially acts of sexual abuse. To improve cooperation and processing a new institute the Children's House (CH), inspired by the Children's Advocacy Center model, is developed. In a CH professionals; police, prosecutors, health care and social services collaborate. One of the guiding ideas for CH is that the child should have to go to only one place in the investigation. In an ongoing action research study evidence has emerged indicating that the idea of inviting children into partnership, are at risk of being superseded by the priority given to police conducted forensic interviewing. The social workers report difficulties in knowing how to orientate themselves in relation to the child. Also children have voiced that they do not understand the role of the social worker in the proceedings. The objective of the study is to explore children's understanding of CH.

OS68.004
The participation promise of Family Group Conferencing: Theory or practice?

12:30, 17 September 2013: Appian Suite
Michael Hoy

This paper will present the findings of a doctoral study which was based on the fundamental right of children and young people to be involved in decisions that affect their lives. The study compared the participation experiences of young people who were involved in two types of family intervention within a Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland. The interventions were Family Group Conference and Child Protection Case Conference, both of which have a requirement to facilitate the participation of young people. The research involved twenty four young people in semi-structured interviews and four focus groups of parents and professionals.

The methodology was influenced by a participatory design of peer research. This involved the establishment of a Research Advisory Group made up of five young people who also had experience of a range of meetings with Social Services. This group of young people were active participants in the research design, implementation and review.

The study concludes that Family Group Conferencing offers a high level of participation experience for young people which was lacking in Case Conferences. It did not, however, follow that outcomes from Family Group Conferencing were more favourable from the young person's perspective with more positive results emanating from Case Conferences.

The research concludes that both types of intervention have valuable lessons to be learned from each other and identifies a range of individual, systematic and organisational influences on participation opportunities for young people.
OS69.001
Addressing toxic stress and trauma among parents in "Smart from the Start" a community-based early childhood school readiness program

11:30, 17 September 2013: Adelaide Suite

Elizabeth Cross, Theodore Cross, Cherie Craft

Objective: Smart from the Start is a family support and school readiness program serving families with young children living in low-income neighborhoods throughout the city of Boston in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, USA. Social, economic and family problems are well known within these neighborhoods. "Smart" staff observed that their efforts to implement the program in two new sites were particularly challenged by substantial effects of toxic stress on parents. While early childhood development programming is perhaps the most highly touted single psychosocial intervention today, little work in this area explores the role of trauma and victimization on participating families. This paper will describe research on toxic stress conducted in collaboration with Smart from the Start and its impact on program implementation.

Method: Semi-structured interviews (N=25) assessed trauma and victimization among parents in program sites in Roxbury and Dorchester (MA), and included Briere's (2004) Initial Trauma Review, Revised to assess trauma exposure. The ITR-R was augmented with items related to verbal abuse, grief and loss because these were anticipated to be important additional traumatic experiences among Smart families.

Results: The average number of traumatic events over a lifetime was 9.96. Traumatic events including sexual victimization, domestic violence and witnessing violent death, occurred throughout participants' life spans and, for most, within the year prior. Parents also reported profound concerns for their children's safety.

Conclusion: Smart from the Start augmented its already substantial parent support programming to address trauma including increasing access to mental health services and addressing vicarious trauma among the staff. Parents reported feeling supported and motivated to talk with each other about their experiences. Program improvement is ongoing with positive participant response and observed positive impact on children.

OS69.002
Children taken into care and custody and the 'troubled families' agenda in Britain

11:50, 17 September 2013: Adelaide Suite

Carol Hayden

Objectives

The research was undertaken to inform the development of a new service that will use Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) to work with 'troubled' families. Specific objectives include:

- To take a critical look at the 'troubled families' agenda in England.
- To utilise data collected on 196 children taken into care or custody in one city; and, the adults in their families to profile their needs and service involvement.

Methodology: A mixed methods design that includes a critical review of the existing evidence base for MST and the broader initiative that is the 'troubled families' agenda in England; secondary data analysis on 196 children taken into care and custody (2008-2011) from one city; in-depth interviews with professionals involved in the developing troubled families initiative in this city.

Results: Key findings from the study illustrate the range and complexity of need as well as the sequence and amount of agency involvement. Interviews with key professionals, illustrate how compliance and resistance co-exists in relation to the troubled families agenda. Criticisms of aspects of the agenda co-exist with a recognition that services need to change as well as the families they work with.

Conclusions: Our study illustrates that the troubled families agenda has involved the mislabelling of a number of inter-locking, as well as separate, needs and issues. The language used at national level left professionals in our study feeling uncomfortable. The relatively small numbers of families uncovered by local authorities who fit government criteria is an important reminder that policy is better developed on the basis of evidence rather than the reverse. Nevertheless, the initiatives arising out of this agenda may well be usefully subverted by local authorities (not least by their ability to add local criteria) in order to help their most vulnerable and challenging families.
Partnership with parents: An innovative approach to supporting parents facing adversity to make changes in their parenting

12:30, 17 September 2013: Adelaide Suite

Siobhan Greene, Suzanne Connolly, Marijka Walsh

In order to meet the needs of parents who face adversity and complex challenges, Barnardos has developed Partnership with Parents (PwP), an innovative, home based, one-to-one parenting programme. Partnership with Parents is underpinned by an extensive review of parenting literature and includes a logic model, theoretical framework and practical programme components.

Partnership with Parents comprises six individual components that focus on improving the parent-child relationship, and increasing parents' capacity to support their child's behaviour, social development, routines, education and physical development. The programme contains six activity booklets for parents to complete and accompanying staff guidance. These offer a unique and specific focus to the sessions.

The majority of the parents we work with live in disadvantaged situations and face a range of challenges in their lives. For parents facing adversity and multiple challenges, crisis can be a feature of their everyday lives. To try to respond effectively to this we have designed crisis management and practical family support components, which are offered to parents as required. The crisis tool helps to support parents to make changes in their parenting whilst faced with multiple and recurring crisis. It helps parents explore the nature of the crisis, its emotional impact and to generate a plan of action which is reviewed with them after the crisis to consider its success.

This workshop will share learning from the process of translating evidence into programme design. It will explore the theoretical framework, which guides the programme.
El simposio presentará la transformación de una estrategia de intervención para niños/as con conductas sexuales de riesgo, en un proyecto de intervención comunitaria desarrollado por el Departamento de Acción social del Ayuntamiento de Pasaia (Pais Vasco).

El Programa se inicia a partir de un informe de evaluación de necesidades (2002) sobre la atención a la infancia elaborado por ese Departamento: un alto porcentaje de menores presentaban conductas inadecuadas o de riesgo para su desarrollo psicosexual.

En 2003, este Departamento junto a la Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa crea un programa de intervención: "Programa de prevención e intervención en situaciones de riesgo para el desarrollo psicosexual de niños/as y jóvenes de Pasaia", basado en la intervención con menores que presentaban estas conductas, sus familias, y profesionales.

En 2007, se modificó el diseño original del programa favoreciendo el trabajo comunitario. En 2008, el Ayuntamiento aprobó por unanimidad un "Compromiso Institucional para la Protección de la Infancia y la Adolescencia" y creó una mesa interdepartamental, compuesta por varios técnicos municipales. En 2009, dicha mesa diseñó el "Plan municipal para la protección y el buen trato a la infancia y adolescencia en Pasaia".

Se consolida un proceso de trabajo transversal, cuyo eje principal es la protección infanto-juvenil en el municipio. En el año 2010, se aprueba el Plan para garantizar los derechos del colectivo Infanto-juvenil en Pasaia. Tiene tres líneas estratégicas: 1ª Prevención y Promoción del buen trato, 2ª Revitalización del tejido asociativo, y 3ª Fomento de la buena acogida a los y las menores de edad, independientemente de su origen.

Se conforma una red social en la que intervienen áreas municipales y agentes sociales.

**English:**

The symposium will present the transformation of an intervention strategy for children whose sexual behaviour is at risk into a community intervention project developed by the Department of Social Action of Pasaia City Council (Basque Country).

The Program emerges from a needs assessment report (2002) on childcare prepared by this Department: a high percentage of children showed inappropriate behaviour or behaviour involving some kind of risk for their psychosexual development.

In 2003, this Department, together with the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa, prepared an intervention program: "Prevention and Intervention Program for Situations in which the Psychosexual Development of Children and Youth from Pasaia is at Risk", based on intervention involving children who displayed this behaviour, their families and professionals.

In 2007, the original program was modified in favour of community work. In 2008, the City Council unanimously approved an "Institutional Commitment to Protect Children and Adolescents" and created an inter-departmental board made up of several municipal officers. In 2009, that board devised the "Municipal Plan for the Protection and Care of Children and Adolescents in Pasaia".

This meant the consolidation of a process of transverse work, whose main axis is the protection of children and youth in the municipality. In 2010, the Plan to Guarantee the Rights of Children and Youth in Pasaia was approved. It has three strategic lines of action: 1st Preventing and Promoting Care, 2nd Revitalizing the associational network and 3rd Welcoming minors, regardless of their origin. A social network was created with the participation of municipal areas as well as social agents.
El delito de Ciberacoso en España: La tutela penal de los menores frente a los depredadores sexuales (Child sexual abuse, sexual predators and the new “child grooming crime” in Spain)

11:50, 17 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite

Eva María Souto García

En las últimas décadas del siglo 20 y en la actualidad, se constató y se constata una creciente preocupación en torno al fenómeno del abuso sexual infantil, sobre todo en los países del Common Law, en los cuales este tipo de abuso se ha convertido en una prioridad para el Sistema de Justicia Penal y para sus legisladores penales.

El resultado del pánico moral que rodea a este tipo de comportamientos es una visualización de la figura de los delincuentes sexuales como una especie de monstruos mitológicos, esto es, como una insidiosa amenaza para los niños, y especialmente para aquellos que utilizan Internet.

Partiendo de estas notas, en la primera parte de este trabajo se analizará la noción y concepto de depredador sexual, su validez empírica y su función como chivo expiatorio de ciertas ansiedades sociales. En la segunda parte, se estudiará el delito de Ciberacoso del art. 183. bis, como el primer ejemplo de esta tendencia retórica, social y legislativa en la legislación penal española.

English:

In the last decades of the 20th century and nowadays in the first decade of the 21st century, we have witnessed an increasing concern about child sexual abuse (CSA), especially in Common Law countries, where the CSA has become one of the most prominent priorities for the Criminal Justice System.

The result of this moral panic surrounding the CSA is a deep transformation of the figure of sex offenders into the mythological form of a monster: the sexual predator, an insidious threat for the children, especially those who use internet.

In this paper we’ll discuss –in the first part- the very notion of the on-line sexual predator, its empirical validity and its function as scapegoat for some social anxieties. In the second part of the paper, we’ll study the Spanish "child grooming crime", the first example of this rhetorical, social and legislative trend in our country.
OS70.003
El arte de la guerra (contra el pedófilo) (The Art of War)
12:10, 17 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite
Jose Ramos

Desde hace más de una década, los delitos sexuales contra menores de edad se han convertido en una de las prioridades de los sistemas penales europeos. Tanto en el marco de la Unión Europea como en el interior de los Estados miembro, se llevan a cabo todo tipo de iniciativas legislativas tendentes a combatir un fenómeno que, según aparece descrito en la agenda punitiva de aquéllos, es ubicuo y de enorme gravedad.

En mi intervención, pretendo realizar, en primer lugar, un análisis de las políticas penales tanto de la Unión Europea como del Estado español contra los delitos sexuales contra menores de edad.

En segundo lugar, trazaré alguna crítica tanto a cómo es la regulación jurídica (es decir, una crítica de carácter técnico-jurídico), cuanto a la visión de dicho fenómeno que subyace a aquéllas (esto es, una crítica de carácter político-criminal).

En tercer lugar, intentaré analizar qué concepto de pedófilo está manejando el ordenamiento jurídico europeo y hasta qué punto se trata de una fantasía del legislador, más que de una realidad criminológica. Y ello porque, como decía Sun Bin, en su libro "El arte de la guerra", "todo lo que puede ser definido, puede ser vencido" y, quizás, en la propia definición de delincuente sexual contra menores de edad se encuentre el germén de los problemas que arrastra el Derecho penal en este ámbito.

English:

For more than a decade, sexual crimes against minors have become one of the priorities of European penal systems. Both the EU and Member States, carried out all kinds of legislative initiatives aimed at combating a phenomenon that, as is described in those punitive agenda, is ubiquitous and a critical challenge for our communities.

In my presentation, I intend to:

-First, analyze the criminal policies of both the European Union and the Spanish State about sex crimes against minors.

-Second, criticize this legal regulations and their vision of the phenomenon.

-Third, try to analyze what underlies behind the concept of pedophile in the European legal system and to what extent it is more a fantasy, than a criminological reality.

I'll conclude that, like Sun Bin said in his book "The Art of War": "everything that can be defined, can be defeated" and, perhaps, is the definition of sexual offender against children the origin of the problems of Criminal law in this area.
OS71.001
The dynamic maturational model of attachment and adaptation: A more helpful way of understanding the complexities of attachment relationships in families where trauma and abuse are concerns?

15:00, 17 September 2013: Lansdowne

Victoria Lidchi

The Dynamic Maturational Model of Attachment (DMM) is an innovative approach to the study of attachment relationships particularly in relation to children who find themselves in dangerous family contexts. Drawing on current research in developmental psychology, neurobiology and information processing, as well as other psychological models, it explains attachment behaviours as strategic responses to danger and the absence of comfort, and outlines the different information processing strategies which underline these behaviours.

A detailed understanding of these strategic responses and the information processing that underlies them is provided by assessment tools described during the presentation. This information provides the opportunity to formulate an understanding of presenting problems in order to design interventions that will effectively address attachment concerns in high risk families.

After a brief outline of the model, using clinical examples and video material, the presentation will discuss the implications of the DMM for professionals working in child protection, specifically in terms of structuring assessments and using clinical formulations derived from these to inform appropriate interventions.

The constraints to using this model in child protection services in the current climate will also be briefly explored.

OS71.002
Dreams, visions and relationships: implementation and impact of Infant Mental Health Services in a child protection context

15:20, 17 September 2013: Lansdowne

Lucy Morton, Matt Forde, Julie Taylor

Aim: To describe the experience of the implementation of two intensive infant mental health programmes for maltreated children in foster care and community settings, focusing on issues of multi-disciplinary working, leadership and relationships with in and across organisations.

Background: The NSPCC is a large established voluntary sector child protection organisation which began delivering direct services in Scotland in 2011. The programme of services includes two intensive infant mental health approaches, one involving a multi-disciplinary team of clinical staff working with maltreated infants in foster care and the other an intensive preventative programme aimed at vulnerable families in the community, also delivered by a multi-disciplinary team. Both programmes had been established and tested by academic and clinical teams in the U.S and were now being formally evaluated in a UK context.

Issues that have arisen in implementation have included challenges of bringing together and managing multi-disciplinary staff teams, and recognizing and aligning differences in working cultures and practices across health, local authority and voluntary sector settings. Leadership challenges have involved negotiating within and across agencies and mobilizing support among key policy makers. These enabling activities are required at the same time as supporting and leading the practitioner teams for whom quality of relationships is the guiding point of reference at every interface.

Key Themes: The presentation will share reflections and learning on the implementation journey so far, considering what has worked well in the practice development context, the need to develop and share a clear vision, “hold on to the dream”, and take risks with organisational structures and conceptualisations of strategic possibilities. Impact considerations will be discussed, including the evaluation context and influencing of wider systems and policy development.
OS71.003  
**Education about crying and responding to babies**  
**15:40, 17 September 2013: Lansdowne**  
Sue Foley, Jenny Rose

This presentation will discuss a project about responding safely to crying babies. The project began 12 years ago in response to the need to develop a program that could be used by parents and professionals. Student Social Workers have also assisted with development and review and a range of changes have been made to the various tools to make them more accessible. A multidisciplinary and multi-agency team have collaboratively maintained the project.

This will be an interactive discussion in which the dilemmas around such projects and the various developments that the team has undertaken will be raised.

For example.......  
- What about babies crying in hospital - are they safe?  
- What is it about baby’s crying that increases their vulnerability?  
- How can we ensure that knowledge provided in programs like the Shaken Baby Prevention Project can be transferred into action by parents?  
- Why is it that consistently we find around 25 - 30% of health professionals do not understand the dangers of shaking?  
- What about other kinds of abusive head traumas... can the dynamics around these be differentiated ??  
- Is there enough education about safe handling of babies available for hands on parents whatever their culture or gender?  
- Are all parents who shake their babies at high risk on inflicting ongoing harm?  

The authors will facilitate this discussion and summarise our current program development which is internationally being used in a range of approaches

OS72.001  
**Utilizing systems collaboration in the recognition and prevention of child abuse and neglect, a practice paper**  
**15:00, 17 September 2013: Pembroke**  
Sabrina Byrnes

This paper will discuss in depth the topic of systems collaboration and the important role this plays within child protection, both in recognition of abuse and/or neglect, as well as in the prevention of future child victimization. Topics will include the very real differences in objectives of the various practitioners working with, and interacting with, at risk families and how although the various disciplines possess very different goals in their involvement with families, once these goals are brought together and information is shared across disciplines, children will be made safer and families stronger.

This practice paper will work to identify:

1. Barriers to systems collaboration and further offer solutions to overcoming these barriers.  
2. Outline the benefits of a collaborative systems approach to children and families and present benefits linked directly to current and past involvement with children and families to reach better outcomes.  
3. Identify specific areas where collaboration may offer a preventative solution to child abuse and/or neglect. Further, the author will discuss the differences and similarities found by the varying practitioners and how shared information can lead to child abuse and/or neglect prevention.  
4. Offer a job aide to assist practitioners develop a plan for a collaborative systems approach in their respective field. This plan will include framework for collaboration between agencies with which readers interact, an implementation plan guide and suggested time frames for action.
OS72.002
Child protection systems and crises
15:20, 17 September 2013: Pembroke
Trish Hiddleston

In recent years, international child protection actors including UNICEF, non-governmental organisations, donors and academics have been promoting the strengthening of systems to further and better protect children.

This paper examines how child protection systems in existence before a crisis - a natural disaster or conflict - impact on how children are protected as the crisis threatens, during the crisis and as the crisis subsides. An assumption prevails that the strengthening of systems leads to better protection of children during crises. How systems are affected both positively and negatively by crises is discussed - and how this in turn may impact positively and negatively on the protection of children.

In the paper I examine systems theory as it applies to holistic child protection through a desk review of available relevant literature and draw on examples from experience in various disaster prone and conflict affected countries. Aspects of building resilience and disaster risk reduction are also addressed.

Finally the paper addresses the opportunities that crises may present to further strengthen child protection systems and to better protect children in the short, medium and longer term through for example increased availability of funding, increased attention to risks children face and strengthening capacity.

OS72.003
The introduction of standards and regulation of the child protection and welfare services in Ireland
15:40, 17 September 2013: Pembroke
Nuala Ward

In 2010 the Health Information and Quality Authority was tasked by the Irish government to develop the first ever standards for the protection and welfare of children and to commence regulation of statutory child protection services. The Authority carried out intensive research of regulation of these services in other countries and brought together a multi-disciplinary advisory group to develop these standards. Following consultation with children and with the wider public these standards were published in July 2012 to an overwhelming positive response. In accordance with the principles of the Authority these standards were outcome focused and followed the journey of a child through the system. They set out the key attributes of an effective child protection and welfare service to ensure that child safety and wellbeing must be a top priority and that timely and responsive action is taken to protect children.

Recent research (Munroe 2011) on the regulation of social services for children in the UK highlighted how a regulator can unintentionally contribute to poor quality services through focusing on processes rather than on outcomes. In order to mitigate this risk the Authority developed an approach that focused on how those working within the system surrounding the child and their family contributed effectively to improvement in their lives.

The first inspection using this approach occurred in 2012 and self reporting from the service about the approach taken was positive. Specifically the service reported that the process of inspection had directly impacted on the development of a more critical approach to their service and its impact on the lives of children. Subsequently the Authority is rolling out a process of regulation of these services across the country using this approach in 2013 and will subsequently evaluate its impact on driving continuous improvement in services to children and families.
OS73.001
Fight, Flight, or :The behavior patterns of abused children as described in their testimonies
15:00, 17 September 2013: Munster
Carmit Katz, Zion Barnetz

The aim of the current study is to identify how children describe their behavior during abuse and to explore their behavior further with respect to the type of the abuse (whether physical or sexual), its occurrence (single or multiple incidents), the suspect familiarity and the children’s age and gender with the assumption that this information may have a significant effect on the children’s recovery process. The study involved 224 transcripts of interviews with alleged victims ages 5 to 14 in Israel. The sample was randomly selected from all of the forensic investigations with children that were conducted in Israel in 2011. The results clearly show that abuse type has a strong effect on children’s behavior, with children in the sexual abuse group reporting more fight and flight behavior and children in the physical abuse group reporting more self-change behavior. This finding was interacted with the severity of abuse variable, with children in the sexual abuse group reporting dramatically less flight behavior and an increase in the self-change behavior with the highest level of severity of abuse (touch under the clothes and penetration). Investigative interviews with children can be a significant source of information for practitioners within the clinical context. The current study stresses the consequences that abuse can have on children’s behavior during these incidents and the implications for the forensic and therapy processes with the children.

OS73.002
Interparental conflict and children’s self-representations: The mediating role of children’s emotional security in the interparental relationship
15:20, 17 September 2013: Munster
Carla Silva, Manuela Calheiros

Objectives: Associations between exposure to interparental conflict and children's self-representations have been documented in research about the impact of interparental conflict on children. However, little is known about the processes underlying this relation. Based on the Emotional Security Theory (EST), this study examined the mediating role of children’s emotional security in the interparental relationship (i.e., their emotional, cognitive and behavioral responses to interparental conflict) in the link between interparental conflict characteristics (frequency, intensity, resolution and content) and children’s self-representations.

Method: 163 children, 3rd to 9th graders, aged between 8 and 16 years old, recruited in public elementary and secondary schools participated in this study. Interparental conflict, children’s emotional security in the interparental relationship and self-representations were measured through self-report measures.

Results: Consistent with EST, destructive interparental conflict predicted children’s negative emotional, cognitive and behavioral responses to conflict. Also supporting previous research, destructive interparental conflict predicted children’s negative self-representations in several domains (e.g., social, emotional, intelligence, physical appearance). Signs of emotional insecurity in the interparental relationship predicted children’s negative self-representations in the instrumental (e.g., “responsible”), opposition (e.g., “stubborn”), and social (e.g., “friendly”) domains. Finally, regarding the proposed mediation model, children’s behavioral dysregulation responses to interparental conflict mediated the relationship between the frequency and intensity of the conflict and children’s self-representations of opposition (e.g., “stubborn”). That is, the results suggest that children exposed to frequent and intense conflicts between their parents are more likely to engage in negative, dysregulated behaviors (e.g., “causes trouble”), and consequently to view themselves in a more negative way.

Conclusion: These findings highlight the importance of considering children’s exposure and responses to interparental conflict in the construction of their self-representations.
OS73.003  
**Feeling safe and getting help – How young people recognise and tell about abuse and neglect**  
**15:40, 17 September 2013: Munster**  
Jeanette Cossar

Objectives: To consider how young people view child abuse and neglect, the strategies young people use to seek help and pathways to receiving help.

Methods: The research is part of a two year study commissioned by the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England. Twenty-two young people were interviewed from one shire county and an metropolitan city. The young people were aged between 11 and 18 and were identified by professionals as being vulnerable young people, at the threshold of involvement with children's services. Young researchers were involved in the design and analysis of the interviews. A thematic analysis was undertaken of the interview data.

Results: The research found that there were complex relationships between young people recognising abuse and neglect, talking about it, and receiving help and that this was not a linear process. Young people were more likely to recognise physical abuse and sexual abuse than to identify neglect or emotional abuse as serious problems. There were a variety of pathways to receiving help including referral by others regarding the problem, coming to the attention of services through behaviour, and young people who actively sought help through telling. The motivations for talking included stopping the abuse, getting information and advice, emotional support, getting strategies to minimise the harm and getting medical help. These motivations influenced decisions about who, when and what to tell. For some young people the process of receiving help which they had not sought out allowed them to retrospectively recognise problems.

Conclusions:  
It is important to be attentive to the processes by which young people recognise abuse and neglect and actively make decisions and develop strategies about telling. This is crucial in planning professional intervention.

OS74.001  
**Reducing the number of children in out-of-home care by supporting fathers: A case study from Australia**  
**15:00, 17 September 2013: Ulster**  
Lee Zanoni, Wayne Warburton, Kay Bussey, Anne McMaugh

Although it is often assumed that fathers are either irrelevant or harmful influences in the lives of at-risk children, increasing evidence shows that fathers can serve a protective role in families at risk of child maltreatment. However, little is actually known about these men worldwide. The scarce research that has been conducted with child welfare fathers has been mostly qualitative. This presentation will report results from a case study of 34 child welfare fathers attending a fathers program in Australia. The Newpin parenting intervention in Australia is a unique fathers program providing support for fathers who want to care for their children rather than having them in foster care. Each year the program is successful in facilitating the restoration of a number of children from foster care to their father's care. In addition, the program supports fathers who have been granted sole custody of their children due to maltreatment issues involving the mother. The purpose of this mostly quantitative psychological study was to provide a detailed profile of these fathers, to contribute towards filling the existing knowledge gap. The study measured constructs such as self-esteem, mental health, sense of mastery, parenting attachment, parenting stress, parenting self-efficacy, and family support. Demographic and family information was also collected, and life story qualitative interviews were conducted with a small subset of fathers. Findings from this study provide a sketch of the backgrounds, needs, and specific issues of these fathers. The results suggest that, contrary to common stereotypes, there is a subset of fathers in child welfare families who can provide nurturing homes for their vulnerable children.
Effective family engagement in child maltreatment practice

15:20, 17 September 2013: Ulster

Mark Horwitz

Efforts to support families and protect children are often hampered by the challenge of effectively engaging families in the work. While family engagement is a priority in child maltreatment intervention strategies, many factors, including the sometimes involuntary nature of the work, interfere with effective engagement.

This paper discusses barriers to effective family engagement and proposes strategies for strengthening engagement. The model proposes that social workers take actions that build engagement, families interact with the work in ways that indicate whether engagement has occurred, and observable process outcomes indicate when family members are meaningfully engaged in addressing child maltreatment. Monitoring each of these domains provides a measure of engagement useful in both supervision and research.

What can social workers do to build family engagement in child maltreatment practice? Actions include 1) eliciting the family view of strengths, needs and challenges, 2) meeting concrete family needs, 3) expanding the circle of formal and informal supports available to a family, 4) exploring barriers to success, and 5) treating family members with dignity and respect. These actions can be enhanced to increase family engagement.

The model then relies on family variables to determine if effective engagement has occurred. Do family members believe a social worker is trying to be helpful and shares their goals? Are family members accessible to the worker and do people in the family reach out to the worker for assistance? These variables can be used to assess whether family engagement has occurred.

The results of effective engagement include 1) a broader, deeper range of information about families that supports a more informed view of family capacity, 2) greater social network resources available to family members, and 3) increased empowerment that raises commitment to the intervention process.

This paper presentation will discuss the model and its' use in practice and research.

Shame and guilt in child protection social work: New interpretations and opportunities for practice

15:40, 17 September 2013: Ulster

Matthew Gibson

Objectives:

The relevance of shame and guilt for a number of disciplines has started to emerge yet this has generally been neglected within the social work knowledge base. The emerging research findings offer critical insights into the role shame plays in the difficulties social workers routinely face from hostility and aggression, substance use, to avoidance and manipulation. There are strong links between shame and child abuse and neglect, both for the perpetrators and the victims, with serious long term implications for the victims. Social work practitioners need to be aware of the issues that shame (and guilt) produce so as to work effectively with service users in an ethical manner.

Method & Results:

Based on a literature review into shame and guilt, this free paper sets out the relevance for shame and guilt in social work providing an understanding of these important emotions' role in child protection successes and failures. It reinterprets and challenges some commonly held views in social work to offer new opportunities for practice by offering a relevant research base for effective child protection social work practice.

Conclusions:

Shame has strong negative implications for the success of child protection work and without a good understanding of shame social workers may inadvertently induce shame and therefore jeopardise the potential success of the work. However, guilt may not have such negative implications and finding a way to reduce shame while enabling the prosocial, positive, moral behaviour elicited by guilt to surface may support social work intervention. Recommendations for practice are provided.
An analysis of Irish policy on retrospective reports of childhood sexual abuse: Consequences for social work and survivors

15:00, 17 September 2013: Leinster

Joseph Mooney

Objectives: The study has three objectives: 1. To analyse and highlight the current absence of effective policy in relation to the reporting and assessment of retrospective disclosures of childhood sexual abuse. 2. To examine how this absence of clear policy or guidelines can have consequences for current children, adult survivors of child sexual abuse and the social work practitioners who work in this area. 3. To explore and present recommendations for future policy in this area.

Methods: The research methodology is qualitative. It involves semi-structured qualitative interviews with members of a HSE Child Protection team in the Mid-Western Region and with a former member of the National Directorate of Child and Family Services. It also includes an in depth case study, based on the work of the agency, One in Four, displaying the effects that this lack of policy has upon adult survivors of child sexual abuse.

Results: This research highlights the significant lack of policy, at government and agency level, in relation to retrospective reports of childhood sexual abuse and adds to the dearth of academic research in this area. This research provides a contextual background to the policy in this area and specifically highlights the current, potential, risk to children in the community due to the lack of guidance in this area at a social work level and adds to the debate surrounding policy reform in child protection and welfare.

Conclusion: In conclusion this study highlights the need for clarity and immediate action to further ensure the safety of our children, reform policy in the area of child protection and welfare and provide certainty to survivors and alleged abusers alike.
13th ISPCAN European Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

OS75.002
"Article 19 of the CRC... So what..." - What can it do to protect children and young people within the context of domestic abuse?

15:20, 17 September 2013: Leinster

Colm Dempsey

Objectives:

This presentation will highlight:

1. Domestic Abuse has a significant impact for children and young people.

2. Research is being carried out which addresses their experiences of domestic abuse as a Human Rights issue within the perspective of the CRC.

3. How the CRC stands with other Human Rights treaties, in particular Art. 19 as a reminder to a commitment to protect children from violence.

4. How recent judgements from the Human Rights courts have had significant implications for States and their agents.

Method:

The research of Kelly & Mullender - "Complexities and Contradictions: Living with Domestic Violence and the UN Convention on Children's Rights" (2000) provided the backdrop to the presenter's initial Masters's Thesis. That research combined a comprehensive literature review with fieldwork in 5 jurisdictions to analyze the impact, influence and implications of the CRC. Further research as part of his current Doctoral research focuses particularly on the importance of Article 19 within that discourse.

Results:

The CRC is the most widely ratified human rights instrument yet the reality is that no domestic or international law can guarantee that children or young people shall not be victims of domestic abuse.

The paper shall outline some of the hurdles still experienced by children such as economy & austerity, culture, tradition or religion that 'permits' States to procrastinate on their CRC obligations

Conclusion:

This paper will continue to argue that children have the right to be free from all forms of violence & abuse. These rights are increasingly recognised by the Human Rights Courts who are holding States and their agents accountable for their failure to uphold their obligations. By virtue of General Comments No 8 & 13, the application of Article 19 can be the catalyst to ensure that this shall continue to be the case for the foreseeable future.
OS75.003
Development of the administrative order regulating the establishment and operations of women and children protection units in the Philippines
15:40, 17 September 2013: Leinster
Erlyn Sana, Bernadette Madrid, Katrina Legarda, Melflor Atienza, Amy Avellano, Nemuel Fajutagana, Merle Tan

To address domestic violence, the Philippine Department of Health (DOH) issued Circular No. 47 and Administrative Order 1-B, in 1997 ordering the "establishment of women and children protection units (WCPUs) in all DOH-hospitals." There are now 47 CPUs and countless Women's Desks. However, WCPUs are problematic due to lack of competent personnel, uniform quality of service, clinical spaces, maintenance and operating expenses, and uncertainty of continuance of service.

This project reviewed the implementing rules and regulations of existing Circular and Administrative Order, described the best and worst experiences of these WCPUs, and formulated a new AO to standardize the establishment and operation of all WCPUs.

Consultations with stakeholders were held from February to March 2011 and literature and documents were reviewed. Round-table discussions (RTDs) were done with 30 WCPUs. RTD1 was held in March 24-25, 2011 where the organizational structures, problems and best practices were presented. Output was the first draft of the Administrative Order (AO) refined by the same participants in RTD2 on June 30-May 1, 2011. The AO awaits for final approval of the Secretary of the Department.

The AO institutionalizes and standardizes the quality of service and training of all WCPUs. It aims to establish at least one WCPU in every province, ensure that all WCPUs have competent and trained gender-responsive professionals to coordinate the services needed by women and children victims of violence, standardize and maintain the quality of services rendered, ensure the sustainability of programs through appropriate organizational and budgetary support, and create a mechanism and maintain a harmonized database for all reports submitted.

The AO stipulates the support structures for the WCPUs.

The AO is now being circulated among all units of DOH to assure the smooth implementation of the policy covering WCPUs in the Philippines.

OS80.001
Child Protection in Islamic Contexts: Building an evidence based for effective child protection programme development using a roundtable methodology
15:00, 17 September 2013: Leeson Suite
Aisha Hutchinson, Prof. Patrick O'Leary, Atallah Fitzgibbon

Objectives/purpose: While there is overwhelming agreement that Nation States have primary responsibilities to protect children, there are diverse arrays of cultural, religious, and societal structures which propose quite different mechanisms of how to achieve this. For centuries Islamic teachings, jurisprudence and philosophy have made provisions to protect and promote the welfare of children, yet Islamic thinking and processes have not been well integrated into academic literature and research, or child protection programs developed by the international humanitarian aid community. This paper presents a research programme which addresses this gap in conceptual and applied knowledge.

Methods: A research roundtable was held in Beirut, June 2011, bringing together Islamic scholars, child protection academics and international development agencies to discuss child protection problems; using Islamic lenses to identify mechanisms and processes that safeguard children from harm and enable context-specific responses to children at risk.

Results: Four dominant themes from the roundtable discussion were identified using qualitative data analysis tools; 1) The convergence and divergence in Islamic thought on issues of child protection, 2) Knowledge sharing and partnership working, 3) Individual and collective well-being and 4) Mechanisms and tools for intervention.

Conclusion: The lack of acknowledgement of child protection practices underpinned by Islamic teachings can adversely impact on community engagement, trust, and credibility in Muslim communities; which are essential for in-depth interventions. While there are many shared values across different approaches to child protection, the epistemological and cultural understandings underpinning these approaches may differ. Further research is needed to support continued academic engagement with concepts of child protection across the Muslim world. Critically, the roundtable highlighted potential avenues for ensuring the practical application of Islamic knowledge and principles to child protection policy and practice and their integration into INGO programming.
Evaluating the delivery of Incredible Years programmes to parents and children in the foster care service. What have we learned and what can we teach?

15:20, 17 September 2013: Leeson Suite

Sean McDonnell, Majella Butler

OBJECTIVES

The Child Protection and Welfare Services priorities for 2012 included providing a comprehensive range of high quality services for children in care and promoting effective multidisciplinary share practice and efficient community engagement. In March 2012, the Dublin South West Family Resource Centre (FRC) along with Archways commenced the delivery of the Incredible Years (IY) child, parent and home visiting coaching programmes to children, biological and foster parents.

This study aims to test the efficacy of the IY programmes in

a) increasing child and natural parents' competencies and coping abilities
b) increasing foster carers' skills in managing child behaviour
c) promoting home visitor and parental skills and competencies
d) engaging families in the foster-care service, exploring lessons learned and recommendations

METHOD

Participants: 21 mothers (11 biological, 10 foster), 9 fathers (5 biological, 4 foster), and 12 children (3-12 yrs) in voluntary or non voluntary foster care. The study follows a mixed method approach. The quantitative aspect involves collection and analysis of pre and post data acquired through the following questionnaires:

i) Background Characteristic of Foster-Bio Parents
ii) Being a Parent,
iii) Parent Stress Index
iv) Parent-Child Relationship
v) Eyberg Child Behaviour Inventory
vi) Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale
vii) Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)
viii) Salford Graded Care Profile (modified)

The qualitative aspect involves thematically analysing service providers and participants' interviews on how they experienced programme delivery.

RESULTS

The programme is currently in the final phase with 14 of the mothers (6 biological, 8 foster) and the full complement of fathers still engaged. Post data, interview collection and analysis are pending. Results will be presented on completion.

CONCLUSION

Preliminary observations suggest that both biological and foster parents valued the programme and that there was a high level of parental engagement with significant changes in parent-child relationships.
OS80.003
Assessing the risk protecting the child – The challenge of engaging stakeholders in evaluation
15:40, 17 September 2013: Leeson Suite
Trish O’Donnell, Emma Belton

The majority of adults who pose a sexual risk to children are not in the criminal justice system yet can be living with or have contact with children. The factors that need to be considered to assess risk and take protective action for children are known (Beech, Craig and Brown, 2009) but there will no specialist input from the criminal justice system in the UK without a statutory order in place. The responsibility to assess risk of sexual harm falls to local authority children’s services. The NSPCC has developed a guide ‘Assessing the Risk Protecting the Child’ in conjunction with the Sexual Behaviour Unit in Newcastle. The guide has a child protection focus and promotes the voice of the child, including their views in the assessment. The NSPCC is delivering an assessment service using the guide.

The evaluation of the guide aims to assess how the guide assists in child protection decision-making. The perspectives of a range of stakeholders are sought by in-depth interviews and surveys, and tracking the outcomes of each completed assessment. The presentation will highlight the challenges of engaging local authority staff working to protect children but who may not find time to contribute to evaluation. It will outline the experience of contacting service users to explore their views on the assessment process and the high attrition rate between the number of service users initially agreeing to be contacted about an interview and those actually taking part.

Asking for consent, setting up and conducting interviews has evolved over time to address these challenges. The evaluation team have been able to conduct interviews with adults where there is a (perceived) negative outcome and busy safeguarding leads. This has been facilitated by a close relationship with operational teams and allowing sufficient time to engage interviewees.

OS81.001
Substance-using mothers and contact with their children in care
15:00, 17 September 2013: Clyde Suite
Stephanie Taplin, Morag McArthur

Objectives: Contact between children in out-of-home care (OOHC) and their birth parents is often a contentious, distressing and costly issue. Of the 11,613 children who entered OOHC in Australia in 2010-11, many are subject to contact orders which specify the frequency, type and location of the contact they may have with their parents and other family. A substantial number have this contact directly supervised and, anecdotally, this is more likely where parents have a history of substance-use. There is, however, very little data or research on contact arrangements in Australia.

Methods: This paper will present some results from an Australian study of substance-using mothers and their involvement with the child protection system. Nearly 200 women were interviewed and data extracted from their child protection records. Data on the contact arrangements women had with their children living in care will be presented in this paper.

Results: The women interviewed had 302 children aged under 16 years, approximately half of whom were not living with their mothers and one-third of whom were in out-of-home care. More than half the children in care were having supervised contact with their mothers and this was more likely if they were in foster care. Characteristics of the mothers that were associated with having contact with her children supervised, and qualitative data provided by the mothers about their contact arrangements or their lack of contact will be presented.

Conclusions: It is important to ensure that imposed contact arrangements do not contribute to further distress for children in OOHC and their birth parents and to additional adverse outcomes. This paper contributes to our knowledge in this important area but also highlights the current lack of research on the impacts of different contact arrangements for children in care.
OS81.002
The dental care of Looked After Children and young people

15:20, 17 September 2013: Clyde Suite

Annie Williams, Joanne MacKintosh, Sally Holland

Dental disease is a common problem for Looked After Children (LAC) who are less likely to regularly visit a dentist than peers and more likely to need treatment. Although ‘visited dentist within the last 12 months’ is a Performance Indicator for Local Authorities in England and Wales no systematic pathways that ensure dental assessment and treatment exist. A designated dental system (DDS) for LAC has been piloted by the community dental services of one NHS Trust in collaboration with the LAC health team, social services and child carers.

Objectives: This project aims to:

- Explore the dental history of children before care entry.
- Explore experiences of dental treatment for LAC before the DDS
- Evaluate the efficacy of the DDS in meeting LAC’s dental needs

Methods: Questionnaires gained information about service take up. Interviews with health/social care providers, carers and children explored dental experiences before the DDS and the impact of DDS use.

Results: Findings suggest that whilst many children in foster care receive adequate treatment, gaps in services for children who have difficulty finding services or live in residential care, or with carers with less positive attitudes to dental care exist. The DDS proved available, accessible and easy to use and DDS staff had sufficient resources to meet the complex dental needs of this population and ensure all involved in the children’s care were kept informed of treatment access and receipt.

Conclusion: The study suggested the DDS ensured that all children entering care within a Local Authority were offered accessible dental care, that all who accepted the offer received care or if they failed to attend were followed up. The DDS provided care in a way that increased dental service acceptance and allowed all involved in LAC care to be kept fully aware of treatment access and outcomes.

OS81.003
Social functioning and mental health among children who have been living in kinship and non-kinship foster care: Results from an eight year follow up with a Norwegian sample

15:40, 17 September 2013: Clyde Suite

Svein Arild Vis

Objective: Many international studies have shown relatively high rates of emotional and behavioural problems among children living in out-of-home care. This study reports the prevalence of social problems at an eight year follow up for a group of children/young adults who have been living in long-term foster care. Predictors for prevalence and change in emotional and behavioural problems at the follow up are examined.

Methods: A prospective cohort design with 233 children, ages 4-13 years, who had been living in foster care for more than 12 months by 1999 was used. Forty-five percent (n = 111) of those interviewed at baseline were located and interviewed at follow up (eight years later). Linear and generalised mixed model analyses were used to identify the predictors for the prevalence of social problems at the follow up and for the prevalence and change in emotional and behaviour symptomatologies.

Results: Predictors for social problems at follow up were baseline symptomatology, kinship care and moving away from the local community. Gender was associated with changes in internalising and externalising problems.

Conclusions: The prevalence of emotional and behavioural symptomatology at the follow up was about the same as eight years earlier. Boys showed more behavioural problems at a young age, whereas girls developed more behavioural problems later.
OS82.001
Inquiring into the handling of child abuse by religious and other organisations

15:00, 17 September 2013: Appian Suite

Susan Hunt, Christopher Goddard

Objectives: This paper presents an overview of the authors’ invited expert evidence to the Victorian Government Inquiry into the handling of child abuse by religious and other organisations, which commenced in October 2012 in Australia. The Inquiry is of particular historical importance as it contributed to the establishment of the Australian Commonwealth Government Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in December 2012.

Method: The authors were asked to provide evidence in five areas: i) The impact on people who experienced child abuse in religious and other non-government organisations; ii) the prevalence of child abuse in the community when compared to religious and other organisations; iii) the level of awareness of the problem of sexual abuse both in relevant organisations and in the community; iv) the costs of child abuse to the Australian community; and, v) world’s best practice in prevention of child abuse within relevant organisations.

Results: A summary of the political and social context of the Inquiry, and the evidence provided, will be presented. The events leading to the Australian Royal Commission will be discussed with reference to the international context.

Conclusions: The end of 2012 was a politically important time for child abuse prevention in Australia. The Royal Commission is a welcome but overdue process, coming at the cost of the suffering of countless victims. It is hoped that the Royal Commission will provide tangible outcomes that force institutions to become legally accountable for child abuse perpetrated and concealed by their members.

OS82.002
A multi-level structural model of the ecological context of child maltreatment

15:20, 17 September 2013: Appian Suite

Jim McDonell, Osnat Lavenda, Anna Skosireva

Purpose: Increasingly, child maltreatment is understood to result from complex interactions among factors operating at the individual, family, neighborhood, and community levels. However, few studies have explicitly examined child maltreatment in an ecological context. This paper reports the results of a structural model of maltreatment rates for children under age 10 taking into account the direct and mediated effects of factors at multiple levels.

Method: Sources of data included a random sample survey of caregivers of children under 10, including measures of parenting attitudes, social engagement, and perceptions of neighbors and the neighborhood; observations of the physical (e.g., condition of dwellings and streets) and social characteristics (e.g., resident interaction, indications of communication networks) of survey participants’ neighborhoods; macro-level community factors (e.g., poverty rate, proportion of single female-headed households); and founded cases of child maltreatment calculated as rates per 1,000 children under age 10 for the same neighborhoods. Data from the four sources were then used in a multi-level structural model of child maltreatment.

Results: Analysis showed the model was a good fit, RMSEA = .046; CFI = .98. Direct effects on child maltreatment included caregiver engagement with neighbors, knowing neighborhood children, and organizational involvement; ratings of the social features of the neighborhood; and the proportion of single female-headed households. Indirect effects included neighborhood poverty, ratings of neighborhood social characteristics, caregiver social engagement, and the proportion of single female-headed households. Overall, the model explained 18% of the variance in rates of child maltreatment.

Conclusions: The findings suggest that the interactions among caregiver, family, neighborhood, and community characteristics significantly affect rates of child maltreatment at the neighborhood level. A clear understanding of the complex nature of the interplay among factors at multiple levels has implications for research and policy relative to child maltreatment.
OS82.003  
**Risk and relationship: Reconnecting with the practitioner-client relationship as a model for effective risk assessment**  
**15:40, 17 September 2013: Appian Suite**  
Kelly Alexander, Patrick Ayre

Combining an exploration of current literature with lessons learned from the authors’ practice in child safeguarding and mental health in England and Wales, this presentation sets out to suggest that, within services to children and young people, the desire to control the risk posed by those with whom we work has of late become more important to us than our desire to understand them and to use this understanding to help them to make their lives better. We will propose that in order to recover our sense of self-efficacy and maximise our ability to promote change, we need to re-embrace the uncertainty inherent in roles that involve engaging with vulnerable people in crisis, and to abandon rigid frameworks that focus primarily upon categorising, regulating and sanitising the human condition.

This paper suggests that practitioners, managers and their political masters have been seduced by a risk paradigm based on the fallacy that our exposure to risk can be progressively diminished by striving ever more minutely to systematise our responses. We recognise, however, that when we strip away the comforting but delusory protection offered by proceduralisation and managerialism, there is a danger that we may be left to rely on little more than our own world view, our sense of uncertainty in relation to the client and the need to manage our own anxiety. We explore in this paper ways in which relationships both with the client and other practitioners are pivotal for the assessment and management of risk rather than incidental. In doing so, we will propose an approach which aims to return our professional attention to being in meaningful relationship with clients.

OS83.001  
**The role of the paediatrician in child sexual abuse: The use of research within training to identify barriers to referral and how training changes attitudes**  
**15:00, 17 September 2013: Adelaide Suite**  
Amy Taylor, Michelle Zalkin, Deborah Hodes

Objectives

Children disclosing historic sexual abuse may not be offered a specialist paediatric consultation possibly due to the perception that it is distressing and abusive and the lack of knowledge of any benefits. We wanted to understand the views of social care, police and health towards the role of the paediatrician in historic child sexual abuse and to identify how training influences these. We also used feedback to improve aspects of the training package.

Methods

We developed a training package on the role of the paediatrician in historic child sexual abuse for doctors, nurses, social workers and police. Participants completed a questionnaire before and after training to find out how training changed views and would influence practice. Modifications to the training were made where it was clear that it had not met the aims and objectives.

Results

Following our training participants were more likely to be able to explain what happens in a consultation (27% vs. 80%), change their view that the examination was distressing (37% vs. 7%), think that the consultation was useful in providing re-assurance (47% vs. 93%) and for considering other abuse (40% vs. 100%). Those who would consider referring to a specialist in cases of non-penetrative abuse increased from 7% to 80%.

Conclusions

Our training positively changed participant’s views of the benefits of a paediatric consultation especially in non-penetrative abuse. The questionnaire provided useful data on multi-agency views of the involvement of the paediatrician and identification of aspects of the training package which required modification. The effectiveness of the modifications will be assessed with use of the questionnaire in further training. We conclude there is a benefit in implementing such training widely in order to ensure equality of access to healthcare in this marginalized group of children.
OS83.002
A Pediatric Forensic Evidence Collection Kit in medical examinations following reports of child sexual abuse: Findings on injury and biological evidence
15:20, 17 September 2013: Adelaide Suite
Theodore Cross
A quality medical examination assures child sexual abuse victims that their body is healthy and addresses medical needs from the abuse. Moreover, an acute examination can sometimes identify abuse-related injuries and detect biological evidence on the perpetrator. However, adult forensic evidence kits are too invasive for children and medical professionals seldom know how to adapt them for children. A coalition of agencies in the U.S. state of Massachusetts has designed a pediatric forensic evidence kit for use for children age 0-11 when sexual abuse is suspected within 72 hours and there is suspected penetration, injury/bleeding or the possibility of ejaculate or saliva on body. This presentation reports findings on the frequency of injury and biological forensic evidence in a sample of 283 pediatric kits.

The Massachusetts Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program Associate Director and Clinical Coordinator coded data from standardized injury documentation forms and crime laboratory reports for every pediatric kit from 2007 to 2012 in the two crime laboratories handling cases in the state. Coded data were organized into SPSS data files and analysis examined frequency and predictors of injuries and biological evidence. Altogether 16.3% of children had a definitive injury and 11.3% a possible injury. At least one form of biological evidence (semen, blood or an enzyme of saliva) was found in 33.2% of cases. Expert clinicians (SANE nurses and child abuse pediatricians) were slightly more likely than non-experts to identify definitive injury and over twice as likely to identify possible injury, but did not differ on biological evidence. A standardized pediatric evidence kit using non-invasive methods was implemented by experts and non-experts throughout the state and yielded injury findings and biological evidence in meaningful proportions of cases, comparable to rates in studies using previous methods.

OS83.003
Transforming sexual abuse services for children in Ireland
15:40, 17 September 2013: Adelaide Suite
Aidan Waterstone
This paper addresses the development of services in Ireland for children who have been sexually abused and describes the process of establishment of a new, national, multidisciplinary and multiagency service model. The nascent raising of societal awareness of sexual abuse of children in Ireland can be traced back to the late 1970's. Major landmarks in this process were the Kilkenny incest case, the West of Ireland Farmer case and the Brendan Smyth case which was the forerunner to a continuing and rising tide of revelations of clerical sexual abuse. The development of sexual abuse services in Ireland has been an ad hoc process with an initial input of resources in the late 1980's establishing 3 sexual abuse Units. Piecemeal development of community based services continued through the 1990's. However the service environment has been characterised by lack of integration of service components and significant gaps in availability. The multiagency Ferns 4 National Steering Committee has developed a national model for sexual abuse services for children. This model which is informed by the recommendations of the Ferns 4 Report:-

1. Incorporates all resources currently applied to sexual abuse services in a disjointed manner across sectors, into a nationally coordinated service which provides standardised, best practice models of practice;

2. Integrates and coordinates the 6 key components of sexual abuse services which are:
   - Medical/forensic examination;
   - Child protection;
   - Criminal investigation;
   - Assessment;
   - Therapy;
   - Court process

3. Delivers services on a regionally coordinated basis.

Significant gaps in services are being identified and addressed and a cross sectoral, multiagency approach is being developed to ensure implementation in a tight budgetary environment.
OS84.001
Mobilising peer support among adolescents: Learning from the BBBS school based mentoring programme
15:00, 17 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite
Bernadine Brady

This paper uses the case study of an Irish school based peer mentoring programme to discuss the potential value and broader applicability of peer led models of social support for children and young people experiencing adversity. The Irish national youth organisation, Foróige, runs the Big Brothers Big Sisters school-based mentoring programme in over 60 Irish secondary schools, with the aim of improving young people’s connectedness to school. First year secondary school students are ‘matched’ with a senior student, who they meet weekly in a group setting. Qualitative research was undertaken with 106 students and 38 principals and link teachers in 23 Irish secondary schools operating the programme. The findings suggest that the peer mentoring model has the potential to reduce isolation, prevent bullying, and make young people feel better supported at school. It also offers opportunities for leadership and social action to senior students. This paper outlines the findings of the study, highlights the need for good practice in the running of peer-led programmes and focuses in particular on the added value that peer support models can bring.

OS84.002
Replicating a family strengthening intervention to prevent child maltreatment
15:20, 17 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite
Diane Depanfilis

Objectives: The objective of this paper (Paper 1 of 4 in a proposed Symposium) is to synthesize selected methods and findings from a cross-site evaluation of a U.S. federally supported replication of a promising preventive intervention by 8 organizations. Questions: (1) What adaptations were made to respond to differences in target populations? (2) To what degree did agencies meet fidelity to the original intervention? (3) Are cross-site findings consistent or inconsistent with changes over time in risk and protective factors as compared to the original demonstration project? (4) Are higher fidelity scores associated with positive improvement in outcomes?

Methods: mixed methods were employed to collect data including abstractions from archival reports and case records, on-site interviews and surveys, and data from standardized instruments used at 3 time points. Qualitative and quantitative analytical methods were used based on the type of data and study question. Results from 762 families served at 8 sites were compared.

Results: Minor adaptations were made to the original intervention manual. All programs reached a minimum level of fidelity to the intervention however differences were noted with respect to specific criteria. Reductions in risk factors, improvement in protective factors, and achievement of intervention outcomes were consistent with the original demonstration. Higher fidelity to certain criteria suggested greater improvement over time in some outcomes.

Conclusions: Replication of this multi-modal intervention was successful however variations in specific fidelity criteria indicate the need to adjust training and coaching in future replications. Greater emphasis should also be paid to whether certain standardized assessment instruments used by all replicating organizations were equally relevant to all target populations. Future research should move to randomized trials to further explore effectiveness of this intervention.
13th ISPCAN European Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

**OS84.003**

**Implementing family decision making in complex child protection environments**

15:40, 17 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite

**Fiona Arney**

The implementation of family-focused interventions and processes in child protection has been highly limited. Barriers to implementation include limitations of the evidence base including cost-benefit analyses, worker and organisational attitudes to the involvement of families in decision making, poor resourcing and the complexities of family environments. Child protection in many jurisdictions is highly influenced by the ideologies of those who design and implement these systems, but this is particularly so in the Northern Territory of Australia as Aboriginal families (who make up 80% of those in contact with the child protection system) have become noticeably absent in decision making processes about their children, their families and their communities. Drawing upon an example of a systematic implementation effort to embed Family Group Conferencing in the the mainstream child protection system, this presentation will specifically explore the application of the National Implementation Research Network’s stages and drivers model and describe the enhanced reach and initial outcomes of this program obtained through a focus on high quality implementation.

**OS85.002**

**Maltreatment of adolescents: Differences in gender and ethnicity in two regions of Spain**

16:50, 17 September 2013: Landsdowne

**Carmen Meneses Falcón, Jorge Uroz Olivares, Francisco Javier García Castilla**

**OBJECTIVES:** To study the maltreatment among adolescents of different ethnic groups (Spanish Roma, non Roma and Latin American) and gender, living in two regions of Spain (Andalucía and Madrid).

**METHODS:** A Secondary School random survey was performed in Madrid and Andalousia regions, May-June 2007; students identified themselves as belonging to a specific ethnic group (Spanish Roma, Spanish non-Roma and LatinAmerican) and responded to questions related to maltreatment exposure. Data were analysed by bivariate analysis with chi square, ANOVA and Student’s t-distribution; the significance was in 0,05.

**RESULTS:** The surveyed adolescent population (n=3.825) was Spanish Roma (n=141), Spanish non-Roma (n=2825) and LatinAmerican (n=319), average age 14,8 years old (SD=1,29; 13-18 years) and gender distribution 48,1% boys / 51,2% girls. Attempted sexual abuse by somebody. (p=0,000) was more frequent among Spanish Roma adolescents (20,8%) than Latinoamerican (15,9%) and Spanish non-Roma (7,9%) adolescents; girls (11,8%) were more exposed to maltreatment than boys (6,4%). In relation to maltreatment intersectionality (gender/ethnicity), there were differences by gender between Latin American and Spanish non-Roma boys and girls but not when the Roma subgroup is analyzed. In relation to variables like “my parents beat me” (p=0,000), “my parents insult me” (p=0,000), “I never feel loved by my parents” (p=0,000) Roma group present a higher percentage of abusing parent’s behaviour. Although no differences in gender distribution were found there were differences by gender in the Roma group.

**CONCLUSION:** It is important to analyse the maltreatment in adolescents by sex and ethnicity, because this behavior is higher in some ethnic group as Roma. Cultural characteristics are probably related to socioeconomics differences between social groups.
OS85.003
Future expectations of senior highschoolers in Romania
17:10, 17 September 2013: Landsdowne

Mihai Bogdan Iovu, Paul Haragus, Maria Roth, Sergiu Raiu, Agnes-Kasco David, Degi Csaba, Cristina Faludi, Corina Voicu, Anna Vincze

This study examines the future achievements of adolescents from Romania and their future worries about the pending transition to adulthood. The study examines the hypotheses that personal variables (e.g., gender, a personality trait of optimism) and social support variables (the support of family, peers) predict their future expectations. 3524 adolescents participated in the study. The self report questionnaire covered several areas including demographic background, optimism, family and peer support, and future expectations. Results indicate that most adolescents perceived their future positively. Their future achievements and worries were related to gender. Self confidence and optimism were positively correlated with positive future expectations. At the same time, lack of the peer-support group was related to negative future expectations, while family support did not seem to play a role in this relation. These findings suggest that there are areas of concern that should be addressed through programs to prepare youth for adult transition. Follow up and longitudinal studies are suggested.

OS86.001
Childhood trauma and child and adolescent psychiatric diagnoses
16:30, 17 September 2013: Pembroke

Carl-Göran Göran Svedin, Malin Gren-Landell, Maria Zetterkvist, Nikolas Aho

Studies on the associations between different child and adolescent diagnoses and experiences of traumatic events are scares. In this presentation two different studies focus on the association between traumatic events and social anxiety disorders (SAD) and non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) respectively.

In the first study exploring the association between PTSS and SAD among 5,960 high-school students participated. Socially anxious adolescents reported significantly higher levels of PTSS than adolescents not reporting SAD and this difference was seen in victimized as well as non-victimized subjects and significant odds ratios were found for a condition of SAD and elevated PTSS (OR = 4.88, 95 % CI =3.53–6.73) but not for SAD only. Screening of PTSS in adolescents with SAD is recommended.

In the second study the purpose was to examine overlapping and distinguishable features in groups with different types of self-injurious behaviors, using a large community sample of 2,964 (50.6 % female) adolescents aged 15–17 years. Of the total sample, 1,651 (55.7 %) adolescents reported no self-injurious behavior, 630 (21.2 %) reported NSSI 1–4 times, 177 (6.0%) reported NSSI 5–10 times, 311 (10.5 %) reported NSSI C 11 times, 26 (0.9 %) reported lifetime prevalence of suicide attempt and 169 (5.7 %) adolescents reported both NSSI and suicide attempt. Pairwise comparisons showed that adolescents with both NSSI and suicide attempt reported significantly more adverse life events and trauma symptoms than adolescents with only NSSI, regardless of NSSI frequency. Adolescents with frequent NSSI reported more adversities and trauma symptoms than those with less frequent NSSI. These findings draw attention to the importance of considering the cumulative exposure of different types of adversities and trauma symptoms when describing self-injurious behaviors, with and without suicidal intent.
Evidencing the needs of children who have experienced maltreatment through thorough neurodevelopmental assessment at the point of care proceedings

16:50, 17 September 2013: Pembroke

Anna Redfern, Nicola Cosgrave

The Child Care Assessment Team (CCAT) is a multi disciplinary team that specialises in expert witness work for the family courts. We are based at the Maudsley Hospital in London which is both nationally and internationally recognised as an excellent provider of services. CCAT undertake work for Local Authorities and solicitors nationwide. The team, comprised of psychiatry, psychology and senior social workers, is nationally recognised as one of the leading expert witness teams in the UK. CCAT complete thorough neurodevelopmental assessment of the child to illuminate the subtle and pervasive impact of maltreatment and providing a context for tailored and parenting risk assessment.

CCAT will present audit findings which indicate that children who have experienced maltreatment typically present with difficulties across social, educational, physical, emotional development with some problems in behaviour (oppositional, sexualised, conduct) but do not always meet criteria for specific clinical disorders. For many of these children, it is only at the point of assessment in the course of proceedings that their previously unrecognised clinical and/or educational difficulties are identified; such as pervasive developmental disorders, ADHD, specific learning disabilities, trauma, depression and anxieties, risky behaviours (sexualised behaviour, criminality). Prior to this, the social environment, poor attendance to services or unclear presentations may have contributed to professionals not identifying the children’s needs.

Children with unidentified/treated difficulties are at much higher risk of future mental health and educational problems and are more likely to experience placement breakdown. However there are still limited resources to deal with these broad sub-clinical threshold problems. We suggest that these findings support the proposal for high-level early intervention with children from the point of care proceedings to prevent longer-term problems across health, education and social settings.

How maltreatment may disrupt normative developmental pathways: The mechanisms linking early puberty with risk behavior

17:10, 17 September 2013: Pembroke

Sonya Negriff, Penelope Trickett

Objectives: Maltreatment is a particularly deleterious life experience that may compromise an individual’s ability to cope with subsequent stressors, thus possibly altering expected developmental pathways. Particularly during adolescence, stressors may enhance pre-existing vulnerabilities. The association between early pubertal timing and problem behaviors is well established yet there is little information as to how maltreatment may alter this link. Peer influence and hormones have been hypothesized as competing mediators, yet there is little information as to whether maltreated youth are more susceptible to peer influence or if the experience of maltreatment itself is an overriding risk factor for problem behavior. Overall, there is a dearth of evidence regarding the mechanisms between early puberty and risk behavior for maltreated adolescents.

This presentation summarizes a series of analyses testing longitudinal mediation models comparing the developmental pathways from early puberty to problem behavior for maltreated and non-maltreated adolescents.

Methods: These models were examined in a sample of 454 adolescents (303 maltreated; 241 boys; 9-13 years old at enrollment) followed for three assessments approximately 1 year apart. Measures of pubertal timing, delinquency, substance use, sexual activity, peer delinquency, peer substance use, and social network composition were used in analyses. Multiple-group structural equation modeling was used to test cross-lagged mediation models.

Results: Models show both peer influence and sexual activity mediate between early puberty and risk behavior with sexual activity being a more universal mechanism for both maltreated and non-maltreated youth. Peer influence effects were more pronounced for maltreated adolescents engaging in substance use and comparison youth engaging in delinquency.

Conclusions: Different mechanisms may link early puberty with delinquency and substance use versus sexual activity and be conditional on early maltreatment experiences. The moderating effects demonstrate that maltreatment may alter the expected normative trajectories leading to risk behavior.
OS87.001
Child protection workers in the Northern Territory: Doing the 'dirty work'?
16:30, 17 September 2013: Munster
Nettie Flaherty

Objective: This paper presents findings from a larger study which explored how child protection workers in the Northern Territory operationalise child neglect, particularly in their work with disadvantaged Aboriginal children. The study explored factors influencing the way child neglect is operationalised: this paper presents findings about how child protection workers perceive their role in working with cases of child neglect.

Method: In-depth interviews were conducted with thirty child protection workers across the Northern Territory, Australia. Interview length ranged between 1-3 hours, with the average being 1 1/2 hours. Interviews were audio taped and transcribed by the researcher, and transcripts sent back to participants for approval. This study has ethics approval from three ethics committees.

Results: A key theme that emerged from the interviews related to professional stigma. The child protection workers were acutely aware that they were perceived as the enemy by others in the service network; relationships were based on distrust and hostility. The workers were sensitive to the accusation that their practice with Aboriginal families was racist and continuing in the legacy of the Stolen Generations: this refers to previous government policies of assimilation which resulted in large numbers of Aboriginal children being removed from their families. A sense of hopelessness pervaded child protection worker assessment of their role in cases of child neglect.

Conclusion: The concept of 'dirty work' was first used by Hughes (1951) to refer to those occupations that are physically, socially or morally tainted but that are necessary for the survival of society. There has been little research attention paid to child protection work as a 'dirty work' occupation despite considerable negative media attention. The child protection workers in this study were acutely aware of their spoiled identity, raising significant questions about increasing the goal of successful inter agency working.

OS87.002
Examining professional's conceptualisation of risk and need of youth referred to a teen support programme
16:50, 17 September 2013: Munster
Tracey Monson

Background, Context and Rationale
The paper will present work currently being undertaken on a doctoral thesis for the Doctorate in Childhood Studies, at Queens University Belfast. The aim of the research is to critically analyse how professionals categorise risk and need towards young people and how this is influenced by the discourse of risk and the socially constructed representations of young people in Irish society today.

The focus of the paper will be to provide an overview of work carried out to date and to focus on the use of vignettes as a methodology.

Methodology: Statistical Analysis: All referrals received by professionals to the service will be analysed to identify the most common source and reason for referral.

Semi Structured Qualitative interviews: Interviews will be carried out with 20 professionals from a range of sources who refer most frequently to the service. Interviews with referrers will focus on exploring the professionals conceptualization of risk and need and how this categorisation is linked to the representations of youth in their referrals to the teen support service.

Vignettes: Vignettes have been selected for use as literature indicates that in qualitative research they are effective in gaining insight into the participants perceptions of a scenario (Bloor, Fisher, Berney and Neale (2010) and particularly useful in gaining insight into attitudes, perceptions and beliefs around sensitive subjects (Hughes, 2001). Previous research has been carried out utilizing vignettes as a tool to explore decision making by social workers (Wilks, 2004, Spratt, 2000,2012) and to explore how values influence decisions in practice (Wills, 2004). Vignettes will be utilized to address the themes detailed in the interviews.

Composite vignettes will be devised based on factual referrals and incorporated into the semi structured interview.

Results and Conclusions: Ongoing
OS87.003
Facilitating ethical decisions in child welfare practice: One professionalization effort

17:10, 17 September 2013: Munster

Angela Ausbrooks, Amy Benton, Rhonda Smith, Martha Wildberger

Over the years, child welfare administrators have employed several methods to professionalize staff, and increase retention. As a result, child welfare agencies have utilized pay increases, organizational restructuring, reduced caseloads, and specialization of services to reduce caseworker turnover, increase employee retention, and improve service outcomes provided to children and families. Furthermore, child welfare systems in many states throughout the United States underwent a phase of deprofessionalization during the 1970’s (McGuire, Howes, Murphy-Nugen, & George, 2011; Zlotnik, 2003). This reduction in professionalism, and the resulting employee turnover negatively impacted services to clients. A major approach to both reduce turnover and re-professionalizing the child welfare workforce has been federal (Title IV-E) and university-agency collaborations. These collaborations provide education and training for selected social work students whose goal is to become a child welfare agency employee upon graduation. In addition, these collaborations have recently been utilized to provide continuing education for child welfare caseworkers, and other agency stakeholders. The goal of these continuing education trainings is to assist in the agency efforts to professionalize the child welfare workforce, thereby increasing knowledge and skills, employee retention, and outcomes for children and families. Professionalizing employees is considered vital to increase their effectiveness and the quality of services they provide to children and their families (Leighninger, 2002; Zlotnik, Strand, & Anderson, 2009). The purpose of this research was to determine the effectiveness of one university-child welfare agency collaboration that consisted of continuing education ethics-based training for child welfare employees. Results indicate the trainings were effective, considered useful by participants, and enhanced participants’ infusion of ethics-based decision-making into their practice approaches with the families and children to whom they were providing child welfare services.

OS88.001
Children in out of home care - Measuring improvements in out of home care for Irish children

16:30, 17 September 2013: Ulster

Michele Clarke

This presentation will propose that relying on reviews of individual cases, or inspections of individual services alone are not a reliable source of gaining an overview of standards of care, and in fact, can have a distorting effect. Information will be provided to show that the majority of children in out of home care are in family settings with stability and relatively low levels of placement breakdown despite a range of highly critical reviews of the area. The data will be set against international figures where possible.

The methodology used will be based on the analysis of published information including the Health Services' Executive (the authority responsible for services for children in care) Annual Reporting and regularly published Performance Indicators. Relevant research, inspection and inquiry reports will be cited to broaden the evidence base.

The presentation will reference policies and practices that support services whilst indicating ongoing challenges. The presentation will show 92% of children in care are in family care, that the majority of children experience a stable placement and that in exceptional situations do children under 12 live in a residential care. It will outline that there is no room for complacency in out of home services with reference to recent inspections and reviews and highlight their importance in developing a learning culture. However the presentation will propose that relying on investigative type reports alone, given that they principally highlight poor practice, may lead to unreliable and unhelpful findings and misguided initiatives.

The presentation will argue that children in out of home care are best served when quality and safety are understood through the lens of general performance indicators and outcome data informed by qualitative insights children themselves, individual services and case reviews and that that this is what best underpins the development of responsive equitable services.
OS88.002
The Cedar Project: Qualitative narratives addressing the impact of childhood trauma on stress-coping and pathways to healing among young Indigenous people who use drugs in two Canadian cities
16:50, 17 September 2013: Ulster
Margo Pearce, Wayne M. Christian, Alden H. Blair, Martin T. Schechter, Patricia M. Spittal

Objective: Indigenous scholars suggest that understanding trauma, substance use and HIV risk among Indigenous people requires consideration of intergenerational trauma while acknowledging strength and survival in the face of hardships. However, most HIV research involving Indigenous peoples has been based on deficit models of health and limited in cultural/practical relevance.

Methods: 27 participants (16 women) were selected from the Cedar Project, a cohort study of young Indigenous people who use drugs in Vancouver and Prince George, BC. Individual in-depth interviews were conducted exploring personal and family history including residential school or foster care experiences, transitions to drug use and sex work, coping strategies, and opportunities for healing and change. Using phenomenological approaches, researchers transcribed and analysed interview texts.

Results: All participants described complex and multiple occurrences of trauma in childhood. Five major themes emerged from the narratives: (a) The emotional impact of trauma including internalized shame, confusion, and anger, particularly in the aftermath of sexual abuse; (b) the struggle to ‘break the cycle’ of family disconnection caused by the child welfare and corrections systems; (c) making sense of trauma, including understandings of the impact of the residential school system; (d) mitigating the trauma effect through stress-coping processes that were negative (initiation of sex work and injection drug use) or positive (becoming resourceful, spirituality, quitting/never injecting drugs); and (e) recovering from addiction to pursue hopes and dreams, including reconnection with children and culture, independence, and healing.

Conclusion: The young Indigenous men and women in this study discussed unbearable emotions and memories associated with extreme childhood trauma. However, participants’ reflections also included the meaning of personal strength and past and present sources of encouragement. Public health must consider historical and lifetime trauma and support access to opportunities for culturally-safe healing among young at-risk Indigenous people.

OS88.003
Ethical considerations and challenges in doing research with abused and neglected children in Ghana: A participatory research with children in a residential care case study
17:10, 17 September 2013: Ulster
Saka Manful Manful

This article discusses the current changes of childhood emerging from the law noting its particular reference and implications with the way we do research with abused and neglected children in residential care. This is particularly expressed in the current child legislation and ongoing child care reforms in Ghana and their consequences for the legal status of vulnerable children in care. However, these changes must be placed within the broader context of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. A research carried out by the author in a designated residential care facility in Ghana is used as an illustration to draw out some of the key ethical issues and challenges posed by child participatory research. A convenience sampling was used to draw 18 abused and neglected in a residential care to engage them in data collection using informal face to face interviews, drawings and life stories. A key finding of the study is that in reality upholding ethical principles in research with abused and neglected children in the residential care is very difficult as adult residential care workers demanded to be present at any moment of the data collection process with the children. In conclusion, the study suggests that in undertaking research with abused and neglected children in general and abused and neglected children in residential care in particular, an innovative and flexible approach rather than a prescriptive one needs is more relevant within the unique socio-cultural and institutional context of Ghana.

Key Words:
Legislation; UNCRC; Abused and Neglected Children; Ethics; Residential Care; Ghana
OS89.001
Safeguarding from a distance: A practitioner's perspective on the educational needs of those embarking on a distance learning course
16:30, 17 September 2013: Leinster

Eleanor Kerr

Edinburgh Napier University currently provides three postgraduate child protection /safeguarding modules, and students come from a wide range of professional backgrounds. These individuals are likely to be highly qualified and competent in their own field, but they reflect a range of learning styles and educational needs that may not always be immediately evident. These needs may be academic / generic or subject / role specific.

In relation to educational needs pertinent to safeguarding, Murphy et al (2006) identified key issues following a DOH funded project to identify standards for education and training in interagency working. Standards included evaluating one’s own judgements, respecting and challenging the views of others, collaborating with other practitioners and recording assessments. More recently Dugdale & Wells (2012) have suggested that inter-agency education should address the nature of collaborative working and decision making, while enabling individuals to challenge stereotypes. The inspection process meanwhile, provides opportunity for not only inspectors to identify where practice might be falling short, but for practitioners and managers to develop and acknowledge their own learning and development needs.

The presenter of this paper is a Senior Nurse for Child Protection, responsible for the training, support and supervision of a significant number of health professionals but familiar with the needs of a wide range of disciplines through her role in a co-located unit and from experience as an Associate Inspector.

OS89.002
Safeguarding from a distance: A student / lecturer perspective on overcoming some of the challenges faced within an online learning environment
16:50, 17 September 2013: Leinster

Lindsey Robb

Learning outcomes:
2. Explore strategies that can enable students in this environment to develop knowledge and skills for effective practice.

The presenter of this paper is part of a small team that has provided postgraduate online Masters level child protection education since 2007. Staff involved in the original development had been initially highly resistant to the proposal that such a course should be developed as they questioned whether an online environment was appropriate for such a demanding, sensitive and emotive topic, in which students are required to develop a vast range of skills and knowledge. How could we facilitate inter-professional communication and maintain a safe and supportive environment for online discussion? How could we ensure relevance to practice, encourage participation and respond to the "silent student"?

Six years later, with a Masters programme in place we have a high percentage of positive student evaluations, and the impact on practice is explored in the following paper. We recognise it is possible to not only overcome the many challenges but create a learning environment that is stimulating, interactive and thought provoking(Fleming & College 2008), with the ability to promote a deep approach to learning that can be readily translated into practice (Ramsden 2003). The presenter, a lecturer with the team, draws on her student experience of these modules to explore two specific challenges and the strategies used to overcome them.


OS89.003
Safeguarding from a distance: A researcher’s perspective on the impact on practice of online postgraduate education at Masters level
17:10, 17 September 2013: Leinster
Marjorie Keys

LO1: Outline the rationale for undertaking a study to evaluate the impact on practice of educational provision.

LO2: Explore the impact of online postgraduate education as evidenced by results of a research project.

A number of issues have been considered during the development and delivery of postgraduate child protection education that has been delivered in an online environment – one which initially provoked much resistance on the part of those charged with the new development. Moral issues that are expanded upon in the poster displays formed the basis of some of that resistance, yet student evaluations to date suggest they have been addressed, and that students perceived the learning to have been beneficial. However, an end of module questionnaire does not necessarily specifically evaluate the extent of any impact of that education on practice. The Scottish Government (2012 p20) considers it crucial to evaluate learning in order to determine if it “will enhance practice, promote professional competence and confidence and help keep children safe”, and indeed it could be argued that educators are morally obliged to carry out such evaluation.

The presenter of this paper obtained a grant from Edinburgh Napier University Teaching Fellow fund, in order to carry out a research project that would explore this impact on current practice from the perspective of past students of the online postgraduate modules. Initial results from this project will be shared during the session, and areas for future study identified.

Reference

OS94.001
The Safe and Together™ model: Shaping practice to effectively respond to domestic violence when children are involved
16:30, 17 September 2013: Leeson Suite
Kristen Selleck

The Safe and Together™ model is a field tested international model designed to address domestic violence and child maltreatment. Using principles of partnership with survivors, intervention with perpetrators and working to keep children safe and together with non-offending parents, the Safe and Together™ model provides child welfare with skills and practice theories to better address practice needs in domestic violence cases. Participants will learn about the principles and components of the Safe and Together™ model as well as discuss skills related to the model. These skills include assessment, case planning, safety planning and documentation. Participants will learn from David Mandel & Associates, LLC, based in the United States, about the model and from Daughters of Charity Child and Family Service about how the model has supported their work with Dublin families experiencing domestic violence.
OS94.002
Scope and scale of juvenile victimization in Poland: Results from Polish national diagnosis of minor victimization
16:50, 17 September 2013: Leeson Suite
Joanna Wlodarczyk

The problem of juvenile victimization in Poland has been examined since 2005, but the first survey on nationally representative general sample of children from 11 to 17 years old was conducted in 2012. The objective was to diagnose the scope and scale of juvenile victimization in Poland.

The questionnaire used in the study was inspired by The Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire by Finkelhor, Hamby, Turner, & Ormrod. It was transformed and adopted to Polish conditions and also enhanced by new methodological solution. Data were collected through questionnaires filled out by a representative sample of 1005 Poles aged 11-17. The research was conducted using computer-assisted self-interviewing with audio (A-CASI) technique in order to assure maximum comfort for participants and enhance study's reliability.

In the study 22 forms of victimization were examined including conventional crimes, child maltreatment, peer victimization, sexual victimization and witnessing of victimization. Children were asked about experiences during their lifetime and in the past year.

The study found that 40% of young Poles are victims of physical peer violence. Every fifth child experienced psychological violence caused by adults, the same number of children are victims of physical violence caused by them. Analysis showed that almost 1 in 4 children are polyvictims (suffered four and more forms of victimization).

OS94.003
Resilience in frontline child protection workers: A longitudinal study of job demands, job resources and personal resources
17:10, 17 September 2013: Leeson Suite
Kerry Lewig

Objectives: To date most research examining retention of child protection workers has focused on organisational factors. Unfortunately child protection organisations are difficult to change at the structural and systems level and under the current climate of increasing child protection notifications and diminishing resources factors such as heavy workloads are likely to be difficult to address, at least in the short to medium term. Recently interest has been expressed in the role that resilience might play in retaining child protection workers. Many of the personal resources underpinning resilience are theorised to be state-like constructs amenable to change. If it can be shown that relationships exist between these personal resources, organisational resources, resilience and retention, inexpensive organisational interventions can be implemented to improve staff well-being and retention.

The purpose of this study is to examine hope and self-efficacy and their relationship with supervision in promoting resilience and retention of Australian frontline child protection workers.

Method: The study uses a longitudinal mixed-methods research design incorporating quantitative surveys and semi-structured interviews undertaken at 0, 6 and 12 months. Three Australian states were selected for participation on the basis of their use of similar decision-making frameworks.

Results: This presentation reports the results of the first round of data collection due for completion in June 2013. Using the Job Demands Resources Model as an explanatory framework, preliminary results (n=139) show hope to predict engagement, hope and clinical/professional supervision to predict physical/psychological health, and self-efficacy to predicted professional attitudes toward clients. Professional attitudes and low levels of emotional exhaustion predict retention. Poor health, lack of hope and low engagement predicted turnover intention.

Conclusions: Interventions to build hope, self-efficacy and support supervision focused on staff clinical practice and professional development may aid in retaining child protection workers.
OS95.001
Improving the involvement of GPs at initial Child Protection Case Conferences in an Inner City Borough
16:30, 17 September 2013: Clyde Suite
Deborah Hodes, Martin Wallace, Claire Taylor

Objectives
In the UK, most children are registered with a General Practitioner (GP) who has a critical role in safeguarding children. They are required to provide information to the child protection conference but there is multiagency concern over their poor involvement. We implemented changes to address this.

Methods
Data from 60 conferences in four separate time periods between 2003-2012 included numbers of GPs attending, submitting reports, sending apologies and whether the health recommendations involved them.

Strategies to improve involvement included an explanatory letter, an expenses claim form and a report form, and enhanced in house GP child safeguarding training.

Results
In 2003, only 48 of 64 (75%) of the eligible GPs were invited. Two years later 93.1 % were sent invitations, nearly four times as many sent report and there was a threefold increase in recommendations involving them. By 2010, response numbers were still only 41%. In 2012 with electronic strategies and more GPs having attended enhanced training, the number of conferences attended increased by 300%. In addition, the number of written reports sent increased by 42% and participation by 37%.

Conclusion
Our strategies led to improved GP involvement between 2003 and 2005. However this was not sustained by 2010. Re-implementation of these strategies combined with enhanced training from 2010-2012 by the Lead Pediatrician and Designated GP resulted in increased involvement both through written reports and attendance. These enhanced strategies appear to have encouraged change in the behavior of responders: numbers who responded remained consistent, but latterly fewer merely sent apologies, and far more sent written reports and/or attended. Numbers of GPs not responding has not changed between 2003 and 2012. We will discuss the difficulties and ideas for ongoing work.

OS95.002
Making the case in safeguarding: enhancing safe practice at the interface between secondary health and children’s social care
16:50, 17 September 2013: Clyde Suite
Sue White, Suzanne Smith, Geoff Debelle, Dave Wastell, Chris Hall, Kerry Allen, Maria Kilcoyne, Connie Smith

Events leading to deaths of children are often marked by repeated miscommunications and misdiagnoses during hospital attendances and admissions. In addition to those killed or seriously injured, children experiencing neglect or who are vulnerable or “at risk” in other ways (e.g. serious disabilities, mental health needs) are also more likely to present at Emergency Departments (ED) and/or to have hospital appointments or admissions. Decision-making at this interface is perforce extremely challenging, e.g. children are usually accompanied by parents, often cannot speak, and much evidence is ‘soft’, ‘slippery’ and difficult to codify. This paper reports preliminary findings of a study funded under the UK National Institute for Health Research. The design oriented study, based on human factors literature, is aimed at supporting and enhancing clinician-led innovation in an NHS Acute Trust to help foster a safeguarding culture within the hospital environment. The aim of the innovations is to detect children at risk of abuse and devise appropriate protective actions before discharge, typically involving other agencies. The evidence-base regarding the predictive validity of existing hospital-based instruments (mainly in ED) for appraising the risk of child abuse currently is very limited. In contrast, this research, through a mixed methods approach and careful inter-agency follow-up, appraises hit, false positive and miss rates, enabling “signal detection” performance to be appraised. An action research methodology has been followed, with three main phases, design, evaluation and technology transfer to two other NHS sites.
OS95.003
The Residential Support Programme in Liverpool: A collaborative approach to residential child care
17:10, 17 September 2013: Clyde Suite
James Clarke, Simon Lewis

Children who enter the Residential System have all experienced adverse life experiences that often constitute relational trauma. Often Residential Children’s homes are placements at the end of a journey through the care system. Mental health problems and emotional difficulties are vastly overrepresented in this population.

Liverpool’s Residential Support Programme (RSP) is underpinned by Systemic principles, psychological theories and an approach that requires partnership working at all levels of the Residential System. We are working very hard to change the narratives of Residential Childcare and promote the RSP as a placement of choice for some children.

Pre-placement assessments, guided Key Worker modules, regular whole team consultation, individual staff surgeries, training and direct therapeutic work combined with jointly devised procedures and protocols (e.g. for managing Self Harm) come together to create an approach with demonstrable effects on outcomes and performance indicators. For example, since 2004 there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of incidents of self harm, restraints, and episodes of absconding.

A focus on partnership working and a two phase treatment approach working from containment to recovery privileges safety and relationships as key contexts for change

Each Local Authority Children’s Home is assigned a CAMHS Clinician who works closely with the Registered Managers, Residential Workers and children placed in each home. Treatment plans are devised in conjunction with all interested parties at regular, formal Treatment Planning Meetings and the RSP is overseen at a Senior Management level in both CAMHS and Children’s Services.

Training needs are identified by each unit and therapeutic work is undertaken jointly. Young people, CAMHS and Residential Managers are also all involved in the selection of new staff.

OS96.001
Multi-disciplinary centre enhances children’s safety
16:30, 17 September 2013: Appian Suite
Sandra Lawler

Mildura Rural City, in the north western region of Victoria Australia, is situated on the border of New South Wales and approx 120kms from the South Australian border.

- The City’s population of approximately 53,000 people includes an indigenous population and various ethnic communities.
- In 2007 Mallee Sexual Assault Unit-Mallee Domestic Violence Service, located in Mildura was chosen as one of two sites in the state to pilot a program in collaboration with the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Unit of the Victoria Police.
- To enhance the services provided and enable the best response for victims these services were co-located.
- The integration of specialist workers from Child Protection Unit in 2010, completed the Multidisciplinary Centre.
- Clients could now confidentially access relevant services without having to continually recount their story.
- The Multi-Disciplinary Centre is independent of the police station, ensuring a non-threatening environment for clients.
- Ongoing contact, where possible will be provided by the same worker from each discipline, enabling the worker to build rapport and trust with the client.
- MSAU-MDVS provides a 24hrour, free and confidential service to victims of Sexual Assault and Family Violence.
- Staff provide Crisis Care, support, counselling and advocacy.
- Forensic medical examinations can be conducted on site by either a Forensic Medical Officer or a Forensic Nurse Examiner.
- Specially trained police, Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT) are detectives whose specific role is to investigate sex offences and child abuse.
- The Child Protection Team consists of specialised practitioners whose role is to investigate allegations of physical and/or sexual abuse against children.
- These investigations may be conducted jointly with SOCIT.
- Integration of the services, enables easier and more effective communication between the relevant workers, thus providing a more consistent and comprehensive response to the client’s needs.
OS96.002
Held in mind or confined in mind? Real and illusory space in the mind of the mother

16:50, 17 September 2013: Appian Suite

Gerry Byrne

In the Family Assessment and Safeguarding Service (Oxford, Wiltshire and B&NES) we assess and treat families in which abuse has taken place. In decision making the team adopts a structured approach in which all facets of the assessment are considered, risk is evaluated in the domains as described by Byrne and Jones (1998 and 2000) and in Hindley et al (2006) and recommendations and plans for intervention and/or risk management are made using structured professional judgement with the child's welfare as paramount.

This paper will focus on one specific domain of assessment and treatment, i.e.; the psychic space provided by the caregiver, in his or her mind, for the child. The concept of the child being 'held' in the mind of the mother/caregiver is common to psychoanalytic, attachment and child development perspectives and is in part 'measured' in the use of the semi-structured, clinical Parent-Development Interview (PDI) (Aber et al., 1985). The PDI is designed to assess the internal working model of the 'current, ongoing, "live"' caregiver-child relationship. I will discuss the concept of the 'child in mind' and its relevance to our work in child abuse and neglect, using clinical examples of perpetrators of physical abuse and neglect, illustrated with video clips and excerpts from PDI transcripts. I will describe, in brief, the exploration of a malignant and murderous psychic space in the mind of the mother, its impact on her relationship with her infant and some of the challenges encountered in therapy as she attempts to create both a benign psychic space that would allow 'room to grow' for her infant, and a 'good enough' relationship in reality.

OS96.003
The Norwegian Children's House (barnehus) model – competing notions of good practice?

17:10, 17 September 2013: Appian Suite

Elisiv Bakkeiteig, Kari Stefansen, Tonje Gundersen

The principal aim of the paper is to discuss the notion of good practice – child centeredness – within integrated services for victimized children. More specifically we analyze how this notion is understood and implemented within the Norwegian "Children's House" model. We present results from an evaluation which was carried out in 2012, including qualitative interviews with managers and staff in Children's Houses, with judges and lawyers and with police investigators. In addition we present results from a survey of 123 children aged 10+ and 198 accompanying adults.

In the US, Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) have been used in cases involving violence and sexual abuse since the 1980s. The centers offer legal, medical and psycho-social services to children and families "under one roof", with child-friendly premises. Similar integrated services have been implemented in the Nordic countries in recent years. The first Children's House was established in Norway in 2007, and to date eight such centers exist and two more are planned. The cases referred are police reported cases of violence, physical and sexual abuse, primarily against children below 16 years of age. From a judicial perspective the model aims to participate to an increase in prosecutions and convictions. From a psycho-social perspective it aims to identify children and families in need of short- or long-term intervention, aid in securing the provision of treatment etc.

The results indicate that the Children’s House model represents a more child-centered service in cases involving violence and sexual abuse. Still, the model as it is implemented challenges the notion of child centeredness in some ways. This will be discussed.
OS97.001
An early intervention programme to protect children by improving the coping strategies and life skills of families
16:30, 17 September 2013: Adelaide Suite
Sandra Reilly

Objectives
A crisis nursery and respite care programme in a large Canadian city has two purposes. One is to protect infants and children from harm; the other is to reduce the intensity of adverse experiences on infants and children. To those ends, the programme takes a multi-dimensional approach with the entire family (caregivers, infants and children) so as to keep the family intact and reduce the immediate and long term harm associated with episodic or repetitive adversity.

Method
Using a single group, pre- post- design, the paper analyzes data from families (n= 3,159), over six years. The three quantitative factors include: parental stress rating; positive- negative- affect as well as the cognitive, affective and situational aspects of hope. The qualitative data measures various coping behaviors according to four kinds of facilitative coping responses.

Results
Results indicate that parents had significantly (.05) improved responses, along all factors, after they participated in the program. That is, parents had significantly lower levels of stress. Parental feelings underwent a significant increase in positive affect and an accompanying decrease in negative affect. Also, parents had a higher level of hopefulness in terms of all sub-factors (cognitive, affective and situational). Additionally, qualitative data indicate that parents chose strategies that substantially added to their coping and life skills.

Conclusions
Our evaluations indicate that families in the programme face serious crises. For many, the interplay of stressors, the lack of resources and coping abilities place them at serious risk for child maltreatment. Social support (emotional, informational and material) has significant results. It reduces stress, replaces negative with positive feelings, and enhances positive parental agency. It remains to determine how to improve support for the most susceptible families.

OS97.002
Interventions and programmes for children and families experiencing adversity
16:50, 17 September 2013: Adelaide Suite
Shirley Gillespie

The Toybox Project is a rights-based, service development model which aims to reduce the social and educational inequalities experienced by Traveller families with children aged 0-4 years. It was established by Early Years - the organisation for young children in 2003 in recognition of the inequalities which exist between Travellers and the rest of the population in Northern Ireland. Since 2008 Toybox has been core funded by the Department of Education (DE). The outreach project uses a play-based HighScope model; this early intervention service is provided in partnership with children and parents. Staff develop quality relationships with families based on trust and respect through a consistent approach to service delivery. This method affirms family strengths, potential and confidence about themselves and their culture.

Ten project workers and one peer support worker deliver weekly home visits to 185 families and 256 children. A HighScope approach supports parents’ ability to ensure that their children become active, creative thinkers, problem solvers and learners. The rights of the child are captured in this learning method. The peer support worker uses the key processes in intervention and prevention to foster families' engagement in services. Staff support and engage with a range of statutory, voluntary and other agencies to provide intervention to families. This multi-agency engagement ensures a collaborative problem-solving approach to difficulties encountered by families.

Toybox has been highlighted as a model of good practice by the DE Task Force on Traveller Education and by the Anti-poverty Network. The project has increased levels of participation of children in education and families accessing SureStart programmes. The completion of a DVD "My Child", story book "Tales of the road" and annual questionnaires completed by families highlight their positive experiences in education and the success of the project working in partnership with families.
OS97.003
Family by Family: a co-designed approach to family support
17:10, 17 September 2013: Adelaide Suite
Fiona Arney, Carolyn Curtis, Chris Vanstone

Many statutory systems for protecting children are overwhelmed by demand, and limited in their capacity to provide intensive support to families. Even if crisis services could cope with such high demand, a crisis response is rarely the best response for families. Services work best for families when they engage rather than compel families to take part; when they maximise families' choice; when they focus on families' strengths rather than deficits; and when they recognise different cultures and value sets.

This presentation will describe an innovative model of intensive family support, Family by Family, which has been developed through a co-design and co-production process which recognises people as assets, builds on their existing capabilities, establishes mutual responsibilities between professionals and people, and supports people to help themselves. Family by Family implements evidence-based practice using whole families rather than professionals as the delivery agent. This program occupies a new kind of intervention space: one that blends the behaviour change focus of professional services with the informality and universality of community development. Families, rather than parents or children, are the focal point of the intervention.

The presentation will focus on the process of development of the Family by Family model, its initial implementation and its impact as measured through initial evaluation. The challenges and successes in program scale up will also be described.

OS98.002
The role of communities in the lives of looked after children and young people
16:30, 17 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite
Leslie Hicks

Objectives
This presentation draws on research from England which focuses on the role of 'community' in the lives of looked after children and young people (LACYP), i.e. children and young people who are in the care of the state. Connections within and between communities are regarded increasingly as central to the promotion of well-being in contemporary life. The current research seeks to explore the shifting community environments which LACYP experience, including the dynamic relationships which they form, the contribution which LACYP themselves make to communities, the role of resilience and the influence of transitions.

Methods
There are two main aspects to the research, a scoping study of existing research and a series of consultation workshops with groups of young people aged over 12 years. The project forms part of the 'Connected Communities' research programme funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

Results
Notwithstanding the apparent consensus which surrounds the value of an holistic approach to enhancing children's lives, our research confirms that much of the research literature about LACYP focuses on 'the care experience' itself, with strikingly little centrality given to factors beyond the family, the immediate services being experienced and their overall effects, or their potential for enhancement. Drawing on the perspectives of young people and literature, the research highlights the ways in which concepts of participation and empowerment form part of an ecological framework which locates the community context as crucial in building resilience for LACYP.

Conclusion
Community connectedness for LACYP requires a fine balance between the interests of protection and participation. There remains a considerable lack of general understanding within communities about what being 'in care' means; this frequently results in prejudice and stigma. The paper raises issues which are central to building, strengthening and supporting wider community relationships for LACYP.
OS98.003
Abuse, pain, happiness and affection: Exploring children's experiences using In My Shoes
16:50, 17 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite

Bill Joyce, David Glasgow

A recurrent theme in Serious Case Review and Inquiries is the problem of the child's voice not being heard. There is also a concern that Achieving Best Evidence interviews do not meet the needs of many children in Family proceedings. These issues therefore remains serious concerns of the Children's Commissioner, legal personnel, academics, care professionals and advocates for children's welfare.

This presentation focusses on one approach to enabling 'authentic voices' of children who are not well served by existing approaches to interview. Whether difficulties arise by virtue of age, mental health problem or disability, it is essential that children are offered the assistive technology they need to communicate their experiences.

In My Shoes is an interactive interview system running on Mac and Windows computers. Initial development was funded by the UK Department of Health, the goal being to create a system suitable for exploring distress and possible abuse in school age children. Since the system was launched in 2006, it has become apparent that the system has greater potential than was originally envisaged. It has proved capable of eliciting information about a wide range of both positive and negative experiences, with preschool children, older children, parents and other adults, especially those with a disability.

Key to the successful development of the system was careful development of a repertoire of pictures, symbols and icons to represent different facets of children's experiences. Using pictures and symbols to enhance communication with children is far from new, and examples of traditional and new approaches will be presented. Video of the system in action be presented, including materials supporting English, Spanish, Swedish, Norwegian and sign language interviews. Case examples will be used to demonstrate the potential for using In My Shoes for the purposes of child protection, safeguarding, and monitoring wellbeing.

OS101.001
Working at the interface of domestic violence and child protection: The general practice response
09:00, 18 September 2013: Munster

Nicky Stanley, Cath Larkins, Conniece Smith

Objective: Clinicians in general practice have been criticised for insufficient engagement in the linked issues of domestic violence and child protection; there is uncertainty about what constitutes best practice at the interface of these two issues. The RESPONDS study is investigating and addressing the barriers to practice in this field for GPs, practice nurses and practice managers in England with the ultimate aim of developing policy and training for general practice.

Method: Semi-structured telephone interviews are being undertaken with a purposive sample of c 100 GPs, practice nurses and practice managers in three sites in England. GP practices have been selected to represent areas with well developed and less well developed domestic violence services. The interviews employ vignettes to explore practitioners’ experiences of suspecting, becoming aware and responding to domestic violence and child protection and the relationship between them, focusing on issues of patient safety and confidentiality. Views and experiences of inter-agency collaboration and training on child protection and domestic violence are also elicited.

Results: Fieldwork is in progress and results will be available by September 2013. They will illuminate clinicians’ levels of confidence and understanding in this field and their needs for further knowledge, training and collaboration with other agencies. Examples of good practice will also be captured.

Conclusion: The findings of this stage of the study will be synthesised with those of a literature review, analysis of training programmes and a consensus study to inform the design and content of a training intervention which will be piloted with general practice staff in two sites in 2014.
OS101.002
When children with autism spectrum disorder are exposed to domestic violence
09:20, 18 September 2013: Munster
Bridget Mulkerrins, Mark Horwitz

This paper presentation explores intervention strategies for when children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are exposed to domestic violence. Case vignettes illustrate the impact of domestic violence on children when ASD is present, while a brief overview of the general characteristics of children with ASD provides a context for understanding their differential response. Specific strategies for working with these children when they are exposed to domestic violence are suggested. Presenters conclude with a discussion of training, programmatic and research implications of these observations.

Exposure to domestic violence has short and long-term emotional, cognitive and behavioral effects on children. These can include increased fear and anxiety, relational difficulties, sleep disturbances, uncontrolled aggression and challenges functioning in school. Intervention with children exposed to domestic violence strives to help children be safe, feel safe, build sustaining relationships with caregivers and rework narratives about self and other. Safety planning and clinical intervention are intertwined throughout the course of this work.

Certain characteristics of ASD pose obstacles to conducting accurate assessments, utilizing traditional therapeutic approaches, creating safety and otherwise mitigating the negative effects of domestic violence. Children with ASD tend to misread interpersonal cues, display a lack of social or emotional reciprocity with others, develop inflexible views about their environments and experience diminished motivation to engage with others. A rigid adherence to ingrained views of their world impede children with ASD in developing more adaptive personal narratives, and their perceptual, expressive and social styles may impede the relational work necessary both to establish safety and heal from the impact of domestic violence. Consistent repetition of new narratives, creating a calm environment that prevents sensory overload and precisely attending to idiosyncrasies in language and social expression all contribute to more effective domestic violence interventions with these children.

OS101.003
Group work programmes for women and children experiencing domestic violence: Do they work and do they last?
09:40, 18 September 2013: Munster
Stephanie Holt, Gloria Kirwan

This paper draws selectively on the emerging findings of a study exploring the impact of a concurrent group work programme for mothers and children (6-7 years of age) who have experienced domestic abuse. This paper illustrates how participation in the group work programme impacted positively on the relationship between the participating mothers and their children and also explores what benefits were sustained over time.

Employing a mixed methods approach, both quantitative and qualitative data was collected from three distinct populations and at three points in time. Phase One used structured questionnaire to establish base line data on individual group participants, prior to their participation in the group work programme. Following the completion of the group work intervention, Phase Two gathered qualitative data by conducting semi-structured interviews with the participating mothers, children and the group workers. Phase three involved a return to the research site, one year later, where the Phase Two data collection process was repeated. Analysis of the whole data set involved the comparison of the findings of Phase Three with Phases One and Two to measure the sustainability of the group work programme outcomes for both mothers and children.

The findings of this study confirm the usefulness of the group environment in helping participants share the full extent of their personal experiences in a therapeutic and supportive setting. Participant outcomes included pro-social modelling of positive parenting, awareness raising and information sharing regarding the impact of the experience of domestic violence on both child development and parenting capacity. These factors were reported by participants to have impacted on the quality of the mother-child relationship.

This paper concludes by highlighting the key features of the group work programme which were central to facilitating and sustaining these positive outcomes.
OS101.004
Children bereaved as a result of domestic homicide: The importance of timely planning and therapeutic intervention
10:00, 18 September 2013: Munster
Sinead Marriott, Maria Ruegger, Marta Neil

In this workshop we share our current thinking about the psychological challenges faced by children who suddenly lose both parents, one permanently and the other to the criminal justice system. These children often undergo further disruptions in terms of home, school, friendships and routines. Many will be troubled by intrusive memories of the violent scenes they have witnessed and some experience feelings of guilt about failing to protect the deceased parent. These children are also likely to be caught up in conflict between extended family members and be cared for by adults who are themselves struggling to manage intense feelings of grief and traumatic stress, and whose ability to assist children with processing their feelings about their losses is compromised as a result. If the tragic event is the outcome of pre-existing domestic violence, parental mental illness, substance misuse or personality difficulties then issues of complex trauma and impaired resilience also need to be addressed.

It is our view that the risks of psychological harm to children can be reduced if lessons learnt from research and clinical practice are systematically applied through timely therapeutic and legal intervention. We set out a clinical perspective on the need for a legal and practice framework that facilitates sound planning for the children’s care and contact needs, uses narrative work within a systemic framework to assist children and extended family members in processing the traumatic experiences and their feelings. Anonymised case examples are used to illustrate our approach to the assessment and treatment of PTSD in this population. In small groups we look at case vignettes and practice planning interventions and developing narratives. We highlight particular challenges and solutions.

OS102.001
Reforming child protection policy in Wales: a new national approach to reviewing and learning from cases of child maltreatment
09:00, 18 September 2013: Ulster
Wendy Rose, Barbara Firth

The Welsh Government introduced in 2013 an innovative new multi-agency approach to reviewing and learning from cases involving serious abuse or neglect of children. All four nations of the UK have been considering the effectiveness of their current systems for reviewing what has happened in such cases and identifying the lessons to be learned for improving local and national policy and practice. There has been general agreement that the systems in use were no longer fit for purpose and required reform. For the last four years, the Welsh Government has been committed to developing and implementing a new framework to improve the culture of learning from child protection cases.

The process of developing the framework has been marked by collaboration and dialogue between policy makers, operational managers and practitioners from a wide range of professions. Designing the framework has been challenging with no tried or tested alternative model available from elsewhere. It has therefore been informed and underpinned by an agreed set of values and principles which include professional support and challenge, fairness, transparency, accountability and timely, proportionate and appropriate action, which makes a difference in practice. It places critical importance on involving practitioners and engaging with children and families. The proposed model has been rigorously tested and refined by feedback from expert multi-agency workshops, national consultation and by pilots undertaken by several different local safeguarding boards. It has resulted in widespread support for the new framework that aims to ‘allow practitioners to reflect and learn from positive circumstances as well as being open, honest and transparent when things have gone wrong’ (Deputy Minister for Children 2013).

The authors have worked with the Welsh Government to bring about these desired changes. The paper will outline the key features of the new framework and the progress made in Wales.
**OS102.002**  
Population-level approaches to primary prevention of child physical abuse  

**09:20, 18 September 2013: Ulster**  

*Cathy Taylor, Stacie Leblanc, Mary Kathryn Rains*  

Child maltreatment is a major public health problem that needs to be addressed from multiple angles. While secondary and tertiary prevention efforts in this field are quite common, primary prevention efforts (i.e., strategies to prevent child physical abuse before it occurs) are less so. Additionally, while our field has developed some highly effective strategies that target "high-risk" parents (e.g., Nurse Family Partnership), strategies that take a universal or population-level approach are less common. Population-level strategies are designed to lower the average level of risk factors that are of high prevalence in a population, and targeting such factors can be highly effective. Such approaches aim to address root causes of a problem, make the healthy behavior a new norm, and impact population attributable risk. Other public health issues, such as smoking, drunk driving, and motor vehicle injury, have been tackled with this approach using legal and policy strategies in tandem with far-reaching health education communication efforts. We will take one highly prevalent risk factor for child physical abuse, social norms regarding the use of corporal punishment, and discuss examples of how a population-level approach could be taken to address this issue on a broad scale. Our discussion will include the use of corporal punishment bans, mass media, and engagement of community leaders. The learning objectives of this workshop are as follows:  

1. Illustrate child physical abuse viewed from a public health perspective.  
2. Describe elements of a population-level approach to child physical abuse prevention.  
3. Provide examples of population-level approaches to child physical abuse prevention.

**OS102.003**  
Regional Thematic Study: System Responsiveness on Identifying, Reporting and Referring Cases of Violence Against Children in Albania, Bosnia i Herzegovina, Serbia and Turkey  

**09:40, 18 September 2013: Ulster**  

*Guzal Kamalova, Anna Nordenmark Severinsson*  

This study aimed to better understand where the child protection systems face challenges in identifying, reporting, and responding to violence against children in Albania, BiH, Serbia and Turkey. It provided recommendations on improvement of services and system of monitoring, complaint mechanisms, and to illuminate the opportunities in on-going efforts to reform child protection systems for better response to violence. Three main research areas were explored: Identification, recording and reporting, Referrals and service trajectories, Systemic mechanisms for action/change: monitoring, evaluation, best practices. Desk review and content analysis followed by qualitative and quantitative data collection. The purpose of the quantitative research was to collect the perceptions of service providers at the local level through a micro/scale survey, which could then be used as baseline data to validate main findings from the qualitative research. Almost 600 professionals from health, education, justice, welfare sectors and the police in cities and villages were interviewed. Findings indicated that along with a number of promising practices (health nurses home visitation programs) and progress made there are still weaknesses in child protection system: professionals do not have adequate tools and standards for early identification, reporting, referring cases of violence. Study has also showed common issues across 4 countries as well as pointed out specific challenges in each country. One of the key highlights of this study is that majority of child protection professionals interviewed acknowledged the need to boost resources for prevention and family support services as a priority over punitive approach. The study recommended to develop pathways for accountability, improve referral mechanisms and inter-sectoral collaboration, change public behavior, improve service availability and capacity for child victims and families. The study is a part of a regional joint initiative of EU and UNICEF aimed at Protecting Children from Violence in South East Europe.
**OS102.004**  
**United Child Protection Model for low and middle-income countries**  
**10:00, 18 September 2013: Ulster**  
Andrey Makhanko, Kimberly Svevo-Ciani, Suzanna Tiapula, Victor Vieth, Elena Volkova, Vladimir Yanchuk

Integration of services, based on the principles of interagency and interdisciplinary cooperation, is an essential part of child protection. This will improve the quality of services and allow for implementation of innovations while significantly reducing the cost of direct service delivery.

The United Model of Child Protection (the Model) is based on over 20 years experience in reporting, criminal justice, treatment, prevention and supplementary services. This interagency and interdisciplinary Model was developed as a pilot in Belarus to improve child protection and assistance procedures. This strategy reflects current issues and solutions in the areas of prevention, intervention, education, monitoring and evaluation. The strategy was developed via careful learning and adaptation of evidence-based models and practices widely disseminated in USA and EU and its key components are included in National Plan of Action towards Child Protection for 2012-2016 (Belarus) and National Strategy for Child Protection for 2012-17 (Russia).

The general aim of the Model is to raise the effectiveness of the child protection system through strengthening interdisciplinary cooperation and, at the same time, improve cost-efficiency via reduction of managerial costs. Close interaction of all professionals under the same supervision helps to protect children from violence, to cope with negative experiences and bring the child back to life in society with less expense to the social sector. Following the strategy, a systematic approach in policy-making, education, and direct service delivery was chosen for the Model. New services were implemented, linking each into a comprehensive technological chain which includes all levels of responsibility.

The United Model of Child Protection has a number of significant achievements: it increases capacity of all participants, decreases the expense of civil society while improving services, and provides excellent opportunities for replication in low and middle income countries.

**OS103.001**  
**Listening to fathers**  
**09:00, 18 September 2013: Leinster**  
Maura Daly

This proposal is for a free paper (oral) based upon a small-scale piece of practitioner research conducted to elicit the experiences of fathers involved in the child protection system. The important role that fathers can play in their children’s lives has been recognised over the past decade and, as such, the paper might be thought to focus on a ‘contemporary issue’. And, as the voices of men are generally absent in child protection discourse, the paper contributes to ‘building the evidence base’ around fathers’ experiences.

The research was conducted by the fathers’ worker in a Scottish family support charity, Circle. It was undertaken as a knowledge exchange fellowship at the University of Edinburgh, whereby Fellows are provided with an academic mentor and allowed access to University resources.

Existing literature indicates that while fathers are important for their children’s development they are, at the same time, marginalised within social work and child protection professionals often fail to engage them in processes affecting their children. The research involved in-depth interviews with eight fathers across Central Scotland, identified through their involvement in fathers’ support projects. While the nature and scale of the research limit claims regarding its generalisability, some important insights emerge nevertheless.

Particular themes emerge around the professional response to allegations of domestic violence. More widely, fathers describe the experience of being labelled by professionals who regard them with suspicion. Statutory conditions restricting contact with their children, based on presumptions of guilt, may be applied in cases where no criminal proceedings are pursued or where claims are disproved.

Findings also indicate that the provision of fathers’ support can prove beneficial for both fathers and for the professionals involved and the advocacy of a fathers’ worker can mediate positions characterised by mutual suspicion and communication breakdown.
OS103.002
Fathers and the Norwegian child welfare system
09:20, 18 September 2013: Leinster
Anita Storhaug

Despite an increased focus on fathers' importance for children's development, and the Nordic countries' focus on gender equality, a number of studies claim that Child Welfare Services fail to involve fathers.

This presentation is based on four group interviews with 16 Norwegian child welfare case workers.

Two central questions are: How do CWS workers understand fathers? And from their perspectives: What promotes and inhibits the involvement of fathers?

Four central discourses on fathers were identified: Mothers and fathers as gender neutral, fathers as little involved, fathers as (more) involved and mothers and fathers as different.

Factors that promote the involvement of fathers were society's increased focus on gender equality, society's and fathers' own changed perception of fathers' role, and increased focus on children's networks. Factors identified as inhibiting involvement were lack of resources, fear of conflicts, negative descriptions of fathers, and uncertainty regarding legislation. Explanations for fathers' own lack of involvement were fear of confrontations, prioritization of a new family, and a lack of understanding of their importance for the child.

Different discourses on fathers lead to different practice regarding the involvement of fathers. By failing to involve fathers, an incomplete picture of the family's resources and challenges is provided, and hampers targeted measures to ensure the best for the child.

OS103.003
How are biological non-resident fathers characterised and constructed within Child Protection Social Work Discourse, and how may this impact upon their inclusion or exclusion where concerns about the care of their child/ren have been raised
09:40, 18 September 2013: Leinster
Lee Sobo-Allen

The Serious Case Reviews that were conducted into the circumstances surrounding the death of Peter Connelly in 2007, found that social workers, and other professionals afforded with his care and protection, missed opportunities to do just that through poor communication, information sharing and decision making. But what was also found, and less widely reported, was that social workers also failed to engage with, or consider Peter's biological non-resident father as a resource in the care and protection of his son despite him coming forward as alternative carer.

The limited research in this area has concentrated primarily on examining the reasons behind the exclusion of resident fathers and father figures, rather than specifically non-resident fathers (Scourfield 2006, O'Hagan 1997, Ferguson and Hogan 2004, Ryan 2000, Ashley 2006).

The research I intend to undertaken through my PhD study is to examine in particular how social workers construct and view the role of non-resident fathers, and how this may impact upon their intervention with non-resident fathers. The intention is not to adopt a fathers' right perspective but a child centred perspective, following the principles of the Children Act 1989 of what is in the best interests of the child and that a child where possible, children are best looked after within their families.
OS103.004
Engaging with fathers: One step forward, two steps back
10:00, 18 September 2013: Leinster
Brigid Daniel, Julie Taylor

Objectives
This paper takes stock of the developments over the last decade in the realms of policy, research and practice in relation to the engagement with fathers of children about whom there are care and protection concerns. The aim is to foster in-depth discussion and analysis of both the positive and the unhelpful developments in recent years and to explore the practice messages for the next decade. The central focus of the paper is the best interests of children.

Method
The paper will offer:
1. a critical overview of recent policy developments in relation to key disciplines who have a role in the care and protection of children;
2. a synthesis of empirical research evidence about professional and paraprofessional practice with fathers and more widely practice with men in general and
3. an analysis of contemporary theoretical and conceptual understandings of work with fathers.

Results
The central argument is that despite a contemporary discourse that work with fathers has become mainstreamed and that in a 'post-feminist' era gender is less salient, the subject remains problematic.

The discussion is set within an analysis of the wider structural context which suggests that a critical understanding of gender relations remains essential to the explanation of contemporary abusive phenomena such as the sexual exploitation of young women.

Conclusion
The paper concludes that there is a need for further critical reflection upon the current field of practice with men who are fathers. In order to keep the focus on the best interests of children it is essential that practitioners are supported to analyse and work with the many layers of influence upon the personal and structural forces that shape their experiences. Gender is one such key force.
The impact of intrafamilial sexual abuse on female development

09:00, 18 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1

Penelope Trickett

Objective: This paper will describe the research design and findings of a 25-year longitudinal study of the impact of intrafamilial sexual abuse on female development. The conceptual framework of this research integrated concepts of psychological adjustment with theory regarding how psychobiological factors might impact development.

Method: Participants, from the Washington, DC, area, included 6-16 year old females with substantiated sexual abuse and a demographically similar comparison group. A cross-sequential design was used and six assessments have taken place, with participants at median age 11 at the first assessment and median age 25 at the 6th. Mothers of participants took part in the early assessments and offspring at the 6th assessment.

Results: Results of many analyses, published in more than 40 peer-reviewed articles, indicated that, as compared with comparison group females, sexually abused females showed deleterious sequelae across a host of biopsychosocial domains including: earlier onsets of puberty, cognitive deficits, depression, dissociative symptoms, maladaptive sexual development, HPA attenuation, asymmetrical stress responses, high rates of obesity, more major illnesses and healthcare utilization, persistent PTSD, self-mutilation, DSM diagnoses, re-victimization, teen motherhood, premature deliveries, substance abuse, and domestic violence. Offspring born to abused mothers were at increased risk for child maltreatment and overall maldevelopment. There was also a pattern of considerable within group variability.

Conclusions: Based on this complex network of findings, implications for policy and for optimal treatments are elucidated. Translational aspects of extending observational research into clinical practice are discussed in terms that will likely have a sustained impact on several major public health initiatives.


Beliefs about protecting children from sexual abuse: Scale development and comparing gender and parental status of the respondents

09:20, 18 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1

Nadia Wager

This study aimed to investigate the preparedness of adults to engage in child protection. There were two objectives: First, to develop a psychometric measure to assess beliefs relating to the protection of children in relation to sexual abuse. Secondly, to identify possible barriers to efficient child protection and to explore possible differences between parents and non-parents. The cross-sectional web-based survey attracted 184 community respondents; 56% were women, 27% were parents, who were aged between 18 and 64 years. The scale consisted of a 15-item, 5-point Likert-scale. Principle components analysis revealed a three factor structure accounting for 44.6% of the variance. Factor 1 (Confidence to act): Factor 2 (Awareness raising) and Factor 3 (Preference for silence). Investigation of the proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with individual items suggest that 25% of the sample did not feel confident to confront someone they believed was abusing a child and 40% did not believe they knew how to respond appropriately to a child disclosing abuse. There is some reluctance towards awareness raising initiatives in female-dominated forums (e.g. anti-natal classes), particularly by men. Men were more reticent about involving the police. A two-way MANOVA of the three sub-scales comparing gender and parental status revealed that parents are more confident that they would act than non-parents and that men who are not fathers are more likely to feel uncomfortable about a disclosure or the idea that children should be encouraged to disclose abuse. Interpretation of the quantitative analysis was clarified through the thematic analysis of the spontaneous quotes offered by respondents when they were given the opportunity to add further comment. The findings offer insight into what to target in primary prevention efforts and a potential tool for evaluation purposes.
OS104.003
Indecent images risk and young people
09:40, 18 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1
Lisa Saint

Objective
To explore what is known about indecent images, the risk posed by people who collect them and illustrate implications for risk management in a family setting.

Method
A literature review has been completed identifying definitions, the key debates and dominant theories regarding people who download indecent images of children.

Result
Research suggests increasing numbers of young people are accessing indecent images of children online. It is also evident that young people are at risk of becoming criminalised when exploring their sexuality. Many young people are not aware that, while they are old enough to consent to sex they could be convicted of sexual offence if they send or receive images of a sexual nature even if the act is consensual.

Polarised views are evident regarding the risk posed by adults who collect indecent images of children. Research regarding what is known about the likelihood a person convicted of downloading indecent images has previously committed a contact sexual offence and/or will commit a contact sexual offence in the future is being inconsistently used. Potential problems using risk assessment tools, for example Kent Internet Risk Assessment Tool (KIRAT) and Risk Matrix 2000 have been identified.

Conclusions
The voice of the child is absent from these debates. Research needs to be completed to ascertain how the child's experience when a parent is convicted of downloading indecent images of children.

There is much debate amongst the experts about the risk posed by people who download indecent images of children. More research is needed about the risk a parent who collects indecent images of children presents.

Resources to access services for example; Inform, Inform Young People and Inform Plus are needed for families connected to a person who downloads indecent images of children.
OS104.004

Child transactional sex in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo

10:00, 18 September 2013: Connaught Suite 1

Kevin Lalor

Context

For those under age 18, transactional sex is a form of child sexual exploitation, regardless of the degree of volition. Children’s involvement in transactional sex is heightened in emergency settings. Children’s vulnerability is increased due to, inter alia, family separation, a breakdown in law and order and shortages of basic foodstuffs. Some studies have highlighted the risk of normalisation of child transactional sex in post-emergency settings. For example, a 2012 study from post-earthquake Haiti found ‘survival sex’ is widespread to access food, aid distribution coupons, money, or even a single meal.

Objectives

This paper shall describe the findings of a research project initiated by Save the Children in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo during the summer of 2012. The aim of the project was to investigate the nature and prevalence child transactional sex, identify risk factors and make recommendations.

Method

Focus groups were held with 355 children and 35 key informant interviews.

Results

Both adults and children stated that the majority of children in the region (60-70%) have transactional sex. It was most often used to satisfy basic needs, rather than to obtain luxury items. Transactional sex was not found to be an accepted cultural norm. Rather, both children and adults described transactional sex as coercive, stating that children had little choice due to extreme poverty. In areas with on-going conflicts, the presence of fighting forces pushed children into transactional sex due to the money and power of military actors. The region is characterised by weak child protection structures and impunity for perpetrators.

Conclusion

The study concludes with recommendations, including a scale up child protection and child sexual exploitation programming; Capacity building of local organizations and protection mechanisms; Economic empowerment of families; Increased access to education; and empowerment of girls.

OS107.001

Social work with children in care. A look at the positive impacts

09:00, 18 September 2013: O'Connell

Tuija Eronen

The paper presents a study in which the social workers looked retrospectively at children (103) who had been taken into care by 10 local authorities five years earlier. The data of this study consists of survey and focus groups interviews. The social workers were involved in several stages of the research process: first in planning the information to be collected, then collecting the information and finally, joining the analysis of the data with the researchers. This data could be described as institutional as it focuses on social workers' understanding of the children and their processes into care, in care and out of it. The standpoint was chosen in order to highlight the practice-based understanding of children's paths in care. The social workers, among other issues, assessed the relevance of the care order. In this presentation, the focus is on the results of those assessments.

According to the social workers, the care order had had a positive impact on children's lives, which had improved considerably since the care order. The message given by the analysis is that the better the social workers had learnt to know the child, the fewer concerns their expressed about the child's situation and his/her future. Nevertheless, children experienced some 'extraordinary' challenges due to their childhood spent in care and before it. The positive assessment of children's situation highlights the professional view on children's resilience. This contradicts the message from register-based studies in which children's paths after care tend to burdened by problems and poor outcome. It is suggested that empowering elements of social work with children in care should be recognised both in research and in practice.
OS107.002
Effective strategies for supporting looked after children who are priority offenders in a residential child care setting
09:20, 18 September 2013: O'Connell
Carmel Ferguson, Mark Kimmins

Objectives.
The oral paper will encourage discussion in relation to the Bail Project and effective interventions with prolific offenders in a care setting. Theories incorporated in the oral paper will include Enhancing Resilience, Restorative Practices, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention and Reflective Practice.

Method.
Case reviews and analysis of prominent theories will be presented. The focus will lie heavily on application of practice and effective outcomes. Presenters welcome the opportunity to discuss the Pilot Bail Project which arose from a concern about the haemorrhaging of young people from the care system into the justice system. A 'Looked After' young person should enjoy the same rights and be equally held to account as a young person living at home and not be made subject to excessive stringent bail conditions. Glenmona is part of a multi-agency working strategy to increase the level of support for ‘Looked After’ young people at risk of custodial remand.

Results.
It is hoped that participants will develop a greater understanding of the knowledge and skills necessary to intervene in an effective and child centred approach. The presenters, through analysis, evaluation and reflection, look forward to sharing the process of applying theory to practice and discussing outcomes. Additionally, they hope to share their views on staff resilience and reflection.

Conclusion.
Glenmona has successfully implemented a range of tried and tested evidence based approaches to address challenging behaviours and provide a supportive response to young people at risk. Presenters will share statistics and data that indicates a reduction of police intervention. Similarly, they will share the findings which indicate high morale of staff and a sense of real support throughout their roles.

OS107.003
Residential care: A grounded model focused on youth’s perceptions on their rights
09:40, 18 September 2013: O'Connell
Eunice Magalhães, M. Manuela Calheiros

Objectives: The residential care implies a separation of young people from their family, home and personal routines. Regarding this special life condition and the state’s responsibility for the development of these children and adolescents, the guarantee of their rights seems to be even more critical for social practice and research. In this study we aim to identify the perceptions of young people in residential care about the guarantee of a set of rights in their everyday life, through a theoretical model grounded on data.

Method: six focus groups were performed in six institutions (2 female, 2 male and 2 mixed) from different geographical regions in Portugal. We included institutions with different dimensions, with an average of 30 youth (ranging from 15 to 43 adolescents). This study included 29 adolescents, aged from 12 to 18 years old (M= 15 years), 52% males. A grounded analysis was performed with the objective of develop a model which could explain the data.

Results: preliminary results reveal that the perceptions of youth in residential care regarding their rights involve provision, protection and participation rights. Several factors seem to contribute for youth emotional and behavioral functioning: social (e.g., group identification), relational (e.g., relationships with social workers, contacts with family) and developmental (e.g., autonomy, privacy) ones.

Conclusions: this study reinforces the perspective of adolescents as active actors and their participation as a relevant contribution to grow up grounded theory. Considering that the rights’ perceptions are influenced by specific life circumstances, the results of the grounded model will be discussed carefully, regarding not only the literature about this particular issue but also the specificity of residential care.
OS107.004
Parenting capacities assessment on residential care
10:00, 18 September 2013: O’Connell

Dora Pereira, Madalena Alarcão

In Portugal children enter on residential care when the Court or Children and Youth Protection Commissions’ consider they’re on a danger situation and the best way to assure protection is to move them away from their present caregivers and living setting. At that moment the assessment of parenting capacities will be a determining factor to decide subsequent interventions with children and their families. But how to effectively assess parenting capacities and skills in a context where parents-child interaction becomes much more limited? What will be the professionals’ role with the child, parents and judicial system? In this paper we’ll present how this process could be developed, having the Parenting Capacities Assessment Guide (Pereira & Alarcão, 2010, adapted from De Rancourt, Paquette, Paquette & Rainville, 2006) as main reference. We’ll detail the different methods used to collect information and report how residential functioning could be adapted to enable the assessment of issues requiring the continuing observation of parent-child interactions, as attachment or present parenting skills. This assessment method has been the focus of a qualitative research, where professional teams from 5 residential care centres and services that supervise this protection order applied the Guide to 10 cases after inter-teams meetings, when information was shared and agreement between teams was discussed. After 6 months it was verified through new contacts with teams if the prognosis hypothesized was the same, namely encouraging change prognosis or high risk of become a chronic situation. We conclude that the Guide is useful to assess parenting capacity on residential care settings, and that the diagnosis and prognosis reached were valid to underlie reunification or ultimate decisions, like adoption.

OS108.001
Lifetime impacts of children's experience of trauma in 'care' – Adult care leavers and mental health
09:00, 18 September 2013: Leeson Suite

Suellen Murray, Jim Goddard

During the past decade, the mental health of children in care has been the subject of increasing research and policy interest in a number of countries. This has led to some improvements in mental health services for such children, although these services remain inadequate. However, while wider research on links between adverse childhood experience and adult mental ill-health is well-established, less often considered are the long-term implications for the mental health of the specific population of adult care leavers. There are a number of reasons for addressing this lacunae. These reasons include the institutionalised environments in which many children in care lived in past decades, the impact of abuse before and/or during care, and the trauma, in many cases, of early childhood separation from primary carers. These and other factors lend themselves to the potential for future mental ill-health. So, too, can the reduced social and family networks that many young and adult care leavers experience. Such factors produce a higher likelihood of social exclusion. In this paper, we review what is currently known about the mental health status of adult care leavers. We do so with a view to suggesting avenues for further research and making proposals for improving the mental health of adults who spent time in care as children.
OS108.002
Keeping the child in mind

09:20, 18 September 2013: Leeson Suite

Bernadette Walsh, Katrina Hurley, Mia Chong, Tracey Hickey, Angela Duncan

"Keeping the Child in Mind" (A collaborative practice improvement project between Child Protection and Paediatrics in South Western Sydney Local Health District)

Objective: highlight indicators of Abuse and Neglect for all medical and nursing staff caring for children and their families across 5 Hospital sites throughout SWSLHD. A systematic review shows evidence that supports the use of procedural changes that enhances professional awareness and documentation of Child Abuse and Neglect (Carter et al, 2006 Archives of Disease in Childhood)

Methodology:

- Pre audit questionnaire to staff to assess current knowledge of Abuse and Neglect indicators
- Distribute a card of primary key indicators of Abuse and Neglect to all staff participating in project and ask them to wear the card and refer to it when necessary i.e when they have concerns for a child with regards to Abuse and Neglect - for a trial period of 3 months
- Posters, with same material as on card, to be placed in staff areas
- In-service to staff to introduce the aim of the card
- Post audit questionnaire to assess usefulness of card

Results:

- Increasing awareness and identification of Abuse and Neglect in children
- The card will become a permanent fixture along with staff ID and will be rolled out to all staff across the SWSLHD
- The creation of an E Learning module to ensure sustainability of the project and its outcomes
- To integrate the project outcomes in to current paediatric specific courses within SWSLHD

To conclude, this project will commence in February 2013 with a completion date of December 2013 with an evaluation report disseminated in early 2014. Our aim is to raise awareness of Abuse and Neglect amongst Health Staff.

OS108.003
Foster care as a form of out-of-home care for separated asylum seeking children: The experiences of young people and carers in the Republic of Ireland

09:40, 18 September 2013: Leeson Suite

Muireann Ni Raghallaigh

Background: The challenges facing separated asylum seeking children have been well documented. In the Republic of Ireland, these children are now living in foster care and supported lodgings, having previously been accommodated in largely unsupervised hostels.

Objectives and methods: While the recent change in practice has been widely welcomed and seen as a positive step, little is known on an international level about what it is like for separated children to live in family care and what the experience is like for their carers (exceptions include Luster et al, 2009; Wade et al., 2012). Based on qualitative interviews conducted with 21 separated young people and 16 carers, this paper explores the views of the participants in relation to the new care arrangements: What are the positive aspects and what are the challenges that are faced?

Results: The findings draw attention to the value that both carers and separated children attach to the relationships that develop between them. However, they also suggest the added complexity of living in care, given the asylum seeking and ethnic minority status of the young people in question. In particular, challenges are faced in terms of cultural diversity issues and in terms of the uncertainty surrounding the young people's future in Ireland.

Conclusions: This paper suggests that foster carers play a crucial role in helping separated children to adjust to life in Europe and to make the transition to adulthood, but that their role is highly complex given that it occurs at the interface of the asylum and child care systems. Some young people will adjust well to foster care while others will not. Given the diverse profile of separated children arriving in Europe, different forms of out of home care are always required in order to meet their needs.
OS108.004
The United States unaccompanied refugee minor program: Guiding principles and promising practices of a unique out-of-home care system
10:00, 18 September 2013: Leeson Suite
Anne Mullooly
The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS) has been partnering with a national network of Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) programs for more than 30 years to place and serve foreign-born children in the United States in out-of-home care. The URM program is the only one of its kind in the U.S. that specializes in providing foster care placements and services to newly-arriving unaccompanied children in need of protection, including refugees, asylees, and victims of human trafficking. Assisting unaccompanied, foreign-born children is a specialty field that necessitates specific and unique programming. Therefore, in collaboration with its URM program network, USCCB/MRS has written a practice-based book titled "The United States Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program: Guiding Principles and Promising Practices", comprising program history, guiding principles for standards of care, inspirational program practices, case vignettes, and quotes of staff and youth from across the URM network. The book covers a breadth of topics including: program model and goals; foster family recruitment, training, and retention; developing a continuum of care; case referral, assessment and placement processes; educational and vocational considerations; maintaining cultural and religious identities; utilizing mentors; promoting well-being and resilience; physical and dental health considerations; life skills and independent living; U.S. immigration considerations; permanency through family reunification or adoption; and future directions for the program. The book also includes considerations for particular child populations, such as refugees and victims of human trafficking. Care providers from around the world will find relevance for future programming as more and more children are migrating across international borders and ending up in out-of-home care situations. Audience members will be invited to share out-of-home care models for newly-arriving children in their own countries as well.

OS109.001
Hearing children's voices?: Including children's views on their experiences of domestic violence in welfare reports prepared for the courts in private family law proceedings (England)
09:00, 18 September 2013: Clyde Suite
Gillian MacDonald
The importance of children's participation in family law decision-making is now widely reflected in UK socio-legal policy and practice. However, including children in legal proceedings raises a number of questions, such as how should children be involved and what are the impacts of their inclusion on decisions made?

This paper is based on research which examined children's participation in the preparation of reports prepared for private family law proceedings concerning contact/residence in domestic violence cases (England).

Objectives: The research sought to answer the following questions:

- How are children's views presented in private family law court reports in domestic violence cases?
- How do constructions of children's experiences of violence impact upon report recommendations?

Method: Documentary analysis was used to examine a sample of reports. Content analysis provided a profile of data. Critical discourse analysis (CDA) of a sub-sample provided indepth analysis of discursive practices.

Results: CDA of the sub-sample identified the inclusion of children's disclosures regarding their fathers' violence. These testimonies identified children as victims of violence and linked this directly to violence towards mothers. However, report authors did not routinely validate children's experiences through explicit inclusion of their accounts in a safeguarding agenda. What children disclosed about domestic violence and child abuse regularly disappeared from recommendations regarding contact and future action.

Conclusions: It is argued that failure to respond to a child's disclosure of abuse reinforces the child's victim status. Furthermore, validation of children's experiences of violence should contribute towards effective safeguarding. This research argues that other more powerful discourses impacted on the construction of children's experiences of violence in the reports examined. As a result, issues of safeguarding were overshadowed by a hegemonic presumption of the benefits of contact with fathers.
OS109.002
Are the rights and welfare of vulnerable children protected in the dissemination of research?
09:20, 18 September 2013: Clyde Suite
Neerosh Mudaly, Christopher Goddard

Despite extensive literature on the ethical requirements for children's involvement in research, a significant omission appears to exist. Presenters at child abuse conferences are not required to declare the ethical processes they followed in their research. Ethical guidelines are also not available for the ethical dissemination of the research.

In our experience, photographs of vulnerable children have been freely shown at national and international child abuse conferences. We question whether and how consent was obtained from this vulnerable population and whether consideration was given to the long-term consequences on the children of such exposure.

Protecting the rights and welfare of vulnerable children in the dissemination of research is essential. Ethical procedures must be strictly applied and monitored. This should be a fundamental requirement at all child abuse conferences. Not doing so contributes to further exploitation and abuse of children.

This paper examines the need for ethical guidelines to protect the rights and welfare of vulnerable children in the dissemination of research findings particularly when photographs of these children are shown in presentations.

OS109.003
Child participation in child protection: a participatory action research project exploring children's views of child sexual abuse
09:40, 18 September 2013: Clyde Suite
Victoria Jupp Kina, Candice Wallace-Henry

There is now growing consensus that approaches to child sexual abuse must be parallel with child empowerment, highlighting the need for creative approaches within child protection strategies. Yet despite wider acceptance of the view that children have the capacity to deal with matters pertaining to sexuality, power relations and cultural beliefs, children's participation in sexual abuse prevention is insufficiently articulated or practiced. This paper will present an innovative participatory action research project undertaken in a township in South Africa in which children articulated their views on child sexual abuse, from defining the issue through to potential mechanisms of protection. Using a variety of participatory techniques to explore the children's views, the research demonstrates that children do not view themselves as vulnerable but rather as active agents who are competent to participate in child sexual abuse prevention initiatives. The participants viewed themselves as having a significant level of power to deal with child sexual abuse, from self-advocacy through to children changing their own sub-cultures and affecting changes within children's own spaces. While further research is needed to understand many of the issues highlighted within this research, it is hoped that this innovative approach to researching child sexual abuse can provide an alternative avenue for the development of genuinely holistic protection strategies that truly recognise children as active social agents.
OS109.004
Reacting and adapting: The perspectives of children who experienced sexual abuse
10:00, 18 September 2013: Clyde Suite
Michelle Keavey

Objectives
The purpose of this study was to explore resilience in children who have experienced sexual abuse. It aimed to develop a theory of how children construct their negotiation of their experiences of abuse.

Method
Nine children, aged 7-18 years who had reported sexual abuse, were recruited from a child sexual abuse service. A semi-structured interview was used to explore issues such as the child’s current outlook after the abuse, coping strategies, support mechanisms and expectations for the future.

Results
The data were analysed using grounded theory analysis. Results suggest that the child uses a process of reacting and adapting to the experience of sexual abuse. This process involved interrelated categories of avoiding and confronting, relating and trusting, seeking safety and justice, and creating meaning and understanding.

Conclusions
Illuminated within these results is the role resilience plays in the child’s adaptation in the aftermath of sexual abuse. Findings were related to extant literature and implied that the support of others and engagement in therapy have a key role in supporting children to cope with their experiences. Study limitations and future research are also discussed.

OS110.001
The use of family group conference in Ireland: Possibilities within child welfare
09:00, 18 September 2013: Appian Suite
Valerie O’Brien

This paper provides a brief overview of the practice of Family Group Conferencing (FGC) in the Republic of Ireland through a review of what has been occurring within the child welfare arena. The Irish legislation, policy and practice developments are reviewed against international trends. The paper focuses on what has been working in Conferencing in Ireland as well as the aspects that need further attention. It identifies key questions about the future direction and place of the practice.

Methodology: The paper is based on a review of small scale Irish research studies as well as legislative, practice and policy documents and a number of interviews with key service providers. It is written using a reflective process from the vantage point of one who was deeply involved in the development of kinship care (O’Brien 1997, 2012) and Family Group Conferences in Ireland from 1998 – 2003 (O’Brien 2001, 2002, O’Brien & Lynch 2002). Reflexivity involves looking again at perceptions in the light of new knowledge, understandings and perspectives. A series of recommendations for legislative, procedures and best practice domains is included.
OS110.002
Making sense of child protection thresholds: A naturalistic decision-making approach
09:20, 18 September 2013: Appian Suite
Dendy Platt, Danielle Turney

Objective: The threshold at which state social work services respond to children who may have been maltreated, or are at risk of maltreatment has been the subject of debate in the UK and elsewhere over a number of years. The aim of this paper is to present a conceptual model that helps to explain how threshold or screening decisions are made.

Methods: The proposed model was developed following a comprehensive review of research conducted in the UK between 1999 and 2010, related to the assessment of children and their families. The model reflects the findings of relevant studies. It was supplemented, however, by a selective review of research from outside the UK, which was used to refine the conceptual approach.

Results: The studies reviewed identified a range of factors affecting thresholds, including the nature of the welfare concerns for the child, the policy and organisational circumstances, the role of collaborative practice amongst a range of professionals, and the decision-making strategies operated by front line social workers, teams and managers. These strategies were described in a variety of ways, many of which will be familiar to participants; our model pulls together the various findings into a comprehensive approach.

Conclusions: We argue that the 'common sense' technical / rational understanding of thresholds is insufficient, based as it is on a yardstick for measuring the risk of harm, combined with policy regarding 'acceptable' cases. The picture is more complex, suggesting that the term 'threshold' may be of limited usefulness. Adapting a naturalistic decision-making approach, we present a model that seeks to explain how social workers draw upon a range of information at the level of individual families, policy, professional skills and culture and so on, and subject it to a number of sense-making strategies that lead to the eventual decision.

OS110.003
Keeping children at home safely: A statutory agency's quest in Western Australia
09:40, 18 September 2013: Appian Suite
Helen McMahon, Katherine Fendley

In 2008 a District in the Department for Child Protection and Family Support in Perth Western Australia made a long term commitment to undertake work to avoid taking children into state care. The commitment arose from observations of staff that earlier work with some families may have prevented the necessity of removing children from parents’ care and reflected a desire to lessen the trauma felt by both children and parents after such removal. This paper aims to highlight the issues faced by a statutory organisation gathering forensic evidence of abuse whilst adopting a family preservation focus. The establishment of the team in 2008 has yielded rich understandings of the effect of sustained, tailored interventions in the lives of families at immediate risk of losing roles as parents, children and siblings. The factors which seem to impact positively are honest discussions about the behaviours that do not keep children safe; family ownership of plans and strategies; skilled engagement of families in the process of determining their future roles with their children; endurance; and last but by no means least the sustained support of the management structure and the organisation. The team has used the Signs of Safety Framework adopted by the Department for Child Protection and Family Support as a springboard to start the engagement process with families and to preserve family involvement in all aspects of decision making. Not all children with whom the team has worked have remained at home, but families report that they understand why children are not safe in their care, can accept that this has happened for good reason, feel they can keep connected with children, have hope that they will return and very importantly, feel they have been treated fairly.

Honesty and natural justice underpin the work of the team.
OS111.001
Policy and practice issues for children and families: Language interpretation and translation
09:00, 18 September 2013: Adelaide Suite
Adrienne Chan, Sarah Maiter, Ramona Alaggia

Objectives: This study explored child protection services provided to families from diverse ethno-racial backgrounds, where language was a barrier to communication with the families. The focus was primarily with parents and families for whom English or French fluency was a barrier.

Methods: The study employed qualitative (focus groups and interviews with child protection workers) and quantitative methods (file review of child protection agency files). Workers were asked to reflect on policy, practices and issues regarding services for families. The study was conducted in two sites in Canada: Abbotsford and Toronto.

Results and Conclusions:
Primary language groups included Punjabi, Vietnamese, Portuguese, Spanish, and French (even though French is an official language) when identifying client families. Language interpretation is frequently required for parents, rather than the children in the family. File review data identified the significant presence of extended families within specific ethno-racial groups, and the use of children and extended family members as informal interpreters.

Workers identified a number of challenges including: the lack of resources and supports for workers, use of workers who use the same language as the client, and consideration of cultural issues. In one office, workers were specifically assigned families where they spoke the same language. Furthermore, workers identified challenges in using formal interpreters including issues of access, cost, quality of interpretation, confusion regarding the role of the interpreter, boundary issues, and confidentiality. Interpreters were considered beneficial in clarifying communication, culture and providing assistance with assessment and plans for care. In many cases, the quality standard of interpretation was quite variable.

Workers recommended that interpreters have some basic training and knowledge in child welfare matters and procedures. Workers also discussed the need for cultural training, and information on how to work with interpreters.

OS111.002
Holding the baby- community based therapeutic intervention for the earliest relationship
09:20, 18 September 2013: Adelaide Suite
Aideen Naughton, Julie Wallace

Objectives:
- To describe the origins of the development of a community based infant mental health service
- To outline the theoretical background underpinning the work at the Watch Wait and Wonder clinic
- To share practice involving skills in observation, reflection and facilitated analysis.

Methods:
In 2012 Welsh Government funding was granted for a 2 year project modelled on the approach pioneered for "Watch, Wait and Wonder" to provide an early intervention for babies and parents with relationships at risk. This presentation will give a brief outline of how using a mixture of skills, gained from an infant-led psychotherapy and parent/child psychotherapy, can facilitate organised and secure attachments in young children, reduce parental stress and improve a sense of parenting and competence in the parent.

Results:
Interim findings from the first year of the project will be presented including pre and post intervention evaluations using the Parent Development Interview, a measure of reflective functioning. Findings will demonstrate how a targeted specialist intervention for the infant carer relationship at risk can be successfully delivered in a community context.

Conclusions:
This therapeutic intervention with vulnerable parents and their babies stresses the importance of addressing the quality of the relationship and involving the very young child as an active participant and agent for change.
OS111.003
The influences of Irish media representations of child sexual abuse: An attitudinal experiment concerning media-type, age, and gender

09:40, 18 September 2013: Adelaide Suite

Darragh McCashin

Participants (n = 96) from a young (18-25) and mature (30-65) student gender-balanced population were randomly allocated to experimental groups using mixed-factorial design. They each received a different Irish media-type (television, print, and neutral), reporting on child sexual abuse (CSA). The aim was to investigate the main effects of media-type, age and gender, and potential attitudinal relationships. It was hypothesized that there would be a significant effect of media-type, gender and age. The CSA Myth scale and the moral foundations questionnaire were adopted as separate measurements, analysed using MANOVAs. Results offered partial support of the hypothesis. Significant main effects resulted for age and gender on both scales, and significant interactions were found for age and media-type on the CSA scale, likewise for media-type and gender on the morals scale. No significant effect was found for media-type. Some positive correlations emerged between the scales. ANOVAs and analysis of simple effects further examined these trends. Results are discussed in light of their relevance to media psychology, child protection and methodological caveats, with implications for media conduct, public engagement with media, and future research.

OS111.004
Educating the educators: Bringing the science of child maltreatment to the classroom

10:00, 18 September 2013: Adelaide Suite

Ginger Welch, Laura Wilhelm

This session will provide information about how professionals can translate child maltreatment research into applied presentations and materials for early childhood educators in an effort to prevent child maltreatment and increase early identification of problems. Child maltreatment is typically deadliest early in life, and therefore it is important that the caregivers of our youngest children are especially aware of signs of child maltreatment, as well as ways to prevent and intervene at the educational level. However, this type of knowledge is rarely an area of significant focus in teacher preparation programs in the United States. Participants in this session will receive a literature review of current work in child maltreatment training for teachers, and will also work interactively with the presenters to accomplish the following: 1) translate data into teacher-friendly formats, 2) learn techniques for training teachers to integrate child maltreatment into in-service or teacher preparation programs, and 3) identify national and international conferences at which they can present such information. The presenters, who have co-authored a book on child neglect for teachers, are a researcher in child neglect and a professor of early childhood education, and are passionate about bringing together research and practice.
OS112.001
The unconscious at work? Using serious games and facereader software in child protection training
09:00, 18 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite
Jane Reeves

The Centre for Child Protection is a new initiative at the University of Kent. Part of the strategic aim is the development of virtual learning platforms (‘serious games’) for the training of child protection professionals. ‘Rosie 2’ has 13 scenes which follow a social worker and health visitor on a virtual visit on a case of neglect. The research objectives were to firstly apply highly-sensitive eye-tracking and facial recognition software to examine the emotional responses which qualified social workers and health visitors displayed whilst on a virtual visit. Secondly, to evaluate the value of eye-tracking technology as a tool in child protection. Thirdly, to use this data to develop further commissioned serious games. Participants were recruited from social work (n=8), health visiting (n=5) and lay populations (n=10) and they were asked to ‘play’ ‘Rosie 2’ on an eye tracker machine and to complete a written evaluation form.

The results of the research indicated that the prevailing emotion displayed by the lay participants was surprise and anger, whilst for the professionals showed a neutral emotion for half of the ‘visit’. Between professional groups, health visitors displayed considerably more sadness than social workers, whilst social workers expressed more disgust than both health visitors and lay participants.

In conclusion, this research informs us about the unconscious emotional responses that professionals have as they complete a child protection scenario. Half of the time professionals, through their neutral expressions, indicated that they were perhaps immune to the scenes of neglect they were witnessing, whilst for others sadness and disgust were dominant. All of these reactions could have implications for practice and, used prudently, perhaps as part of selection interviews or at key points in a career, the tool provides valuable data that could be explored in interviews/ or supervision.

OS112.002
Enhancing service delivery in Saudi Arabia: The evaluation of a National Family Safety Program for multidisciplinary child protection training
09:20, 18 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite
Ejalal Jalal

In 2005 the National Family Safety Program (NFSP) was established by Royal Decree of the King and considered one of the most notable child protection programmes. Between 2007 and 2008 NFSP submitted a national project to establish a child protection centre in one of the major hospitals.

The training course is part of a series of basic training courses that are offered annually by the NFSP in collaboration with others. The general objective of these training courses is to provide participants with basic skills in how to deal with child abuse and neglect cases, and identify the types, signs, causes and consequences of child abuse and neglect. These training courses arm participants with needed skills to evaluate, intervene and protect, in addition to treatment and rehabilitation techniques. They also aim to provide participants with knowledge of national and international laws and regulations that govern child protection and child abuse and neglect prevention.

Project aim
Investigate the perceived of multidisciplinary training on the practice of professionals who deal with maltreated children and who attended the National Family Safety Program.

Methodology
Mixed methods will be used in this project;

- First I will carry out a quantitative research method pre-/post-training survey, by using pre-post designs. The data will be collected for each item, before starting the training and immediately after training for the short term outcome evaluation.
- In the second research phase, qualitative research method will be used by follow up interviews after three/six months for the long term evaluation outcome. One to one interview, sub-sample group of specialists with whom to conduct semi-structured interviews - two practitioners from each group- giving the chance to explore in depth the opinions of individuals.

Results: Preliminary findings will be presented at the conference.
Development of problem-based training manuals on the 4Rs (recognizing, recording, reporting, and referral) of women and children abuse cases for residents in pediatrics, obstetrics-gynecology, and other hospital personnel

09:40, 18 September 2013: Clanwilliam Suite

Melflor Atienza, Erlyn Sana, Bernadette Madrid, Katrina Legarda, Amy Avellano, Nemuel Fajutagana, Merle Tan

The Philippine Department of Health (DOH) is intensifying its campaign against domestic violence. It is now standardizing the establishment and operations of Women and Children Protection Units (WCPUs) around the country. Integral to this campaign is the problem-based training of all residents in paediatrics, obstetrics-gynecology, and other hospital personnel in handling and managing victims of violence against women and children (VAWC).

This project developed a training program on the 4Rs: Recognizing, Recording, Reporting, and Referral of women and children abuse. A multi-disciplinary team conducted a series of consultations, workshops, and round-table discussions with women and children protection units (WCPUs) in the Philippines, relevant government and private organizations working on VAWC. The training was pilot tested to 40 consultants, training officers, and residents from the two medical specializations as well as to 40 other non-hospital personnel last October 2011. The manual was revised according to feedback of participants and facilitators and finalized for full implementation by DOH.

The training manual contains actual cases and problems depicting VAWC from recognition, to recording, reporting, and referring for further management. The seven-jump approach in the problem-based learning curricular track was used as the main training framework. It integrated the main cognitive principles of problem based learning (PBL) with VAWC. The program did not just introduce women and children protection work but also inculcated in the trainees the main intellectual skills to analyze, evaluate and solve women and children abuse cases, as well as engage them in a self-reflection to continue to remain sensitive in handling women and children.

The PBL approach proved useful in bringing together clinicians and other health personnel in one learning environment where cognitive learning theories and adult learning principles are put into practice.
Poster Presentations
PS.001
Child protection systems in fragile states: The implications for policy and practice

Tracy Shields, Denise Allen, Tamara Tutnjevic, Andrew Ware

This research across four countries has two objectives:

1. Explore the unique perspective on child protection at national and community levels using the innovative ADAPT
2. Contributing to the global discourse on engagement with fragile (weak) states from the child protection perspective

The research is based on a meta-analysis of ADAPT assessments that have been carried out by World Vision in the last two years. ADAPT is a community participatory process that allows an understanding of community child protection issues, causes and strengths and gaps in the child protection system. The work also looks at the National level child protection system.

While each of the four contexts is unique there are some emerging trends:

- There is a significant gender imbalance with girls more likely subjected to abuse and less able to access support
- All countries have some type of informal mechanism for child protection response
- There are significant commonalities when investigated using the key elements of the child protection system
- Key feature for child protection in fragile states is the coexistence of statutory and customary laws

This research on fragile state specific child protection systems highlights the importance of prioritising relevant child protection issues in fragility assessments and national strategy processes, especially when considering 2011’s The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States.

PS.002
The cell remembers

Nicola O’Sullivan

This study examines and explores professionals’ understandings, perceptions of and responses to parental vulnerability in pregnancy and potential harm to the baby in utero. Qualitative interviews were carried out with 18 professionals providing a range of services in the HSE Ireland and the UK, all thought to contribute to theoretical and practical approaches to vulnerable pregnant parents and babies. A further aim of these interviews was to assess the views of engaged professionals as to the utility of a multi-agency approach to this emerging area of social care practice. This study examines national and international developments in the area of vulnerability during pregnancy and potential harm to the baby pre and post birth.

In Ireland the subject of parental vulnerability in pregnancy, unborn babies and infants has received little attention in child welfare and protection policy – a fact which is readily evident in practice. Ireland, uniquely, affords constitutional protection to the unborn child under Article 40.3.3 of the Constitution (Bunreacht na hEireann, 1937), however this article has generally been interpreted from an anti-abortion perspective.

Findings reveal that professionals working with parents whom they consider to be vulnerable, and babies who are thought to be exposed to in utero abuse or neglect - are doing so in the absence of any guidelines, policy or legislation. Professionals are currently tasked with making complex decisions about the point at which maternal choices constitute neglect of an unborn baby and are asked to make such judgements within a practice environment which demands accountability and transparency. Most decisions reflected current policy and legislation - that a child is best placed with its birth parents - despite mounting evidence, in some cases, that a baby was exposed to abuse and or neglect in utero, and parents presented with coexisting adversities.
Illusions of care and the Munro review of child protection in England

Martyn Higgins, Annabel Goodyer

The Munro Review of Child Protection (2011) was established by the coalition government in Britain after it came into office in 2010. Munro’s focus is on the culture of child protection and the dichotomy between doing the right thing (making sure children are being helped) and doing things right (following procedures). While Munro acknowledges the importance of policies and assessment tools and deadlines, she thinks they should be reviewed to see whether they can be more adaptive to the needs of children and the professional judgments of social workers. Within this context the overarching principles of the Munro Review are that child protection must become a child-centred service which recognises that the complexity and uncertainty of child protection work cannot be eradicated and risk management can only reduce and not eliminate risk.

Munro’s analysis is restricted to the child protection pathway. However, looked after children sometimes undergo a more arduous journey. The objectives of this presentation are to:

- indicate care realities for children and young people in public care reflect the core principles of the Munro Review
- elucidate how implementation of the Munro principles can transform the lives of children in public care

The authors’ methods will be to explore the findings from their longitudinal studies into statutory social work and child protection. Their findings are congruent with those of Munro that public systems of child protection and public care are not child-centred and are focussed on the elimination of risk rather than (child-centred) meeting children’s needs.

The conclusions of this research are:

1. No parenting, including corporate parenting is entirely safe
2. Introducing a more child-centred approach to fostering systems will maximise child-centred public parenting
3. A child-centred model of care requires a more nuanced relationship to risk and complexity
**PS.004**  
**Child maltreatment as predictors of suicidal ideas and attempts in a general female population**  
**Tourigny Marc, Séguin Monique**

Objective: Child maltreatment has been investigated as a suicide risk for decades. The aim of this study was to evaluate the prevalence of women from the general population with suicidal ideas or attempts and add to the actual literature a larger perspective of different types of maltreatment in regards to experiences such as neglect, psychological, physical or sexual abuse and its association to risk factor for suicide ideas and attempts.

Method: Data were collected during a telephone survey held between March and April 2009 among a sample of 1,001 female adult respondents from the province of Quebec (Canada). Questions were selected to investigate childhood maltreatment as a risk factor for probable depression, and actual post-traumatic stress disorders, and suicidal behaviours in the course of their lives.

Results: Regression analysis indicates a positive association between sexual abuse and suicidal ideations and a positive association between sexual abuse, psychological abuse, probable depression and suicide attempts. Respondents who attempted suicide were two to three times more likely to have experienced the presence of sexual or psychological abuse in the past and four times more likely to have been screened for a probable depression.

Conclusions: Interventions that target the early reduction of sexual or psychological abuse may translate into ulterior reduction in mental health and suicidal behaviours.

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**PS.005**  
**Current problems with information systems in human service organisations: unforeseen but foreseeable?**  
**Philip Gillingham**

Background

The current forms of electronic information systems (IS) being used in human services organisations, sometimes known as "Case Management Systems" or "Case Recording Systems", that provide services to children and families across the world have been heavily criticized. Hence there is an urgent need to redesign them for the future. The author is engaged in a long term program of research which aims to contribute to the future designs of IS that will enhance practice with children and families. This presentation originates from the author’s attempts to understand the aetiology of the current problems, at the beginning of the research.

Objectives

The objective of this presentation is to explore how many of the problems with current forms of IS could perhaps have been avoided, had principles from engineering system design and, more recently, joint cognitive systems, been applied to their design.

Methods

Ethnographic research, involving participant observation, interviews and documentary analysis, has been conducted in IS implementation and development projects in non-government agencies in Brisbane, Australia. Data have been analysed thematically and according to an iterative process which draws from theory within the field of social work and beyond, to generate new ideas.

Results

Theory based on empirical methods in engineering systems can provide practical and theoretical insights to the analysis of current problems with IS.

Conclusions

The results of this research can be used to guide the future design of IS for use in human service organisations.
PS.006
Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy (MSBP): Difficulties of applying diagnostic criteria

Muna Al Saadoon

MSBP is a rare form of child abuse. It is also known as factitious disorder by proxy and defined as “the intentional production or feigning of physical or psychological signs or symptoms in another person who is under the individual's care for the purpose of indirectly assuming the sick role”. Meadow proposed four criteria for MSBP diagnosis. The problems in defining and diagnosing this type of child abuse are experienced by professional in the field. More diverse presentations of MSBP are becoming recognized and the issue of high degree of accuracy in diagnosing these cases is important in order to provide appropriate protection for the victims. But it is vital to consider the ease/difficulty of fulfilling the above diagnostic criteria in the absence of child protection services.

Method: All cases of MSBP reported to the Ministry of Health by the child protection team in SQU hospital were reviewed aiming to explore the presentations of such cases and the family and social factors in relation to this type of child abuse. A total of four children were identified and their medical records were reviewed.

Results: all children (except 1) were below the age of 5 years at presentation; all were girls and brought to the health facility by the mothers. It was not possible to fulfill all of the diagnostic criteria for all of the cases. In all of the families there were major social problems (such as divorced mother, domestic violence).

Conclusion: With absent child protection law it is not possible to fulfill all diagnostic criteria.

PS.007
Territory skirmishes with DIY advocacy in the family courts: a Dickensian misadventure

Kim Holt

The prospect of the family court resembling a scene from the Pickwick Papers could be a reality in English Law from April 2013, when the courts thronged with individuals without legal advice or representation arrive to seek justice. The Dickensian novel published in 1837 provides a visual image of the potential chaos for litigants, lawyers and members of the judiciary who are chartering new territory with the inevitability of skirmishes for all parties involved in private family law. The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 will introduce changes to legal aid that will have profound implications for the most vulnerable individuals who turn to a system when they are most in need and unable to resolve their disputes without the oversight of the court. The paper explores the implications of this reform in the wider context of the modernization of Family Justice in England.
Teaching future professionals about the identification and report of child protection concerns

Deirdre Scott

Teaching future professionals about the identification and reporting of child protection concerns.

This approach is used with students completing a four year degree in Early Childhood Care and Education and a four year degree in Social Care Practice. While child protection is discussed throughout the programmes this module brings an in-depth examination of their role in the detection and reporting of child abuse.

Objectives

- To facilitate students improve on their identification of child protection concerns.
- To facilitate students develop the appropriate language when speaking to parents/guardians about child protection matters.
- To help students understand their role in the identification, reporting and writing about child abuse and neglect.

Method.

- Through a process of working through case studies students:
  - Identify, with reference to text books, child protection concerns.
  - Role play talking to a parent about their concerns
  - Complete a child protection referral form
  - Prepare a case conference report
  - Attend a mock child protection case conference.
  - Reflect on and evaluate their knowledge, skills and attitudes developed through the various steps of the module.

Results

- Through this process students become familiar with reading about difficulties experienced by children who have been subjected to child abuse and neglect.
- They develop the appropriate language when talking and writing about child abuse and neglect.
- They identify their knowledge, skills and attitudes and steps required to increase their effectiveness.

Conclusion

A wide spectrum of people with knowledge of child abuse and neglect are required if children are to be protected. Students require, not only knowledge of signs and symptoms of abuse but expertise in talking and writing about child protection matters.

Reference to educational theories will form part of the presentation.
PS.009
Risky idyll? Child protection in rural areas in Germany. A practice-based research and quality development project by the German child protection centres
Stefan Heinitz, Prof. Dr. Michael Herschelmann

Objectives:
Although child protection in Germany has been the focus of much attention in recent years and has been subject to significant legal, political and professional changes (see e.g. Wolff / Biesel / Heinitz in: Gilbert / Parton / Skivenes: Child protection systems. International trends and orientations. Oxford University Press 2011), the debate has often neglected the specific characteristics of rural areas. In our project, we focus on changing patterns of family and work, economically dwindling regions, rising socio-economic problems and the consequences of these developments for effective service structures. How can we develop child protection services that will better address these specific clients and their needs?

Data collection methods:
• semi-structured qualitative interviews with clients from different rural regions in Germany and
• with experts from various professional backgrounds and civil society
• interactive multiagency discussion groups

Results: There appear to be various barriers to accessing counselling and other social services, e.g. long distances to the service centres, a negative reputation of professional institutions and a lack of information about services. However, clients in rural areas also creatively cope with these difficulties. Conducive factors, among other things, are long-term personal contacts, creating transparency and providing information about services. Also, the development of mobile services and co-operations with schools and day-care centres have yielded positive results.

Conclusions: Child protection work in rural areas often faces a multi-factor problem dynamic composed of isolation, violence and problems in accessing social and counselling services. Hence, the changes and the current conditions in rural areas can produce new forms of endangerment for children and families. Our results have political and professional implications, which we would like to discuss in a broader international context during the conference in order to widen the project perspective in 2014.

PS.010
The role of ISPCC social support on perceived stress, test performance anxiety and self-esteem among post primary school students
Prakashini Banka, John Hyland

The current study examined the effectiveness of services provided by the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC), with regard social support for children who have experienced personal difficulties. This involved the evaluation of these services in relation to recent stressful life events experienced by adolescents with a focus on perceived stress, test performance anxiety and self-esteem. Whilst previous research has explored the importance of social support from parents, family members and friends, the role of support agencies has not been assessed in much detail. A sample of 188, 13-18 year old (M = 14.03) post-primary students (99 female and 89 male) completed the 'Perceived stress scale' (Cohen, Kamarck & Mermelstein, 1983), the 'Test performance anxiety' scale (Nist & Diehl, 1990) and the 'Rosenberg self-esteem scale' (Rosenberg, 1965). The study employed a quasi-experimental, cross-sectional survey design. Based on the responses to the self-reported stressful life-events, three groups were formed. Service users (SU group) reported using ISPCC services in the last six months, non-service users who reported not contacting the ISPCC but did report a recent stressful event (NSUS group), and finally those who reported not using ISPCC services and did not report a stressful event (NSU group). Results indicated significant differences in relation to perceived stress, where adolescents who used ISPCC services reported lower levels of perceived stress than those who reported a recent stressful event but did not make contact with the ISPCC. No significant differences were revealed in relation to self-esteem or test anxiety with regard SU and NSUS groups. These findings illustrate the importance of the provision of such social support agencies and the important implications for child welfare. Findings will be discussed with regard to theory and practice.
PS.011
An analysis of current trends in domestic adoption in Ireland: The linkages between past oppressive practices and future possibilities

Valerie O’Brien

The changes in adoption in Ireland have been a significant feature within child welfare in recent times. The numbers of children placed voluntarily (relinquished) for adoption now is extremely low (< 20 pa); Less than 15 children are freed for adoption by the courts; step-parent adoptions occur at the rate of approximately 250 pa. Overseas adoption is the more usual route now chosen. The legislative changes arising from the Adoption Act 2010, and the recent Children’s referendum (November 2012) have profoundly changed the adoption and child welfare landscape and has paved the way for the potential of ‘freeing more children’ for adoption from state care.

This paper sets out to present an analysis of adoption data for the thirteen years 1999-2012. It explores the ideology underpinning the proposed changes, and postulates where adoption may go in the future.

The analysis is located within the recent ‘telling’ of key historical stories and experiences of the treatment of single mothers and their children. While the experiences of what happened to many children reared in Institutions has been told (Ryan Report 2009), this paper contends that the intersection between questionable past adoption practices and unresolved historical events may evoke societal unease about the proposal to adopt more children against their birth parents wishes. Unease arising from the sending of thousands of children to USA to be adopted, and the limited or nil choice given to women who were single and pregnant other than to have their babies adopted may once again come to the fore. The linkages between the past and the future should be made if we are to find a way forward for children and their families.

PS.012
Trauma and the energy model of self control

Hennerieke Rietberg, Catrin Finkenauer, Francien Lamers-Winkelman

Introduction: Self control is the ability to change habits and to regulate thoughts, feelings and behavior to bring them in line with individual or social standards and ideals. According to the energy model of self control, self control requires energy and this energy can temporarily become depleted. Based on previous research supporting this energy model, we predict that traumatic experiences deplete parents’ self control.

Objectives: The aim of the current study is to examine the relationship between self control and PTSD symptoms in parents of children who experienced domestic violence or child sexual abuse.

Method: The sample consists of 27 parents of children who experienced domestic violence (n = 17) or child sexual abuse (n = 10) and were referred to the Child and Youth Trauma Center. Parents completed the Impact of Events Scale (IES-R; Weiss & Marmar, 1997) to assess parental posttraumatic stress symptoms and the Self-control scale (Tangney et al., 2004; Dutch version, Finkenauer et al., 2005).

Results: Preliminary results show that more PTSD symptoms are related to lower self control (r(20) = -.60, p < .001). Currently, data is being gathered in order to further investigate the relationship between parental PTSD, parental self control, child behavioral and social-emotional functioning and other related factors (such as household chaos, parenting skills). These results will be presented.

Conclusions: Parents with more PTSD symptoms demonstrate lower self control, which supports the hypothesis that traumatic experiences deplete the capacity for self control. These findings show that post traumatic stress might temporarily impair self control, therefore parents with PTSD symptoms often lose control over their everyday life, social interactions and relationships.

Research has found that self control can be taught and trained. Hence, people suffering from PTSD might benefit from training of self control.
PS.013
The Safe and Together Model: Intervening with domestic violence perpetrators to enhance the safety and wellbeing of children
Kristen Selleck, David Mandel

Domestic violence perpetrators choose to harm their children by choosing to harm their partners and ex-partners. Their potential harm and risk to children varies but it is imperative to find ways to intervene with perpetrators in order to attempt to reduce the risk they pose.

Working with domestic violence perpetrators can be challenging in various ways. This workshop is designed to provide participants with information about how to assess perpetrators' behaviors, their potential risk to and impact on children, and strategies for intervening with perpetrators directly and through collaboration. This workshop will provide information about interviewing, evaluating change in perpetrators' behaviors, and collaborating with various systems to hold perpetrators accountable.

This training uses the principles and components of the Safe and Together™ model, an international field tested model designed to support child welfare in handling domestic violence case practice.

PS.014
Contemporary moral challenges faced by child protection educators and practitioners in a changing world – Paper 1: Getting it right for every child
Eleanor Kerr, Marjorie Keys

LO 1: Consider the context in which practitioners work to safeguard children and young people.

LO 2: Explore the moral challenges faced by educators with a responsibility to equip practitioners for front line work.

Child abuse is a major contemporary public health issue (Powell 2011). Estimates suggest that 1 in 4 young adults have been subject to serious childhood maltreatment (NSPCC 2012), and recent years have seen the publication of an unprecedented volume of legislation, policies and procedures designed to promote the health of children. Research suggests that early intervention programmes can have a positive impact on the lives of children (Olds 2006) However, many such programmes are expensive and are targeted at a small number of children, sometimes, to the detriment of universal services for other children. The allocation of scarce resources can present a huge moral issue for organisations, managers and practitioners.

Despite all that is known about child abuse it remains under recognised and often under reported, and this has been attributed to poor knowledge, anxiety about maintaining relationships with families and concern about statutory agencies' ability to respond (Gilbert 2008), all adding to the moral dilemmas for practitioners.

The moral challenge for educators meanwhile is to ensure that the content of programmes is interesting, innovative, interactive, informative and informed by evidence. Most of all, it must be fit for purpose, thereby supporting practitioners to "get it right" for every child.

References
Contemporary moral challenges faced by child protection educators and practitioners in a changing world - Paper 2: Using Child Abuse Inquiries as part of educational provision

Lindsey Robb

LO1: Explore the literature which supports the use of inquiries or serious case reviews in educational provision.

LO2: Highlight ways in which the above documents can be used sensitively, responsibly and ethically in teaching and learning.

When a child dies as the result of abuse, society is morally obliged to explore the circumstances in order to prevent similar deaths in the future (Brandon 2009). Inquiries contain emotive material and are considered part of a ‘blame culture’ which can contribute to defensive practice (Munro 2010). This poster summarises an extended literature review which explored the potential role of child abuse inquiries in education and training (Robb 2012).

Key literature identified meaningful learning opportunities that can result from the use of inquiries in education. For example, to develop understanding of complex relationship dynamics with children and families and acquire strategies to deal with resistant or aggressive clients. The inquiries provide a rich source of material for discussion around topics such as human errors that occur in the context of scarce resources and challenges inexperienced staff face such as differing professional criteria for services.

This poster justifies the use of inquiries as a legitimate resource for education. Used sensitively and interactively they exemplify the complexity and emotional impact of child protection work while effective usage of inquiry findings ensures that practitioners are better prepared for practice (Laming 2009).

Brandon, M. (2009) 'Child fatality or serious injury through maltreatment: Making sense of outcomes' Children & Youth Services Review. 31 1107-1112


Contemporary moral challenges faced by child protection educators and practitioners in a changing world - Paper 3: Supporting students whom we might never meet in person

Ruth Mitchell

LO1: Identify and discuss the challenges of supporting students with regard to our moral duty of care.

LO2: Highlight potential opportunities that students might be given to share innovative course work.

The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2012) identifies that support for staff is essential in view of the complex and demanding nature of child protection work. Edinburgh Napier University's Student Charter (2012) makes explicit the support that should be available for all students undertaking studies within the University. The document outlines our moral duties towards students. Moral challenges include facilitating students to realise their own potential, for example by encouraging the publication of innovative course work, while respecting their rights as self directed adult learners who may be balancing study with work, family and other commitments.

Learning can be both rewarding and challenging; however many students also face personal issues which may impact negatively on their capacity to learn. Whilst a variety of academic and personal support systems are available, there are inherent challenges in supporting students who undertake a course of study that involves on-line learning in relation to a sensitive topic such as child protection. Identifying a 'struggling' student is more difficult in an online environment than when dealing with students face to face. Furthermore, support requires balancing the needs of the student with the ever changing demands of the organization (Crosling and Webb 2002).

This is the third in a series of three posters that explore the issue of moral obligation in the context of the provision of postgraduate child protection education.

Edinburgh Napier University. Student Charter 2012 [accessed on 17/01/13]


**PS.017**  
The design and implementation of an outcome based approach to regulating children's foster care services in Ireland

*Nuala Ward*

One of the key principles of the Health Information and Quality Authority is to drive continuous improvement in services to children through an outcome based approach to regulation. Recent research (Munroe 2011) on the regulation of social services for children in the UK highlighted how a regulator can unintentionally contribute to poor quality services through focusing on processes rather than on outcomes. In 2012 the Authority introduced an outcome based approach to the regulation of services to children in foster care.

One of the challenges to overcome was the lack of specific outcome measures for children in foster care in Ireland. The Authority explored various measures used internationally, examined key research in this area, and considered how the outcomes would complement Ireland's national well being indicators for all children.

Subsequently a set of nine outcomes were designed which satisfied internationally-recognised best-practice criteria. These outcomes, suitably localized for an Irish context, captured aspects such as: (1) child centred services; (2) promotion of kinship, friendship and community ties; (3) optimising each child's potential; (4) child safety and protection; (5) effective social work practices; (6) recruitment of high quality foster carers; (7) ongoing provision of high quality foster carers; (8) governance, leadership and management; (9) an effective workforce. These outcomes were deliberately framed as strengths based and positive and placed the child at the centre of the system.

The Authority introduced these outcomes into the sector in 2012 and eight foster care services were inspected using this approach. The findings were published against the outcomes. Self reporting from the sector indicates that this approach was well received. The Authority will evaluate the impact of this approach in driving continuous improvement in foster care services and its influence on practice and policy in measuring outcomes for children in foster care.

**PS.018**  
Playing, it really helps! Filial therapy as an effective intervention in cases where child abuse has occurred

*Daire Gilmartin*

Filial (child-parent) Therapy has been shown to be a highly effective intervention for children and families experiencing a variety of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Filial therapists train and supervise parents in conducting special child centred play sessions with their children, an approach that not only helps eliminate presenting problems but also strengthens parent-child and family relationships. Parents learn four specific skills (structuring skill, empathic listening skill, child centred imaginary play skill and limit setting skill) in order to conduct the special play sessions. After they have mastered these skills during the play sessions their use can be generalised to everyday parenting situations.

This poster presentation will explore the usefulness of Filial Therapy in responding to the particular therapeutic needs of families attending a child sexual abuse assessment and therapy service. The presentation will focus on how the work develops over time and will highlight the benefits, challenges and therapeutic potential of working in this way. Suggestions for further training and integration of this powerful and dynamic way of working will be presented, with reference to supporting research.
**PS.019**  
*Parenting + : Foster caregiving in a cross-national perspective*  
Jill Berrick, Marit Skivenes  

Foster care is an international phenomenon yet relatively little is known about the caregivers who offer support to children or the features of their daily care. In particular, scarce data are available to describe the characteristics of highly effective caregivers or effective care.

**Objectives:** The objectives of the study are to identify whether effective caregiving mirrors strong parenting among typical parents or whether a set of additional skills is required to parent foster children responsively. The study is also designed to identify how the nature and characteristics of care are similar or different across two countries.

**Methods:** This study includes data from interviews conducted with an international sample of U.S. (n=87) and Norwegian (n=54) foster parents selected for providing high quality care to children. Qualitative data analysis using open coding for themes was conducted.

**Results:** The data shed light on many similarities in practice associated with effective caregiving in both countries including practices that mirror typical parenting practices. The data also show that in addition to good parenting practices, there are some features associated with foster care that we describe as "Parenting +"; these are the tasks associated with caring for a foster child that go above and beyond the typical strategies used with children from the general population.

**Implications:** Findings from the study have implications for foster parent recruitment, training, and support.

**PS.020**  
*Treating abused children: evaluating components and mechanisms of the HORIZON group therapy*  
Machteld Telman, Ivanka van Delft, Hennerieke Rietberg, Margreet Visser, Clasien de Schipper, Catrin Finkenauer, Francien Lammers-Winkelman, Carlo Schuengel, Janet van Bavel

Abused children are at risk for developing a variety of problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder. Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) is one of the evidence-based therapies available to treat abused children. However, it is unclear which treatment components and mechanisms account for its effectiveness. The Academic Collaborative Centre on Child Abuse in The Netherlands examines which components and mechanisms are associated with symptom improvement in abused children who are treated with the HORIZON therapy. This TF-CBT based group therapy was developed to treat children who have experienced sexual abuse (CSA) or interparental violence (IPV). Our first line of research focuses on the impact of CSA on family relationships. Using a randomized clinical trial (RCT) design, it will be examined what the effects are of sharing the trauma narrative with parents during HORIZON therapy on treatment outcome. The second line of research focuses on the impact of IPV on children and their parents. In another RCT, we will study the effectiveness of two components, a preparatory program for parents, and parent-child interaction sessions as addition to the standard HORIZON therapy for children who have experienced IPV. The third line of research overarching both RCTs focuses on self-control as an underlying mechanism in the association between child abuse and various problems experienced by children and their families. The sample will consist of hundred families in each RCT who are referred to Child and Youth Trauma Centers and specialized mental health care settings. Our studies combine parent-child observations, semi-structured interviews, physiological ambulatory assessment, and questionnaires to shed light on the workings of therapy for abused children. These research lines will be presented together with preliminary findings of a pilot study (n=27) conducted at the Child and Youth Trauma Center in Haarlem, the Netherlands.
PS.021
Children in out-of-home care with grandmothers: Physical and behavioral health Issues

Susan Kelley, Deborah Whitley

A growing number of children around the globe are living in out-of-home care with grandparents. In many countries, public policy gives preference to children being placed with relatives over non-relatives.

Objective: To examine the physical and emotional well-being of children raised by grandmothers.

Method: The sample was comprised of 1,146 African American children, aged 3 to 17 years, who were being raised by grandmothers (95%) or great-grandmothers (5%). The majority of grandmothers were low income.

Results: The most common antecedents to being placed in the care of grandmothers were child maltreatment (78.7%), parental substance abuse (67%), and abandonment (34.5%). Only 7% of participants were placed in out-of-home care by child protective services (CPS); the remainder (93%) were there through informal family arrangements. Approximately one-third (34.3%) of participants scored in the clinically elevated range on total behavior problems, with 22.1% and 33.3% scoring in the clinically elevated range for internalizing and externalizing behaviors, respectively. The most prevalent physical health problems included being overweight/obese (34.3%), prenatal substance/drug exposure (27.5%), asthma (18.8%), and environmental allergies (10.4%). Sixteen percent had a known learning disability.

Conclusions: Children raised by grandmothers often experience multiple adverse events prior to their placement. Given their trauma histories, it is not surprising that almost one-third of participants had clinically elevated behavior problem scores suggesting a need for therapeutic intervention. Grandchildren raised by grandparents also appear at increased risk for physical health problems, with slightly over one-third being classified as overweight or obese. This finding is of particular concern given that being overweight or obese in childhood significantly increases one’s risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and adult obesity. Implications for practice, research, and policy will be discussed.

PS.022
Parent/child visits: The most powerful reunification service

Rose Wentz

When children and parents are not living together the most important service to ensure safety, permanency and well-being is visits. This includes face to face contacts, phone, internet, mail and other activities that ensures the all the family members have high quality and regular contact. Research has shown that visits increase the probability the family will reunite, that reunification will occur faster, and children will have fewer problems while in care. There is stronger evidence that effective visits and connections activities are more likely to ensure safety than most of the therapeutic and parenting services provided to families.

Learn about: 1. A tool to ensure the child’s separation trauma is minimized. 2. Identifying how to increase family connections that ensure attachment is maintained and parents are practicing their improved parenting skills. 3. Research that supports visits as an effective service for reunification.

Information on how child welfare professionals can increase the quality and quantity of parent/child connections from the first day the child is removed from his family. How each decision point in the case is essential to determining how parents, extended family and the child’s cultural community can be used engaged to support visits. A tool to identify the trauma the child is experiencing and how to team with the birth family, care-giving family and other professionals to minimize the child’s ongoing trauma. The participants will be provided a website on the bibliography related to visits and connection research and the article "Unlocking Reasonable Efforts: Kinship is Key".
PS.023
Effects of early intervention in pregnant adolescent couple about child development and appropriate parenting practices

Domitila Gonzaga, Rachel Brino

Objective: The aim of this study was to develop, implement and evaluate a training program for pregnant adolescent couple, on topics of child development and appropriate parenting practices. Method: There were 6 2-hours meetings with the couple (M and P) at their home. The meetings began and ended with the application of instruments KIDI -Knowledge of Infant Development Inventory and CAP Inventory - Child Abuse Potential in order to evaluate the intervention through pre and post-test measures. Besides these two measures, a qualitative questionnaire was also administered for evaluating the intervention and it was used as a field notebook for any notes during the intervention. On the meetings videos and PowerPoint® presentations were shown and exercises were done, such as role-play and activities. Results: The overall score of KIDI showed no changes from pre to post-test both, P=58 and M=55. Concerning CAP I's results, both parents are at low risk, pre-test P=144 and M=213 and post-test P=171 and M=156. Regarding the qualitative data of the questionnaire, the intervention was assessed with maximum score on all the questions and it was often mentioned by the couple that the training course helped them have more patience with children. Conclusions: In CAP, M showed an interesting decline in score, which may mean that the program may have been effective for her. It was noticed that adolescent parents cannot be a factor directly related to the potential for child abuse, but that may be another risk factor added to others. The study suggests that the intervention for pregnant parents may encourage primary prevention to child maltreatment and improve parents parenting practices. Because of these data, a second step of the study will be performed in order to test these hypotheses.

PS.024
Adolescents with intellectual disabilities: Sexual exploration or sexual exploitation

Virginia Cruz

ABSTRACT:

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to determine the effectiveness of educating child protection caseworkers about adolescents with intellectual disabilities with sexualized behaviors and increase their ability to distinguish between sexual exploration and exploitation behaviors. Making this determination for adolescents with intellectual disabilities is complicated for several reasons: the adolescent may have a history of sexual victimization without proper mental health treatment; the may explore their own sexuality in inappropriate ways due in part to limited opportunities for sexual exploration with peers; the adolescent may experience confusion about their own emerging sexuality because of the lack of appropriate sex education provided by schools, caregivers or families.

Methodology: Caseworkers attended a two day training focusing on this topic. A knowledge based pretest was administered that asked caseworkers to identify key factors in discriminating between those with sexualized behavior that was exploitative or exploration. Immediately following the training a post test was administered to measure differences in responses for determining deviant behaviors in adolescents with intellectual disabilities with sexualized behaviors.

Results: The findings of the study revealed that participants reported demonstrated increased ability to determine whether sexualized behavior patterns fell under the realm of exploration or exploitation. Participants reported that they were confident in making appropriate referrals to mental health services or law enforcement.

Conclusion: If caseworkers are trained about adolescents with intellectual disabilities who demonstrate sexualized behaviors in inappropriate ways and places, caseworkers would better determine the seriousness of the behavior and to distinguish between those adolescents referred to law enforcement and those referred to mental health services. Referring these youth with inappropriate sexual exploration behaviors to law enforcement may not be helpful but providing specialized mental health interventions is often more appropriate. Referring adolescents with patterns of exploitative behavior to law enforcement is a necessary first step.
PS.025
Attachment in out-of-home care: Literature review and situation of children in Chile

Manuela Garcia, Catherine Hamilton-Giachritsis

1. Overview:
In Chile there are 16,844 children under 18 years old that are living in some kind of protection setting due to the violation of their rights (maltreatment, abuse, neglect, abandonment, etc). 13,457 of these children live in residential care and 3,387 with foster families. In each of these cases, the relationship they establish with the person taking care of them during this time becomes a critical link, which marks the way these children face the world and see themselves.

The residential placements have been changing in the last years, with a transition from large institutions to smaller and more "home like" ones. Other important change is the incorporation of foster family care supported and evaluated by the State. However there is no published study evaluating the impact of these recent changes and its outcomes. There is also no published study in Chile about the attachment between these children and their carers.

Most research on the topic of attachment has focused on the interactions of the parent-child relationship; this poster presentation seeks to extend that vision to other individuals that could be considered as important relational figures.

2. Methodological aspects:

Objectives:
To present an overview of the situation of children in out of home care.
To describe the existing research of attachment in alternative care settings.

Method:
Data collection of the statistics in Chilean situation.
Sistematic Literature Review of existing research in attachment in out of home care.

Results:
The results presented include the description of the situation of children in out of home care in Chile and the research done in the field of attachment in these settings.

Conclusions:
The main contribution of this review is to deepen knowledge on the subject of bonding in non-familial contexts.
**PS.026**

Five-year experience and casuistry of a hospital ward dedicated to child abuse: A child abuse & neglect unit in Veneto region (North-Eastern Italy)

Eleonora Sgaravatti, Melissa Rosa Rizzotto, Martina Bua, Francesca Menegazzo, Lara Dal Zotto, Elisabetta Tono, Paola Facchin

OBJECTIVES: Veneto Region Child Abuse&Neglect Unit (CANU) is a third-level service for diagnosis and care of suspected CAN cases. Settled within Paediatrics Department of Teaching Hospital of Padova University, CANU networks with other hospitals, community services, general practices, judicial authorities of the region (4,500,000 inhabitants, 700,000 children) serving CAN patients&families, developing training and research programs. Aim: describe CANU operative model.

METHOD: CANU was founded by a physicians’ group who started working in CAN in the ’80s. CANU provides care in acute phase and develops diagnostic assessment integrating information from multiple disciplines to substantiate maltreatment, through a third-level teaching hospital’s facilities. CANU is run by an interdisciplinary team (Pediatrics, Community Medicine, Forensic Medicine, Child Psychiatry, Child and Adult Psychology, Nursing, Social Working, Law) and by a permanent specialists hospital team as consultant (Neurosurgery, Ophthalmology, Radiology, Genetics). CANU is equipped with 3 beds for admissions and 1 bed for day-hospital (exclusively for CAN referrals), 2 surgeries for outpatient care, 2 one-way mirror rooms for clinical and legal purposes. The ward is equipped with videosurveillance and recording system. Tele&direct consultation is provided for regional rural hospitals.

RESULTS: Nearly 500 patients have been referred to CANU since its foundation. Since 2011, 40 admissions (mean-LOS 35 days, range 15-95), 70 day-hospitals were carried out. Substantiations: Physical abuse (41%) (1/4 AHT), Sexual abuse (30%), Psychoemotional abuse (9%), Neglect (6%), Münchhausen syndrome by proxy (2%), Witnessing violence (12%). Children age: from 0 to 18 (mean age 6.6 years) bimodal distribution with peaks in the first year and in pre-school age. Referrals: hospitals (53%), community services and professionals (28%), family (14%), Courts (5%).

CONCLUSIONS: An effective operative model of CANU is basic in health, social, judiciary CAN care.

**PS.027**

Children's Rights and Participation: Issues, prospects and challenges

Olaide Gbadamosi

Children's Rights and Participation: Issues, prospects and challenges*

There is an increasing recognition worldwide that children are not only subjects of protection but also holders of civil and political rights such as the rights to survival; to develop to the fullest; to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in the family. The right to child's participation is complemented by other rights such as child’s right to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and the right to access information. The objectives of this paper are to appraise the basic challenges and progress in the implementation process of children's rights and fundamental issues in the quest for the realization of those rights. The paper employs the normative methods to ascertain the ways children’s rights ought to be realized in accordance with international human rights standards. The paper finds out that children are active stakeholders in defining and deconstructing their problems and addressing their vulnerabilities. Adopting a rights-based approach to children’s participation in decisions that affect children means that States should establish suitable measures enabling children to contribute their views and experiences to the planning and programming of the implementation of their rights. The paper concludes that the child is a vulnerable human being that requires the protection and assistance from the family, the society and the State. The child is envisaged as a subject of rights whose best interests should be of paramount consideration in all matters affecting him. The realization of children’s rights requires a clear commitment and effective actions to become a living reality and therefore is much more than a simple strategy.
Luton and Dunstable University Hospital - Standards for skeletal survey audit in NAI

Vandna Gandhi, Minaxi Dattani

Background

The RCPCH and RCR consider imaging of the injured child to be critical to the process of child protection.1

In children under 2yrs, where NAI is suspected, a full skeletal survey should always be performed. The purpose is to identify occult bony injuries, aid in dating and help in the diagnosis of an underlying skeletal disorder.1

Aims and Methodology of Audit

A retrospective study over 12 months from February 2010 – 2011 to outline our local practice as a baseline; and to affirm practice in line with joint RCR + RCPCH standards.1

Results

There were 31 skeletal surveys carried out in the 12 month period. 18 for NAI purposes (17 hospital & 1 community paediatrician requests); 2 post mortem (3 day old and <24hrs old); 11 general medical indications (1 community paediatrician + 5 NICU requests). No siblings had skeletal surveys when child had proven NAI (limitation? child had no siblings). No children required sedation. No children were recalled for repeat x-rays.

25 children were between 0-2 years. 4 were between ages 3-5 years and 2 between ages 5-10 years. 4 children all under 2 years had abnormal skeletal surveys. Two additional findings made during audit of skeletal surveys. Only 50% of skeletal surveys met requirements for quality assurance.

Conclusions

We continue to double report all skeletal surveys, to improve recall of patients in a timely manner where question of quality of images has been raised and/or where there is a question of possible fracture/s. We will reviewing indications for skeletal survey requests in community. Only appropriately trained staff carry out skeletal surveys, if possible, in working hours. We would like to consider a regional network for radiologists to facilitate a second radiological opinion for NAI imaging.

References:

1Standards for Radiological investigations of suspected NAI – March 2008
PS.029
Treating adolescents exposed to intimate partner violence through the creative arts therapies
Linda Jeffrey, Michael Frisone, Gabriella Elem, Tammy Ventura, Carol Penn, Michelle Fesler

Adolescents exposed to intimate partner violence (IPV) may experience problems similar to those displayed by younger children, including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic effects and aggression. Adolescents may also be vulnerable to problems linked to the developmental tasks and emerging physical and social changes of adolescence such as adolescent aggression against parents, dating aggression, and delinquency. Exposure to IPV may detrimentally affect the emergence of identity formation, autonomy from the family, peer acceptance and relationship skills. Effective practice models for intervention with adolescents exposed to IPV are needed. The creative arts therapies are a promising approach for the treatment of adolescents exposed to IPV, providing adolescents the opportunity for self-reflection, creative expression of feelings and thoughts, and affirmation for personal development. The Peace: A Learned Solution (PALS) Adolescent Program is an outgrowth of a creative arts program originally developed in New Jersey for children aged 3-12 years old. Adolescent PALS is based upon continuous program evaluation as well as ongoing assessment of client progress. Adolescent clients and their caregivers complete standardized assessments about the adolescents, including the Child Behavior Checklist/6-18, Youth Self-Report/11-18, Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children/8-16, Beck Depression Inventory-II, and the Stress Index for Parents of Adolescents. The practices involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of a creative arts therapies program for adolescents exposed to IPV will be discussed and recommendations will be offered about client assessment and program evaluation. Critical issues related to the adaptation of a program originally developed for school-aged children for application with adolescents will be addressed, including the developmental psychology of trauma response.

PS.030
A qualitative research study investigating midwives experiences of providing care to women whose previous history warrants the infants removal at birth
Wendy Marsh

Midwives are experts in assessing and monitoring the health and wellbeing of the pregnant woman and her unborn infant. They also have an important role to play in all stages of family support and in the emerging role of child protection. (Department of Health (DOH) et al, 1999.) Sadly the reality is, that providing care to women whose previous history warrants the infant’s removal at birth, is on the increase (Powell, 2007) and whilst protecting children from harm is recognised as “Everyone’s Responsibility” it remains one of the most challenging aspects of clinical practice (Powell, 2011).

On the whole, the challenging and emotionally demanding work Midwives undertake at the front line, to ensure that children and young people are safe and healthy, is indeed remarkable. However, there are still too many reported omissions of midwives failing to communicate effectively and meet the emotional needs of this vulnerable group. This is despite evidence to suggest that these women will suffer more grief symptoms than a woman who has lost her child to death (Askren and Bloom, 1999).

Here in the UK this area of research has received a limited amount of attention and by no means has it been looked at in great depth. This qualitative study will enable us to explore midwives perceptions and experiences of engaging with this distressing work and the emotional and physical consequences to them of doing so. It will also explore what women perceived their experience to be and ultimately “what was missing” to help support them.

It is anticipated that this study will raise awareness through which current care can be assessed, challenged and in turn best practice, education and training developed and promoted, so that Midwives may learn and add to their own knowledge base in this area.
PS.031
The role of the Independent Reviewing Officer in improving care planning for looked after children: Survey findings
Helena Jelicic, Becky Fauth, Di Hart

In England, Local Authorities are required to appoint Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) to provide independent oversight of looked after children’s care plans. Questions have been raised about the effectiveness of the role, including the extent to which IROs are truly independent. The aim of the study is to develop an evidence base about the implementation, effectiveness and costs of the IRO role, in order to inform policy and practice.

The first phase of research involved the first national online survey of IROs (N=295), IRO managers (N=65), Director’s of Children’s Services (N=60) from 122 of 152 local authorities in England. The survey gathered data on features of the IRO service at local level, implementation of the IRO role (relative to government guidelines), barriers and enablers to implementation, dispute resolution and views on the effectiveness of different aspects of the role.

Initial findings suggest that IROs are managing large caseloads, which sometimes interfered with their ability to prepare for children’s case reviews, and only half of them were able to monitor the progress of cases and communicate regularly with children. Yet, the majority of IROs and their managers felt they could challenge poor practice. Managers, in particular, felt that the service was valued by senior staff and were more likely than IROs to rate the IRO role as being highly effective in contributing to improvements in services for looked after children, particularly vis-à-vis improving their outcomes.

This research provides new evidence about the current arrangements for providing independent oversight of looked after children’s care plans through a local authority IRO service. The findings are of interest and benefit to international, national and local policy makers and practitioners who work with looked after children.

PS.032
The Cedar Project: Understanding the lived experiences of child maltreatment and HIV vulnerability among young Indigenous people who use drugs in two Canadian cities
Margo Pearce, Wayne M. Christian, Alden H. Blair, Martin T. Schechter, Patricia M. Spittal

Objective: Although childhood trauma is recognized as an early determinant of HIV vulnerability, very little is understood regarding causal pathways among young, at-risk Aboriginal people in Canada. This is of particular concern considering the context of historical/intergenerational trauma.

Methods: 27 participants (16 women) from a larger cohort study of young Indigenous people who use drugs in Vancouver and Prince George, BC, completed the childhood trauma questionnaire (CTQ). Next, individual in-depth interviews explored personal and family history including residential school or foster care experiences, transitions to drug use and sex work, coping strategies, and opportunities for healing and change. Using phenomenological and mixed methods approaches, researchers transcribed and analysed interview texts and converged qualitative and quantitative data with descriptive analyses and comparisons between groups.

Results: All participants reported moderate to severe trauma in childhood. Most participants had extreme CTQ scores, particularly for physical neglect (73.1%), sexual abuse (46.2%), physical abuse (46.2%) and emotional neglect (46.2%). The majority (65%) reported multiple types of extreme childhood traumas, most commonly a combination of physical and emotional neglect (35%). Five (19.2%) participants were HIV positive, of whom four reported extreme sexual abuse. Significantly more men reported extreme emotional neglect. Five major themes from the qualitative study emerged: (a) positive vs. negative outcomes after telling about abuse; (b) family disconnection caused by the child welfare system; (c) pain management with high-intensity drug use; (d) understanding intergenerational grief within families; and (e) identifying sources of strength for survival.

Conclusion: The severity and frequency of childhood abuse experiences among these young Indigenous people is staggering. It is critically important for public health practitioners to recognize associations between childhood and historical trauma on HIV risk and to support opportunities for culturally-safe healing and strength-based approaches to risk reduction.
**PS.033**

**The impact of maltreatment on brain structure in children**

Philip Kelly, Essi Viding, Gregory Wallace, Marie Schae, Stephane de Brito, Briana Robustelli, Eamon McCrory

Objectives: Childhood maltreatment has been shown to significantly elevate the risk of psychiatric disorder. Previous neuroimaging studies of maltreated children have reported atypical neural structures in regions implicated in psychiatric vulnerability. However, these studies have typically recruited clinical samples with concurrent psychiatric disorders, levels of anxiety or depression, and have limited analysis to measuring brain volume. We explored how maltreatment impacts the thickness of the cortex, the nature of cortical folding and brain surface area in a group of children who had experienced maltreatment compared with a group of carefully matched non-maltreated peers.

Methods: Surface based methods were employed to examine cortical thickness, local gyrification and surface area in a sample of maltreated (n=22) and non-maltreated participants (n=21).

Results: Reduced cortical thickness in the maltreated sample was observed in an extended cluster that incorporated the anterior cingulate (ACC), orbitofrontal cortex and superior frontal gyrus. In addition, folding deficits within the maltreated group were located within two clusters, the lingual gyrus and the insula extending into the pars opercularis. Finally, surface area was found to be significantly reduced in the maltreated sample within the right entorhinal area, left lingual gyrus and left middle temporal gyrus.

Conclusions: This is the first time that structural differences within the ACC, entorhinal cortex and lingual gyrus have been identified within a population of children that have been exposed to maltreatment. These results indicate that surface based methods may capture more subtle, previously undetected, morphological abnormalities associated with maltreatment. The regions highlighted have been commonly implicated in emotion regulation, regulatory processes and autobiographical memory, processes that are impaired in a number of psychiatric disorders such as PTSD and depression. We speculate that the structural abnormalities within these regions may constitute biological markers of vulnerability, linking exposure to early adversity and psychiatric risk.

**PS.034**

**Overcoming the ethical challenges in the study design for inter agency child protection research**

Suzanne Watts, Jane Appleton, Margaret Harris

It is acknowledged that primary health care professionals are well placed to identify and refer children at risk of harm and abuse. However little is known about the frequency of their referrals, or the way in which they frame their referrals and how the referral narrative influences social workers’ assessment of the referrals. The primary aim of the study, which is the focus of this poster presentation, is to construct an in depth understanding of the inter-agency communication which occurs between professionals working in primary health care and child social care when making and assessing child protection referrals.

The objective of this poster presentation, is to explore the key ethical challenges of designing and conducting a qualitative multiple case study to capture data located in the real world of every day practice of health and social care professionals. This study is designed to track referrals through the child protection network across agency boundaries. There are three parts to the data collection which includes in depth interviews with the referrer (primary health care professional) and the assessor of the referral (child social care professional) with documentary analysis of the referral narrative.

With reference to the position of the researcher as an outsider to the health and social care organisations where the data is collected, the ethical and service challenges encountered in the design of this inter-agency case study will be presented under the following themes; confidentiality; access to information; recruitment of participants; professional practice and governance of inter-agency research.
PS.035
Interpersonal victimization in adolescent outpatients from mental health centers: A case-control study

María Soledad Alvarez Lister, Georgina Guillera, Judit Abad, Noemí Pereda

The need of assessing a wide spectrum of victimization experiences in child and adolescent populations has been recently highlighted, in order to study the effects of the accumulation of these types of experiences in the psychological welfare. However, victimization and polyvictimization rates in clinical samples and their risk compared with the general population are still unknown. This is the aim of the present study.

The sample was composed of 510 adolescents (between 12-17 years), 102 outpatients from public mental health centers and 408 students matched by age and sex (1:4 case-controls). Interpersonal victimization during the last year was assessed with the Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (Finkelhor et al., 2005).

The results showed that 70% of the clinical group present some type of interpersonal victimization, being statistically different from the control group. Significant differences were found (p < .05) being the risk doubled for the clinical group in the modules of conventional crime, child maltreatment, witnessing and indirect victimization, and Internet victimization. Furthermore, polyvictimization risk is triple in the clinical group. These differences were not found in the modules related to peer and sibling victimization nor sexual victimization.

It can be concluded that clinical samples present higher rates of interpersonal victimization, polyvictimization and an increased risk of victimization compared with the general population. The lack of significant differences in peer and sibling victimization and in sexual victimization must be analyzed in future studies, assessing the distinctive characteristics of these two types of interpersonal violence. The impact on the mental health of victimizing experiences should be considered in the evaluation and treatment of adolescent outpatients.

PS.036
Empowering and educating... seeking justice and change in child protection

Sue Foley, Jenny Rose

This presentation will discuss a systemic framework within which social workers and other helping practitioners may consider the construct of education. We see ourselves as helpers and as such we wear a number of hats or roles. This presentation will discuss the kind of hats that social workers as educators may wear in their helping role. The material for the presentation arises from the Ed.D thesis of the first author. It will be an interactive presentation. The thesis argues that educating clients, colleagues, legal systems, ourselves and students and the community are essential components of social work practice and implement the values of Social Work: Respect for persons, Social Justice and Integrity / Competence.

In Child Protection fields such an approach is essential if change is to come for children, families, communities and professionals.
PS.037
Father Apart: The experiences parental imprisonment
Julie Lawrence, Nicola Liebergreen

At any one time 20,000 children in New Zealand have a parent incarcerated. Parental incarceration is a strong risk factor for multiple adverse outcomes for children, including antisocial behaviour, criminal offending and mental health problems. This is concerning in the context of New Zealand’s rising statistics on child and adolescent mental health problems which currently amount to a public health issue affecting up to 17,000 of children - a 14% increase since 2004. This paper will present findings from a research study completed at the end of 2012 in the South Island of Aotearoa/New Zealand. The researchers undertook a mixed methods study to explore family experiences of parental incarceration. Measures of attachment and child behaviour were administered but this paper will focus on the the qualitative findings of the in-depth interviews.

Through the voices of children (aged five to 18 years), caregivers and incarcerated fathers from 23 families, the paper describes the collateral consequences of parental incarceration and the challenges faced. It looks at the children’s support network and, their perceptions and feelings concerning their relationships with their incarcerated parent, their parent/caregiver and extended family/whanau. Also, discussed will be the issues faced in conducting research with prisoners and the families of prisoners.

PS.038
The application of Signs of Safety within a differential response model – Implications for practice
Fergal Landy, Cormac Forkan

This poster will focus on the application of the Signs of Safety (SoS) Framework to child welfare and protection assessment as part of the National Pilot of the Differential Response Model in North Dublin. The poster will by briefly set out the service design and development context that led to the piloting of a Differential Response Model in social work services in North Dublin. The specific model and its practice framework, inclusive of SoS, will then be described. Using findings from fieldwork undertaken as part of an evaluation of the project, the story of the implementation will be charted with particular emphasis on the interrelationship between the SoS and other component parts of the model. Data from fieldwork with practitioners from both agencies will be used to explore the perceived, relative impact of the SoS versus the structural reconfiguration of services, and the involvement of a partner from the voluntary sector to assist the statutory agency with the implementation of the DRM model. The data will also be used to explore the impact on practice of the application SoS, including reference to child participation; partnership with parents; transparency and accountability and capitalising on informal support networks. The implications for practice and wider replication in Ireland will then be discussed including the challenges presented by the current context for developing child and family services.

PS.039
Patterns of attachment as a mediating factor in effects of child sexual abuse
19:00, 18 September 2013:
Magdalena Czub

The poster presents research on a group of sexually abused children and adolescents. The aim of research was to answer the question about the mediating role of quality of attachment in the process of coping with sexual abuse experience. Investigation of sexual abuse symptomatology confirms that children and youth differ in their vulnerability to negative effects of similar experiences. The main thesis of this research is the idea that style of attachment having an important role in formatting patterns of attribution and ability to self-regulation of emotions, has a conclusive role in modifying individual effects of sexual abuse. To confirm this thesis author made a research on 20 sexually abused children between 8 and 16 years old, using ASQ - Attachment Styles Questionnaires and TSCC - Trauma Symptoms Checklist for Children. The research has supported the existence of relationship between styles of attachment and effects of sexual abuse. Children presenting insecure styles of attachment present more psychopathological symptoms then children having secure styles of attachment. There is also a difference in security of attachment between sexually abused children and children without such experience. In general, the research support thesis about important role of attachment styles in formatting effects of child sexual abuse.
PS.040
EU NET ADB: Research on internet addictive behaviour among European adolescents

Szymon Wójcik

BACKGROUND: Internet addictive behaviour (IAB) is defined as a behavioural pattern characterized by a loss of control over internet use. This behaviour potentially leads to isolation and neglect of social, academic and recreational activities or personal hygiene and health.

AIM: Evaluate the prevalence and determinants of IAB.

METHOD: Questionnaire covering: 1) Internet use (socio-demographic data, family, school achievement, internet usage characteristics, parental control); 2) Internet addictive behaviour (IAT; Young, 1998); 3) Psychosocial status (YSR, Achenbach & Rescorla, 2001). Representative sample from each country – up to 2000 questionnaires per country (total N= 13284). Adolescents 14-17 years old, F/M: 7000/6284. Data collection: October 2011 – May 2012.

RESULTS: 1.2% of the total sample present with IAB, while 12.7% with "at risk for IAB". In total, 13.9% display dysfunctional internet behaviour (DIB). Spain, Romania and Poland show highest prevalence of DIB, while Germany and Iceland the lowest. Boys, older adolescents and those whose parents have lower parental educational level are more likely to exhibit DIB. The group of DIB has lower psychosocial well-being.

CONCLUSIONS: DIB exists among European adolescents and it is important to increase awareness among the wider public regarding DIB and enhance the knowledge base required for the development of strategies relating to DIB.

PS.041
Support, training and kinship care

Valerie O'Brien

This paper focuses on the critical issue of support and training for kinship care. The ambivalence that surrounds kinship care, the differences between kinship networks, the pathways in and out of these arrangements and the need for different service delivery systems for supporting and training kinship carers are highlighted. Central to the conceptual analysis is the

- Need for a more robust policy analysis of kinship care as family support, family preservation and alternative care;
- Need for a greater understanding of the intersection of state, nuclear and extended family responsibilities towards child rearing is core to the analysis;
- Evaluation of training programmes used internationally to support foster and kinship care

The challenge for professionals and policy makers is to recognise the uniqueness of kinship care training and support needs and to building conceptual models and training programmes in which strengths, complexities and best practices are fitted coherently, so that children experience the undoubted benefits which kinship care can offer them at critical stages of their lives. The task of devising and piloting a service delivery model that places the known differences in the profile between kinship carers and other carers at its centre, while the somewhat similar profile of children that live in all care options is presented. It is hoped that the analysis, recommendations and templates for a demonstration project will enhance future service delivery.
PS.042
Skull fractures in the first year of life: Comparing history and imaging

19:00, 18 September 2013:
Francesca Menegazzo, Rodica Mardari, Lara Dal Zotto, Melissa Rosa Rizzotto, Cristina Ranzato, Paola Facchin

OBJECTIVES
Aim is to examine the characteristics of skull fractures in the first year of life evaluating consistency between history and imaging features.

METHOD
A retrospective cross-sectional study was carried out collecting all infants in the first year of life entering Pediatric Emergency Room (ER) (Padova University Hospital) with a trauma history, during the period 2008-2010, and where radiological exams was performed. From ER case records, information was collected on the anamnestic and clinical data; radiological images were reviewed independently by two radiologists for diagnosis quality purpouses.

In skull fractures cases, qualitative analysis of the impact dynamic and injury plausibility was conducted, focusing on cases showing discrepancy between history and imaging. A descriptive analysis was carried out.

RESULTS
In the examined period, 73,057 children under 15 were admitted to the ER; 11,715 (16%) were children in the first year of life and between these 960 accessed for an event with traumatic dynamic (8.2% of all infants and 1.3% of all accesses). The incidence of trauma in the first year of life was 8.6/1000 born/year (IC 95% 9.47-7.73; year 2010). Out of 960 cases, only 62 underwent head imaging, showing a skull fracture in 38 cases (4%). Cause: falls (87%); car crash (4%) blunt trauma (3%) none (3%). Impact surface: tile (55%) wood (15%) carpet (3%) asphalt (7%) not known (15%) none (5%). The qualitative analysis of history/image comparison showed: consistency (70% of cases), doubtfulness (15% of cases) clearly unconsistent (15 %). According to the ER evaluation, no child physical abuse or abusive head trauma was susbstantiated. Images will be discussed per each inconsistent case.

CONCLUSIONS
Skull fractures are a debated issue and are highly suspicious in the first year of life. Physical abuse resulted underdiagnos in our casuistry.

PS.043
A different model for kinship care assessment: Time to note the need for change
Valerie O’Brien

It is generally accepted that kinship care is different to foster care. However, as it has emerged as an increasingly important care option in many jurisdictions, child welfare services deal with it as if it was analogous to traditional foster care. Kinship care systems have been grafted onto foster care systems, and this has caused difficulties for all involved. The assessment of the kinship home poses particular challenges. The provision in many jurisdictions which permits an initial assessment of the kinship home, thereby enabling an emergency placement, is welcomed from a child-centred perspective. Nonetheless this facet also poses challenges, in that agencies frequently fail to meet the designated time-frame for completion of the assessment /approval process.

This paper introduces an innovative model of assessment. The model arises from the author’s involvement in research on general kinship care in Ireland, twenty years of clinical work in the area and an earlier demonstration project that took place in Ireland (O’Brien 2002, O’Brien 2012a,2012b).

The model used in the first phase of a demonstration project set up in 2003 and the learning from this are presented in this paper. The research findings and practice-based clinical experience is examined against international literature on the topic. The resulting model offers an approach to assessment that could fit with many legislative, policy and practice contexts and has relevance for kinship care assessments internationally.
PS.044
Block factors of multi disciplinary team for child abuse and neglect: In serious physical abuse and neglect, abuse head trauma and sexual abuse
Kota Takaoka, Fujiko Yamada, Fumitake Mizoguchi

Object
No one has experienced that all child maltreatment caseworks by multi-disciplinary-team (MDT) have been successful without dissatisfactions and conflict with other kind of institutes and professions. All over the world, almost all of profession met such conflicts between different types of institutions and professions. In order to solve the problem, this study aimed to be clear of what kind of block factors when we collaborate with MDT especially serious child maltreatment cases.

Method
From September, 2011 to March, 2013, firstly 15 medical doctors in hospitals, 12 Policemen in Police and 14 social workers in Child guidance centers in Japan participated in semi-structured interviews about serious physical and neglect, abuse head trauma, Sexual abuse. Gathered concrete episodes of MDT’s block factors were analyzed by grounded theory approach to make a hypothesis. Secondly it was made a common 22 case vignets based on given the block factors along the hypothesis and examined statistically difference between medical, forensic and welfare.

Results & conclusion
As a results, mainly 4 block factors were founded. Firstly individual factor based on each profession’s negative cumulative experience for MDT before. Secondly institution factor based on each top’s directivity of institutes. Thirdly professions factor based on each disciplines and orientations. And finally law system factor based on child welfare law depend on culture. Therefore the block factors made a hypothesis in Japan, subjective individual block and institution block factor sometimes strongly disturbed MDT. Because there was no MDT rule by required law when some institutes and professions investigated cases in Japan. On the other hand, statistically examine is still ongoing and we would make a presentation of the analysis result.
PS.045
A public health approach to child protection: Will it be the answer we have all been hoping for?

Karen Broadley, Christopher Goddard, Joe Tucci

Objectives

The Australian Government has published and updates annually a ‘National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009 – 2020’. The primary aim of the current paper is to critically review the Australian Government’s espousal of a public health approach to child protection described in this document. This review is based on accepted best practice in public health models.

Method

An extensive literature review was undertaken to document the principles of a public health approach as a model for investigating and understanding child abuse and child protection. This review formed the basis for an evaluation of the Australian Government’s National Framework.

Results

It is generally accepted that a public health approach comprises four steps (see, for example World Health Organization Violence Prevention Alliance): (i) defining the problem through systematic data collection; (ii) establishing causes and correlations; (iii) creating, introducing and evaluating interventions; and (iv) utilizing effective interventions across a range of settings.

In Australia, child protection is the responsibility of eight State and Territory Governments. There are differences between these governments in almost every aspect of child protection activity, for example in legislation, definitions, practices and data collection. Therefore data is not comparable across place. For example, substantiations in relation to sexual abuse range from 5% in the Northern Territory to 23% in Western Australia.

Data is also not comparable over time because of the many child protection legislative and practice changes that have occurred in most States and Territories over recent years.

Conclusions

This paper concludes that the Australian Government’s espousal of a public health approach is a meaningless exercise unless steps are taken to collect data about the size of the problem, to ensure that data is comparable, and collect data about causes, and characteristics (for example, in relation to parental substance misuse and ethnicity).
PS.046
Violent and threatening parents: The effects on child protection workers' families
Susan Hunt, Christopher Goddard, Judy Cooper, Brian Littlechild, Barry Raynes, Jim Wild

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to analyse workers' experiences of hostile and intimidating parents, and the associated impact on workers' families. This research demonstrated the far-reaching traumatic effects of working with threatening and violent parents, and highlighted the necessity of supportive supervision that recognises these impacts.

Method: An online survey was designed to collect data on workers' experiences of hostile and intimidating parents. Participants were invited to complete the survey through the Community Care website. Participants' free text responses were qualitatively analysed for references to the impact of the work on workers' children and families.

Results: 590 participants responded to the survey (81.9% female). 402 participants were qualified social workers (68.1%), and 423 worked in child protection (71.7%). The majority were very experienced: 382 (64.7%) had been in practice over five years. Participants had experienced a range of threatening and violent behaviour from parents and many suffered from chronic stress, anxiety, and disordered sleep. Participants made reference to their work negatively influencing their own family relationships. Workers' families were reported to be anxious about worker safety. Many threats had been made to workers and their families. Numerous participants had changed their behaviour and disrupted their personal and families' lives due to fear of violence. These changes included significant alterations to their children's lives.

Conclusions: The violence experienced by child protection workers had a negative influence on their personal and professional lives. The impact on workers' well-being is rarely acknowledged, and the impact on workers' families has not been fully explored. Organisational and educational responses are urgently required to care for and safeguard child protection workers and their families.

PS.047
Lessons from challenge and success: Reforming child protection policy and practice in Armenia
Andrew Ware

The objectives of this research are to evaluate the results and learning from this successful three year programme of policy reform and capacity building within Armenia's child protection and welfare system, implemented by World Vision Armenia and funded by an EC grant. Post Soviet Armenia has experienced collapsing welfare safety nets and growing poverty contributing to increased family disintegration, domestic violence and children living on the streets or abandoned to institutional care where reduced resources and capacity often led to more violence. In response the Armenian government instituted reforms including establishing a new child protection system and sought external assistance from civil society.

Methodology: Achievements and experiences from implementation were analysed to identify key success factors, good practice lessons and identify recommendations. The initial assessment revealed poor implementation of legislation and low capacity and resource levels among child protection actors. Working with all stakeholders, the programme conducted an in-depth analysis of the legislative and regulatory framework prior to creating a common understanding of an effective child protection system aligned to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Results: Successful policy reform included amendments to Criminal and Family Codes, clarifying responsibilities of government actors and a crucial new monitoring function for the National Child Protection Committee. Concurrently, practitioner capacity was increased through training, leading to development of new guidelines for social work models, minimum standards, case management and monitoring. Initiating parliamentary debate created understanding and momentum for reform within relevant ministries and improved linkages across institutions which together contributed to adoption of these critical reforms. Training is now being replicated across Armenia.

Conclusions: Long-term engagement with government from a position of trust was pivotal in generating momentum for reform. Other critical success factors included building shared understanding among stakeholders and linking capacity building with policy reform.
PS.048

Working together to protect children; a case study of policy implementation in Greece

Eleni Athanasiou

This is an exploratory case study aiming to describe the current state of the child protection system in Greece by examining both policy interventions and service responses targeted at all the stages of the process, ranging from detection and investigation to the provision of support or out of home care.

This project is embedded in EU and international mandates for protecting children, embracing the Convention for the Rights of the Child as the starting point and value base of any developed, contemporary system designed to deal with this complex phenomenon. The main objective is to paint a picture of policy implementation in conjunction with front line interagency and multidisciplinary working. Data is collected and analysed in regards to all three levels; the macro, or policy level; the meso, or organisational/structural level and the micro, or frontline, professional, case specific, grassroots' level.

The researcher uses first-hand knowledge of the systems of both England and Greece in order to position Greece within the EU continuum of approaches based on the long-standing dilemma of support versus protection. As a result, the study concludes by offering suggestions on how to overcome barriers and improve the current situation in Greece so as to ensure that vulnerable children and their families receive appropriate and adequately designed services that would potentially enhance their life chances and enable better outcomes. This is achieved by distilling lessons to be learned from other more developed systems and adopting them to the Greek reality. This is an opportune moment for such a study as even though Greece's finances are poor, there is significant international movement towards convergence, which advocates unifying responses to such complex social phenomena and utilising international evidence of good practice.

PS.049

Effective allocation of resources to Non Government Organisations (NGOs) to meet the needs of vulnerable children and families

John Frederick, Christopher Goddard, Helen Keleher

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to examine the way that resources are directed to vulnerable children and families in the community by government in the state of Victoria, Australia.

Method: The study method involved conducting in-depth interviews with Managers of NGOs, who deliver the majority of services on behalf of government in this area, to ascertain their views of the decision-making and planning processes involved in resource allocation.

Results: Key findings include:

- There is a high-level of longstanding frustration and disenchantment among these NGO service providers;
- Government bureaucracy is difficult to penetrate for the NGOs in the study and there seems to be little dialogue about gaps in service and how to close them effectively;
- NGO service providers feel that they are excluded by a lack of transparent processes in the allocation of resources.

Conclusions: NGOs are in a pivotal position to be well-informed about the most pressing needs of vulnerable children and families in their communities. As governments attempt to tackle the complexity of their tasks in this area, community-based approaches to policy-making and implementation have increasingly been adopted in many countries to improve the effectiveness of their services. It is suggested that a community-based process involving meaningful engagement and consultation with NGOs would result in more effective allocation of resources to address the complex needs of vulnerable children and families.
PS.050
Promoting mental health and future outlook for youngsters at risk leaving out-of-home care

Ricky Finzi-Dottan, Rachel Sharon Garty

What happens to youngsters who have lived under the protection and care of the social services, when they reach adulthood?

Purpose: The following presentation describes the outcomes of a social project designed to help young people from dysfunctional families in pursuit of personal growth. These disadvantaged young men and women have known such negative experiences as abuse, violence in the home, or neglect; most were educated at residential schools. Based on the Positive Psychology perspective, the present study attempts to identify the personal resources contributing to these young people's capacity to shape a positive future outlook and achieve psychological well-being.

Method: 98 young adults aged 18-26 completed self-report questionnaires assessing adult attachment, self-efficacy, future outlook, and mental health.

Results: Two thirds of the participants were characterized by insecure attachment, and the mean score of mental health was below the norm for Israeli population. Nevertheless their scores of self-efficacy and future outlook were high. Hierarchic regression results for predicting mental health and future outlook indicated that the most significant contributing factors were gender (young men showed better mental health and future outlook) and low scores on anxious and avoidant attachment style. Self-efficacy did not contribute to the prediction of mental health whereas its contribution to a positive future outlook was noted.

Conclusions: Besides gender differences suggesting that young women need more support than young men in order to achieve personal growth, results emphasize the central importance of secure attachment. While most studies report that maltreated children are characterized by insecure attachment, our study supports the hypothesis that an intensive support system provided by the community can help children who are at risk to establish secure attachment, and with it good mental health, despite their impoverished family environment.

PS.051
Childabuse And Prevention

Zahra Gheidar, Alireza Zahiroddin

Education is, undoubtedly, first and the most effective way to prevent childhood injuries and childhood is one of the most critical stages of development that learning takes place in a stable form. Hence, damages in this period are deep and sometimes irreparable. Children as both a vulnerable group and susceptible of learning, require the support of family and community organizations to be safe against this period's injuries. Iran in recent years due to economic weaknesses, poor social support systems, lack of relevant training and lack of understanding of child characteristics has faced a 100 percent growth of child abuse. So educating parents and children together can empower them against this problem and reduce the damages of this time rank.

Method: after background review, essential concepts were designed in two packages including 12 hours of training for parents and 2 months of training for children. 22 out of 30 parents in a kindergarten volunteered to participate in the study and responded to a questionnaire. Then, the training package was presented to the parents over four three-hour sessions during a month and a training package in the form of pictorial units were provided to children by trained instructors. A questionnaire was completed by parents at the end of the course. The Data were analyzed by SPSS17 software and t method was used to compare the means.

Findings: T-test results showed that the sample group's awareness about child-abuse and ways to prevent it after the trainings has a significant $p \leq 0.05$ increase.

Conclusion: The training package can be designed to increase awareness and understanding of parents and children simultaneously, resulting in a reduction of childhood injuries.

Keywords: child-abuse, training, pathology

Childabuse And Prevention
**PS.052**  
**Local healthcare strategies for detection and action in cases of child abuse and neglect**  
**Kerstin Bergmark, Asa Gustavsson**

All healthcare staff is obliged by law to notify social services when suspicion arises of a child being abused or neglected by parents or caretakers. Both statistic reports and research studies show that in comparison to other institutions in society, the health services rarely notify the social services. Many caregivers are ignorant of what their obligations are; of the supportive role of the social services. Many units lack local guidelines for this work. In Scania, the southern region of Sweden, a project to address this issue was completed during 2012.

**Objective:** The aim was to enhance the awareness of the obligation to notify the social services and how healthcare and society should collaborate in cases of child abuse and neglect.

**Method:** All clinics; primary healthcare, dentists, hospitals etc., were asked to appoint at least one member of staff per unit to become responsible for these issues in their unit. The appointed member of staff was offered several educational sessions, including information about the Regional Program for Child Abuse and Neglect, Social Services Act, and how to develop local guidelines.

**Result:** 288 appointed staff members have attended a series of educational sessions, increasing their knowledge about child abuse and neglect. In Child Healthcare clinics (88) with appointed members of staff, notifications to social services increased in 2012 compared to 2011, whereas in CHC clinics (48) without appointed members of staff the number of notifications remained unchanged.

**Conclusion:** Local guidelines on how to act when social services need to be notified, ongoing discussions at staff meetings concerning difficulties and possibilities are important factors in becoming better at helping vulnerable children. Appointing dedicated members of staff is a successful way to improve local work at wards/clinics/units. These key people need support from external facilitators to be able to maintain this work.

**PS.053**  
**Intervention of performing arts in early detection and prevention of child abuse and neglect**  
**Dr. Kumudini Achchi**

The paper is based on results of an experimental arts and culture project which is making a huge impact within rural villages of southern Karnataka, India. This unique intervention has created and implemented by the author to address the issue in early years and its prevention through sustainable social development.

In India, ingrained cultural traditions are significant contributing factors to child abuse and neglect. The author's research has evidenced significant reduction in such instances through cultural intervention such as theatre, music and folk arts.

An in-depth research was conducted to understand the complex needs of ten villages in Mandy district, Karnataka. Descriptive research design, survey method with interview schedules were used to elicit data from 889 households. Descriptive statistics for statistical analysis and case studies for qualitative analysis considered.

The study reveals different forms of abuse and neglect such as child marriage, truancy, sanitation problems, house arrest of adolescent girls and child labour. Further, socio-economic conditions, illiteracy, superstition and prevalence of caste system being major factors in creation of a vulnerable child population.

Following initial research in March 2012, the author organised a 20-day gender equity cultural camp for rural children across 10 villages to address local problems sensitively. After encountering initial local resistance, author succeeded in recruiting 158 children – including 58 adolescent girls. Girl children were taught traditional masculine folk forms and performed an hour-long play. After two successful shows, the whole community understood the issues. Gender equality is becoming a reality with the formation of “Geleyara Sangama” (The Friends Union) where rural youths of both genders have come together: This is a radical development within rural community. Ultimately this groundbreaking programme has created immediate, visible proof that cultural art forms can be an effective agent for social change and development within rural communities.
PS.054
Maternal and provider factors that impact retention in a home visiting child abuse prevention program

William McGuigan

This exploratory study investigated maternal and provider influences on retention in a birth-5 home visiting child abuse prevention program, modeled after Healthy Families America. Over 5 years, paraprofessionals (n=73) provided visits to at-risk mothers (n=2,307) with first born children. Only 46% continued visits beyond six months. With a sample larger than most past studies, previous findings were validated and refuted. The influence of visitor delivery style (friend vs professional) was uncovered, broadening our understanding of retention.

Low income white non-Hispanic (71%) or Hispanic (22%) mothers averaged 21.5 years of age, with Kempe Family Stress Inventory (KFSI) scores warranting program inclusion. Exploratory analyses (chi-square; t-test; logistic regression) revealed insignificant effects of maternal race, KFSI scores, and number of visits received. However, mothers were significantly less likely to remain beyond six months if they were under 18, had less than a high school education, attended school, employed full-time, or cohabited with a male partner.

Most home visitors were white non-Hispanic (74%) or Hispanic (20%), between 25-39 years of age, with a college degree (68%). Unlike previous studies, provider education, race, case load, and supervision had no significant effect on retention. Mothers were significantly more likely to remain beyond six months if visitors were raising children and had more home visiting experience. Three items on a 16 item service delivery style questionnaire showed retention was significantly more likely when visitors thought (1) families should not view them as a personal friend; (2) families should see them as an expert on what is good for their family; (3) families must understand they are a home visitor, not a therapist.

A subsequent multi-level analysis will be presented with the above findings in a colorful and informative poster designed to promote active discussion.

PS.055
The impact of Social Work and Interprofessional Advocacy in decreasing the risk of medical neglect in paediatric patients affected by rare diseases

Patricia Martinez

The impact of Social Work and Interprofessional Advocacy in decreasing the risk of medical neglect in paediatric patients affected by rare diseases. Phenylketonuria PKU is a rare inherited metabolic condition that affects 1 in every 15,000 children. This condition is treated by decreasing phenylalanine (an amino acid) levels through a special low protein diet. High levels of phenylalanine affect the development of the brain which has an impact on the patient's cognitive abilities and social skills. The low protein foods and special formula required for the dietary treatment are more expensive than a regular diet. As well, acquiring the skills required to manage this medical condition is stressful for parents, and for patients between the ages of 6 and 16. Frequently, parents need ongoing support from interprofessional teams to cope with the demanding management of this condition. Sometimes this requires the involvement of child welfare agencies to assist the family in meeting the needs of their child. The referral process can be challenging for paediatric social workers and their teams because there is limited knowledge about this condition and community partners have difficulties understanding their role in advocating for these patients. In addition to that, there is a need to create better avenues to support children with special needs and their parents. The lack of social structures to help parents in addressing uncommon medical conditions put children's welfare at risk. Achievements and challenges advocating for PKU patients in the child welfare system will be discussed in this presentation. The strategies used by the PKU interprofessional team to help the parents in monitoring their children's health will be also shared.
PS.056
Preventing child maltreatment and severe parenting problems through parenting support program Home-Start in the Netherlands

Eva Smallegange

Child maltreatment inflicted by caretakers is considered the most negative form of parenting and a source of severe distress for children. Episodes of major psychological distress should be prevented, since they might negatively influence development throughout the lifespan (Taylor, May & Seeman, 2011; Miller, Chen & Parker, 2011; Barlow et al., 2007). Abused children are more likely to develop behavioural, cognitive and emotional problems than non-abused children. (Gonzales & MacMillan, 2005; Prinz et al., 2009; Reynolds. Mathieson & Topitzes, 2009; Rubin et al., 2001; Sanders et al., 2003).

To prevent parenting problems and child maltreatment, numerous parenting support programs have been implemented in the Netherlands, such as volunteer support program Home-Start. The current study gained insight in the effects of Home-Start on the occurrence of child maltreatment or severe parenting problems.

A sample of 944 families, known from effectiveness studies regarding Home-Start conducted in 2001 to 2011, was checked at one-moment follow-up for officially registered events of child maltreatment and/or severe child rearing problems. Databases of three Dutch portals for child welfare services (CWS) were consulted: (1) the Child Protective Board (CPB); (2) the Advice and Reporting Centers for Child Abuse and Neglect (ARCAN); and (3) the Youth Care Agency. Additionally, the database of the national police task domestic violence was consulted. The moment of post-program follow-up varied from 6 months to ten years. Event history analyses were conducted by calculating Kaplan-Meier survival curves and constructing a Cox proportional Hazard model.

Findings showed no positive influence on occurrence of events known at CWS or police task databases. More in-depth analyses are executed to find underlying explanations for the reported involvement of CWS or police after parenting support.

PS.057
Preventing child sexual abuse using educative tools

Christianah Akindolie

OBJECTIVE

To make available educative tools to schools and homes for the prevention of child sexual abuse.

METHOD: Due to the injustice meted on victims of child sexual abuse and the fear of stigmatization in Africa, this writer has resolved to publish educative tools for prevention. As a graduate of education having a flair for writing, some educative tools in the form of posters, fliers and books were printed for parents, teachers and children.

A book titled – Child Sexual abuse, A handbook written in simple words for 8 years & above includes stories and activities sections. Posters and Fliers titled – “10 Smart rules to protect children/teens from sexual abuse” printed in attractive colours provide simple words for the children to recite. The posters and fliers are displayed in classrooms and homes so children can have continuous access to these rules. Over 15,000 copies have been made available to stakeholders. The Author also produced two books for parents and teachers titled – “Understanding Child Sexual Abuse – a pocketbook for parents” and "Child Sexual Abuse, A Silent Epidemic". These books educate the readers on issues surrounding child sexual abuse with true life stories to help readers have a vivid understanding of the topic.

RESULTS: Through these educative materials, parents, teachers and children are now armed with firsthand knowledge to prevent sexual abuse. Parents and Teachers now know the signs to watch out for and the need to protect children from predators. On-going abuses were also discovered by some readers of the books. Through these preventive tools, children now know what to do when a predator approaches them.

CONCLUSION: The writer hopes to translate the materials to local languages, French and Arabic.
PS.058
Preventing child abuse and neglect with parents of young children in Croatia

Ninoslava Pecnik

Recent data from interviews with nationally representative samples indicate that 5% of parents of six-months-olds, 15% of parents of one-year-olds, 36% of parents of three-year-olds report hitting a child once or more times in the period of 7 days prior to the study, while 21%, 60% and 80% respectively report yelling at the child within the same period (Pecnik, 2013). Lack of positive parent interaction with the child was found for 10% of children. In favour of corporal punishment are 12% of parents while 17% report being 'neither for nor against' (N=1621). As the most effective ways to prevent corporal punishment, parents see receiving support in coping with personal difficulties and exhaustion (66%) and in acquiring skills of nonviolent upbringing (50%). Against this background, the objective of the poster is to present a parenting support program for parents of young children 'Growing Up Together' (manual by Pecnik & Starc, 2010, UNICEF Office for Croatia) and results of its evaluation. Method: Pre- and post-intervention self-report data have been collected from parents who had completed the program of 11 weekly workshops from 2010 to 2013 in 151 groups in Croatia (N=1280) and in 24 groups in Bosnia & Hercegovina (N=203). Majority of participants had university degree (48%) and were mothers (91%). Measures included Beliefs about the young child (Pecnik, et al., , 2011), Perceived efficacy as a parent (Gibaud-Wallston & Wandersman, 1978), Parent-child interaction scale (Pecnik & Starc, 2010.) and qualitative data. Results: After completing the Program, parents report less hitting of a child, less yelling, more frequent positive interaction and higher parental self-efficacy. Their beliefs are more consistent with children’s’ rights. Conclusion: The program ‘Growing Up Together’ may be effective in fostering positive, non-violent parenting of young children.

PS.059
Prevention of child abuse and neglect through early and sustained involvement

Samuel Kiruthu Wanjiku

Long term problems or poverty has resulted to higher level of adult depression and trauma symptoms and increased tolerance for and use of violence in adult relationship. This scenario has rendered many children to negative outcomes and denied them a chance to voice their concern. In care institutions, schools and within homes, children are expected to be safe, but instead of ensuring their safety, they are exposed to intimidation, physical aggression, abuse and exploitation and the trauma they suffer remains hidden and often unaddressed.

Though various states Kenya included have ratified to bind by international standard in the protection of rights and freedoms, violence against children remains a harsh reality for millions of children around the world. This menace indicates gaps in legislation and beckons a need of intervention to fight against one or more issues elevating abuse and violation of children. My organization for example has established Child Complaints Office in Kenya solely aiming to establish a dedicated system for complaints related to and by children, against maladministration by any federal agency or unscrupulous perpetrators. Specific activities that involve government and the general public include:

1. Challenge traditional attitudes that support harmful practices to the health, survival and development of children.
2. Improve institutional capacities to receive and redress public grievances related to children
3. Influence the government and society in general to focus on prevention and greatly contribute to creation of a culture of non-violence.

This output has established a platform for the children to voice their concern, be listened to, believed and supported to express and confront issues affecting them.

It is my intention that by 2015, abuse and violence against children in Kenya will have dropped by 50% if this program will roll over the country.
PS.060
'Signs of Safety' and risk at the heath and children's social care interface

Tony Stanley, Robert Mills

Good practice in health and social work means having the professional confidence to take considered risks without compromising on child safety. It also means working in organisations that value risk taking and encourage risk sensible practice. Yet this is neither easy to achieve nor widely promoted across health and social care. The pressure to ‘get things right’ by ‘doing things right’ still dominates health and social care. In this paper we argue that risk can be conceptually and practically mapped at the interface of health and social care practice. The ‘signs of safety’ approach offers a coherent language about risk assessment and is a practice framework that helpfully transverses the disciplines of health and social work and helps to resolve the ‘risk assessment wars’. We argue this is good for children, their families, social workers and health visitor partnerships because everyone is clear on what the risk and dangers are, and families and services understand next steps toward more safety. Two case studies illustrate this method in our partnership practice, and we show that by delving deeper into what we mean by ‘children at risk’ more purposeful interventions can be made by children's social care, and conversely more risk cases can be held in the community health services thus offering families a more ethical intervention and one where the tariff is not rising because of professional anxiety. Rather, we argue that cases can be analysed using a consistent and robust risk methodology, where analytic risk statements have become a more useful vehicle for the referral process into and out of children's social care. We have found that by infusing practice with notions of ‘safe uncertainty’ we have contributed to the creation of a practice culture where uncertainties and risks are more helpfully explored and worked with.

PS.061
Financial oppression as neglect and child abuse

Elisabet Näsman

Financial abuse or economic violence are concepts used to address when one party in a close relationship exercises control, exploitation, deprivation or depletion on the other in terms of financial resources, here tentatively summarised as financial oppression. In research on violence such issues are discussed with a focus on couples and is often described in connection with men's violence to women, but the impact on children is rarely addressed. Turning to research on children the concept of child abuse may include sexual and other exploitation of children while neglect is supposed to cover problems in families when it comes to shortage of material provision for children. In research, however, neglect of children is not looked upon as an issue related to an understanding of gendered power relationships or violence in the family. Critical discussions about research on neglect often mention its mother-blaming caracter. The research on neglect furthermore often neglects the material aspects of neglect. There is then a gap in the research on violence as well as in that on child abuse and neglect when it comes to understanding the situation when a parent's exploitation and deprivation of the other parent also means exploitation and/or deprivation of the children. This paper draws on research in a project aiming at bringing these research areas together in order to further the understanding of children as direct and indirect victims of financial oppression in the family. This calls for a critical analysis of earlier research both in terms of drawing new empirical conclusions from existing data and theoretical development in order to get analytical tools for future empirical studies. Empirical cases from the new project will be used to illustrate.
PS.062
Child welfare issues affecting children with autism spectrum disorder affected by chronic or rare health conditions

Patricia Martinez

Children with Autism and their families face many challenges. There is not only lack of respite care services for their caregivers, but there is also limited knowledge about their social-emotional needs and how to address these. When children and families affected by autism face moments of crisis, there is not much support in health care settings to help the patient and their parents, as this is sometimes not perceived as a mental health issue.

Anecdotally speaking, parents of children with autism sometimes report poor quality in the services received in health care facilities. They also voice their concerns about the services received by health care professionals such as occupational therapists, nurses, social workers, and school staff in cases when they are also impacted by medical diseases such as diabetes, cancer or rare genetic metabolic conditions such as X-Linked Adrenoleukodystrophy, Mucopolysaccharidoses (MPS), Metachromatic leukodystrophy (MLD) etc.

These families may sometimes be inappropriately referred to child welfare agencies. For the purpose of this presentation, I will focus more on the experiences and lessons learned when advocating for the families of patients with autism, diabetes, MLD and MPS. It is important to note that understanding autism and how it affects a family helps to deconstruct notions of parental neglect (more often mother blaming behaviours). In collaboration with the inter-professional teams, these patients and their families obtained respite care funds previously denied to them because of the misunderstanding of autism and their genetic-metabolic conditions.

PS.063
Youth's rights in residential care: How they conceive them?

Eunice Magalhães, M. Manuela Calheiros

Objectives: Children’s participation was clearly defined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a fundamental right. Consequently, there was a growing concern in studying how children and young people perceive their rights. Nevertheless, the research centered on these perceptions specifically in residential care context is sparse. In this study we have two objectives: 1) to explore how youth at residential care conceive their rights and duties; 2) to understand how they discuss these issues regarding children and youth who are not at residential care.

Method: six focus groups were performed in six institutions (2 female, 2 male and 2 mixed) from different geographical regions in Portugal. This study included 29 adolescents, aged from 12 to 18 years old (M= 15 years), 52% males. These adolescents are at residential care mostly due to neglectful parenting practices (56%). Qualitative data analysis was performed to identify youth’s perceptions.

Results: The right’s conceptions of youth at residential care include "the possibility of having something" and "having what we want". The most frequent rights evoked were: education, recreational activities, the right to have basic living conditions (such as food, hygiene, or a house), to be treated equally, the right to be free and not be discriminated for their life condition at residential care. A duty is conceived as something that "we have to do or accomplish" (e.g., to have a good behavior, meet schedules). These adolescents consider that those who are not at residential care have a different life with more freedom (e.g., on their social activities), even though they consider that there is a variability in youth in out-of-care.

Conclusions: results were congruent with the literature in which provision rights are in the foreground of adolescents’ perceptions, followed by those of participation.
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