

UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre 9th Biennial
International Conference



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

**Changing Families
Changing Policy
Changing Practice**

Family Support Now and in the Future

UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre
9th Biennial International Conference

13th & 14th June 2019

Institute for Lifecourse and Society,
National University of Ireland Galway

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#changingfamilies**

Thursday 13th June – Schedule

Parallel Sessions 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Parallel Session 1: G005	Family in Social Policy 1
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A critical review of public awareness of family support services in Ireland	Patricia O’Connor & Caroline McGregor
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Parallel Session 3: Boardroom	Supporting Families with Particular Needs and Adversities: What Works 1
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Families as Recovery Capital and Rights Bearers; the changing nature of policy and services supporting families affected by addiction in Ireland	Aoife Frances

Parallel Session 6: G008	Supporting Families with Particular Needs and Adversities
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Supporting the foster family caring for children with increasingly challenging needs through practitioner-carer partnership-based practice	Maria Lotty
Comparing sibling-care between metropolitan, migrant and fishing village families in the Netherlands	Jannet van der Hoek

Parallel Session 7: G009	Austerity, Poverty and Social Exclusion
The Solo Parent Penalty	Aleks Collingwood
Empowering Sure Start Families in Northern Ireland – relationship based early interventions	Kevin Duggan & Roisin McCooey
Networking and comprehensive support for families in situations of extreme social exclusion. The case of Los Asperones (Malaga, Spain)	David Herrera-Pastor

Parallel Session 8: G023	Rights, Partnership and Co-production
Meaningful co-production in research for exploring the experience and meaning of family	Ciara Bradley
Co-producing a child-centred response for children and young people who experience violence	Danielle Kennan
The Greentown Programme- an Irish evidence informed response to reducing the influence of criminal networks on children	Eoin O’Meara

Friday 14th June – Schedule

Parallel Sessions 10.15am - 11.15pm

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Early intervention models of practice for better outcomes for children and young people	Caroline Jordan & Fergal Landy	
Beyond the Troubled Families Programme: Developing progressive evidence-informed policy and provision for children and families facing multiple adversities in England	Harriet Churchill	
Parallel Session 2: Boardroom	Supporting Families with Particular Needs and Adversities 1	
Alternating residence of very young children	Aino Ritala-Koskinen	
Participation and Partnership in Action: Supporting parents of children in care to enhance the experience of access and contact	Caroline Roe	
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Bail Supervision Scheme for Children: A Realist Evaluation of the Pilot Scheme	Catherine Naughton & Fiona Murphy	
Risk and its Impact on Professionals Perspectives of ‘Complex Youth’ and their Families in the Republic of Ireland	Tracey Monson	
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Standards for Supporting Bereaved Children & Young People- a Framework for Development (ICBN)	Orla Keegan	
Hands on activities for engaging young people and families to promote creators not just consumers of technology	Megan Depinna	
Parallel Session 5: G005	Demography: Aging and Intergenerational Families	
“Mamabuelas” stories of grandmothers raising their grandchildren in Chile	Carolina Gutierrez	
An intergenerational perspective on ageing in Australia and insights into how older people, their families, friends and carers, prepare and plan for ageing in a neoliberal world	Frances Duffy	

Parallel Session 6: G009	Workshop 1	
Why don't you just leave? Challenging perceptions of domestic abuse in the context of a homelessness crisis	Sabrina Brett & Audrey Coyle	

Parallel Session 7: G023	Workshop 2	
Children's Right to Family Life – Current Trends; Future Issues	Carmel Corrigan & Aileen Shaw	

Parallel Session 8: G006	Pecha-Kucha	
Family homelessness in the Dublin Region: using data to better support individual outcomes, service provision and policy planning	Holly Morrin	
Adolescent Substance Misuse 'Challenges and opportunities for families and society'	Dennis Murray	
"Experts by Experience" - Hearing the voice of families affected by substance misuse. Support families, hear their voice, change the outcome!	Alice O' Flynn	
Supporting Infant Mental Health through a targeted Parent and Baby Group using a multi-disciplinary approach	Aisling Kelly	
Supporting the child, supporting families	Melissa Bonnotto	

Thursday 13th June – Abstracts

Parallel Session 1: G005

Family in Social Policy 1

“Nobody has ever asked me what family means to me”: Exploring ‘family’ for Care Experienced Young People”

Róisín Farragher, UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, NUI Galway

This presentation/workshop is based on on-going research carried out with young people aged 18-23 years who have experience of the care system in Ireland. The research focuses on the ways in which young people who have experience of the care system understand and experience ‘family’ and family relationships. Building on the data collected thus far, through the use of Grounded theory methodology, the workshop will consider the impact and influence of family relationships when considering stability for young people in care. Participants will learn about what ‘family’ means to the young people who have so far taken part in the study. They will also have an opportunity to reflect on the relationships they have with the young people they work with and/or care for, and moreover, question where this idea of ‘family’ fits into the wider societal view of family. The meaning and experience of family relationships seems to be as important for care experienced young people as for anyone else. Moreover, current research suggests that providing stability through family relationships for children in care and those who are care experienced requires us to begin with understanding what family is, what family is not, who family is to the individual, and the activities involved. Gathering information on the basics and on where gaps are apparent (such as on family and family relationships) can enable permanence and better outcomes. This can ensure ‘family’ is not an afterthought in policy and practice but lies at the heart of policy and practice that affects the daily lives of care experienced young people, their carers and their families of origin.

Features of birth families with foster children in Andalusia

Lucía González Pasarín, María Portillo Lobillo, Isabel María Bernedo Muñoz, María Ángeles Fernández-Gómez, María D. Salas Martínez, Miguel Ángel García-Martín, Department of Developmental and Educational Psychology, University of Málaga (Spain)

The aim of the presentation is to describe the personal features of biological families whose children are in non-kinship foster care and with whom they have face-to-face contact in Málaga, Granada and Jaén (provinces of Andalusia, Spain). This study was funded by the research project Application of a psychoeducational intervention program to improve visits between foster children and their biological families (Reference EDU2016 77094-P). SPSS v.21.0 was used to carry out the descriptive and frequency analysis of socio-demographic information collected by the Child File Summary Form designed for this study. The results show the difficulties experienced by birth families to deal with the responsibility of parenthood. There is a high percentage of unemployment (54.5% mothers, 46.4% fathers), and a low level of education (61.7% uneducated mothers, 68.8% uneducated fathers). Furthermore, it is necessary to consider their diverse personal problems which undermine their competences to bring up and educate their children: substance abuse, mental health issues, mental disability and prison. Finally, the lack of relation between Social Services and birth families is highlighted. Knowing the circumstances of families at psychosocial risk permits to develop social policies that match with their specific necessities, by providing them the support and resources required, in line with Recommendation Rec(2006)19 of the Committee of Ministers to member states. Moreover, children and families’ rights have to be respected, such as their right to have contact to maintain and strengthen their affective bonds as part of their identity. These findings will contribute

to design: (a) family intervention programs which allow parents to acquire the necessary parental skills; (b) support and educational tools for the social workers; and (c) projects to contribute to children's well-being.

Features of non-kinship foster care children with birth family contact in Andalusia

María Portillo Lobillo, Lucía González Pasarín, Isabel María Bernedo Muñoz, María D. Salas Martínez, María Ángeles Fernández-Gómez, Miguel Ángel García-Martín, Department of Developmental and Educational Psychology. University of Málaga (Spain)

The aim of the presentation is to describe the personal features of non-kinship foster care children who have visits with their birth family in Málaga, Granada and Jaén (provinces of Andalusia, Spain). This study was funded by the research project Application of a psychoeducational intervention program to improve visits between foster children and their biological families (Reference EDU2016 77094-P). SPSS v.21.0 was used to carry out the descriptive and frequency analysis of socio-demographic information collected by the Child File Summary Form designed for this study. There are 212 non-kinship foster care children who have visits with their birth family. Their mean age is 8.09 years old (SD= 4.73). The more frequent types of foster care are both long-term and short-term placement (30.7%, respectively), followed by specialized long-term foster care (20.3%), urgency placement (10.8%) and specialized short-term foster care (7.5%). The period of time they have been into the Child Protection System is on average 4.08 years (SD= 3.88) and into the current placement is on average 2.53 (SD= 2.95). Thus, 44.8% of foster children were in residential care and 30.2% were in previous foster care. The latter could have been with the current foster care family. Also, 41.0% of foster children were placed at least with one sibling. It is important to know the features of foster children in order to apply the main principle of "the best interests of the child" to the whole decision-making process about the child's protection and welfare. In our project, these decisions concern foster care placement and birth family contact to maintain and strengthen family affective bonds and child's identity formation. Our findings contribute to develop: (a) initiatives to improve children's well-being; (b) support and social resources required by families; and (c) socio-educative tools for the social workers.

**Parallel Session 2:
Auditorium**

Family in Social Policy 2

First 5: A Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and Their Families (2019-2028)

Anne-Marie Brooks, Hazel O'Byrne, Nuala Connolly, Department of Children and Youth Affairs

This presentation sets out the vision and roadmap of First 5, Ireland's first ever whole-of-Government, whole-of-society strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019-2028. The Strategy sets out to build an effective early childhood system that will support good health in early childhood, time with parents in a nurturing and playful home environment where material needs are met, high-quality, play-based Early Learning and Care experiences, positive transitions to primary school, and a supportive, inclusive, wider community context.

A critical review of Public Awareness of Family Support services in Ireland

Prof Caroline McGregor and Patricia O Connor, UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, NUI Galway

The aim of this paper is to report on the findings from a public awareness study. The study involved a baseline and follow up population survey, a media analysis and interviews with key stakeholders. The findings showed that public awareness of PPFS and Tusla increased over the term of the project. It also showed that families rely mostly on their own informal networks for support. When these are

not available or appropriate, they are most likely to go to universal services (especially their local doctor/general practitioner) rather than specialist family support services. We found that the public understand PPFs to some extent but are most likely to associate statutory family support with child protection reflecting a viewpoint based more on the historical rather than current nature of the child welfare service culture, ethos and focus. This viewpoint of family support as mostly connected to child protection was reinforced by media reporting especially at national level. Local newspapers showed a more nuanced understanding of family support and tended to report in a more positive way. The findings inform our problematisation of the relationship between family support and child protection from a conceptual and theoretical standpoint. They are theorised in the context of policy and public transfer theory and framing theories. The need for greater recognition and support for the fact that most families rely on their own networks is also emphasised alongside some commentary on future research to build on findings to date and place them within a wider European context.

Plus ça change?: exploring lone-parent social policy change and continuity in Ireland

Dr Michelle Millar, Dr Rosemary Crosse, Dr Patrick Malone and Stephen Gaffney, UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, Department of Political Science, NUI Galway

Labour market activation of social protection recipients has been widely introduced in most industrialised societies and involves elements of compulsion and support to ensure that individuals make the transition to paid employment. However, explaining or accounting for how policy changes is a complex matter and does not occur in a vacuum or overnight. Drawing on Discursive Institutionalism (DI) we explore the narrative of social protection policy change in relation to Irish lone-parents which involved the introduction of employment obligations on recipients once their youngest child reaches the age of seven as opposed to 18 as was previously the case. We demonstrate how the prevailing ideals which form the policy discourse in relation to lone-parents in Ireland, come to be communicated and translated into current social protection policy exploring continuity and change in the policy discourse over time. Historically, lone-parents were regarded as an economic problem stemming from their sexual immorality, contemporary discourse centres on poverty levels in lone-parent households rooted in passivity, or a perceived failure on the part of lone-parents to meet their responsibilities as citizens, which is indicative of historical prescribed notions of responsibility and obligation, evident in the poor laws and the doctrine of the Catholic church. So what we are seeing is continuity in the discourse on lone parents being seen as an economic burden on the state, but rather than being an economic burden due to their reputed sexually immorality, lone parents are now an economic burden due to their dependence on welfare ... plus ça change ... (the more things change, the more they stay the same).

**Parallel Session 3:
Boardroom**

**Supporting Families with Particular Needs and
Adversities : What Works 1**

Impact of 'Friends for Life' program on levels of anxiety, depression, and resilience in a population with physical disability: A pilot study

Micheli Romão da Silva, Charlotte Emma Wilson, School of Psychology, Trinity College Dublin

Current evidence-based psychotherapeutic treatments for psychological disorder in children are commonly investigated using able-bodied samples. Comparatively little is known about the application of these treatments to child populations with both mental health issues and physical disability. This pilot study investigated the application of the Friends for Life (FRIENDS) program to a sample of children (N=9) with physical disability. It assessed the feasibility of conducting a larger-scale, longitudinal study with this population. This study used pre-post-data to evaluate the impact of the program on children's levels of anxiety, depression and resilience. It was anticipated that participation

in the program would result in a reduction in anxiety and depressive symptomatology. Scores on resilience measures were expected to improve. Data concerning parents' perception of their children's levels of anxiety, depression and resilience were also collected. Qualitative data were collected by questionnaire and explored children's experience of participating in the program, and parents' perception of the impact of the program on their children. Qualitative data were subjected to thematic analysis. Quantitative results indicated no statistically significant changes pre- post-treatment on child-reports of anxiety, depression, and resilience, although medium effect sizes (Cohen's *d*) were detected on all three measures. Qualitative data suggested that elements of the FRIENDS program may require modification to better meet the needs of a child population with physical disability. An integration of qualitative and quantitative components informs implications for clinical practice and recommendations for future research. Limitations of the study are discussed.

Fathers and Families: A needs assessment and evaluation

McLaughlin, K., MacDonald, G., McShane, T., Lohan, M. & Dempster, M., School of Psychology, Queen's University of Belfast, Malone Road, Belfast

The role of fathers in child development is long established. Evidence illustrates the positive influence healthy father-child relationships have on children's health, behaviour, social and academic success (Cabrera et al., 2011; Fletcher et al., 2014), with research highlighting the unique contribution fathers make to children's cognitive development, prosocial behaviour and social competence (Feldman et al., 2013). Research also confirms the effectiveness of parenting programmes in improving outcomes for children and families (Barlow, 2017). However, despite this, fathers remain marginalised in the design, delivery and evaluation of parenting programmes. The paper will present findings of a qualitative evaluation of a parenting programme aimed solely at fathers; Fathers and Families, designed and delivered by Parenting NI. The programme aims to improve the father child relationship, equip fathers with the skills and abilities to parent positively and enhance their parental self-efficacy. Twenty four fathers from a range of backgrounds and ages were interviewed before and after completion of the programme. The data was analysed using thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The research explored the experiences of fathers before and after the programme. Findings revealed the lack of support available to fathers, especially those who find themselves estranged from their families. The level of need within this group of fathers was apparent; fathers discussed a range of issues such as depression, isolation, previous drug use and incarceration. However they also described the perceived benefits of the programme and the overall positive impact attending had on their lives. Findings are discussed, both in relation to the programme, but also within the wider context of the inclusion of fathers in parenting intervention research. Recommendations for both practice and policy are highlighted.

A MBSR-based program with a positive parenting component as an effective strategy to support families having a child with mental health problems

Sofía Baena, University of Seville, Ana Pizarro, Patricia Jiménez, University Hospital of Jerez, Fernando Rudilla, Hospital Virgen Macarena, Lucía Jiménez, University of Seville, Eva Trigo, University of Seville

This presentation has two main objectives: (1) To analyze the impact of a MBSR-based program with a positive parenting component on stress reduction and on the promotion of parental sense of competence with families that have a child benefiting from specialized mental health services; (2) to analyze parents' perceived impact and usefulness of this program. We performed several repeated measures analyses starting from a pretest-posttest evaluation design to analyze the change in several dimensions: parental sense of competence, stress, mindfulness and emotional intelligence. In

addition, we carried out two focus groups at the end of the intervention and performed content analysis. Results showed that there was a significant reduction of stress levels, an increase in mindfulness abilities along with an increase in different parental dimensions, such as parental agency. There were not significant differences in emotional intelligence. Content analysis revealed that parents' perceived the intervention as very useful and helpful, as well as having an impact at individual, parental and family level. They also reported developing useful strategies and acquiring tools to face daily life challenges. Moreover, they reflected on the contributions of a group intervention and possible future improvements, specially related with the intensity and frequency of the intervention. This presentation is related to the theme named "supporting families with particular needs and adversities", more concretely with families that have a child with a mental health problem. These results highlight the relevance of incorporating resources that directly target parents' wellbeing at specialized mental health services for children and adolescents. Too often in these services the focus is on symptom reduction and "parental training", which are definitively useful and essential interventions. However, complementary interventions should target parents' stress and other needs, along with their parental role, as they are dimensions that are also going to have repercussions on their children's and family wellbeing. MBSR- and positive-parenting initiatives seems to be an effective strategy on this regard.

Parallel Session 4: G006

Supporting Families with Particular Needs and Adversities : What Works 2

TLC KIDZ Project

Margaret Carroll Blake, TLC Coordinator Barnardos, Thurles, Olive Carter, Barnardo Team Leader, Thurles & Siobhan Brennan, TUSLA

The purpose of this presentation is to look at a community response model in North Tipperary to children who have experienced domestic abuse. We will provide an overview of The TLC Kidz Project supporting children in their recovery from domestic abuse and present on the findings of a recent evaluation of the project. We will explore the outcomes achieved and also the gaps in services for children and their mothers. Overview of the Project The TLC Kidz Project was developed by an inter-agency group in North Tipperary. At the core of the Project is the TLC Kidz programme which is a group based intervention programme for children and their mothers who have experienced domestic violence. This programme is based on The Community Group Programme for Children Exposed to Woman Abuse: a Concurrent Group for Children and their Mothers. (The Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex, 2006). North Tipperary began to deliver the programme because of concerns about the incidents and impact of domestic abuse in the county, and the lack of any service for children specifically focused on supporting them regarding their experiences of domestic abuse. Literature and research studies clearly show that there is a high likelihood of considerable negative impact for children in these circumstances. In 2017 Tusla commissioned an evaluation of the Programme to investigate the outcomes and experiences of families and professionals in attending/delivering the Programme. Overview of the Programme: The TLC Kidz programme is a 12-week concurrent psycho-educational group programme for children and their mothers recovering from domestic abuse.

The desired outcomes are:

- Children feel heard and believed
- Children understand that violence is never ok
- Children and their mothers know what to do if they are in a situation where they are unsafe
- Children know that all feelings including anger are ok

- Children have an age appropriate understanding of the concept of responsibility and know the abuse is not their fault
- Children have improved problem solving skills
- Mothers have a greater understanding of their children's experience of the violence
- Children have more support from their mothers

Objectives for the evaluation

- Assess the impact of the programme on child and mother outcomes;
- Explore the experiences of professionals and stakeholders including the services involved in early stages of implementing the TLC Kidz programme;
- Explore the impact of the programme on community outcomes;
- Assess key facilitators and barriers for families and staff in attending/delivering the programme

Responding to Child to Parent Violence and Abuse using the Non Violent Resistance model

Tara Kelly, Project Leader, Springboard Family Support Project (Tusla) and PhD Student (Child and Family Research Centre, NUIG)

The matter of Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA) is an emerging concern in child and family work in Ireland. While the subject of family violence has received significant attention in the past few decades, the absence of CPVA in official public and policy discourse is striking. CPVA poses significant challenges for practitioners who struggle to conceptualise violence perpetrated by children on adults and, furthermore, to respond effectively. In recent years, practitioners are increasingly using the Non Violent Resistance (NVR) model. This intervention is gathering a growing body of evidence internationally. In the Irish context, practitioners are seeking and implementing training in this approach and outcome reports have been positive. This presentation will consider key findings from a narrative review of the literature on Non Violent Resistance (NVR) and on Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA). Plans for research with parents will be outlined and a case study will be presented to illustrate how NVR is being implemented with parents who are experiencing high levels of aggression and violence from their child.

NSHCT Pause.org – Working with women to prevent repeat removals of their children into care

Ciara McKillop, Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Pause.org works with women who have experienced, or are at risk of, repeat removals of children from their care. Through an intense programme of support, it aims to break this cycle and give women the opportunity to reflect, tackle destructive patterns of behaviour, and to develop new skills and responses that can help them create a more positive future. In doing so, we aim to prevent the damaging consequences of thousands more children being taken into care. Through our intense, relationship-based programme, we aim to give women the chance to pause and take control of their lives. Pause seeks to work with women in a way which addresses everybody in their lives – fathers of their children, partners, family members and friends – as well as professionals such as social service, housing, the NHS and the justice system. Partnership underpins our work, with the women, with local areas and with policy-makers and service providers. The relationship between the women and their Pause Practitioners supports them to find new ways to overcome the problems of the past, meet the challenges of the present and build a better future. The Northern Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland is the first site outside of England to offer this programme for mothers living in the Northern Trust area. The Northern Trust with the support of the Health and Social Care Board (NI),

and the UK National Lottery, are piloting Pause.org to create a model which reflects the unique needs of women in Northern Ireland. The Northern Trust completed a scoping exercise identifying over 100 mothers in our area who had had more than 2 children removed from their care, and in February 2019 we have begun to work with 25 mothers to achieve the aims of this project.

Parallel Session 5: G007

Supporting Families with Particular Needs and Adversities: Addiction

“Let’s talk about what’s going on”

Kerri Smith and Sarah Cummins, Barnardos

This workshop will explore Barnardos approach to working with children and parents where there is active addiction within the family. How we help parents understand the impact of their addiction on the children? Being open and honest about our worries with parents. Giving parents the tools to talk to their children about their addiction. Working with parents to problem solve, safety plan and explore their support networks and recovery options. How we give children a voice – giving them a safe place to articulate their worries and support them to share these worries with the adults in their world. Learn strategies to reduce feelings of anxiety, develop resilience and build on their social outlets. We will share some of the approaches and tools we use in our work, using case examples to demonstrate the challenge, complexity and outcomes working with families in addiction.

A feasibility study of Barnardo’s Pharos group work programme to build resilience in children affected by parental substance abuse

Dr Aisling McLaughlin (QUB); Louise Devlin (Barnardo’s); Cathal Mullan (Barnardo’s); Dr Katrina McLaughlin (QUB); Professor Geraldine Macdonald (University of Bristol); Dr Tara O Neill (QUB); Dr Kathy Higgins (QUB); Dr Andrew Percy (QUB); Dr Davy Hayes (QUB)*

Aim: To present an overview of the findings from a feasibility study of Barnardo’s Pharos group work programme. **Background:** Barnardo’s Pharos group work programme is novel in that it is one of a few programmes in the UK exclusively developed to build resilience in children (aged 8-16 years) of substance abusers. It is an 8 week intervention delivered by trained practitioners experienced in working with parental substance abuse in families. The programme is delivered to children who are level 3 or 4 in the Hardiker model i.e. families with complex/critical needs leading to the involvement of statutory services. **Methods:** This study explored the feasibility of trialling the group work programme. Baseline data were collected from children upon entry to the programme (via questionnaire). Three focus groups were facilitated with children (n=23) post-programme, to explore their experiences of taking part in the programme. Five practitioners were interviewed to explore issues of process and implementation i.e. acceptability of a pilot RCT, demand/use, implementation (barriers and enablers), practicality (resources, sustainability) and integration. Five parents were interviewed to discuss experiences of substance abuse in the family and the acceptability of a pilot trial. Four observations of the delivery of the programme were carried out to identify implementation issues arising from its use in different contexts. **Findings:** Feedback from children, parents and service providers was positive and indicated the programme is ready for a pilot trial of its effectiveness. **Implications for policy & practice:** Substance abuse depletes the ability to parent effectively and places children at risk of a range of adverse outcomes (e.g. mental health). To date, few theory driven interventions have been developed and evaluated.

Families as Recovery Capital and Rights Bearers; the changing nature of policy and services supporting families affected by addiction in Ireland

Aoife Frances, Policy Officer; National Family Support Network

The conceptualisation and meaning of the role and relationship of families to the addiction of their loved one has changed significantly since the early policy frameworks of the 1990's. This presentation explores how this conceptualisation changed and what it means for policy and services. It also examines what it means to be a family member of someone who uses drugs in the context of this change reflecting a key but often overlooked issue in the changing nature of families.

Specially, the presentation will look at;

- The shift in paradigm from families as 'enablers' to families as recovery capital, to service users and rights bearers
- The importance of grassroots and peer-led advocacy leading to this change
- The impact of this change on key policy frameworks, services and family members

The presentation will pay particular focus to the current National Drug Strategy 'Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery 2017-2015'. The presentation will examine this document as a key policy mechanism in which families as recovery capital and families as rights bearers may be actualised – highlighting in tandem, the potential blocks and barriers to this realisation and the role of community and statutory stakeholders in ensuring these actions are operationalised.

Parallel Session 6: G008

Supporting Families with Particular Needs and Adversities

Parent and Toddler Groups. Strengths and Relationship Based Work with Families in Rural East Limerick. Framing our Practice

Mary McGrath & Louise Stewart, Hospital Family Resource Centre

External evaluation & research determined the effectiveness of the Parent Support Programme at Hospital FRC in terms of outcomes for children and families and informs the future service development. Research situated the working methods and ethos of the Parent Support Programme within a theoretical framework and analysed the model to inform other Family Support early intervention and prevention strategies. Methodology included Participant Observation, focus groups, interviews and literature review

1. **Connectedness:** The sense of social 'connectedness' is experienced by children and families providing benefits to both individuals, communities and society as a whole.
2. **Building Social Capital:** The social relations built through the groups which inevitably include people from different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds have significantly productive benefits. The challenge for group facilitators in building social capital among such levels of diversity is impressively managed.
3. **A Focus on Social and Emotional Development:** The Programme improves the social and emotional development of children that attend "The difference in her now to when we first came is unreal...she wouldn't go near anyone at the start..., wouldn't talk to anyone. Now she can't wait to come every week..."

4. The Importance of Attachment and Parent-Child Relationships: Activities to promote relationships and attunement are modelled by the facilitators through interactions with both children and adults in the group.

5. Relationships and Relationship-Based Practice: Research highlighted the importance to service users of the quality of the relationship they have with their practitioner. This was also reflected in the practitioners' working relationship with each other and within the FRC environment as a whole.

6. Interagency Working: In the rural area connections to other services and 'signposting' for additional supports is key.

This seemingly 'informal' Parent and Toddler group intervention involves complex skills and expertise from practitioners. The work of the Parent Support Programme in East Limerick sits clearly within the Early Intervention and Prevention Family Support model, specifically in relation to Strengths and relationship based work, social capital, attachment and connectivity. Learning highlights successful working methods and outcomes including the importance of 'whole family' work. The model provides a framework for further universal family support interventions with the capacity to target and support vulnerable parents and families particularly in isolated rural areas.

Supporting the foster family caring for children with increasingly challenging needs through practitioner-carer partnership-based practice

Maria Lotty, Tusla

The presentation will firstly, examine the current practices in foster care. Data will be drawn from pre and post intervention qualitative studies using focus groups that involved foster carers (n=24) and multidisciplinary practitioners (n=31) from a current PhD study. The research suggests a move towards more consistent partnership-based approach between practitioners and foster carers is needed to support children with complex needs and adversities. These needs are associated with trauma and attachment difficulties that place children at risk of experiencing placement breakdown and long-term mental health issues. The presentation will then explore the model of trauma-informed care and its application to Irish foster care system also drawing from the current PhD study. A theoretical framework was developed to underpin a Trauma-informed foster care approach that reflected the needs of foster carers and current practices in foster care in Ireland. This approach advocates that the contribution of trauma-informed foster carers is consistently included and valued by practitioners in the 'team' around the child. Trauma-informed foster care recognises the value of the foster carer and their unique position to provide restorative relationships that support the children's development and healing from trauma. Trauma-informed foster care acknowledges the foster carers expertise and knowledge of the child that is outside the scope of the practitioner. This research has produced the first empirical evidence that Trauma-informed foster care, as defined by the Fostering Connections Programme, reduces children's trauma-related difficulties. Thus, Trauma-informed foster care, may provide practitioners with a rationale and motivation to work in partnership with foster carers. This research suggests developing consistent partnership based practices through a Trauma-informed foster care approach, is likely to support placement stability and children's pathways to permanency (reunification with birth family, long term foster care or adoption from care). This research suggests that practice and policy need to explicitly reflect a more partnership-based approach through embedding Trauma-informed foster care in practice and policy.

Comparing sibling-care between metropolitan, migrant and fishing village families in the Netherlands

Jannet van der Hoek, Trees Pels

Although the value of care relationships between siblings is well acknowledged, the field of sibling research lacks cross-cultural data about variations in sibling-care in the context of a western pluriform society. Consequently, a majority view prevails that considers sibling-care to phase out in young adulthood with few responsibilities left for girls only. This study aims to modify this view by exploring qualitatively important topics related to sibling-care – care functions, gender differences and family influences - in a diverse sample of young adults in the Netherlands, Metropolitan-Dutch (MD), migrant Turkish-Dutch (TD) and fishing village “Urk”-Dutch (UD). 34 young adult first-borns, 19 female and 15 male, were asked about their experiences with sibling-care in semi-structured interviews and family diagrams were taken to assess family influences. Data materials were transcribed in full and inductively analysed with Atlas.ti software. Results show marked diversity in experiences of respondents with MD most confirming the majority view, UD less so and TD least. UD relate getting full responsibilities when parents are absent from home or when parents are not knowledgeable in a specific care domain (e.g. further education of sibling) whereas TD describe an extensive sibling-care packet with clear socialization aspects like controlling and monitoring of sibling(s). Gendered sibling-care appears mostly among UD and TD where generally girls engage in nurturing and boys in protecting sibling(s) with male TD focussing on sisters to control their interaction with men and female TD readily using their seniority position to resist this control. Family diagram data suggest corresponding variable associations between sibling-care practices on the one hand and family patterns of contact, care and values on the other. Most family contexts prove to provide ample opportunities to learn about sibling-care which underscores the importance of social learning processes.

Parallel Session 7: G009

Austerity, Poverty and Social Exclusion

The Solo Parent Penalty

Aleks Collingwood, Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

The UK approaches Brexit with half a million more children trapped in poverty, following a relentless rise in the number of working families struggling to make ends meet over the last five years. The aim of this presentation is to highlight how lone parent families face a harsher reality than other groups of families in the UK.

Empowering Sure Start Families in Northern Ireland – relationship based early interventions

Dr Roisin McCooey and Kevin Duggan Health & Social Care Board

Sure Start in Northern Ireland is a programme targeted at parents and children under the age of four living in the most disadvantaged areas. There are 38 Sure Start projects in the top 25% most deprived wards. The programme brings together health, family support and early education services within communities to support children and families. It is an investment to improve equity and inclusion by empowering families to improve social development, by supporting the development of early relationships between parents and children, good parenting skills and family functioning in communities. An analysis will be provided of the range of activity delivered across Sure Start to meet family's needs. Data from a survey of 3505 parents will also present the journey of parenthood, the benefits of Sure Start as a non-stigmatising service and issues which are meaningful to them. Many parents highlighted that the key benefits of Sure Start was the opportunity to socialise with other

parents and staff which reduced isolation and loneliness; some of them made lifelong friends in their community through Sure Start. Family Star data will be presented on Sure Start Family Support work which focuses on 7 areas that are key to effective parenting, along with case studies, will evidence the array of support which families access. Strategies that support families must address the persistent stress that makes it difficult for many parents to provide stable and nurturing care. We must recognise that 0-5 years is the critical period for brain development and the need for the right relationship based early interventions, using a two generational approach with both parents and children. This will help to mitigate against multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences both past and current, which will have a profound impact on children's lifespan health, education and justice.

Networking and comprehensive support for families in situations of extreme social exclusion. The case of Los Asperones (Malaga, Spain)

David Herrera-Pastor, Dpt. Teoría e Historia de la Educación, Universidad de Málaga & Isabel Bernedo-Muñoz, Dpt. Psicología Evolutiva y de la Educación, Universidad de Málaga

The aim of this presentation is to share some of the results of a research being carried out in a Roma neighbourhood (extremely marginalised) in the city of Malaga, whose focus is socio-educational networking. This network combines actions from different departments (education, housing, social services) and is made up of different entities (public, private and NGOs), which work collaboratively with the common objective of fighting against the situation of exclusion experienced by the approximately one thousand people who live there. The methodology was qualitative. The fieldwork included: 8 focus groups with representatives from all the key groups (Children, Adolescents, Families, Teachers, Social Workers, etc.) and 54 semi-structured interviews with different actors from these groups, as well as different administration officers and politicians. In addition, 7 socio-educational actions (ethnographic observations) carried out in the neighbourhood were recorded audiovisually. Each entity had a particular mission, but they came together on their own initiative to create synergies, because they realized that together they had a better chance of advancing singularly and collectively (in pursuit of the common goal). The data show that, in addition to being more effective and sustainable, working from an ecological approach was more efficient and its action had broader scope. Networking is essential when intervening in socially complex cases. For such cases raise needs of a different nature (multi-disciplinarity) and few are the results of the juxtaposition of unrelated actions. For this reason, coordination must be sought between the different actions. Establishing a framework with a common goal, in which unique interventions make sense and feed each other. The socio-pedagogical programs that are implemented within a joint project of these characteristics gain in coherence and have greater possibilities of achieving the objectives.

Parallel Session 8: G023

Rights, Partnership and Co-production

Meaningful Co-production in Research for exploring the experience and meaning of family

Dr Ciara Bradley, Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University

The aim of this presentation is to explore the relationship between the researcher and the research participants and to the stories we illicit, listen to, analyse, interpret, represent and present, our relationship to the process, to the stories we finally tell and how we tell them, and those we don't tell, while exploring changing nature and meaning of family and its implications for policy and practice

Co-producing a child-centred response for children and young people who experience violence

Dr Danielle Kennan, Dr Bernadine Brady and Dr Cormac Forkan, UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, NUI Galway

The UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre is a research partner on a European Commission funded project, 'Participation for Protection', being led by Queens University Belfast. There are five other European research partners from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Romania and England. Under Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence and harm. This project seeks to uncover children and young people's knowledge and understanding of violence, where they would go to seek help if they experienced harm or violence and what they think are the best ways to help children and young people. The primary aim of the Participation for Protection project is to elevate the voices and experiences of children and young people and co-produce a training programme for professionals on how best to respond to children and young people who experience violence. While the key findings from this project will be discussed, the focus of the presentation will be on the methodological approach used to co-produce the training resource. Bringing to the fore the views of children and young people was achieved through: a Children and Young Person's Advisory Group who are informing and guiding the research methodologies and outputs from the project; the completion of over 1,000 questionnaires by children and young people between 9-12 years and 14-16 years across the partner countries; and the facilitation of working groups with children and young people statistically more likely to have experienced violence, including for example, children and young people in conflict with the law and migrant children.

The Greentown Programme- an Irish evidence informed response to reducing the influence of criminal networks on children

Dr Sean Redmond, Dr Catherine Naughton, Eoin O Meara Daly, University of Limerick

The original Greentown study, undertaken by Dr Sean Redmond, provides evidence for the existence of criminal networks in Ireland and their use of children in criminal enterprise. Two additional case studies have now been conducted to explore the generalisability of these findings. A national survey of Garda Juvenile Liaison Officers was also undertaken. From this, it is estimated that up to 1,000 children in the state may be engaged in serious crime with criminal networks. A key policy response was to design a bespoke programme to address the issues as identified by the Greentown study. To date, this has involved the collaboration of international and national experts from relevant areas and disciplines in a deliberative process of programme design. This collaboration has resulted in the design and stress testing of a new intervention capable of addressing this complex problem of children caught up in criminal networks. This process also provided for subsequent implementation consultations with a membership biased more towards practice and community representation. The purpose of this part of the deliberative process was to reality-test the programme assumptions using the tacit knowledge of these implementation groups before the programme will be piloted. This presentation will illustrate the initial design process which followed a deliberate programme-building sequence intended to respond to complex policy issues.

Friday 14th June – Abstracts

**Parallel Session 1:
Auditorium**

Family in Social Policy

Early intervention models of practice for better outcomes for children and young people

Caroline Jordan & Fergal Landy, Tusla

There is increased awareness of the impact of intergenerational cycle of harm on families and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Our understanding about Adverse Childhood Experiences creates a shared, whole system, understanding of the impact of adversity in childhood and makes a powerful case for early intervention and prevention for all agencies. Given the range of Government departments that have a remit for children and families, National policy Better Outcomes Brighter Futures requires all those who provide services to children and families to coordinate and deliver these services in an integrated way to help improve outcomes for children and families. Tusla Child and Family Agency has developed an initiative in response to this requirement through its Prevention Partnership and Family Support Programme (PPFS) and Meitheal Early Intervention practice model. Meitheal is a national practice model to ensure that the needs and strengths of children and their families are effectively identified, understood and responded to in a timely way so that children and families get the help and support needed to improve children's outcomes and to realise their rights. Practitioners in different agencies can use and lead on Meitheal so that they can communicate and work together more effectively to bring together a range of expertise, knowledge and skills to meet the needs of the child and family within their community. This presentation outlines how the PPFS programme, which has been independently evaluated by the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre at NUI Galway, has sought to bring about a whole system approach to prevention and early intervention by using a combination of implementation science and a more traditional community development approach.

Beyond the Troubled Families Programme: Developing progressive evidence-informed policy and provision for children and families facing multiple adversities in England

Dr Harriet Churchill, University of Sheffield, Sheffield. UK

An important yet complex area of development in family support and family services in recent years has been initiatives which seek to alleviate the extent to which children and young people, and their families and communities, navigate multiple, inter-related difficulties and disadvantages. In addition, concerns about multiple childhood adversities have emerged within polarised debates about the 'causes' versus 'consequences' of 'wicked social problems' and widening social inequalities. Engaging with these debates and context, this article examines recent policy and provision discourses and developments in England concerned with families with children variously characterised as 'experiencing multiple adversities' and 'having multiple problems'. In the last 15 years, families classified in these terms have become principal social policy target groups and family services client groups. They have also often been constructed as 'a priority social problem' in highly derogative and discriminatory ways. As a result several substantial yet highly contradictory reforms have been introduced. In particular, the paper will critically review the substantial yet divisive 'Troubled Families Programme' (TFP) in England which was introduced in 2011 and is currently funded until 2020. Informed by derogatory and simplistic 'problem family' discourses, at the national level the TFP introduced a limited family services reform agenda focused on short-term behaviour change goals, 'the family intervention approach' and welfare to work measures. However, the TFP also incorporated

an emphasis on 'localism' with much local autonomy, albeit within restricted funding arrangements, driving local priorities and service reforms. Coupled with other reform influences, such as early help and collaborative working initiatives, there has been significant local level innovations. Utilising a research review and policy analysis approach, this paper looks ahead to the post-2020 and post-TFP context, and aims to propose key issues for future policy and provision learning and developments in the English context and beyond.

**Parallel Session 2:
Boardroom**

**Supporting Families with Particular Needs and
Adversities 1**

Alternating residence of very young children

Aino Ritala-Koskinen, Tampere University, Finland

Alternating residence, an arrangement where children repeatedly move between parents' households after parental separation or due to non-marital and non-cohabiting childbearing, has become increasingly common in Europe. Although research on the topic has begun to emerge, we do not know much of alternating residence arrangements with infants and toddlers. Lately, especially practitioners such as lawyers, social workers and psychologists who more and more face questions on these arrangements, have complained about not having enough updated and fresh knowledge on the topic. To react to these gaps, the paper focus on the results of the review on existing research on alternating residence concerning very young children. According to the results, alternating residence of very young children is quite unstudied topic. It mostly concerns the issue of welfare of children and in practice has focused on examining overnight stays of infants with their non-resident parent. The central theoretical lens applied is attachment theory: either underlining the primary relationship between infants and their mothers or capability of infants to form attachments to both of their parents or other close adult at the same time. The first option seems to produce more risk-oriented perspectives to joint physical custody while the latter finds more potential and positive aspects in joint physical custody for infants and toddlers. There are many methodological and other limitations in research designs. On the basis of existing research there is no easy answer whether alternating residence is good for the very young children or not. However, arguments for positive effects on the well-being of infants and toddlers seem to be increasing. The key condition for that is the proximate quality of adult-child relationship.

Participation & Partnership in Action: Supporting parents of children in care to enhance the experience of access and contact

Caroline Roe, Tusla & Dr. Valerie O'Brien, UCD

Aim: To describe the learning from a collaborative parental participation project in the Mid-West Area which sought to improve the experience of contact & access for children in care and their parents. **Methods:** Sample: Parents of children in care & social workers with case responsibility for children in care in the Mid-West Area. **Data Collection Methods:** Postal/online questionnaires administered to parents & social workers. Parents & social workers invited to participate in focus group discussions. **Findings:** Whilst generally feeling treated with respect by social workers, many parents reported being unclear of their rights as a parent and reported inadequate consultation and communication regarding access planning & management. Additionally, while parents reported feeling empowered to seek advocacy support & make a complaint, many felt unsupported, unheard, with their values & beliefs often not respected, expressing concern that their child may not always be encouraged to attend access. Staff turnover represented a considerable challenge, as was the availability of suitable access venues & communication difficulties. While further consideration of

access with significant others may be warranted, access was deemed to facilitate the maintenance of good relationships with siblings.

Implications for Practice & Policy:

- a) Engaging vulnerable parents in meaningful participation;
- b) Develop resources & new ways of working with parents of children in care;
- c) Identification of models of good practice in relation to access planning and the involvement of parents;
- d) Contribute to evidence-based decision making and planning in relation to access planning & management in partnership with parents;
- e) Improve outcomes for children in care.

Parallel Session 3: G007

Supporting Families with Particular Needs and Adversities 2

Bail Supervision Scheme for Children: A Realist Evaluation of the Pilot Scheme

Dr. Catherine Naughton, Prof Sean Redmond, REPPP, School of Law University of Limerick & Fiona Murphy, EXTERN

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) commissioned EXTERN to provide a pilot bail supervision scheme (BSS) in November 2016. The scheme centres on Multiple Systematic Therapy (MST) an evidence based intervention which provides 24/7 support for a primary caregiver. MST is embedded within the court process, therefore BSS involves the collaboration between multiple state agencies who are active in the lives of young people who are engaged in persistent and more serious criminal activity. This joint presentation consists of two parts. Part 1; practitioner led, aims to inform delegates of the workings of and contextual background to BSS. Part 2; researcher led, aims to outline the realist evaluation methodology and findings. A contribution analysis was used to retrospectively evaluate BSS. Various forms of evidence (both administration and primary data) were collected to test a theory of change model. 1. A quasi-experimental design was conducted in partnership with the Garda Analysis Services in collaboration with EXTERN, Oberstown and Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS) to assess outcomes. 2. A documentary analysis of EXTERN administrative data assessed young people's behavioural changes and the processes/contexts which facilitated or inhibited such change. 3. An analysis of EXTERN and IYJS administration data analysed input, output and remand trends. 4. An inductive analysis of interviews with young people, their caregivers, key stakeholders who have first-hand experience of BSS, and management provided in-depth evidence which facilitated theory building on the processes which impact the young people's behavioural change and their adherence to bail conditions. This design also assessed the implementation of BSS in addition to perceptions and confidence of the courts/stakeholders in BSS. Initial findings which will inform policy decision-making on the retention and expansion of BSS will be presented. The research team will also propose adaptations to the current model going forward.

Risk and its Impact on Professionals Perspectives of 'Complex Youth' and their Families in the Republic of Ireland

Dr Tracey A Monson, Daughters of Charity Child and Family Services

To provide an overview of a doctoral thesis carried out in the Republic of Ireland and its implications for research, policy and practice in the area of service provision for young people and their families. The aim of the study was to explore how multi agency professionals working with 'complex youth' understand and categorise young people and how this links to their membership of 'problem/troubled' families. The presentation will discuss the findings of the study and make recommendations which focus on strengthening multi agency working and reflective practice using the 'signs of safety' model group supervision model.

Parallel Session 4: G008

Supporting Families with Particular Needs and Adversities and Technology in the Context of Families

Standards for Supporting Bereaved Children & Young People – a framework for development (ICBN)

Anne Marie Jones, Orla Keegan, Celine Deane, Estelle McGinley, Irish Childhood Bereavement Network

To uncover the main challenges to be met in childhood bereavement and to describe the development of a comprehensive set of standards for supporting bereaved children and young people. Building on the model of the Irish Childhood Bereavement Pyramid, these standards provide a framework for action on an individual, family, community, service provider and national level. The standards ambitiously set out a vision for Ireland where children and young people's loss and grief are supported. Bereavement in childhood is a life-altering event. In Ireland by age 9, 2% of children have lost a parent and that is likely to rise to 5% based on UK estimates. While children are resilient, this resilience requires informed support. Some children will experience more profound difficulties and recent epidemiological studies show long-term morbidity and mortality consequences for bereaved children.

Hands on activities for engaging young people and families to promote creators not just consumers of technology

Jen Hesnan & Megan Depinna, Camara Ireland, TechSpace and Foroige Galway

Hands on activities for engaging young people and families to promote creators not just consumers of technology. TechSpace is based on international digital youth based on learning approaches such as The Clubhouse Network Model and constructivism. Using new technologies to support new types of learning experiences for families, engaging young people who have been alienated by traditional educational and social approaches. This programme of activities will contribute to the five national outcomes of the "Better Outcome, Brighter Future" policy and National Youth Strategy.

Parallel Session 5: G005

Demography: Aging and Intergenerational Families

"Mamabuelas" stories of grandmothers raising their grandchildren in Chile

Carolina Gutierrez, Institute of Education, University College London

In Chile grandparent care represents the highest percentage of foster care. However, very little is known about it. Research on the topic is mainly from Western countries and it has been predominately quantitative, focusing on the effects of parenting grandchildren on the health of the grandparents, parental stress and children's outcomes, among others. This paper aims to present a qualitative research on grandparent care in Chile, showing the meanings that parenting grandmothers attach to their role of mamabuelas (from Spanish terms mamá: mother and abuela: grandmother), and how they experience parenting a second time around. In depth, qualitative interviews were conducted with grandparents in two Chilean cities. The sample included 18 families with children in formal or informal care, aged 7 to 15 years. Some of the findings show that grandmothers become carers of their grandchildren for different reasons, however, they describe becoming a carer of their grandchildren

in terms of a specific role: mamabuela (a word used by some participants). On the one hand, these women share the 'same blood' that their grandchildren, they are kin in the most traditional sense of kinship. On the other hand, grandmothers have taken on the role of mothers, which is given for what they do (take care of the grandchildren on a daily basis) rather than for biology, and consequently seem to be a role to some extent chosen by them. In this new role, the grandmothers feel that the grandchildren give purpose to their lives and this is a second chance to be a good mother. It is hoped that the findings will fill a knowledge gap about kinship care in Chile and they may help to inform the practice of professionals working in the child welfare system with the consequent improvement of the services for these families.

An intergenerational perspective on ageing in Australia and insights into how older people, their families, friends and carers, prepare and plan for ageing in a neoliberal world

Dr. Francis Duffy, Sydney School of Education and Social Work, The University of Sydney

In Australia and in many countries around the globe, ageing populations have become a major social issue that individuals, families, communities and governments need to grapple with. By the year 2050 one third of Europe's population will be over the age of 60. Although increased life expectancy in recent decades is seen as a great achievement, it is also seen as a problem that needs to be managed. With the increasing ageing populations around the globe, human services workers are increasingly being employed to work with older people and their families, and have a vital role to play in the aged care sector. How older people experience ageing is determined by a range of factors, including, the interplay between the welfare state, neoliberalism, markets, intergenerational relations, government policies, institutions, dominant discourses on ageing and ageism. In recent years there has been a strong movement towards consumer directed care, promoting notions of choice, control and autonomy. There are also strong movements in many western countries that promotes the idea that having clear plans in place such as advance directives, will allow people to have more choice, control, autonomy and right to self-determination. This presentation draws on a subset of findings from an intergenerational qualitative study on ageing in Australia, that explores expectations between generations in relation to ageing and how they plan ahead when thinking about ageing issues that might arise in the future. This discussion explores what these new approaches mean in practice for people who journey through ageing and problematises the stated aims and outcomes of these approaches.

Parallel Session 6: G009

Workshop 1

Why don't you just leave? Challenging perceptions of domestic abuse in the context of a homelessness crisis

Sabrina Brett and Audrey Coyle, TUSLA, Child & Family Agency

The purpose of the workshop is to explore the impact of the on-going homelessness crisis on those experiencing domestic abuse.

The work shop will present a definition of Domestic Violence, will consider information from various studies referencing the level of domestic abuse in Ireland and will touch on recent legislative changes including the criminalisation of coercive control in the Domestic Violence Act (2018). An overview of the extent, distribution of domestic abuse service provision, the take up of services in Ireland and the current profile of service users will be presented, drawing on Tusla –Child and Family Agency service activity data. This will create the opportunity for participants to consider the barriers to safety faced by men, women and children experiencing domestic violence in an increasingly diverse Ireland. The

interactive element of the workshop will allow participants to connect in an empathetic fashion with real life domestic abuse scenarios, which represent diverse demographic profiles and those with particular needs. The group work setting will enable critical thinking and analysis, challenging perceptions of both who experiences domestic violence and the concept that is easy to leave an abuse situation. The overarching goal is to increase understanding of factors that have an impact on the lived experience of domestic abuse victims and survivors and encourage exploration of the complexity of the links between domestic abuse and homelessness in the current context.

Parallel Session 7: G023	Workshop 2
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Children’s Right to Family Life – Current Trends; Future Issues

Dr. Carmel Corrigan (Office of Ombudsman for Children) and Dr. Aileen Shaw (UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre)

Reflecting the theme of Changing Families, this interactive workshop will consider changing contexts and forms of family life and elicit views on the key issues such changes present for children, services and policy makers. Significant developments in children’s rights and family law, policy and services have taken place in Ireland since the ratification of the UNCRC in 1992. Many of the repercussions of these changes for children and young people’s experience and expectations of family life in different contexts have yet to be fully explored. This workshop will be an opportunity to reflect on and examine some of these changing contexts, experiences and expectations. The aim is to explore participants’ understanding of the child’s right to family life in Ireland. This workshop will be exploratory in nature but will be supported by inputs on family life in different contexts and for children in targeted and universal services. The session will begin with a small number of open questions to the participants to explore their understanding of family life and relationships in contemporary society. This will be followed by brief inputs by the presenters to support a facilitated discussion about the issues relating to the right to family life that are emerging in children’s lived realities, as well as for service providers, practitioners and policy makers currently and for the future. These will include an input from research undertaken with children living in Family Hubs, as well as the experience of Family Resource Centres in responding to a broad range of emerging service needs. The workshop is intended to inform planning for a national youth led conference on the right to family life to be co-hosted by the Office of the Ombudsman for Children (OCO) and the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre.

Parallel Session 8: G006	Pecha-Kucha
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Family homelessness in the Dublin Region: using data to better support individual outcomes, service provision and policy planning

Holly Morrin, Dublin Region Homeless Executive

Since 2014 Ireland has seen an unprecedented growth in the number of families presenting to homeless services, particularly in the Dublin Region. The current housing market presents continued challenges in supporting families at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Indeed, better data is key to communicating the issues and anticipating future challenges and responses for this cohort of families. This research uses administrative data to address previous gaps in knowledge and provide robust quantitative data on trends in family homelessness in the Dublin Region. PASS, the national shared services database for all state funded NGO and local authority homeless services has uniquely allowed for the analysis of data relating to the entire population of families newly experiencing homelessness from January 2016 to December 2018 (n=2,990). Dedicated data collection and analysis has provided valuable insight into the most common causes of family homelessness in the Dublin Region and comprehensive details on rates of progression through homeless services. It produced interesting

findings relating to profiles of families experiencing homelessness, specifically highlighting that lone parent, non-Irish nationals and larger families are more susceptible than other family types when compared with the general population. It also explores the different rates of progression through homeless services, exits to tenancies and how this data can serve to support more proactive service provision, case management and policy development. Comprehensive data allows for an interrogation of emerging issues to produce better outcomes for the individuals involved. Detailed findings are passed on to operational and management staff in real time to both plan for services to better support families experiencing homelessness and to assist in developing a regional and national response to the issue of housing supply.

Adolescent Substance Misuse ‘Challenges and opportunities for families and society’

Denis Murray, HSE Adolescent Addiction Service

Denis Murray is a Family/Systemic Therapist, Registered with Family Therapy Association of Ireland (FTAI), Irish Council for Psychotherapy (ICP) and European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP). He is also a Registered Member/Supervisor with Addiction Counsellors of Ireland (ACI). Denis works within HSE Adolescent Addiction Service in South West Dublin for the past twenty three years. An area where he has also worked for three Non-Governmental Organisations within Youth Justice Project, Residential Care and as a Co-ordinator of a community project supporting individuals and families affected by addiction and returning to community from prison. He completed an M.A. in Life-course Studies (Family Support) at NUI Galway in 2013. This presentation will focus on trends in relation to youth substance misuse over twenty two years within the first outpatient adolescent treatment service established by Health Service Executive (HSE) in Ireland, identifying, issues around youth substance misuse and shift in attitude among some adults in relation to tolerance for alcohol and some drugs by young people especially within communities affected by heroin crisis in 1990s. The fact that young people take risks is consistent with adolescent development, but it is the way in which parents and other adults respond that will determine its progress. In relation to substance misuse it is observed that risk and protective factors exist in equal measure within different context, including within the individual, family, peer group, school and community settings. Supporting young people in building resilience and the management of delayed gratification may enhance decision making and inhibit/delay engagement in harmful activity including substance misuse. A multi-agency response is required where children’s lives are affected by personal/familial substance misuse and the identification of needs forms the basis for establishment of integrated care plans framed within multi-disciplinary and inter-agency collaboration.

“Experts by Experience” - Hearing the voice of families affected by substance misuse. Support families, hear their voice, change the outcome!

Alice O’ Flynn Family Addiction Support Network, Dundalk, Co Louth

The interface between changes in social policy and families has a chequered and long history in Ireland. This study is the first to look at this interface within the context of adult family members affected by substance misuse in the North East Region of Ireland. Driven by the narrative of families, valued as “experts by experience”, the findings are underpinned by the dynamics of gender, e.g. the role of women as change agents, not only in the family but as community agitators and activists, who, in the absence of any family support services, set up the Family Addiction Support Network. This emergence of the dynamics of gender is, we believe, an important finding, one that is largely absent in the research literature to date and adds a much-needed dimension to the discourse on the changing nature of family and family support in the field of substance misuse. Other key findings are the

powerful connection between the personal and political, the potency of family support and the particular difficulties of trying to navigate through an arc of shock, stigma and shame towards recovery in this diverse region and border landscape. On a wider level, considerable support for a shift in policy towards decriminalisation surfaced alongside frustrations at the deficit of services and the limited “health” approach to substance misuse. A key backdrop to the study is the National Strategy, Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery which for the first-time included families as service users in their own right. Not only must we recognise that the nature and meaning of family is in flux we must enable the voice and diversity of families as “experts with experience” to be included in the development of policy and the improvement of services.

Supporting Infant Mental Health through a targeted Parent and Baby Group using a multi-disciplinary approach

Aisling Kelly, The Cottage Home Child and Family Services

This Pecha-Kucha style presentation exhibits ongoing research on an intervention for babies aged 0-2 and their parents. This intervention is facilitated by a professional family support service within the voluntary sector in collaboration with a local Area Partnership and incorporates inputs from the Arts, Health, Sports and Therapy sectors. The families targeted in this intervention are diverse and have a variety of complex needs. They also reside in an area designated as disadvantaged. The framework underpinning the programme is the PEEP (Peers Early Education Partnership) Learning Together Programme. This offers an early learning intervention contributing towards improving children’s life chances by making the most of everyday learning opportunities. Evidence gathered from the ongoing work in the group is used for development and expansion of this model in the immediate community and the wider area. Aisling Kelly has been working with children and families in a variety of settings including homeless services, residential child care and family support, for almost twenty years. She currently manages a busy team of social care and social work practitioners in a family support service for the Cottage Home Child and Family Services. Aisling has a degree in Social Science and to further inform her particular interest in child protection, she completed the MSc. in Child Protection and Welfare in Trinity College Dublin in 2018. Jane O’Doherty is a Social Care Worker currently working with children and families as a Project Worker with Cottage Home FSS. Jane has many years’ experience working with ‘looked after’ children and young people in residential care. Jane is a Marte Meo Therapist and as a keen interest in working with parents to support their children. A Post Graduate Certificate in Adult Education and an MA in Women, Gender and Society from UCD frame Jane’s interest in the transformative power of education and she has taught at all levels: basic literacy, third level, further education and community education in a variety of settings.

Supporting the child, supporting families

Melissa Bonotto, UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, NUI Galway

The aim of this work is to examine the concept of early intervention as ‘happening early in the child’s life’ within the Family Support preschool context. This study was part of the “Child and Family Support Networks and Meitheal” work package evaluation plan conducted by the UNESCO Child and Family Research including prevention and early intervention developed through a Family Support approach, what is a style of work based on integrated programmes (Pinkerton et al. 2004). It is embedded in the Bioecological Model (Bronfenbrenner/Morris, 2006) which establishes the importance of proximal process as engines of development: the PPCT model. It is also guided by the Irish National Policy Framework for Children (2014). Qualitative data was collected through semi-structured interviews with parents and focus group with preschool teachers. The Mosaic approach (Clark 2005) was used

to capture preschool children with additional needs' views and experiences. Quantitative data was collected through the My Family Star (Early Years) scale with parents. In regards to an ethical approach, ongoing informed consent/assent; anonymity assured; free to withdraw at any time; and no harm to participants are included. This research is currently at the findings and analyses phase. What is the role of a Family Support preschool and what children and parents perceive as significant/meaningful interactions to support their additional needs are being explored. Particularly, the crucial role of preschool settings supporting families can be seen: "I could bring my child on her pyjamas to preschool, so supportive they are". Finally, it is intended to recommend a policy and practice ecological framework of early intervention to support Family Support preschool.

Thursday 13th June & Friday 14th June – Poster Presentations

Supporting parents with a child on the autism spectrum during the school years. Content analysis of current and future perceived needs

Sofía Baena, University of Seville, Ana Pizarro, Patricia Jiménez, University Hospital of Jerez, Fernando Rudilla, Hospital Virgen Macarena, Lucía Jiménez, University of Seville, Eva Trigo, University of Seville

Supporting parents with a child on the autism spectrum during the school years. Content analysis of current and future perceived needs. The aim of this presentation is to detect the needs that families with a child on the autism spectrum disorder have during their school years as to be able to give them a more specific and adapted support.

Developing a Prototype of Good Practice Guidelines for Home Based Targeted Family Support which is provided by a FRC using Participatory Methods

Bussmann, Charlotte, St Angela's College, NUI Galway

The aim of this presentation is to explore the implementation of a prototype of good practice guidelines for home based targeted family support in Sligo FRC. The initial case study was completed in 2014. Qualitative interviews were carried out including a focus group of practicing Family Support Workers, semi structured interviews with six parents and two Managers of similar services based locally. In addition, comparable home based targeted family support services in the UK and Germany were explored. The findings from the primary and secondary research resulted in a prototype of good practice guidelines including the following recommendations: Good practice guidelines are embedded in practice principles and underpinning theory for family support. The family support worker is the key agent in providing social support. Reflective practice is essential. The intervention focuses on the well being of the child while respecting the uniqueness of each family. The support is guided by the needs of a family, including the child's voice. A referral, agreement, intervention, review, evaluation process ensures that progress is monitored. The presenting issues of families who are referred include mental health issues, disability or substance misuse. The prototype of good practice guidelines is now implemented in Sligo FRC and learning has been shared with other family support service providers in the local Community Family Support Network areas. Family support is an integral part of the Prevention Partnership and Family Support policy. This conference is an opportune forum to disseminate the learning from this prototype of good practice guidelines for one specific element of family support, namely home based targeted family support, on a regional or national basis.

Exploring the 'black box' of the relationship between the frontline professional and the young person within the youth justice system

Deirdre Fullerton and Prof Sean Redmond REPPP Project School of Law University of Limerick

In this poster, we will present the findings from a modified realist review that synthesises the research evidence on the contribution of the professional-young person relationship in effecting positive change. The process follows traditional systematic review procedures to locate, quality assess and synthesise the available international research evidence. Using a modified version of the University College London designed EMMIE protocol (Johnson et al. 2015), the review aims to capture the evidence on the effectiveness (E), the mechanisms (M), moderators (M) (context), the implementation (I) factors, as well as the economic costs (E) of delivering relational based support to young people

This paper will present the findings focusing on the four inter-related review questions:

- (1) What do 'effective relationships' look like?
- (2) How are the benefits/outcomes of such relationships described in the literature?
- (3) How are the benefits/outcomes of the relationship measured? (or can they be measured?)
- (4) How are effective relationships developed/enabled/ supported?

Rights, citizenship, partnership and co-production

Nationally, the review findings will inform the Irish Youth Justice Service ongoing work on tackling youth crime. At a practitioner level, the findings from this review will inform an action research project where the REPPP team will work with 15 GYDPs across Ireland to co-produce practice guidance to support youth justice practitioners in their role as 'change agents' to encourage/support/facilitate young people toward pro-social behaviours and away from crime.

Ourselves and Our Children – Building the foundations of good community relations in family life (SOOC)

Mary Holmes and Orla Touhy, Lifestart Foundation

SOOC's aim is to raise awareness in those involved in parenting that often intergenerational attitudes, biases and prejudices are passed on to our children in families without our realisation. By not addressing this in the formative years we may continue to perpetuate biases and prejudices which stifle positive community cohesiveness and prosperity. Implications for Practice, Policy or both: SOOC supports parents and grandparents in Northern Ireland and border counties of the Republic of Ireland to create an environment inside and outside the home that is conducive to good child social and emotional development, inclusiveness and a respect for social and cultural diversity. Diversity is growing in Ireland both in the traditional sense and in the different family forms that have emerged, for example over 1:10 people living in Ireland were born elsewhere. Types of families are also changing with increasing numbers of 'blended' families. There is a significant opportunity to strive to understand and embrace diversity, share our experiences, have fun and learn from each other. SOOC was developed by the Lifestart Foundation and The Junction. The Lifestart Foundation has 30 years' experience in child development and The Junction has over 25 years' experience working in the field of diversity. SOOC is a result of this combined expertise. This innovative programme supports

Kinship Care a; A 'Relative' experience

Caitríona Nic Mhuiris, Founder of Kinship Care Ireland

Kinship Care is the full-time parenting of children by a relative or close friend of the family. It occurs for many reasons; parental substance misuse, death of a parent, abandonment, illness or imprisonment. Despite the increasing number of children in both formal and informal Kinship care arrangements, there is currently no policy on Kinship care in the Republic of Ireland. The number of children in Kinship care in the Republic of Ireland is estimated to be in excess of 10,000 children. The Growing up in Ireland survey indicated that 1% of their cohort were in the care of relatives. Formal Kinship care accounts for 27% of all children in care, with 1,661 children in the care of relative foster carers. However, thousands of children in informal kinship care are invisible to the system and face many challenges due to the lack of specialised support and information. Recent international studies confirm the positive contributions that Kinship care makes to the well-being and placement permanence for children without parental care. This evidence should be used to inform future policy

and practice developments in Ireland and provide the case for increased supports, especially for those in informal kinship care arrangements.

Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) Project, School of Law, University of Limerick

John Reddy, University of Limerick

The REPPP project aims to help improve the evidence-base for policy, programme and practice reform in youth justice. REPPP implements practically focused research studies linking directly with policy priorities (e.g. Tackling Youth Crime - Action Plan 2014-2018) informed by multiple sources of evidence and is focused on achieving better outcomes for children and families. The poster will present an overview of current research projects including:

1. The Greentown study researched criminal networks in Ireland and their use of children in criminal enterprise. Two additional case studies (Bluetown and Redtown utilising Garda crime activity data, survey and qualitative primary data) explore the generalisability of the Greentown findings and the development of a programme for children and their families that addresses issues identified.
2. An Evaluation of the Bail Supervision Programme (BSP) utilises a realist mixed methods evaluation incorporating both administration and primary data. A quasi-experimental design compares bail compliance outcomes for the treatment group young people and a match control group.
3. The Data Effectiveness Study (DES) presents case study analyses (incorporating administration, criminal justice research and primary data) of the data and reporting processes used to measure effectiveness in youth justice systems worldwide.
4. A Systematic Evidence Review (SER) presents international research literature regarding the benefits and outcomes of an effective relationship between the frontline professional and a young person (and their families) who has come into conflict with the law.
5. Garda Youth Diversion Action Research Project (ARP) presents partnership research with selected community-based diversion projects with the aim of supporting improved practice with children and families across all Garda Youth Diversion Projects.
6. Executive Programme for Local Leadership Teams researches number of “wicked” policy problems (including in high crime communities), that are complex and require new collective approaches. The study brings together community leadership teams [e.g. pilot with North East Inner City Dublin] to engage with research / solutions on managing complex problems.