Since the last edition we have hosted a very successful 5th Annual Social Work and Social Care Research Conference in March 2018. A brief account is presented on pages 2-3.

From our local Northern Ireland event I am very pleased to say that a number of presenters were also successful in getting abstracts accepted for the participation at the European Social Work Conference in Edinburgh see pages 5-8.

To keep the newsletter contemporary and informative use it to share any relevant information.
Forward any details to Anne McGlade
anne.mcgglade@hscni.net

Writing the perfect paper is a lot like a military operation. It takes discipline, foresight, research, strategy, and, if done right, ends in total victory.

Ryan Holiday
5th Annual Social Work and Social Research Conference
7th March 2018
How do we know if Social work makes a difference?
Issues in evaluating complete interventions

Belfast Castle provided a wonderful backdrop to our 2018 Social Work and Social Care Research in Practice Conference. Cecil Worthington, Acting Social Care and Children’s Director in the Health and Social Care Board welcomed an audience of over 130 people. Representing a diverse range of delegates and speakers drawn from management, practice, academia (students and tutors) research and service users and carers.

In his opening address Cecil paid tribute to the drive and enthusiasm of Fionnuala McAndrew, Director of Social Care and Children, whose interest and support for research and evidence and her contribution to helping to improve service user outcomes has helped get us to a position of strength.

Delegates had the privilege of listening to informative and thoughtful keynote inputs from David Westlake (Tilda Goldberg, Centre for Social Work and Social care, University of Bedfordshire), Cheryl Lamont (Probation Board NI), Berni Kelly (Queens University) and Darren Smith (Peer Researcher) see pictures on next page.

Continued
In her address Jackie McIlroy, Deputy Chief Social Work Officer (Department of Health) acknowledged the journey that we have all come on since our first event in 2014.

At this event input by Joel offered creativity and imagination and left delegates spell-bound with his mixing of the arts and the sciences, challenging us all to consider how to predict the unpredictable. (see picture below)

An Outcomes Report and PowerPoint presentations are available on the Social Work Research and Continuous Improvement Website.


Our Journey is not ended however, so make a note of next year’s date when we will celebrate our 6th Annual Social Work Research Conference. See page 19 of this newsletter for details.
Simon Darby, CLIC Sargent Social Worker based in Belfast City Hospital completed the Evidence Informed Practice and Organisation (E.I.P.O) module along with the Research and Evaluation Methods (R.E.M) module at Ulster University in 2017. In December 2017, he was shortlisted to present a conference poster based on the research study he conducted as part of the R.E.M course.

As part of the course, Simon took the learning derived from a systematic narrative review of 12 international studies and designed and facilitated his own 10 week exercise program for young adult cancer survivors in Northern Ireland.

Simon attended and presented his poster at the 2nd Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Global Congress in Atlanta, USA. He not only raised the profile of the role of research within the social work field, but also placed Northern Ireland on an international map of those countries exploring the role of physical activity among cancer survivors.

Simon has continued to promote his research findings including at the 5th Annual Social Work Research Conference hosted at Belfast Castle in March 2018. He also aims to publish his study in a journal this year. The exercise group has proved very popular among young adult cancer survivors and has now recruited an additional 11 young people for a new 10 week program.
Edinburgh played host to the 8th European Conference for Social Work Research (ECSWR) April 2018

The University of Edinburgh played host to the 8th European Conference for Social Work Research (ECSWR). This was the largest ECSWR with 650 participants across Europe and beyond!

The pre-conference and conference programme offered an opportunity to discuss social work research and be involved in lively debates about the challenges and opportunities in a changing world; a chance to meet colleagues old and new for conversation, discussion and ceilidh dancing!

We are delighted that Northern Ireland was well represented by colleagues from Ulster University, Queen’s University, Health and Social Care Trusts and the Health and Social Care Board.

Following a call for abstracts a number of papers were accepted for presentation. We are delighted to see Northern Ireland maintaining its place on the international research agenda.

The following are just some of the examples of oral presentations made by colleagues from Northern Ireland over the three day period.

An exploration the knowledge that social workers use to make decisions regarding permanency

Presenter: Paul McCafferty - P.McCafferty@qub.ac.uk

This paper presented findings from an exploratory in-depth qualitative research project whose aim was to explore the knowledge that social workers use to make decisions regarding permanency. The presentation began with an outline of the theoretical orientation of the research and its utility as a research construct for studying knowledge which was based on a social constructionist approach.

Continued
The presentation continued by outlining how a specifically created case study was established in consultation with experts to explore the knowledge practitioners in a statutory local authority used to make decisions regarding permanency.

**Title: 10,000 Voices: service users’ experiences of adult safeguarding**

**Presenters Lorna Montgomery, Deborah Hanlon and Christine Armstrong** - l.montgomery@qub.ac.uk

The service-evaluation initiative ‘10,000 Voices’ introduced a patient focused approach to shaping the way health services are delivered in Northern Ireland. In this current project, the 10,000 Voices initiative was adapted for use in adult safeguarding, capturing the experience of service users and their families. The pilot project sought to: test the 10,000 Voices’ methodology to ensure that it is easy to understand and accessible for service-users; test the process of collecting feedback in the form of service-user accounts of their safeguarding experiences; and, test the feedback questions.

Above Deborah Hanlon, Christine Armstrong, Lorna Montgomery and Joyce McKee

Take all the courses in your curriculum. Do the research. Ask questions. Find someone doing what you are interested in! Be curious!

Katherine Johnson

Continued
Changing world-views: Service users as course participants with social workers

Presenters: Sonia Patton, Professor Brian Taylor and Anne McGlade
anne.mcglade@hscni.net

User involvement is currently seen as one of the key drivers for social work cultural change. This presentation shared ideas and prompted discussion about a methodological approach, compatible with the ethos of social work, adopted in teaching evidence-based practice. It is based on our experience of delivering a new post-qualifying, post-graduate module: The Evidence-Informed Professional and Organisation and a parallel post-graduate module for service users and carers: Using Evidence to Inform Professionals and Organisations.

The course, Using Evidence to Inform Professionals and Organisations provided an opportunity to study research methodologies alongside social work practitioners whilst offering an appreciation of the diverse and often difficult social circumstances facing social workers in service user engagement (views expressed by Sonia in her presentation).

Research is formalised curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.
Zora Neale Hurston

Continued
The balanced individual, service user and organisational approach, also reflected in the presentation delivery, has strengths in building a research culture to meet the changing needs of social work profession in contemporary society and is perhaps unique.

Below Sonia Patton presenting views from our social work practitioners on the inclusion of service users.

Continuing Professional in Social Work: An Empirical Study of the Impact of the Consolidation Award in Northern Ireland’

Presenter: Brenda Horgan- Brenda.Horgan@niscc.hscni.net

This presentation related to a recently completed research study undertaken by the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC), which examined the impact of the Consolidation Award in Social Work. This Award is targeted at qualified social workers who have completed their Assessed Year in Employment (AYE). The main aim of the study was to determine whether the Award enables social workers to develop and extend their skills and expertise following professional training and successful completion of an Assessed Year in Employment.
Regional Quality Improvement social work conference  Armagh City Hotel 26th June 2018. The first QI Regional SW conference takes place late this month and will see the launch of a Quality Improvement digital learning platform, which was developed by SCIE and social workers across Northern Ireland. This will be a valuable learning resource to support continuous improvement in practice for social work.

Launch of New Library Brand - We are entering an exciting new era

On 8th June 2018 an exciting new development took place with the launch of the LIBRARY HEALTHCARE LIBRARY of Northern Ireland. Whilst over the years the name of the library has changed various times with many of us referring to it as HONNI.

This represents a partnership approach between Queen’s University and Health and Social Care which was established 44 years ago.

This service offers a free at the point of access, a library and information service for all health and social care professionals in Northern Ireland.

It also offers expert advice and training to support patient and service user and carer, evidence based practice and Continuous Professional Development.

Check it out at
Email: info@healthcarelibrary.qub.uk
Website: healthcarelibrary.qub.ac.uk
@healthcarelib
EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS UNDERWAY FOR SERVICE USERS AND CARERS

Social Work Postgraduate Research Methods Programme

This programme provides modules designed to develop knowledge and skills relevant to social work research-related activity and culture in Northern Ireland in support of the Social Work Research and Continuous Improvement Strategy 2015-2020 (Health & Social Care Board, 2015).

A Partnership approach - provided by Ulster University and employer organisations

Post qualifying modules for social workers
Postgraduate modules for service users and carers

Research Methods Programme: for Service Users and Carers

The Research Methods Programme provides five postgraduate modules for social services users and carers. The modules are designed to equip candidates to carry out service user roles in developing social care research, such as membership of research committees and grant awarding panels. These modules achieve credit towards the Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma and MSc in Development and Co-Production of Social Care Research.

Using Evidence to Inform Professionals and Organisations (SWK753)

This module is taught jointly with experienced social workers undertaking that module. This is a 60-credit module and achieves the Postgraduate Certificate in Development and Co-Production of Social Care Research.

Continued
Research and Evaluation Methods to Inform Social Work (SWK 754)

Disseminating Social Care Research (SWK 755)

Building Knowledge for Social Care Research (SWK 756)

Influencing Others in Social Care Research (SWK 757)

These three modules are each 20 credits. The modules focus on:

1. Conference dissemination of research (SWK755)
2. Writing an article for a peer-reviewed journal (SWK756)
3. Enabling and influencing others in use of research evidence (SWK757).

Successful completion of all five modules (180 Level 7 credits) achieves the MSc in Development and Co-Production of Social Care Research.

Currently we have four service users participating on the modules.

Support for service users and carers is provided by the Health and Social Care Board.

Current evidence and research studies being undertaken by service users and carers include:

- Co-production training. A qualitative perspective.
  - An evaluation of training in co-production as an enabler to service improvement within health and social care.
- Educational experience of adopted children
- Adoptive placement disruptions
- Parental alienation in children of divorced and separated parents

Creativity requires input, and that's what research is. You're gathering material with which to build.

Gene Luen Yang
Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC) Seminar Series

Your opportunity to share new learning and best practice development

The NISCC Lunchtime Seminar Programme provides a perfect opportunity for Social Workers to showcase their innovative and pioneering work to an audience of fellow professionals. Come along and engage with social workers and colleagues from across the profession in discussing and debating best practice, learning and outcomes.

Taking place over a lunchtime at the NISCC offices in Belfast, the seminars are viewed as an important continuing professional development opportunity.

Recent Seminars have included: ‘The Enhanced Combination Order (ECOs)’ delivered by the PBNI and ‘Transition Planning for Children with a Disability: including the excluded’ presented by Mark Irwin from the SHSCT.

If you would like the opportunity to present at one of our Seminars then contact Alison Shaw at alison.shaw@niscc.hscni.net

Post qualifying - service user roles envisaged in developing social care research – examples

- Research grant panels
- PhD advisory panels
- Strategic work on research and evidence
- Advisors to research projects
- Design, recruitment, data gathering, analysis, dissemination, knowledge implementation

For discussion for potential candidates for 2019-2020 please contact Anne McGlade Social Care Research Lead HSCB.

anne.mcgglade@hscni.net

Further details available from the University post qualifying social work office at: pqsocialwork@ulster.ac.uk
The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force on 25 May 2018

What does the new legislation mean for health and social care research, where the use of personal data is often crucial? The new legislation brings increased expectations of organisations processing personal data. Organisations need to be lawful, fair and transparent when processing or controlling the processing of personal data. However, the new legislation does not impede research. It reflects current good practice in research, through the safeguards that apply to all research using personal data. If your organisation is already using good practice under current data protection legislation, you will need to make relatively few changes to your policies and practices.

Some aspects of the new legislation do not apply to research. For example, data can be stored for research for long periods of time, and it is recognised that personal data collected for any initial purpose can be used for research. There are also exemptions to some rights in a research context. However, the rights cannot simply be ignored. Research organisations must have other specific safeguards in place before using research exemptions.

Check out the HRA website for guidance. https://www.hra.nhs.uk/

Using this guidance

This briefing explains how you can meet the general requirements of the forthcoming legislation. It's worth noting that 'must' is used to indicate a legal requirement, not a HRA requirement.

The menu on the left allows you to move between different sections of the guidance, or by clicking on the blue 'Next' buttons you're able to work through all of the guidance from start to finish.

Although the GDPR is finalised, there may be changes to the new Data Protection Act as it goes through the parliamentary process. If any changes affect health and social care research, we will publish a revised version of the briefing.
HRA publish GDPR guidance for researchers


The Health Research Authority (HRA) operational guidance has been produced for researchers and study coordinators on the implications of the GDPR for the delivery of research in the UK. It has been prepared in collaboration with a range of stakeholders, and reviewed by the Information Commissioner’s Office. The HRA is the body nominated to publish guidance on the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 for health and care research. In most cases the impact on individual research projects will be limited. This guidance is aimed specifically at researchers and study coordinators managing individual research projects, and will therefore be of interest to site and sponsor research managers supporting them.

The HRA has also published separate briefing notes relevant at an organisational level for NHS R&D offices, university research offices, company senior managers, Data Protection Officers (DPO), or information governance leads / security architecture leads. For more details see the HRA website. https://www.hra.nhs.uk/

Note: In this guidance, NHS is used to also refer to HSC organisations in Northern Ireland.

Health and Social Care Research & Development Division Produce New Leaflet

Health and Social Care Research & Development Division are pleased to announce a new leaflet we have produced entitled Welcome to HSC R&D: building research in health and social care. The purpose of the leaflet is to raise awareness of research and our work to build capacity in HSC research in Northern Ireland.

For more details and to download a copy of the leaflet see research & development website http://www.research.hscni.net/
Dragon’s Den –
It’s not just a television programme!!!!

Quality Improvement - Dragons Den

With funding from the Social Work Strategy a Dragons Den for Quality Improvement in social work was coordinated by the Quality Improvement Social Work Staying Connected Network. Three thousand pound was the cash prize for two improvement projects.

A high number of applications made this shortlisting process a challenge as only six could be shortlisted to present to the Dragons.

The event took place on the 6th June in Silver Birch Hotel Omagh. The Dragons were Christine Smyth, Director of SW Strategy (DOH.), Dave Miliken, (service user), Maria Somerville, (service user/carer), Catherine Maguire (NISCC) and Martina McCafferty (Service Improvement Lead, HSCB). All projects were using coproduction approaches to improving services.

Continued
The two winning projects were:

1. Southern Health and Social Care Trust CAMHS Team with their improvement initiative ‘Musical Minds’ which uses music as part of a therapeutic approach for Young people with Autism and Mental Health with the longer term aim of enhancing their employability.

What made this a winning project?

Dragons commented on the strengths of this project as being sustainable and the obvious passion of the project team to improving the lives of young people and the passion of the young people for music. The Dragons saw it as an improvement that is transferable to other groups of service users.

2. South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust Supported Living Accommodation Cuan Court Tenants want a Candy Shop just like the ones they had when they were children. The funding from Dragons Den will allow them to create the candy shop which will be staffed by tenants and operates on the principles of reminiscence therapy. It also offers opportunities inter-generational socialisation with links to the local community.

What made this a winning project?

Dragons commented on the value of reminiscence for older people and the importance of the sense of purpose that working in the shop would bring them. They also were impressed by the opportunity to strengthen community networks through this project.
Evidence Informed Practitioner and Organisation Module (EIPO) and Using Evidence to Inform Practitioner and Organisations.

Wednesday 5th June 2018 was the date set for students to participate a regional event assessment of the above Post Qualifying Research Methods Programme at Ulster University. Whilst set well in advance of the course commencing its arrival nine months later always comes like a jolt.

With anxiety, trepidation, excitement and enthusiasm – and in anticipation of the relief that would descend when it was all over! social work practitioner’s and service users and carers who participated in year 3 of the new module met at Loughview Suite at Ulster University.

The challenge looming was how to present concisely and effectively in 15 minutes the key messages emerging for social work practice as gleaned from their Systematic Narrative Reviews produced painstakingly and with conviction through a process of synthesis, selection, appraisal, synthesis and presentation of evidence.

Presenting to an audience of over 40 people including tutors, practice assessors, markers, colleagues, departmental colleagues, education authority colleagues and representatives from the voluntary sector students presented evidence on a diverse range of topic areas – all relevant social work practice and policy.

We were delighted to have in the audience Jackie McIlroy, Deputy Social Work Officer Department of Health demonstrating Jackie’s ongoing commitment to the research and evidence agenda in social work in Northern Ireland.

Topics ranged, for example, from adoption and fostering, co-production, decision making in mental health, safeguarding, and children with a disability, and advance care planning informal networks for young people transition from care. The relief on the students faces was evident after the event

*I really enjoyed the event (but only once I had presented!)* was the view expressed by one person, but echoed by many.
We were delighted to once again have the support of Paul Gallagher whose insightful comments added weight to the assessment process. In particular, his skill to assess the overall accessibility and delivery of the presentations identifying the extent to which it was delivered using jargon free language avoid inaccessible abbreviation and in a way that could be easily understood.

Participants along with Paul Gallagher in the picture above from left to right Deirdre McKenna, Fiona Templeton, Mairead Steward and Jillian Marin.
Date for your diary

Early announcement
6th Annual Social Work and Social Care Research in Practice Conference
Details to follow

Title: We intend to build on our ongoing theme: “Building research to evaluate complex interventions in social work and social care” — a consideration of methodological issues

Date: Wednesday 6th March 2019, 9.30am – 4.30pm

Venue: Belfast Castle nestling in the slopes of Cavehill

Professional in Practice (Pip) Accredited Event

To register for the event please complete the following information and return to: SiWSCRsearchConference2019@hsni.net by 22 February 2019.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS WILL FOLLOW – Please consider this as an opportunity for dissemination of valuable research and evidence.

Organisation:

Job Title:

Email address:

Special requirements:
1. Systematic reviews have all of the following in common EXCEPT:
   A. Systematic reviews are focused on a single topic
   B. The author(s) of a systematic review must document the criteria used to include or
      exclude studies from the review
   C. Only studies related to clinical social work are included in systematic reviews
   D. Systematic reviews differ from narrative reviews in that they attend to the rigor of the
      research design.

2. All of the following are TRUE statements about the limitations of Empiricism
   EXCEPT:
   A. Empiricism is necessary but not sufficient to build knowledge
   B. No array of statistical techniques produces cumulative knowledge
   C. Empirical data knowledge when referred to theory for its interpretations
   D. Empirical significance is equivalent to clinical significance

3. Which of the following are characteristic of QUALITATIVE research designs
   A. Power-Conflict Theory
   B. Social Exchange Theory
   C. Bureaucracy Theory
   D. Human Relations Theory

4. All of the following statements argue for evidence-based practice EXCEPT:
   A. Treatment choice is now a condition of competent practice
   B. Evidence-based practice guarantees a successful treatment course
   C. Clients benefit when they are aware of theoretically sound and empirically verified
      diverse treatments
   D. Knowledge of what is the matter and possible solutions add to the clients ability to make
      an informed decision