Welcome
As we move into late spring of 2019 I am delighted to bring you the 9th edition of newsletter.

Check out the Health and Social Care website for details on research and evidence. http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/swresearch/

Please keep the information coming in. It is always worth sharing with other people. Send to Anne McGlade. Anne.McGlade@hscni.net

Introduction
Annual events come and go but having just hosted the 6th Social Work & Social Care Research on 6th March 2019 it even astounded the organisers that we are looking forward to 2020 anticipating an equally promising event in our Northern Ireland Social Work calendar of events. A brief summary from 2019 is included in this edition of the newsletter.

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6th Annual Social Work and Social Research Conference
6th March 2019 – Belfast Castle

“Building research to evaluate complex interventions in social work and social care – a consideration of methodological issues”

Summary of the day’s event

Marie Roulston Director of Social Care and Children, joint host of the event, with our colleagues in the Research and Development Division of the Public Health Agency welcomed 150 delegates and speakers drawn from management, practice, academia (tutors and students) research and service users and carers. The attendance of so many people was she suggested “a testimony to the increasing value and importance placed on the contribution of the research and evidence agenda”.

Picture scenes from Belfast Castle Contd/.
In an exciting and varied programme inclusive of a range of keynote speeches, oral and poster presentations, drama and displays delegates had the privilege of listening, viewing and engaging in a variety of energetic and informative sessions.

**Some Comments from delegates**

“It provided networking opportunities between service users, carers and researchers”.

“It is important always to step back and reflect on practice and listen to others and learn from other areas of practice”.

“It was a very stimulating day that provided the opportunity to engage with others who are interested in research and evidence”.

“I was able to meet a range of people and establish a number of contacts”.

“Very excited to be here. This is what Social Work is about”

“Well done. Brilliantly organised. Interesting presentations”.

“I really enjoyed the event, it was an innovative & informative day”
Colleagues Dr John Canavan, Dr Carmel Devaney and Professor Caroline McGregor from National University Ireland Galway based their presentation on their experiences of evaluating the Meitheal project. (Prevention; Early Intervention; Family Support in Child Protection and Welfare Systems in Tulsa (ROI).

The day was interspersed with a creative variety of small group sessions where practitioners, service users and carers, academics and researchers shared a platform on a *parity of participation* basis where the overall objective was that of *sharing the learning and outcomes* from a range of service evaluations, research and audit projects.

Professor Keith Brown from Bournemouth University in a highly energetic and creative presentation brought the stark reality of financial scamming and fraud to life.

Poster presentations took on a profile in their own right this year with an eclectic range of informative presentations. Providing delegates with the opportunity to vote for the best poster proved successful and stimulated some additional dialogue and discussion.
The winning poster from the Social Work Research Conference at Belfast Castle 6th March 2019 as voted by the delegates: - Entitled Keeping Safe

Well done to Scott Fleming, Elizabeth Craig and Caroline McGonigle, Northern HSC Trust.

Throughout the day and throughout the sessions inputs from service users and carers and social work practitioners were evident. A key note input from Barbara Norris and Aine Owens as peer researchers in a multi-agency approach alongside Paul Webb, Ashling McLoughlin and Rosalie Edge addressed issues of people’s experiences of mental ill health and intellectual disabilities.

Contd/.
In closing the event Anne McGlade Social Care Research Lead acknowledged the huge range of material presented in one day demonstrating the value of such local events to facilitate such networking and dialogue. She thanked all presenters for getting their messages out there and for taking the time to share the learning with others which is not always on the things that what worked but equally on what did not.

*An Outcomes Report* will be made available but please do check out the PowerPoint Presentations from the day available on the Social Work Research and Continuous Improvement Website. 

**DARE 2020**

**ADVANCE NOTICE**
Decisions, Assessment Risks and Evidence - Ulster University

DARE 2020 is planned for Monday 01 and Tuesday 02 July 2020. The plenary speakers are:

**Professor Mark Schrodter**, Professor for Social Pedagogy, Institute for Social Work, University of Kassel, Germany specializes in ethical aspects of social work judgement and decision making including issues of probability and big data.

**Professor Karen Broadhurst**, Professor of Social Work, Lancaster University, England who will Co-Direct a data partnership central to the Nuffield Foundation’s new Family Justice Observatory for England and Wales which aims to improve the use of national family justice data to improve practice and systems.

**Dr Emily Putnam-Hornstein**, Associate Professor and Director of the Children’s Data Network, University of Southern California, United States of America, whose work focuses on the integration and application of data to inform interventions and policies.

A call for abstracts will be issued in the early Autumn. Anyone wishing to be informed should ask to be put on the mailing list: dare@ulster.ac.uk
Deirdre McKenna -
Southern Health and Social Care Trust,
that’s right!! the same Deirdre, Senior Social Work Practitioner – Specialist Palliative Care and Winner of the Social Work Awards 2018 - Adult Services.
Within social work we are encouraging and supporting social work practitioners to become more research and evidence minded and are delighted that following participation on the Research Methods Programme at Ulster University (currently on year 2) we have a real advocate and champion. In her own words:- “the research methods programme at Ulster University is excellent and it opened up so many avenues for sourcing up to date quality primary research. Thank you and continue the great work”. We look forward to hearing the outcomes from your research study Deirdre. Congratulations are however once again due again to Deirdre who battled through a robust abstract assessment panel and was successful in getting her abstract entitled The heart of Living and Dying accepted for oral presentation in Australia at the:

This is a prestigious conference of international acclaim profiling Compassionate Communities in Action: Re-claiming ageing, dying and grieving from all over the world.

Deirdre’s oral presentation centres on her personal awareness “that people were still surprised by death and seemed not to pay attention to the reality of their own mortality” There was an agreement that a more public health approach to advance care planning could be valuable.

In May 2017 to mark Dying Matters Awareness Week the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) ran a series of events called The Heart of Living and Dying.

Contd/-
These events offered the general public the opportunity to engage in an Advance Care Planning conversation. The Heart of Living and Dying is a two hour group process designed by Deirdre and colleagues and informed by an Evidence Review. It is delivered jointly by staff from the SHSCT, Southern Area Hospice Services and Arts Care.

Feedback from participants on the heart of living & dying course.

“It was so good to share experiences both within the smaller groups and the larger groups, we need to talk more openly about what matters to me.”

“I found it to be a very powerful and empowering experience. Reaching to the core, the actual heart of living and dying, was an emotional experience but one which was so enlightening and indeed motivating.”

“It was interesting to reflect on what matters to me as a person and not as a patient’s advocate. This was a positive reflection.”

“Our experience of hosting these conversations in the SHSCT, and throughout Northern Ireland, is that people can speak openly and freely about important matters when they feel comfortable and invited to do so”.

For details contact Deirdre at: Deirdre.McKenna@southerntrust.hscni.net

Whether Deirdre gets the support to attend the Conference in Australia is uncertain but closer to home Deirdre also presented at the Advance Care Planning at a conference in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to Home Care Staff on April 9th 2019.

Well done Deirdre – keep up the Social Work.
What: Public Involvement Enhancing Research (PIER) NI Workshop - Measuring the Impact of Patient and Public Involvement in Research - where are we?
Where: Lecture Room 3, Riddel Hall, 185 Stranmillis Road, Belfast, BT9 5EF
When: Tuesday 11 June 2019, 10.00am - 3.00pm

Public Involvement Enhancing Research (PIER) NI, HSC R&D Division are delighted to announce a workshop with Mr Simon Denegri (OBE) on the Impact of Patient and Public Involvement in Research. For details on registration contact cara.mcclure@hscni.net by the closing date of Friday 31 May 2019.

Register for a MySCIE account
With a free MySCIE account you can:
- Receive regular updates on topics of interest to you via our e bulletin SCIELine
- Download resources including PDFs and videos
- Study e-learning courses
- Search Social Care Online - the largest database of information and research on social care and social work
- Enquire about our training and consultancy services
Comment and feedback on the work of Scie.
https://www.scie.org.uk
Note (the submission date for abstracts has been extended)

To support social work practitioners to participate in this event the HSCB will fund places for any social worker within HSC who has had a research abstract accepted for this event.
The HealthCare Library was launched on 8\textsuperscript{th} June 2018. Newsletter 7 provided details. 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. **Check it out at**

Email: info@healthcarelibrary.qub.uk
Website: healthcarelibrary.qub.ac.uk

One of the many services offered is the **Current Awareness Bulletin** providing up to date research and evidence.

To be added to the circulation list for this bulletin please email: hazel.neale@healthcarelibrary.qub.ac.uk

You must be a current Library member to read the articles online. Gaining access is however very accessible. All you will have to do is to click on the article title that will appear within the Bulletin and login with your username & password.

**Quote**

“Research is the search for knowledge or a useful investigation without any prejudices and with an open mind. Research methodology is the mantra of achieving accuracy and exactness when it comes to facts and knowledge about something. It is the right approach to pursue knowledge since it leads to a better understanding of a fact or phenomenon. Research is the practical experience of the fact known by others”.

Contd/.
FINDING THE ANSWERS – INFORMATION RESOURCES FOR SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE STAFF

Studying Continuous Professional Development — Professional in Practice and needing research to support your work?

The Healthcare Library of Northern Ireland has the answers

This free workshop is aimed at HSC Social Work & Social Care staff who want to search for information quickly and effectively. Please share with colleagues who may not be library members.

After this workshop you will be able to:

- Identify key search terms to find relevant books, e-books and articles.
- Create & combine searches effectively.
- Keep up to date with current trends & research by saving and running searches automatically, and/or setting up table of content alerts to receive up to date journal content pages into your inbox regularly.

Tuesday 4th June 2019 1.45-2.45pm
Medical & Healthcare Library of Northern Ireland, Training Room, Mulhouse Building RVH, Belfast.

Book a place today, email medicallibrary@qub.ac.uk (places are limited). Please check your library membership is up to date to ensure you can access the resources and set up the alerts.

Bespoke training sessions can be provided for teams – please contact Hazel Neale to discuss this further or arrange a session.

Hazel Neale; Specialist Librarian for Social Work & Clinical Psychology & Healthcare Librarian, Craigavon | Email: hazel.neale@healthcarelibrary.qub.ac.uk Tel: +44 28 9097 8901 or +44 28 3756 2107 | Web: healthcarelibrary.qub.ac.uk | twitter: @healthcarelib

The Healthcare Library of Northern Ireland
At The Royal Victoria Hospital
Mulhouse Building
Mulhouse Road
Belfast BT12 6DP

The Healthcare Library of Northern Ireland
At Craigavon Area Hospital
Medical Education Centre
Craighavon Area Hospital
68 Lurgan Road
Portadown BT63 5QQ
The social work profession is continually evolving and subject to often competing demands. Three interrelated contemporary priorities impact and include ‘what works’, ‘effectiveness’ and ‘value for money’. These have emerged in a context where there has been a growing focus on the impact of social work intervention, how far it has succeeded in with empowering individuals and delivering on its moral imperative and social justice agenda.

To support social workers in responding to these new challenges while maintaining a focus on the fundamental values, qualities and skills that underpin the profession, requires the offer of a continuous professional development framework that embraces and rewards the highest academic excellence, and insists on ensuring its transformative power by its transfer back into the workplace through collaborative knowledge-transfer partnerships.

The development of a professional doctorate structure in social work is ideally placed to address contemporary challenges, and yet its place in the world of professional doctorates remains under-developed. Anecdotally contributory factors that may have an influence include: differences in opinion as to how far and in what ways social work is perceived to be an academic endeavour; constraints on time and frontline resources that do not easily facilitate time to engage in higher level study; concerns about the usefulness to everyday practice of knowledge and skills acquired; and (until recently) a gap in the professional acknowledgement and accreditation of doctoral level qualifications.
Certainly, these have been some of concerns expressed by professionally qualified social workers engaged in professional doctorate studies in Northern Ireland. In this presentation we (see names of authors on the next page) outline our recent journey in Northern Ireland to develop a framework for a professional award at doctoral level, and professional accreditation of doctoral level qualifications. We draw upon our experience and roles as fully qualified and previously-practising social workers, and now academics delivering post-qualifying, post-graduate social work education (including a professional doctorate programme) and a role in the professional regulatory body, the Northern Ireland Social Care Council.

Work is underway in Northern Ireland to develop a framework for a professional award at doctoral level

Delivering what is needed for the profession

- Social Worker as practitioner
  - Ensure focus on practice-relevant knowledge and skill
- Social Worker as a professional
  - Development of stronger knowledge base
  - Facilitates integration of professional values
- Social Worker as a social scientist
  - Incorporates high level of cognitive skills applied to the work


Delivering what is needed for individuals

- Opportunity and support for individuals to develop beyond the current post-qualifying framework
- Stimulus of creative learning environments
- Flexibility of framework within which various routes to a doctorate-level qualification will be available
- Academic qualifications (including doctorates) are an international currency readily understood across professions and jurisdictions

Contd/-
Once approved, this framework will shape the curriculum for a variety of approaches to supporting learning to achieve the award including:

- Approved programmes provided by a university-led partnership with employers.
- Modular, self-directed learning led by employers with university support.
- Accreditation of prior learning.

The professional doctorate scheme addresses the post-qualifying learning needs of the more experienced staff who undertake innovative work to develop practice, services and learning opportunities.

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Carers’ lives & caring issues: knowledge & research evidence

The NIHR School for Social Care Research commissioned the Open University to undertake a scoping review of current knowledge and research evidence about carers’ lives and caring issues. It deliberately included a broad range of material. As part of this project SCIE was commissioned to develop online resources to support the review and ensure it was made accessible, and useful, to academics, policy makers, commissioners, practitioners and carers themselves.

Review background

Key messages
Although caring involves all ages and population groups, most care is provided for older people typically by an adult child or partner. Some people have multiple caring responsibilities and increasingly people are likely to experience one or more periods of caring in their lifetime. Caring impacts on every aspect of a carer’s life. Everyone’s experience is different so one size does not fit all. Support needs to be tailored.

Review highlights
- Carers are increasingly supporting relatives with multiple needs and complex conditions; they are also performing more complex intensive tasks and roles for many hours a week.
- There is a growing group of “sandwich” carers, mostly women in the 55-69 age group who are caring for both older and younger generations of their family whilst also working.
- Older carers (85+) are a growing group of carers. They usually provide care to a spouse or partner and are less likely to identify themselves as carers.
- Knowledge about some groups of carers often referred to as “hidden” carers are relatively invisible within research. This is particularly the case for carers from Black and Minority Ethnic Groups and Lesbian, Gay communities and older carers.
- Knowledge about young carers has grown in recent years. However young carers remain a small proportion of the overall total.

Find out more about this knowledge review, Information about the review can be accessed from the: Video https://www.scie.org.uk/carers/knowledge-review/video

Full and summary reports that have been produced available at https://www.scie.org.uk/carers/knowledge-review?
“Families experiencing substance use, mental or physical health problems”

Mary Donaghy at the Health and Social Care Board will be leading a team of six to present on the work of Think Family Northern Ireland (TFNI) in Norway in May 2019. The abstract for the conference was successful to deliver a 90 minute symposium which is part of the two day conference.

The team is comprised of a service user, voluntary and statutory sector staff who will each deliver a presentation on the initiatives that have been developed under TFNI.

This is an opportunity to showcase how Northern Ireland has strengthened practice to support families where a parent has mental health issues and the impact for other family members as part of the recovery journey. The voice of the service user presenting as part of the team will bring a powerful message about the importance of looking beyond the mental health or addiction issue as an individual. Realizing that patients are also parents is crucial to mental health recovery. Using a systemic approach to practice using The Family Model brings benefits for all family members

Two independent abstracts relating to TFNI initiatives from Queen’s University Belfast have also been successful for presentation at the Oslo Conference.

The next newsletter will provide details from the conference proceedings.
Review of the Regional Research and Continuous Improvement Strategy (2015-2020)

The Social Work Research and Continuous Improvement Strategy was published in 2015, reflecting the emphasis in the Strategy for Social Work on evidence-informed practice development and service improvement. In its fourth year it is important to take stock.

This review provides a timely opportunity to review progress to date, to refine any key actions deliverable within the current phase of the strategy and to facilitate the consideration of key priorities progressing into Phase 2 (2020-2025).

The scope of the review includes:

(a) The context of delivery.
(b) Impact of implementation.
(c) The effectiveness of the approach to implementation.
(d) The strategic direction and key priorities for delivery.

This review will be led by:

Maxine Gibson: Association of Executive Director's Strategic and Policy Officer.

Review findings will be shared with the Social Work Research and Continuous Improvement Board and presented to the Outcomes Delivery Board (DoH) to facilitate consideration of priorities for progress until 2020 and recommendations for the Phase 2 of the strategy.

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Improving lives through knowledge, evidence and innovation

Iriss is a charitable company that promotes positive outcomes for the people who use Scotland's social services. Check out the website at https://www.iriss.org.uk/ for resources and materials.
Recognising success of social workers and service users success in research and evidence in Northern Ireland

“There's nothing greater in the world than when somebody on the team does something good, and everybody gathers around to pat him or her on the back”.

Billy Martin

Celebration was the name of the game in December 2018 when managers, tutors, colleagues and friends came together at an event in Downshire Hospital to celebrate the success of graduates from the post qualifying Research Methods Programme at Ulster University during 2017-2018 - Evidence Informed Professional and Organisation module for social workers and the equivalent service user and carer module Using Evidence to Inform Professionals and Organisation

The awards recognised the hard work, enthusiasm, persistence of all involved and their commitment to make a difference in social work services.

“Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence.”

Colin Powell

It was also an important opportunity to acknowledge the support of others on the programme including tutors and practice assessors.

“No matter how busy you are, you must take time to make the other person feel important”.

Mary Kay Ash
If you are interested in this course 2019-2020

Publicity is sent to employers in February; information sessions are in March/April; nominations due end May. Further information is available through your employer’s social work training department.

Support for service users and carers is provided by the Health and Social Care Board and voluntary organisations. Information also from the University post-qualifying social work office: pqresearchmethods@ulster.ac.uk

Since the event in December we are delighted that Jane Hindes find third in the photograph (left to right) has been accepted for a Department of the Economy PhD award on “using technology to reduce time on administration for social workers.” Well done Jane and good luck.
Summary Report

Belgium and KU Leuven University was the host country for the 9th annual European Conference for Social Work Research. This is a prime space for researchers and members of the social work research community across Europe and indeed wider to share research and to build on collaborations and establish new networks. Through a series of keynote presentations; oral presentations; symposia sessions, workshops and Special Interest Groups over 550 delegates, had the opportunity to engage in three days of diverse presentations.

The beautiful university town of Leuven including the town hall provided a fabulous backdrop to the conference.

The theme and focus of the conference on social justice and human rights was particularly relevant to contemporary social work research particularly at a time of increasing inequalities and a very much changing welfare system across Europe and indeed around the world.

This was the focus of the Key note address by Professor Keon Hermans, who was also part of the organising committee, who explored what human rights mean and how is it possible to stimulate a debate on what human rights mean ensuring that consideration is given to the contextual framework of the debate. This is particularly important as across Europe there is a diverse field of social work practice, with differing levels of licencing and regulation, professional versus academia, professional versus volunteers and citizens.
Values inform research is the what and the how debate. Research informs values is the how question.

The importance of adopting appropriate methodological approaches taking account of developing co creative approaches, inclusive methodologies to involve groups that can often be left marginalised was also explored.

Throughout the conference the recurrent themes of equality, rights, dignity, inclusiveness, values and ethics were discussed in the context of research conducted in a range of social issues exploring refugee and migrant needs, employment, unemployment and poverty across intergenerational groups - older, younger, people and children.

The issue of co creation and participatory research was also a recurrent theme throughout various presentations and the special interest groups (SIGs).

Tania Birchardt from the London School of Economics provided an insightful presentation on how a capability approach, which is akin to the social model of disability, could influence social work practice. People who use our social work services are both doers and judges with their own values. We are all interdependent and therefore should not be regarded as passive recipients. Whilst the capability framework is not entirely new it brings together a number of other elements under one framework.

Representation from Northern Ireland

Once again delegates from Northern Ireland excelled in disseminating research findings to an international audience. There was representation from Queen’s University, Ulster University, Service Users and Cares and the Health and Social Care Board along with former colleagues from Northern Ireland who were presenting on research and evaluation studies that were conducted in Northern Ireland. Ulster University also lead the Decisions, Assessment and Risk Special Interest Group (DARSIG) which has gone from strength to strength over the years. Queen’s University lead on Social Work with Children and Families Across Europe. Contd/.
Colleagues from Queen’s University, Ulster University, PRAXIS are joined by colleagues from Universities across Ireland

Sonia Patton (Service User) Research Methods Programme at Ulster University) and Anne McGlade HSCB.

Sonia was successful in getting a poster abstract accepted for presentation at the conference entitled:

“Shifting the Balance - Social Workers and Service Users Learning Together about Social Care Research”.

Contd/.

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Mandi McDonald, Helen Dunn and Lorna Montgomery (in the background is Brian Taylor Ulster University).

On the left Montserrat Fargac Malet Queen’s University presenting her poster “Regional Variations in Care Planning in Northern Ireland – An Infringement of Children’s Rights” and on the right John Devaney (Edinburgh University, formally Queen’s University Belfast) presenting on the Think Family Focused Practice

An APP (Social Media) was available to all delegates so if you are interested in any other topic presented at the conference please contact Anne McGlade anne.mcglade@hscni.net