Welcome

Welcome to the 11th edition of the newsletter. The newsletter attempts to keep you informed about initiatives, events, and social work research and evidence related activity. As usual thank you to everyone who has supplied information.

Anne McGlade
Email: anne.mcglade@hscni.net

Introduction

We continue to keep the research and evidence in social work and social care agenda profiled. This edition of the newsletter provides details of a recent initiative entitled “Building a Research Community”. This Research Community received wide support but it’s ongoing work and success depends on the willingness and support of stakeholders.

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In 2015 we launched the Social Work Research and Continuous Improvement Strategy (2015-2020). Our aim was the development of a culture that recognizes and values the contribution of research and evidence within social work and social care to support better outcomes for service users and carers.

swresearchsistrategy@hscni.net

#BuildingAResearchCommunity

In keeping this work alive as we move forward beyond 2020 we are placing emphasis on establishing a network of interested stakeholders. Our event on 11th November 2019 was the first of what we intend to be a number of events where the goal is that of building a research community that will foster mutually beneficial relationships and partnerships. Fifty delegates, representative of HSC organisations, academia and other organisations employing social workers alongside service users and carers who have some experience of research came together for our first event.

The Laburnum 1 Suite at Dunsilly hotel was alive with enthusiasm, energy and commitment.

Delegates were invited to comment on what they considered to be the aim of such an initiative.

“Great initial feedback!
Great work!
Keep going!”

“We need to support the social work profession to be more evidence based.”

“We need to equipped with the skills to critically evaluate our work.”
"Ensuring collaboration and networking alignment of policy with academic discourses."

"To help enable the systems to respond to large funding calls."

"To explore the resources required to enable research and evidence base."

"To achieve easily accessible, relevant research in one place to inform practice and further encourage research. This has the potential for the deployment of technology in the form of an APP."

Alone we can do so little;  Together we can do so much.

"To make research accessible to all including front line practitioners, service users and carers."

"To assist in strengthening social work research, embedding findings into daily practice to ensure continuous improvement."

"To establish research as part of the social care culture in HSC."

"To promote uptake and use of research in social work."

"To develop and engage with a group of like minded professionals within the landscape of professional practice."
Photographs from 11th November 2019 event in Dunsilly

Anne McGlade HSCB
Social Care Regional Lead
Setting the Conference into context.

Marie Roulston
Director of Social Care and Children Directorate.
Opening the event.

Delegates participants in group work.
Supporting research, evidence and knowledge exchange in social work and social care

Tony McAllister
SEHSCT

Lorna Montgomery
Queen’s University

Brian Taylor
Ulster University

Maxine Gibson
HSCB

Continued
In establishing something new it is always worthwhile to think of the ultimate goal or what success would look like.

A number of ideas were generated;

- A research community inclusive of all in relation to Building a Research Community
- University staff know who to contact for employment engagement when a research grant appears.
- A system in place to harness senior leaders/Department of Health/Health and Social Care Board/Social worker practitioners to identify research priorities. Overall greater drive at senior management level.
- Outcomes that demonstrate that we are making a difference to our service users and staff.
- Continuum of research activities across all levels of social work.
- Having an established inclusive network and seeing real changes in practice as a result.
- Increased use of evidence based practice by frontline social workers.
- Links with a research champion in each Directorate.
- Increased funding streams for social care and social work research, through established links with the HSC R&D Office, Public Health Agency.

Moving forward on Building a Research Community

Our next event is schedule for the 23rd January 2020. This will involve a smaller group of people to agree the way forward on two elements:

- Next Phase of the Social Work Research and Continuous Improvement Strategy
- Building our Research Community

swresearchsistragegy@hscni.net
Anne.McGlade@hscni.net
HSCB and HSC R&D Division Social Work and Social Care Research Conference

7th Annual Social Work and Social Care Research in Practice Conference

11th March 2020, 9.30am - 4.30pm
Belfast Castle, Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 5GR

Call for Oral Presentations, Lightening Presentations and Poster Presentations

HSCB and HSC Research and Development Division are pleased to announce their call for Oral Presentations and Poster Presentations for their forthcoming conference.

Title of Conference: Building a research community to enable change

Theme: Growing the evidence base to measure impact - The application of diverse methodological approaches

Professional in Practice (PiP) Accredited Event

Please complete this form and return in electronic format to SWSCResearchConference@hscni.net by Friday 31st January 2020

Title:
Name:
Organisation: (if relevant)
Current Position:
Celebrating Success CONGRATULATIONS

Outcomes from the Post Qualifying Research Methods Programme Provided by Ulster University and Employer Organisation.

Monday 9th December 2019 was a day of celebration. The Award Ceremony hosted by Western Health and Social Care Trust at Antrim Civic Centre recognised the achievements of candidates including social work professionals and service users and carers who participated on the Research Methods Programme 2018-2019.

Deirdre McMahon, Executive Director of Social Work played tribute to all of the candidates who received awards and acknowledged all who supported them through their journey of developing their learning in research and evidence. She urged candidates to take their learning one step further and publish in peer reviewed journals and share with other colleagues in order to help improve services.

“Leaving research and evidence outcomes on the shelf does not create the evidence informed practice that we are striving to obtain.” Deirdre also paid credit to the Management Board for the decision taken to extend the training opportunity to service users and carers who participate as an equal status.

“Together we hope to make the difference”

“It was a great day.”

“Thoroughly enjoyed the event.”

“So pleased to have got this far in my journey - Looking forward to the next stage.”

Congratulations for success in getting their article published to;

Liz Tanner, Southern Trust . *See next page
Teresa Hughes South Eastern Trust. See link below;
“Does Training Enhance Professional Practice in Infant Mental Health?”
And Patricia Burns, Belfast Trust. See link below;
Service user involvement and co-production in social work practice development and education - Irish Journal of Social Work.

Continued
Photographs from the Award Ceremony on the 9th December 2019

Participates, friends, colleagues and tutors

A huge thank you to Joe Elliott and Samantha Carlin WHSCT for all their hard work in making the day extra special for our candidates.
Can Effective Interaction be enhanced when working with individuals who are deafblind and have a learning disability?

The importance of social work practitioner research was highlighted recently as Liz Tanner, Social work Training Consultant in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust Workforce Development and Training Team, had a research article published in the social work journal ‘Practice - Social Work in Action’. This article was co-authored by Anne McGlade, Social Work and Social Care Research lead in the HSCB and Mark Irwin, Operational Short Breaks Manager for children with disabilities in the SHSCT.

Liz is a recent graduate of the Research and Evaluation Methods course delivered by Ulster University where she completed the 2 year course with the support and encouragement of her employer, SHSCT.

In the first year of the course, she undertook a systematic narrative review of literature which explored the area of; ‘Can Effective Interaction be enhanced when working with individuals who are deafblind and have a learning disability’. This is a greatly under researched area of practice and in her previous role as social worker and manager of a Sensory Disability Team, Liz was aware that this was a service area that needed developing. The importance of the research was grounded in the fact that staff have a legal and moral responsibility to include all individuals as much as possible in the assessment process, no matter how complex their needs and communication methods. In her second year, she undertook research with a small group of staff and explored the specialist area of assessment with individuals with dual sensory loss and learning disability. Important key messages and recommendations were made as a result of this piece of research and an article outlining these findings was written. The article was submitted to the journal and after rigorous peer review, appeared in their November edition.

Liz commented that “attending the course was an excellent opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in relation to undertaking social work practitioner research. It is essential that social workers practice from a strong evidence base and if undertaking research; to disseminate their findings to a wide reaching audience in order for them to inform and impact on practice and service developments locally, nationally and internationally”.
Current Awareness Bulletin: Social Work December 2019 is now available. This is a very helpful resource with recent updates of evidence and reports. 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.

Note from Hazel
I recognise it can be difficult for staff to get away from the work base for training so I am happy to come out to a team, or group of staff, to provide these bespoke sessions. I am now booking bespoke training sessions for February – May 202, so if you or your team would like some training in using the online resources or setting up search alerts* do get in touch.

*Search Alerts enable you to create a search (or searches) which can support key areas of your work. These can then be set to run once a month automatically and email any newly published articles on that subject. It is an excellent way to keep up to date with specific processes, interventions etc.

Kind Regards
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
The Healthcare Library of Northern Ireland

At The Royal Victoria Hospital
Mulhouse Building
Mulhouse Road
Belfast BT12 6DP

At Craigavon Area Hospital
Medical Education Centre
Craigavon Area Hospital
68 Lurgan Road
Portadown BT63 5QQ
SUPPORTING RESEARCH, EVIDENCE AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE IN SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL CARE

Waterfront Winter Graduation

James Draper and Jenny Rice
with tutors
Southern Eastern Trust

MSc in Development and Co-production in Social Care Research
Sonia Patton (Service User and Carer)

Simon Darby
Clic Sargent

Laura Butler
Northern HSC Trust
About the Research Methods Programme:

The Research Method Programme comprises three part-time modules each lasting one academic year. For social workers, their three modules lead to the MSc in Professional Development in Social Work. For service users and carers, their three modules lead to the MSc in Development and Co-production in Social Research. The content of the parallel modules is essentially the same, although distinct module codes are required for each group as the modules for social workers must be accredited by the professional regulatory body, the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC).

We had 6 participants who went through the Research Methods Programme inclusive of the third year of the Programme which is the year for dissemination and influencing others. This module was revised based on the needs of our Research and Continuous Improvement Strategy (2015-2020).
## Outcomes:
Systematic Narrative Reviews Undertaken 2018-2019 as part of the
“Evidence Informed Practitioner and Organisation” (SWK751)
And
“Using Evidence to inform Professionals and Organisations” (SWK753)

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<th>Reviewer</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence Informed Practitioner &amp; Organisation Social Work Module</strong> (SWK 751)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vicarious Trauma: Associated impacts on practitioners working with young victims of trauma.</td>
<td>Bill Vail</td>
<td>Western Health &amp; Social Care Trust</td>
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<td>The outcomes of older people ready to leave hospital and discharged with unresolved delirium.</td>
<td>Brian Crossan</td>
<td>Western Health &amp; Social Care Trust</td>
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<td>The social work contribution to providing psychosocial palliative and end of life care in adult services.</td>
<td>Gillian Thomas</td>
<td>Western Health &amp; Social Care Trust</td>
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<td>Beyond UNOCINI - The use of decision making models in children’s services intake teams.</td>
<td>James Draper</td>
<td>South Eastern Health &amp; Social Care Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home from Home - Interventions for anxiety driven behaviours in service users with a diagnosis of dementia, in long-term care.</td>
<td>Julie Doherty</td>
<td>Western Health &amp; Social Care Trust</td>
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<td>The Impact of social factors for older people in the discharge process from hospital.</td>
<td>Pamela Fillis</td>
<td>South Eastern Health &amp; Social Care Trust</td>
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<td><strong>Using Evidence to Inform Professionals &amp; Organisations Social Work Module</strong> (SWK 753)</td>
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<td>The Apex of Involvement? Emergent themes in Research into co-production in Adult Recovery Colleges: A Systemic Narrative Review</td>
<td>Karen Bester</td>
<td>Service User</td>
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Outcomes:
Research and Evaluation Studies Undertaken 2018-2019 as part of the “Research and Evaluation Methods in Social Work Module” (SWK752) and “Research and Evaluation to inform Social Work” (SWK754)

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<th>Title</th>
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<td>Research and Evaluation Methods in Social Work module (SWK 752)</td>
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<td>How does the “Heart of Living and Dying” conversation enable people to talk about death and dying and support them to plan ahead?</td>
<td>Deirdre Mc Kenna</td>
<td>Southern Health &amp; Social Care Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Getting co-production off the ground: The experience of service users and social workers who have tried.</td>
<td>Patricia Burns</td>
<td>Belfast Health and Social Care Trust</td>
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<td>Foster Carers' Experiences of the Role of their Personal Support Networks in Helping Develop Resilience.</td>
<td>Laura Butler</td>
<td>Northern Health &amp; Social Care Trust</td>
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<td>Parent perspectives on family based short breaks in The Southern Health and Social Care Trust.</td>
<td>Janet Johnstone</td>
<td>Southern Health &amp; Social Care Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research and Evaluation to Inform Social Work module (SWK 754)</td>
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<td>Experiences of adoption disruption in Northern Ireland: the parents' perspective.</td>
<td>Elizabeth Lyttle</td>
<td>Service User (Carer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>'My experience of School' – The perspectives of adoptees aged 16-21 years.</td>
<td>Fiona Templeton</td>
<td>Service User (Carer)</td>
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Social Work Awards 2019

Friday 15th November 2019
Slieve Donard Hotel

This is the 8th Social Work Awards event which is sponsored by the Health & Social Care Board to raise the profile of social work. The Awards are open to social workers in the statutory, voluntary, private, education and training sectors in Northern Ireland every finalist submission is a winner.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS at the 2019 SOCIAL WORK AWARDS

Congratulations to all
CHITIN article for Social Work and Social Care Research

The Cross-border Healthcare Intervention Trials In Ireland Network (CHITIN) Project is a unique cross-border partnership between the Health and Social Care (HSC) Research and Development (R&D) Division in the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland and the Health Research Board (HRB) in the Republic of Ireland (ROI), to develop infrastructure, deliver 11 Healthcare Intervention Trials (HITs) and provide specialist training and development programmes for cross-border area HSC providers.

Priority areas of this health intervention research cover: population health, Primary Care and Older People’s Services, Mental Health, Acute Services, Disability Services and Children’s Services.

Aiming to recruit in excess of 3,500 participants, the knowledge and understanding generated from the CHITIN trials will impact both HSC service users and the HSC professionals who are delivering the services in NI and in Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Cavan, Monaghan and Louth.

The CHITIN Project has received €8.84m to develop infrastructure (including 15% contribution from the Department of Health NI and the Health Service Executive (HSE) ROI, from the EU’s INTERREG VA Programme, which is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

For more information on CHITIN please visit www.research.hscni.net/chitin or follow @CHITINProject on Twitter.
Decisions, Assessment, Risk and Evidence in Social Work

Tuesday 30 June & Wednesday 01 July 2020

Dunadry Hotel, Templepatrick, Northern Ireland.

Scope
This biennial DARE conference series brings together researchers, educators, policy makers and senior practitioners to share developments on the related topics of:

- **Professional judgement** including reflective practice; cognitive judgement; heuristics; use of knowledge; and judgements in uncertainty
- **Decision & assessment processes** with clients, families, professionals and organisations, including contested decisions & care planning
- **Assessment tool** development including screening & diagnosis; assessing needs, strengths & risks; and statistical prediction of harm
- **Risk** assessment, communication and management, including legal aspects, organisational processes and positive risk taking
- **Ethical, emotional, legal and contextual aspects** of decision making, assessment and risk, including regret, stigma and professional ethics
- **Learning** about professional judgement, decisions, assessment, risk including use of knowledge (evidence), professional supervision, education & training

**Evidence** creation, synthesis and dissemination; using knowledge to inform policy, practice, teaching, management and regulation in social work; knowledge transfer and implementation science

Aims
The DARE conference series aims to support the development of professional knowledge and skills for the benefit of clients, families and societies by promoting research, organisation development, knowledge transfer and teaching initiatives.

DARE is supported by the School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences

Please note that this Programme is draft and subject to change.
Abstracts are invited for Oral and Poster presentations:

Website: www.ulster.ac.uk/dare (or Google: DARE Social Work)

Abstracts should be emailed to Prof Brian Taylor, Professor of Social Work at bj.taylor@ulster.ac.uk by Friday 31 January 2020 with copy to the conference secretary Mrs Sharon Lucas at dare@ulster.ac.uk using the template. Decisions will be made by Fri 23 February 2020. The conference early-bird rate closes Tuesday 31 March 2020.

We are pleased to inform you that there are two Scholarships to cover attendance costs at the Decisions, Assessment, Risk and Evidence in Social Work Sixth Biennial International Symposium in June-July 2020 near Belfast, Northern Ireland (www.ulster.ac.uk/dare). The Scholarships are available to participants from lower-income European countries, as defined by the European Social Work Research Association. Further information about scholarships: Dr Andrew Whittaker whittaka@lsbu.ac.uk of the ESWRA Decisions, Assessment and Risk Special Interest Group.

Further conference details, including information on plenary speakers, workshop leaders, the programme, registration and fees, are being added incrementally to our website. Details are on the Call for Abstracts drop-down menu on the conference website, where you will also find information on the conference themes, and a template for submission.

Participants from Northern Ireland who would like assistance in producing a poster are invited to contact Anne McGlade, Social Care Research Lead, Health and Social Care Board, at anne.mcglide@hscni.net

“One person can make a difference, and everyone should try.”

John Fitzgerald
The overarching theme of the 10th edition of The European Social Work Conference (ESCWR 2020) is Social work research: Contributing to innovation in practice, policy and social development. ECSWR 2020 focuses on how the diversity of social work research methodologies, approaches, traditions and cultures contributes to innovations in social work practice and policy, and to social development more broadly, at local, regional, national, international levels. Researchers, scholars, practitioners and students are invited to submit abstracts for the below proposal types.

Call for abstracts is now closed but you can still register following the link below;

Check out registration
Safe and Together approach
This evidence summary explores what the impact of the Safe and Together model is and what changes it can bring locally. The Safe and Together model, originally developed in the USA, is a suite of tools and interventions to transform child welfare practice in cases of domestic violence.

Experiences of young carers in university and transitioning to work
This evidence summary explores what the experiences are of people with caring responsibilities at university college and transitioning to work.

Check out https://www.iriss.org.uk/esss for details.
Evidence Implementation Centre for Adult Social Care

**EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENT**

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Health Foundation have announced funding to support a new UK Centre to enhance the use of research evidence in adult social care. The Centre will aim to increase the use of high quality research evidence to improve and support innovation within adult social care across the UK. Our pre-call announcement launched in late **October 2019** with anticipated funding of up to **£15 million available**. To support the commissioning of the Centre, the Health Foundation and ESRC will be running some engagement workshops to discuss the initiative, explore some of the challenges and build the necessary networks and partnerships needed to develop the Centre and achieves its aims. Workshop registration information is included in the pre-call announcement.

For more details see the [ESRC website](https://www.esrc.ac.uk) or the [Health Foundation website](https://www.health.org.uk)

Please direct any enquires to ESRC or Health Foundation to the following mailboxes:
ESRC: esrcsocialcare@esrc.ukri.org
Health Foundation: socialcare@health.org.uk

Colleagues from Northern Ireland have played an active part in this development and will continue to do so.

“How wonderful it is that nobody need to wait a single moment to improve the world”

*Anne Frank*
**Timetable**

- Full guidance published – 29 October 2019
- Engagement events – 6 and 12 November 2019
- Webinar – 14 November 2019
- Application deadline for Intention to submit – 22 November 2019
- Application deadline for full proposals – 29 January 2020
- Deadline for full applicant’s response to reviewer comments – 25 March 2020
- Interviews – Early June 2020
- Funding decisions announced – July 2020
- Grants start – October 2020

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SCIE's new programme of CPD accredited, open access training has now launched for 2020!

These training sessions are suitable for a range of roles and organisations. We provide an environment which supports multi-agency learning, developing delegates skills and knowledge around a number of key topics including **Safeguarding**, the **Mental Capacity Act** and **Co-production**.

Check out SIE’s Website [https://www.scie.org.uk/training](https://www.scie.org.uk/training)
Launch of 'Health, Equality and the Economy', a research report produced for Pivotal.

Pivotal is a new public policy think tank for Northern Ireland, whose focus is on evidence-based ideas and policies to improve our society, economy and public services.

To register see the Eventbrite Page:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/launch-of-ulster-university-health-equality-and-the-economy-report-registration-79335116469

The closing date to register is 17 Feb 2020.
PIER NI (Public Involvement Enhancing Research)

A creative and novel way to disseminating the findings of research to the wider public

On 5 December 2019, members of PIER NI (Public Involvement Enhancing Research) and staff of HSC R&D Division were treated to a performance of ‘The Songbirds’ at a Christmas Workshop. The Songbirds is a drama based on interviews with the 60 people living with dementia who participated in an Ulster University research study which explored the impact of technology facilitated reminiscence on people living with dementia and their family carers. The study was led by the School of Nursing in collaboration with colleagues from computing and psychology and was funded by HSC R&D Division and The Atlantic Philanthropies as part of their Dementia Care Research Programme.

‘The Songbirds’ is a play about memory, humanity, love and life. It is also a play that explores the lived experience of people living with dementia and celebrates their stories and the highs and lows of their lives. The play was written and directed by Guy Le Jeune, An Grianán Theatre, Donegal and was performed by Valerie Bryce and Eoghan MacGiolla Bhrighde.

Check out R and D Division Website for more information on PIER: https://research.hscni.net/pier-ni-public-involvement-enhancing-research
Considering the policy context and statistical information led to a creative and innovative co-produced piece of research. A number of organizations were involved in a study to explore how to improve physical activity for people with severe and enduring mental health problem. For example:

- 1 in 6 people will experience mental ill health in their lifetime
- 1 in 8 young people have experienced mental health problems
- People with serious mental health problems are more likely to be inactive & have other physical health problems
- Physical activity has benefits for our physical and mental health
The key research questions were:

- Why do people with mental health problems do less physical activity?
- What can we learn about the barriers to being active?
- What can we do to help people be more active?

Physical activity can have benefits for people with physical and mental health and plays an important role in the social aspect of people’s lives. People with mental health care about their physical health and by providing the right kind of support can be encouraged to incorporate physical activity into their lives.

At the launch often report at the MAC on Friday 6th December delegates had the opportunity to hear about the study and about the value of co-production and the use of peer researchers.

Key messages from peer researchers:

Praxis Care Researchers were supported to help develop the qualitative interviews, were involved in the physical activity programmes and involved in data analysis, write up and presentations.

“I felt valued and listened to.”

“I was excited and enthused to be involved.”

“Excited to be in.”

Reports available from:

https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/empowering-people-through-physical-activity
SUPPORTING RESEARCH, EVIDENCE AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE IN SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL CARE

Newsletter: issue 11—December 2019

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12-22 Linenhall Street
Belfast ,
BT2 8BS

Contact No: 02895363017
Anne McGlade
Social care Regional Lead
Website: http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/our-work/social-care-and-children/swresearch
Email: swresearchsistrategy@hscni.net

“No longer accepting the things I cannot change.
I am changing the things I cannot accept”

Angela Davis