



The Changing Lives Initiative

An Early Intervention Approach to ADHD: What's next?

21st May 2019, Riddel Hall, Belfast

- 9:00 Registration Opens
- 10:00 Opening of Conference
- 10:05 A word from the Programme Funders and Sponsoring Departments
- 10:25 **The ADHD Effect: Understanding the Impact of ADHD**
Dr Kate Carr-Fanning, Assistant Professor / Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychological, Social, and Behavioural Sciences in Coventry University.
- 10:45 **Introduction to The Changing Lives Initiative**
Christina Riordan, Project Manager, The Changing Lives Initiative
- 11:00 **The Changing Lives Initiative: Process and Cost Effectiveness Evaluations**
Dr Lucia Carragher, Senior Research Fellow, NetwellCasala, Dundalk Institute of Technology
Q&A
- 11:30- 12:00 Coffee Break
- 12:00 **The Changing Lives Initiative: Outcomes Evaluation**
Dr Caitriona Delaney, Researcher & Dr Sean McDonnell, Research and Training Manager, Archways
Q&A
- 12:30 **Parents Panel: Families' perspective on The Changing Lives Initiative Intervention**
- 12:55 **Reflection on Morning session and Theme for Afternoon Session**
John Lonergan, former Governor of Mountjoy Prison; Archways Board of Directors
- 1:10- 1:55 Lunch
- 1:55 Welcome Back
- 2:00 **Investing Early, Investing Well**
Dr Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Chief Executive, Early Years: The Organisation for Young Children
- 2:20 **Early Childhood Experiences and links with Early Developmental Disorders**
Trevor Spratt, AIB Professor in Childhood Research and Director of Trinity Research in Childhood Centre
- 2:50 **A new Approach to ADHD Interventions in Argyll and Bute**
Dr James Houston, Consultant Paediatrician & Patricia Renfrew, Consultant Nurse Children and Families, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership
- 3:20 **Panel Discussion: What next? An Early Intervention Approach to ADHD**
- 3:50 Closing remarks
- 4:00 Finish

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The Changing Lives Initiative is a community-based project creating a better understanding about ADHD and providing an intervention programme for families with children (3-7) experiencing behaviours consistent with ADHD. The 3-year project is delivering a new model of early intervention to young children at risk of ADHD. Launched in November 2017, the initiative is delivering a programme across County Louth in Ireland, West Belfast in Northern Ireland and the Argyll & Bute Region in Scotland.

The project is supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), with match funding provided by the Departments of Health North and South. The Changing Lives Initiative offers a programme for families consisting of an information and awareness programme, a screening programme, and an intensive intervention programme. As well as working with families, The Changing Lives Initiative provides training for those working with young children, in particular teachers and early years' professionals.

The mid project conference will provide insight into the project and its impact on families and the wider community. The conference includes interim findings from the three evaluations being carried out as part of the project and hopes to provide a platform for discussions on how an early intervention approach such as this might be sustained and spread beyond the lifetime of the current project. The programme includes a key members of the Changing Lives Team and some of the families who have benefitted from the programme, as well as a number of outside speakers.

Speakers:

Dr Kate Carr-Fanning, Assistant Professor / Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychological, Social, and Behavioural Sciences in Coventry University.

Dr Kate Carr-Fanning is an Assistant Professor / Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychological, Social, and Behavioural Sciences in Coventry University. Kate completed her BA in psychology before commencing her PhD in Trinity College Dublin where she explored stress, emotion, and coping in children with ADHD. Kate has over a decade of experience working in the area of ADHD. Her research interests focus on school-based intervention, early intervention, and community-based approach to ADHD. In addition to participatory research and practice with people affected by ADHD. At present, Kate sits on the Board of ADHD Ireland and the professional advisory boards of ADHD Europe and ADHD UK, where she has a remit over research and education.

Trevor Spratt, AIB Professor in Childhood Research and Director of Trinity Research in Childhood Centre.

Having worked for some 10 years in social work practice with children and families, Trevor's first academic position was with the University of Ulster in 1997, subsequently moving to Queen's University Belfast in 2000. Trevor took up his present position at Trinity College Dublin in 2014. Research interests include, decision making by professionals, how policy objectives are translated into professional practises, the development of child protection systems internationally, and the impact of early adversities in childhood as realised across the life-course. This research is conducted with the intention of strengthening the evidential base to inform professional interventions and public policy.

Siobhán Fitzpatrick CBE, Chief Executive Officer, Early Years: The organisation for young children

Siobhán has been in post since 1989, having worked previously for Health and Social Services in Northern Ireland. The organisation supports 40,000 children and families and provides support, training and quality assurance for 12,000 staff in the early years sector across Northern Ireland. Siobhán was the European representative on the World Forum Foundation for Early Years Care and Education from 2001 to 2009 and President of ISSA, the International Step by Step Association for Eastern Europe and the former CIS countries (2006-2011). She currently chairs the International Network on Peace Building with Young Children which is bringing the learning from the work in Early Years on inclusion, respecting difference and peace building to areas affected by conflict around the world. Siobhán was awarded a CBE for services to Education, Family Support and Community Development in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2010. Siobhán has been awarded an honorary degree from Queen's University Belfast for distinction in public service.