

Summer Symposium – 22nd February 2008

Two Presentations by Dr Helen Buckley, Trinity College Dublin, Chaired and Facilitated by Professor Dorothy Scott



Developing a Framework for the Assessment of Vulnerable Children and Their Families

This presentation will be of interest to practitioners, managers, policy makers, researchers and students who would like to know more about the development of a Framework for the Assessment of Vulnerable Children and Their Families. The Framework consisted of a three year phased action research project, comprised of consultation, preparation of materials, piloting and evaluation of draft materials, final revision and publication. The presentation, as well as describing the materials, will focus on the qualitative aspects of engagement, analysis and reflectiveness that were considered central. It will also review current research on the use of frameworks, and identify key issues to be addressed.

A Study of Service Users' Perspectives on Child Protection Services

This presentation is also of interest to practitioners, managers, policy makers, researchers and students and discusses a study which involved in-depth interviews with fifty four adults and thirteen young people who had been engaged with child protection services over the previous four years. It was conducted in sixteen counties in Ireland. It examined their initial and prior impressions, the extent to which their expectations and needs were met, their sense of involvement, their views on effective practice and the worker qualities they found positive. It established the significance of friendly, helpful, respectful relationships as well as the openness and reliability of workers.

Biographical details

Dr. Helen Buckley is Senior Lecturer in the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, where she coordinates the Postgraduate Diploma in Child Protection and Welfare. She is also a Senior Research Fellow in the Children's Research Centre. Dr Buckley provides a consultancy service to the Office of the Minister for Children and was a member of the Ferns Inquiry, which investigated sexual abuse by Catholic priests in the diocese of Ferns, Co. Wexford. She has been involved in the development of child protection procedures for voluntary and statutory agencies.

Date and time: Friday, 22nd February, 2008, 9.30am-1.00pm

Location: H5-26, Hawke Building, University of South Australia, City West Campus, Adelaide.

Cost: This symposium is free.

Registration: It is essential to register for this symposium as places are limited. Please contact Janet Kent at the Australian Centre for Child Protection on (08) 8302 4189 or email janet.kent@unisa.edu.au by Friday, 1st February, 2008.

Please distribute this invitation to other interested people in your organisation/networks.