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PRACTICE LINKS



Practice Links is a free publication of the School of Applied Social Studies (social work), UCC. *Practice Links* supports practitioners to keep up-to-date with new publications, online resources, conferences and continuing professional development opportunities.



@PracticeLinks
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Editor: Dr Kenneth Burns, UCC



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Submissions

Submissions for publication should be received two weeks prior to the next publication date. Please forward submissions [by email](#) to the editor.

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SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE TEACHING @UCC



SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE TEACHING

Practice Teaching is a dynamic CPD learning experience hear what practice teachers have to say about their experiences supervising UCC social work students on placement...

"Student was open and engaging, unafraid of the many challenges".

"Quickly became a valued and productive member of the MDT".

Social workers who engage in practice teaching have continually informed us of the benefits in terms of their own continuing professional development and we have lots to offer [What is Practice Teaching?](#)

UCC would like to hear from CORU registered social workers who are interested in supervising a student on placement during 2026 - placement cycles are usually from January - December, Summer, and September - December.

UCC pays a placement fee, for further information please contact swfieldwork@ucc.ie or you can register your interest [Practice Teaching Expression of Interest](#)



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR SCREENING AND BRIEF INTERVENTIONS (SBI) FOR PROBLEM ALCOHOL & DRUG USE

This course aims to prepare nurses, midwives, health and social care professionals to implement Screening and Brief Interventions (SBI) for problem substance misuse.

On completion of this course, participants should be able to:

- Apply the theory from the SAOR online module to their practice
- Identify opportunities to conduct a brief intervention
- Demonstrate appropriate brief intervention skills using the SAOR model
- Identify appropriate alcohol and other drugs care pathways

The key course content which emerges from the course learning outcomes is outlined below:

- Evidence for the effectiveness of SBI.
- Alcohol and drug related presentations to health and social care settings.
- Contemporary models of SBI for problem alcohol and drug use.
- Overview of the SAOR model of intervention for problem alcohol and drug use.
- Establishing a supportive working relationship with the service users.
- Asking about alcohol and drug use and screening for alcohol and drug related problems.
- Delivering a structured brief intervention based upon the SAOR model.
- Developing appropriate care pathways for service users and arranging appropriate follow up.
- Accessing useful links and reference materials for further reading and research.

The primary target audience is nurses, midwives and allied health and social care professionals who are in a position to offer Screening and Brief Interventions to service users presenting with problem alcohol and drug use.

Contact Amy Roche for 2023 Training Dates in Cork and Kerry Amy.Roche@hse.ie

Contact Nicola Corrigan for other locations nationally nicola.corrigan@hse.ie



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

HIDDEN HARM TRAINING TEAM

The Hidden Harm Training Team are inviting applications for a 1-day programme developed jointly by the HSE and Tusla to educate workers on the impact on children of Parental Alcohol and Substance Use. The overall aim of Hidden Harm training is to provide an environment for colleagues from Tusla, HSE, Comm & Vol sector to consider the impact of the issues of Hidden Harm on their practice, and to explore how we can assist each other in working together in achieving better outcomes for the children and families we work with.

Who should take this training? This programme is relevant to all staff working with parents, children, young people or families who may be affected by problem alcohol and other drug use including HSE, Tusla, and community/voluntary sectors. The programme seeks to support understanding and responding to the often 'Hidden Harm' of children living in these families.

There are two modules of learning to be completed in successive order as part of this blended learning programme to receive a certificate of completion:

- 1 eLearning Module: 'Hidden Harm: the impact of parental alcohol & other drug use'. (45 minutes)
- 2 In-person Classroom: 'Hidden Harm: the impact of parental alcohol & other drug use'

Should you wish to express your interest in attending, please send an email with your name, location of work, job title to Amy.roche@hse.ie. Please note, the expression of interest does not guarantee a place on the programme.

HSE SOUTH-WEST ADDICTION SERVICES LAUNCHES NEW GAMBLING AND GAMING ADDICTION TREATMENT SERVICE

The HSE South-West is pleased to announce the launch of a dedicated Gambling and Gaming Addiction treatment service. This service is aiming to provide specialised support to individuals and families affected by gambling and gaming related harms across Cork City and County.

This new service offers screening brief interventions, assessments of gambling/gaming-related harm, evidence-based therapeutic interventions including individual counselling, group therapy, and relapse prevention. Interventions are tailored to meet the complex needs of those experiencing harm from gambling and gaming behaviour. The initiative reflects the HSE Social Inclusion's commitment to addressing all forms of addiction with accessible, equitable, and person-centred care.

Referrals can be made through GPs, community health professionals, or self-referral by individuals or family members seeking help. Early intervention is encouraged to support recovery and prevent further harm. The service also includes family support and education components to assist those impacted indirectly.

The Gambling / Gaming services offer a holistic, accessible response to gambling and gaming addiction harms in Cork City and County, aligning with HSE's Social Inclusion objectives and evidence-based addiction treatment standards.

For more information or to make a referral, please contact the HSE South-West Addiction Services on [022-42559] or email catherineocallaghan9@hse.ie or robert.odriscoll@hse.ie. Confidentiality and professional care are assured.



TRAUMA SENSITIVE FORUM STEERING GROUP

CORK A TRAUMA SENSITIVE CITY

Cork city is the first Irish city to have established an inter-agency Trauma Sensitive Forum Steering Group (Chaired by Cork City Council) with representation across the community & voluntary sector, HSE, TUSLA, Academia (UCC & MTU), An Gardaí, ETB, Social Protection, City Council, School Completion, Probation, Addiction services and Area Based childhood services. A city-wide strategy document underpins this initiative. [Click here to access.](#)

An inter-agency eLearning training module on Becoming Trauma Aware has been co-produced through joint funding and this module is promoted across organisational settings. The eLearning module was commissioned and funded by the HSE Public Health Department (Cork & Kerry), by Cork City Council (CCC), Cork Education & Training Board (CETB) and TUSLA the Child & Family Agency.

Both programme, video and animation content for the e-Learning module was reviewed by subject area experts in the area of developmental, psychological and war trauma - with content contributed generously by: Dr Sharon Lambert, UCC; Dr Judith Butler, MTU; Dr Jennifer Hayes, HSE; Sandra Cogan-Williamson, CCC and; Katherine Harford, Manager of Lets Grow Together

What will learners achieve/gain upon completion of the Trauma module?

Learners will be able to recognise what is meant by trauma, that trauma does not discriminate and is everybody's responsibility. They will be able to identify the nature of trauma, its major forms and cause as well as understand how trauma affects the workings of the brain and the body and impact long term holistic health.

Most importantly, learners will appreciate the importance of relationships and the potential to mitigate trauma's effects. The aim of programme: is to raise general awareness of the impact of psychological trauma and help us all understand how trauma is everyone's business. The audience for this module includes all staff at all levels working across all agencies. It's a 45-minute module and includes an assessment and a certificate of completion.

The module is available to access on HSEland - an online resource designed to support the training and development of staff working in the Irish health sector. Available to all health professionals in the HSE, and those in voluntary and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), it can be accessed by registering at www.hseland.ie. A Certificate of completion is available.

For those organisations and members of the public that cannot access HSEland, the resource is also available to access on the [Cork City Council website at the following link.](#)

The Government of Ireland report prepared by the Department of Health - [Sharing the Vision ~ A Mental Health Policy for Everyone](#) gives a very clear mandate regarding the provision of a Trauma-Informed Service Delivery Principle and specifically states that staff in every part of the organisation change their language, behaviour and policies to take into consideration the experiences of those who have trauma histories, including staff members themselves.



IASW FITNESS TO PRACTISE INSURANCE



Fitness to Practise Insurance



The IASW is offering superior insurance coverage



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How to Make a Claim

As soon as you have a legal problem that may require assistance with this insurance (FTP Letter of Complaint only) call the IASW office on 0860241055 or email officemanager@iasw.ie

Did you know?

Fitness to Practice Legal Cover is not provided by your employer.

76% of CORU complaints are against Social Workers

Complaints can be costly. Without insurance, all legal expenses fall on you



INTENSIVE ADVENTURE THERAPY SKILLS TRAINING



INTENSIVE ADVENTURE THERAPY SKILLS TRAINING

Extend your professional practice into nature. Learn to use and develop your own adventure toolkit, to enhance your professional practice.

This 5-day skills training course will teach you about the spectrum of adventure therapy practice, and equip you with helpful, accessible toolkit to engage and support young people.

Upcoming course dates:

- 12-16 Jan '26
- 27 Apr-1 May '26
- 8-12 June '26
- 19-23 Oct '26

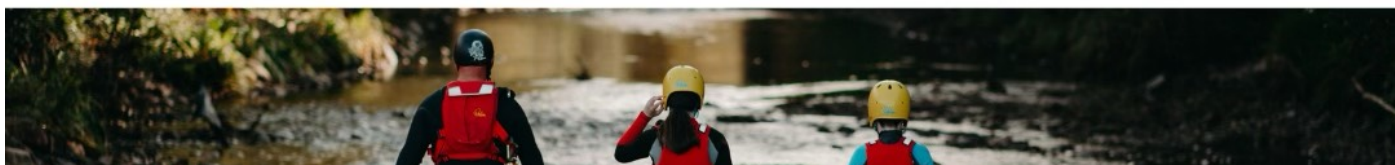


Book online or contact us at
089 6008185
info@newwavewildproject.ie



This training is suitable for anyone **working in clinical settings** (therapists, counsellors, psychologists, social workers), or **in a therapeutic role** (youth, community, social care settings), or **in the outdoors**.

You **don't need** to have any particular outdoor skills or sports to do this course.





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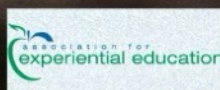
Philip Stallard

Clinical Adventure Therapist (CCAT)

Registered Social Worker (CORU: 024277)

Accredited Psychotherapist (APCP MBR: 11133)

Accredited Clinical Supervisor (ASI: 1016)



Association of Professional Counsellors
& Psychotherapists in Ireland



089-6008185/ PHILIP@NEWWAVEWILDPROJECT.IE



CPD 360 TOOLKIT

NEW: CPD 360 TOOLKIT IS HERE!

Thank you to every Social Care Worker that filled out our survey - Martha & the team have reviewed the responses in great detail and based on these findings they have created the CPD 360 Toolkit, because of the survey responses a direct alignment was made to answer what the Social Care Workers told us.

The CPD 360 Toolkit gives you everything you need to turn your learning into evidence – fully aligned with CORU's CPD Cycle and HIQA Workforce Standards.

Eligible professionals can apply their Social Care Ireland €300 CPD Grant directly toward this toolkit. Build Your Professional Portfolio – and Claim Your CPD Grant through the Social Care Ireland - [click here](#).

What's inside;

- A complete CPD Toolkit module with self-paced learning
- The Reflective Lens Tool to connect theory and practice
- CPD Planner & Development Templates to map learning goals
- Audit-Ready Evidence Builder – structure your CPD portfolio for CORU or HIQA review
- Guidance on aligning your CPD with organisational goals, governance, and quality improvement
- NIIDS CPD Evidence Tracker



CPD 360 TOOLKIT

www.niids.ie



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SR STANISLAUS KENNEDY

OBITUARY. SR STANISLAUS KENNEDY - RADICAL NUN & RADICAL SOCIAL WORKER BY KIERAN MCGRATH

Following her death on 03.11.2025, much has been written about the life of Sr Stanislaus Kennedy ("Sr Stan"). She has been rightly praised for setting up Focus Point, Focus Ireland, the Irish Refugee Council, and many other projects, from the mid-1980s onwards. However, none of these achievements can be explained without reference to her experiences in Kilkenny Social Services which made her both a radical nun and a radical social worker, in the late 1960s.

To be radical is to go back to the essence of something and in that respect, Stan went back to the origins of her Christian faith and the roots of Social Work with a view to putting them into action. That meant feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, housing the homeless, and welcoming the poor/marginalised. In relation to her Social Work principles, I once heard her say that "The job of a social worker is to identify a social need and to find a resource to meet it." She took that quite literally.

By the time of the Conference on Poverty in November 1971^[1] in Kilkenny, a very important milestone in the development of social policy in Ireland, she had embraced, what was then a radical idea, that poverty was not a matter of individual failure but, rather, was produced by political and economic structures.^[2]

Stan was ably facilitated in this by Bishop Peter Birch who became her mentor and close friend. Peter Birch became the Bishop of Ossory in 1964, and he was very much influenced by the 2nd Vatican Council where Liberation Theology first began calling on the Catholic Church to re-find a commitment to the poor and marginalised. Peter Birch saw it was his job to put Christianity into action by providing practical assistance to those on the margins. In addition, he also saw poor and marginalised people as teachers of society:

"The poor live the life of Christ, so they have much to teach us. But we have to learn to understand the place of the handicapped, the aged and Travellers which is a demanding challenge for every Christian community anxious to give them their rightful place." (Ryan, 1993, p. 58)^[3]

Peter Birch was very radical for his time. For example, even in the 1970s he was talking about the sexual needs of people with learning disabilities.^[4] Stan followed that playbook in the setting up and operation of Kilkenny Social Services (KSS), which provided a lot of services to, but also strongly advocated for groups such as unmarried mothers, the homeless and people with learning disabilities. KSS became a trailblazer for the rest of Ireland.

Stan gave full credit to Peter Birch for this, saying that he was "a powerful voice against inequality and injustice and a practical affirmation of the dignity of every person"^[5]

Stan first became famous in the late 1960s for criticising the Catholic hierarchy, something very few Irish people were brave enough to do, and no Irish nun had ever done before. One memorable newspaper headline read: "Nun lashes bishops." She got a great laugh out of that, given the images it conjured up, but it also resulted in her being 'silenced' for about a year for doing so. However, it was only a brief interregnum in her life of campaigning for social justice.



SR STANISLAUS KENNEDY

Stan would not have been able to do that without the support of Peter Birch, and he radicalised her by simply seeing Christian and Social Work values as something that had to have a very practical application. That meant going to the root of their origins, i.e. being radical.

Stan was unique. There were many sides to her that the general public never saw. For example, she had a great sense of fun. I will always remember that side of her and especially cherish this sequence of photos as proof of that.



I worked with Stan in the late 1970s for nearly four years. She often literally worked 18 hours a day, 7 days a week. Much of what she achieved came from sheer hard work and doggedly not taking 'no' for an answer. That didn't always make her an easy person to work with because she was extremely demanding of herself and that rubbed off on those around her. But the simple truth is that she achieved an enormous amount and has left an amazing legacy. However, none of that would have been possible without her first embracing both a radical approach to her faith and the Social Work profession.

- Kieran McGrath

[1] "Proceedings of 1971 Kilkenny Conference on Poverty", Social Studies, Vol. 1, No. 4, August 1972,

[2] Bailey, R., & Brake, M. (Eds.). (1975). Radical social work. Edward Arnold.

[3] Ryan, M. (1993) The Church and the Nation - The vision of Peter Birch Bishop of Ossory 1964-1981. Dublin: Columbia Press

[4] Op cit , p. 62

[5] Op cit p. 12.



VIDEOS & PODCASTS

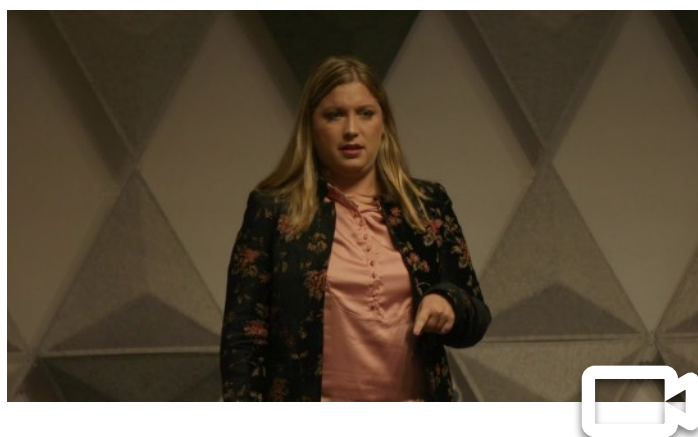
Paul Scholes: Stepping Away From TV, Caring for his son & United Career | Stick to Football

Paul Scholes talks about stepping away from punditry, how his life revolves around caring for his son Aiden, and what family life looks like alongside his role at Salford City. To jump to relevant section click the time: [14:17](#) - Stepping Away From TV & Caring For Son.



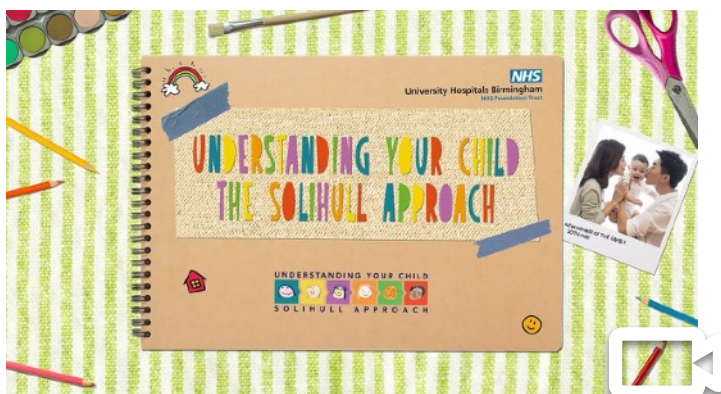
Good relationships are the key to healing trauma | Karen Treisman |

Clinical Psychologist Dr Treisman talks about the importance of forging good relationships and effective society-wide systems when it comes to understanding and healing trauma.



All about the Solihull Approach and our online courses for parents

A core team of NHS clinical psychologists, child psychotherapists, health professionals, child and family practitioners, together with schools and parents, the Solihull Approach have developed



training to support people who work with children in any setting as well as for all parents who want to support and nurture emotional health.

The Journey Together is a heartfelt podcast from North West Hospice, offering compassionate, practical conversations about palliative care. Whether you're a patient, caregiver, or simply seeking to understand more about the end-of-life journey, our series provides real stories, expert insights, and gentle guidance—one episode at a time.

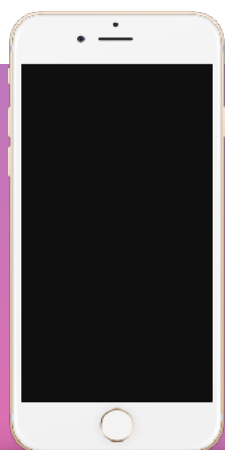
<https://www.northwesthospice.ie/podcast/>

First Conviction

An investigation into the case of a couple imprisoned for a crime against their child - that never happened...



<https://www.rte.ie/radio/podcasts/series/43602-first-conviction/>



 YouTube



APPS & SOCIAL MEDIA



PODCASTS & BLOG



An Coimisiún um
Chosaint Sonraí
Data Protection
Commission

Podcast from the Data Protection Commission (DPC), the national independent authority responsible for upholding the fundamental right of individuals in the EU to have their personal data protected.

<https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/dpc-guidance/podcasts>

DPC Blog on 'Sharenting' - Top Tips

Parents often view posting and sharing important milestones in their children's lives as a way of positively connecting with friends and family, but it's important to remember that sharing online can never be 100% safe and carries many risks.

<https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/dpc-guidance/blogs/sharenting-top-tips>

In Conversation

Join the **Barnardos Parental Advocacy & Information Service Team** for a series of webinars addressing topics around childcare proceedings in a conversational format.



Barnardos supports children whose well-being is under threat, by working with them, their families and communities and by campaigning for the rights of children.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBBRUala1AGihJ9Oqx81rldxje-A37T3Y>

LinkedIn

Nasc, the Migrant & Refugee Rights Centre

Nasc is the Irish word for 'link'.

Our vision is of an inclusive and equal Ireland that realises the rights of all refugees and migrants.



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/nascireland/posts/?feedView=all>



The Ombudsman for Children's Office

Working to protect children's rights in Ireland & investigate complaints about child services provided by public bodies.

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ombudsman-for-childrens-office/>

EPIC Empowering People In Care

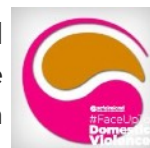


We are a children's rights organisation that advocates for children and young people in State care and aftercare.

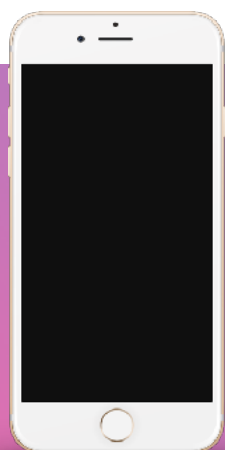
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/epic-empowering-people-in-care/>

Safe Ireland

Safe Ireland is the National Social Change Agency working to eradicate domestic abuse and coercive control in Ireland.



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/safe-ireland/>



APPS & SOCIAL MEDIA



**Campbell
Collaboration**

Behavioral, Information, and Monetary Interventions to Reduce Energy Consumption in Households: A Living Systematic Review and Network Meta- Analysis

**TARUN M. KHANNA,
DIANA DANILENKO,
QIANYI WANG, LUKE
A. SMITH, BHUMIKA T.
V., ADITYA NARAYAN
RAI, JORGE SÁNCHEZ
CANALES, TIM REPKE,
MAX CALLAGHAN,
MARK ANDOR, JULIAN
H. ELLIOTT, JAN C.
MINX**

PRACTICE LINKS // DECEMBER 2025

1.1 Declarative Title

Optimised policy interventions can effectively lower household energy demand.

1.2 The Review in Brief

This living systematic review (LSR) and network meta-analysis (NMA) provides evidence on the efficacy of information, behavior, and monetary interventions in reducing household energy consumption. Monetary interventions seem to be more effective than other interventions. Optimal policy packages where interventions are paired with other interventions can increase overall effectiveness.

1.3 What Is This Review About?

This review demonstrates how scientific evidence on the effectiveness of one set of policy interventions, namely interventions in household energy demand, can be kept up to date to deliver rigorous, solution-oriented knowledge to policymakers to meet their needs. The policy interventions studied in this review include monetary incentives that offer households a tangible financial reward for reducing energy consumption, behavioral interventions like nudging, appealing to norms, motivation techniques, and providing easily interpretable information at the point of decision-making, as well as improving skills required to perform or forego behaviors. This review assesses the extent to which such policy interventions can reduce household energy consumption.

1.4 What Is the Aim of This Review?

We sought to answer three questions: By how much can

information, nudges, and cash rewards reduce household energy use on average? Which of these three approaches works best? Do combinations of them deliver even bigger savings?

1.5 What Are the Main Findings of This Review?

The evidence suggests that behavioral, monetary and information interventions can cut energy consumption in households by 4%-6%, though some interventions or combinations of interventions have larger impacts. Because study quality varies, there is a need to incorporate study quality metrics while deriving policy implications of studies in this field.

1.6 What Do the Findings of This Review Mean?

The effectiveness of interventions aimed at reducing household energy consumption is shaped by several factors, including the frequency of relevant decisions, the scalability and cost of interventions, and their broader welfare implications. Ultimately, a well-calibrated approach driven by evidence that accounts for study quality, intervention combinations, and policy feasibility is necessary to maximize the impact of household energy interventions.

The full review can be found [here](#).



Service delivery, behavioural, and self-management interventions for children with epilepsy

**NIGEL FLEEMANA,
JOSEPHINE MAYERA,
YUN HUANG, SARAH J
NEVITT, MARIANGELA
PANEBIANCO,
RUARAI DH A HILL,
ALISON J DOHERTY,
NEIL WILSON, PAUL
BOLAND, ANDREW J
CLEGG, HELENA
BILSBOROUGH, ELSIE J
WILLIAMS, ELIZABETH
J SHAW, MICHELLE
MADEN, RACHAEL
KELLY, ANTHONY G
MARSON**

Do non-medicinal treatments and new ways of delivering health care help children and teens with epilepsy?

Key messages

- One study showed that after three months of treatment, teenagers who received group psychotherapy to address anxiety and depression may have had slightly fewer seizures per month than teenagers who did not have therapy.
- We do not know if other non-medicinal treatments and innovative healthcare support helped to reduce the number of seizures or improve children's quality of life because the evidence was limited and very uncertain.
- The studies did not find that any treatments or new ways of delivering care support harmed the people taking part.

What is epilepsy?

Epilepsy is a brain condition that causes seizures. It affects around one in 1000 children under five years old, and around one in 200 children between five and 19 years old. In a seizure, the brain's electrical signals are suddenly disrupted or become too active. Seizures can be harmful to health and reduce people's quality of life.

What is the role of non-medicinal treatments and innovative care delivery in epilepsy?

Most people with epilepsy take daily anti-seizure medication to help control seizures. However, up to four in 10 children with epilepsy don't respond well to medication alone: seizures persist. Additional, non-medicinal treatments and

innovative ways of delivering healthcare support may help children and teenagers with epilepsy manage the mental, emotional, and lifestyle effects of the condition.

We divided these treatments and approaches into three categories, based on how they are designed to work:

- psycho-behavioural treatments, which aim to change a person's behaviour;
- mind-body treatments, such as muscle relaxation and yoga;
- service delivery approaches, such as digital healthcare or epilepsy specialist support.

What did we want to find out?

We wanted to discover if these treatments and service delivery approaches for children and teenagers (younger than 18 years) and their families were better than the usual care that people with epilepsy receive at:

- reducing the number of seizures they experience;
- improving their quality of life.

We also wanted to know if these treatments led to any unwanted, harmful events.

What did we do?

We searched for studies exploring (a) non-medicinal treatments given in addition to the usual care that children with epilepsy receive or (b) changes in how healthcare services are delivered.

We compared and summarised the results of the studies and rated our confidence in the evidence, based



Service delivery, behavioural, and self-management interventions for children with epilepsy

NIGEL FLEEMANA, JOSEPHINE MAYERA, YUN HUANG, SARAH J NEVITT, MARIANGELA PANEBIANCO, RUARAI DH A HILL, ALISON J DOHERTY, NEIL WILSON, PAUL BOLAND, ANDREW J CLEGG, HELENA BILSBOROUGH, ELSIE J WILLIAMS, ELIZABETH J SHAW, MICHELLE MADEN, RACHAEL KELLY, ANTHONY G MARSON

on factors such as study methods and size.

What did we find?

We found six studies, involving 468 participants. They were conducted in five different countries: two studies in China, and one study each in India, Jordan, Sweden, and the UK.

- Three studies investigated psycho-behavioural treatments added to usual epilepsy care.
- One study investigated yoga, a mind-body treatment, plus usual care.
- Two studies investigated new ways of delivering healthcare. In one study, a pharmacist delivered a 30-minute, in-person educational session to adult carers. The other study provided six months of follow-up care via a social media app (WeChat) to parents.

Main results

All the treatments and service delivery innovations we analysed in this review appear to be safe: none of the studies reported that they led to any unwanted or harmful events for the children or their carers.

Psycho-behavioural treatments

- Results from one study showed that after three months of treatment, teenagers who received group psychotherapy may have had slightly fewer seizures per month than teenagers who did not have therapy.
- Evidence from two studies did not show there was a difference in seizure frequency between children who received additional treatments and those who did not.
- We do not know if any of the

treatments improved children's quality of life because the evidence is very uncertain. One study did not measure this outcome.

Mind-body treatments

- It is unclear if yoga leads to more children being free from seizures after three months.
- The yoga study did not measure children's quality of life.

Service delivery approaches

- We are very uncertain if the pharmacist-led service approach made any difference to seizure frequency.
- We also do not know if it improved children's overall quality of life after two months. Quality of life was assessed by adult carers, not the children themselves.
- The study offering support via the WeChat app only reported on parents' anxiety and depression, not on seizure control or overall quality of life.

What are the limitations of the evidence?

We have little to no confidence in the evidence because there were too few studies to be certain about the outcomes we were interested in, and all the studies were small. They tested different types of treatments/approaches, were carried out in different ways, and measured seizure frequency and quality of life differently. Most of the evidence relates to short-term effects of up to three months.

Future studies should address the limitations of the current evidence.

The full review can be found [here](#).



IRISH PENAL REFORM TRUST (IPRT) RESEARCH REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF IMPRISONMENT ON FAMILIES

This report, by Dr. Sara Singleton, Head of Public Education at TASC, explores the financial, social, and emotional impact of imprisonment on family members, shedding light on the challenges faced by families and contributing to the national conversation on penal reform and family support, and is available to [download on this link](#).

NEW ACADEMIC INSIGHTS REPORT, ON: EMBRACING THE VIEWS AND PERSPECTIVES OF THOSE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE, PUBLISHED

The latest Academic Insights, by David Honeywell, criminology lecturer at Arden University (Manchester), which highlights the need to fully embrace the views and perspectives of those with lived experience of the criminal justice system, has been published by HM Inspectorate of Probation and is available to [download on this link](#).

MAKING CHILD PROTECTION WORK

Despite its huge public profile, surprisingly little is known about child protection work. Discussion focuses on failures that result in children dying, or on what social workers cannot do, due to bureaucratic pressures and limited time. This book examines in detail how social workers can use the time they do have to relate to children and families, make child protection work and create meaningful change.

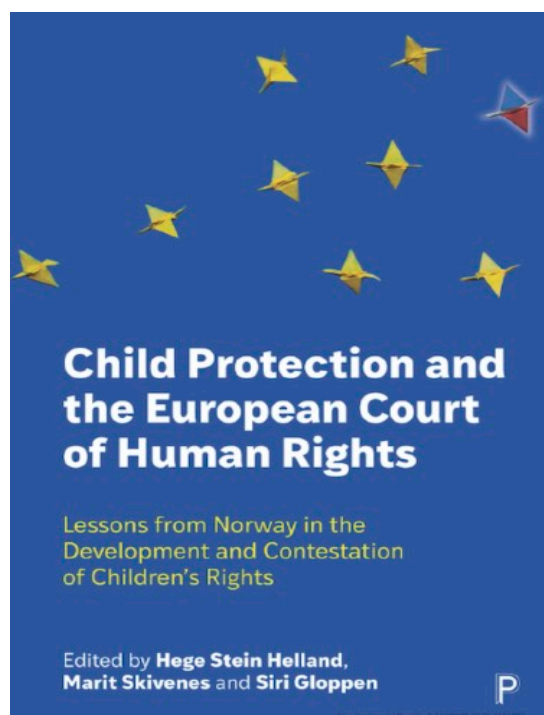
Sure to become a classic social work text, this book explores how helpful relationships are made and sustained, and how they can be made better. It provides a new 'forward-facing' approach, with practical and theoretical insights into how, and under what organisational conditions, relationship-based practice and child protection can be made to work. [Click here](#) to read more about this new book from Policy Press.





"[Child Protection and the European Court of Human Rights: Lessons from Norway in the Development and Contestation of Children's Rights](#)", edited by [Hege Stein Helland](#), [Marit Skivenes](#), and [Siri Gloppen](#). The book brings together leading scholars in political science, law, social work, and more to examine how the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) shapes—and is shaped by—child protection litigation and mobilisation.

First of its kind, this book puts the spotlight on Norway as it has had more child protection cases (Art. 8) decided by the ECtHR than any other country. Exploring the evolving role of the Court in balancing parental rights, state authority, and children's best interests, it offers a fresh perspective on the intersection of international human rights law, children's rights, and child protection policy. The digital version of the book is now available and [open access](#), which you can download and read at your convenience (free).



Irish research

The Intended and Unintended Effects of Inspection on Child and Family Social Work Services: A Rapid Evidence Review of the International Literature - *Human Service Organisations: Management, Leadership & Governance* [click here to access](#).

Caffrey, L., Flynn, S., Quinn, N., Tobin, S. & Holt, S. (2025) The Focus and Methodology of Inspection in Ireland: a documentary analysis of Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) child protection and welfare services inspection reports. Trinity College Dublin. [Click here to access](#).



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais
agus Comhionannais
Department of Children,
Disability and Equality

The Focus and Methodology of Inspection in Ireland:

A documentary analysis of Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) child protection and welfare services inspection reports

2025

A research report funded by the Department of Children,
Disability and Equality

Louise Caffrey, Susan Flynn & Nimali Quinn,
Sinead Tobin & Stephanie Holt

The School of Social Work & Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin



Read the report [here](#).

Read the report [here](#).



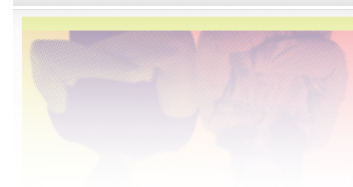
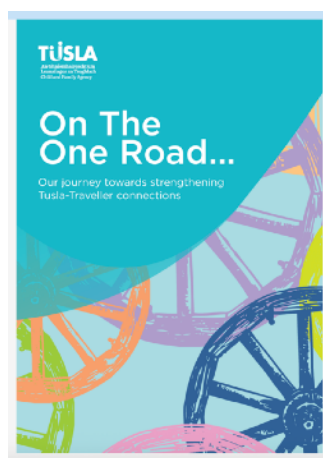
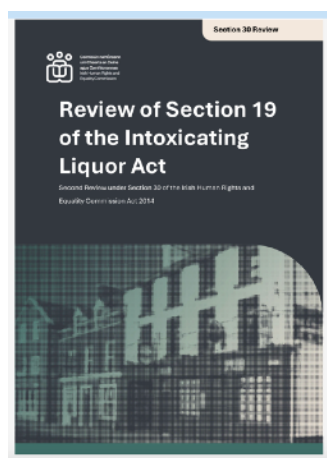
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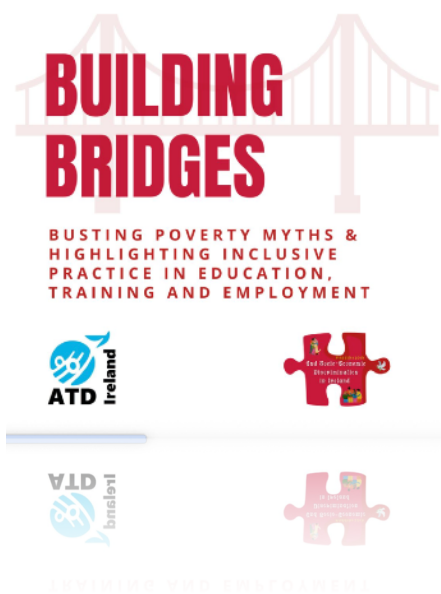
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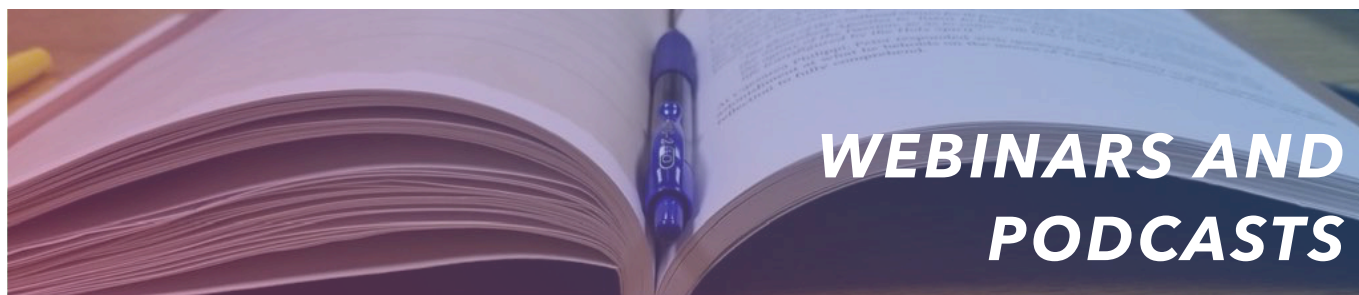
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Read the *Building Bridges* report [here](#)

Watch the *Building Bridges* film [here](#)





The **@UCCsocialwork webinar series** provides free-to-access CPD content for practitioners. The two most recent webinars are now available to watch back on our website (click on the image below).



Webinar #12: Working conditions of social workers under neoliberalism: challenges to professional discretion

03 Oct 2025



Friday 3rd October 2025, 1-2 pm (Irish time, same time as London, Lisbon). Click on the [read more](#) button to find out more about this free webinar. [Click here](#) to watch the webinar.

Presenters: [Dr Jessica Toft](#), University of Minnesota School of Social Work, USA

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[Read more](#) →

Webinar #11: Forecasting harm, judging risk: a comparison between ChatGPT and social work practitioners

23 Sep 2025



Tuesday 23rd September 2025, 1-2 pm (Irish time, same time as London, Lisbon). Click on the [read more](#) button to find out more about this free webinar. [Click here](#) to watch the webinar back.

Presenters: [Professor David Wilkins](#), Cardiff University, Wales

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[Read more](#) →

Family Law Podcast Series from the Bar of Ireland podcasts, episodes 1-6 with Judge Marie Baker and Claire Collins SC. Spotify - [click here](#). Apple Podcasts - [click here](#).



A recent episode of **The Women's Podcast** (Irish Times) features Prof. Marie Keenan and two women who participated in restorative justice processes after serious crimes. The podcast is available via the Irish Times article [on this link](#).





Practice signposts provide links to high-quality, research-informed databases and publications. Some of the databases at a quick glance may seem too medical/health orientated, but contain great resources to support social work and allied professionals' practice.

OPEN ACCESS RESEARCH DATABASES:

RIAN - Irish Open Access Research Archive - [click here](#)

Trinity Access Research Archive (TARA) - [click here](#)

Cork Open Research Archive (CORA) - [click here](#)

Galway Open Access Research Archive (ARAN) - [click here](#)

TU open access (Arrow) - [click here](#).

Irish Social Science Data Archive (ISSDA) - [click here](#)

Irish Social Sciences Platform - [click here](#)

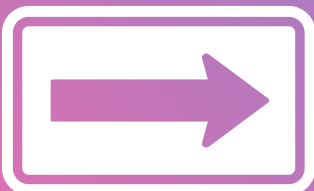
OPEN ACCESS (FREE) JOURNALS

Journal of Early and Intensive Behaviour Intervention; International Journal of Child and Adolescent Resilience (IJCAR; Journal of Global Social Work Practice; International Journal of High Risk Behaviours and Addictions; Journal of Indigenous Social Development; Critical Social Work; International Journal of Child, Youth & Family Studies; The Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies; Comparative Migration Studies; Irish Social Worker.

RESEARCH DATA ARCHIVES:

Irish Qualitative Data Archive - [click here](#)

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW



Practice signposts: data sources to support your practice

PRACTICE GUIDANCE, DATABASES & PUBLICATIONS:

Addiction Technology Transfer Centre Network (USA) - [click here](#)

CES - Centre for Effective Services - [click here](#)

Child and Family Agency Publications and Reports - [click here](#)

Drug and Alcohol Information and Support (drugs.ie) - [click here](#)

Growing Up in Ireland - national longitudinal study of children. [Click here](#)

HSE Health Promotion Publications - [click here](#)

HSE Publications and Reports - [click here](#)

HRB National Drugs Library - [click here](#)

HUB na nÓg Young: Voices in Decision-Making - [click here](#)

NICE - National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (UK) - [click here](#)

Mindfulness Based Relapse Prevention Resources (free audio tracks) - [click here](#)

North South Child Protection Hub - [click here](#)

Probation Service Publications - [click here](#)

Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) - [click here](#)



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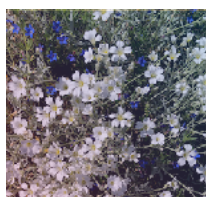
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Practice Links is a free publication from @UCCsocialwork, University College Cork for practitioners working in Irish social services, voluntary, community and non-governmental sectors. *Practice Links* supports practitioners to keep up-to-date with new publications, conferences, and continuing professional development opportunities. *Practice Links* is published every other month. Distribution is by email, social media and the [Practice Links](https://www.ucc.ie/en/appsoc/aboutus/activities/pl/) website.

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