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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.

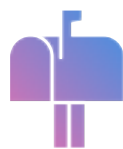


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Editor: Dr Kenneth Burns



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Register here to receive a free copy of *Practice Links* to your email account five times a year. You can also use this link to leave the PL list.



Submissions

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



STUDY SOCIAL WORK AT UCC



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STUDY FOR YOUR LEVEL 9 MASTER (MSW) OR POSTGRAD DIPLOMA (PDSWS) IN SOCIAL WORK AT UCC

Direct entry now open - [click here](#) for more information on how to apply directly to study social work at UCC. Closing date February 2025 (apply to UCC).

UCC also offer an apprenticeship pathway. Our employment partners, the HSE and Tusla, are now receiving applications. [Click here](#) to find out more about our apprenticeship. Closing date: December 2024 (apply directly to employers).

UCC now has a recognition of prior learning pathway (RPL) to facilitate a wider range of applicants to apply to study on our social work postgraduate diploma - [more information on RPL](#).

[Click here](#) for comprehensive information on our application pathways, programme content, and a comprehensive FAQs section.

Our MSW and PDSWS programmes are approved by CORU.



SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE TEACHING @UCC



School of Applied Social Studies, UCC

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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 2025 - placement cycles are usually from January - April, Summer, and September - December.



@UCCsocialwork
School of Applied Social Studies

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



CONFERENCES



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: ISPCAN (INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT) 2025 CONGRESS



Vilnius, Lithuania, 6-9 October 2025

Abstract submission open: November 1st, 2024 - January 28th, 2025

Full details **available here**. Come and join us in beautiful Vilnius for a packed scientific and social programme.
Queries to Ms. Dana McDermott, congresses@ispcan.org



Click here to register and to find out more about the conference.



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Reflective Practice Sessions for Social Care Students



On October 4th 2024, Social Care students at SETU's Summerhill Road Campus Wexford participated in their first reflective practice session, facilitated by Social Care Assistant Lecturer Christina Sieber. These monthly, online sessions provide students from all years with a structured environment to engage in reflective practice—a key component in social care education and professional development.

Reflective practice is critical for social care professionals, particularly with the establishment of the Social Care Workers Register, which mandates ongoing Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to maintain certification (Coru, 2019). Reflective practice enables professionals to critically evaluate their performance, pinpoint areas for improvement, and enhance the quality of care they deliver. Specifically, Coru's proficiency standards emphasise that social care workers must be able to reflect critically on their practice (Domain 4, Proficiency 3) and foster self-awareness for effective professional engagement (Domain 5, Proficiency 19).

To help students develop these competencies, the sessions cover both the theoretical and practical aspects of reflective thinking. They aim to clarify complex reflection frameworks, help students differentiate reflective analysis from simple recounting, and support them in articulating reflective insights effectively. These challenges often cause students confusion, but the sessions offer a supportive, collaborative space where they can discuss and refine their understanding of reflection through peer learning and interaction.

The ongoing sessions are designed not only to demystify reflective writing but also to embed it as a valuable tool for lifelong learning. This open forum allows students to exchange ideas, improve reflective writing, and build confidence in applying reflective practice professionally.

For further information on the Reflective Practice Sessions or if you think your cohort of students would be interested in joining, please contact:

Christina Sieber, Assistant Lecturer Social Care SETU Summerhill Rd Campus Wexford. Christina.Sieber@setu.ie





CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



UCC's Doctor of Social Science programme now open for applications!

The Doctor of Social Science (DSocSc) at University College Cork was established in 2005 and is a four-year advanced programme in social science which provides the opportunity for experienced professionals based in public sector agencies, voluntary/community organizations, educational institutions and international non-governmental organisations to work on complex issues that are of direct relevance to their professional practice and organisational contexts. As an alternative to the traditional research-based PhD, the DSocSc provides a more structured learning environment that combines both taught modules and research. Current participants on the programme come from a range of different professional backgrounds, including public sector management, social research, education, community work, international development, social work and youth work.

The application process is now open for applications for entry in September 2025. The closing date for applications is 28 February 2025. For more information on the programme, including how to apply, [click here](#).

Informal enquiries welcome to: Dr Caitríona Ní Laoire, DSocSc Director, School of Applied Social Studies,

Save the Date: Supporting Parents with Disabilities

National and International,
Parent and Professional,
Inter-Disciplinary,
Inter-Agency Perspectives

- **13th February 2025**
- University of Limerick
- elaine.m.rogers@ul.ie



[Supporting Parents with Disabilities
- Expression of Interest](#)





CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PETMA™ 2 Day Foundational Training in conjunction with the Irish Institute of Intellectual Disabilities is taking place on 13th and 14th January 2025 in Leixlip, Co. Kildare. Limited to 10 places to ensure maximum learning for all participants, book early to avoid disappointment.

PETMA™ (Professional Ethical Therapeutic Mindful Approach) is a Guaranteed Irish, behavior support model rooted in human rights principles, tailored to meet HIQA regulations for supporting individuals experiencing verbal or physical distress. It emphasises proactive, preventative strategies to reduce distress, for adults and children who present with distressful behaviour, who may face challenges in communication and comprehension. PETMA™ offers structured modules that equip caregivers or educators with skills in prevention, prediction, detection, and conciliation. Participants learn to recognise and de-escalate escalating situations, addressing potential or actual distress in a professional, ethical, therapeutic, and legally compliant manner. The approach integrates humanistic, least-restrictive methods, including only risk-assessed physical techniques, taught with a gradient approach to ensure safety and appropriateness.

In this two day training, you will:

- Identify triggers and early warning signs of agitation or distress in individuals.
- Apply de-escalation techniques to manage challenging situations in a calm and therapeutic way.
- Use communication strategies that promote dignity and respect for the person.
- Practice non-restrictive interventions to prevent escalation when possible.
- Implement safe, therapeutic interventions if a situation requires physical management, prioritising the safety and well-being of all involved.
- Reflect on and evaluate incidents to understand contributing factors and improve responses in future situations.
- Foster a supportive, compassionate approach within settings to ensure consistency and shared understanding across caregivers.

These skills collectively aim to support a safer, more positive environment for individuals and those caring for them. This is a highly interactive training programme delivered in a small group environment for maximum learning of all participants.

Trainer: Audrey Moore is the trainer for this event. Audrey is a experienced trainer and social care practitioner, certified in the PETMA™ model with 20+ years experience working with individuals with intellectual disabilities and complex behaviours.

Who is this training for: Suitable for anyone working with individuals who present with distressful behaviour, carers, support staff, teachers, parents or anyone interested in learning more about a human rights based approach to dealing with distressful behaviour.

Date & Time: 13th and 14th January 2025, 9am-5pm each day.

Location: Springfield Hotel, Leixlip, Co. Kildare, Exit 5 off M4/N4. audreym@trustconsultancy.ie



IRISH RESEARCH



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



Children's Experiences of Signs of Safety: A scoping review

Authors: *Louise Caffrey, Eavan Brady, Orla Keegan, Siobhán Dunne, Greg Sheaf, Stephanie Holt, Robbie Gilligan*

Free to access and for PDF download until 24th December:

<https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1k2NThNfL1FnA>



Children and Youth Services Review
Volume 166, November 2024, 107973



The findings from this international review of the literature highlight how Signs of Safety tools and processes can support children's participation. However, children's experiences are not universally positive and depend on how tools are used. The review emphasises the need to support workers to develop the necessary skills to use Signs of Safety well, and to provide wider organisational support to enable workers to effectively engage with children.

The findings also demonstrate limited international evidence on children's self-reported experiences of Signs of Safety. In this context, Tusla commissioned a study of children's experiences of the child protection and welfare system in Ireland and this is vital research to help build knowledge in this area. The report from that research '[Through the Eyes of the Child: children's experiences of Tusla Child Protection and Welfare Intervention](#)' is now available and further publications will follow.

Related Signs of Safety publications that may be of interest:

Caffrey, L., Browne, F. (2023) The Challenge of Implementation in Complex, Adaptive Child Welfare Systems: A Realist Synthesis of Signs of Safety, *Children and Youth Services Review*, 2023, [URL](#)

Caffrey, L., Browne, F., (2022) Understanding the social worker-family relationship through Self Determination Theory: A Realist Synthesis of Signs of Safety, *Child & Family Social Work*, 27, 2022, p513 - 525, [URL](#)

Holt, S. Gilligan, R., Caffrey, L. & Brady, B (2023) *Through the Eyes of the Child: A Study of Tusla Child Protection and Welfare Intervention*. Tusla [TARA - Full Text](#) [DOI](#)



ADDICTION COUNSELLORS IRELAND

ACI Breaks New Ground: First Ever Accreditation for Addiction Workers & Supervisors in Ireland

Ireland's leading accrediting body for addiction professionals, The Addiction Counsellors of Ireland (ACI), is proud to announce the opening of two new accreditation categories: **Addiction Worker** and **Addiction Worker Supervisor**.



ADDICTION
COUNSELLORS
IRELAND

Ireland's Leading Accrediting
Body for Addiction Professionals

www.addictioncounsellors.ie

This is a first. Never has an Irish accrediting body formally recognised Addiction Workers. This groundbreaking move highlights ACI's deep understanding and commitment to the vital role Addiction Workers play in addiction recovery.

Why this matters for the profession

This formal recognition acknowledges the unique perspective and essential contributions of Addiction Workers. With these new categories, ACI aims to elevate and protect the Addiction Worker profession, while setting a new standard in addiction care - a significant and progressive step forward for addiction services in Ireland.

A brief Look at ACI

The Addiction Counsellors of Ireland was founded in 1990 in response to the lack of statutory registration for addiction counsellors. By leaving the door wide open, anyone could enter the field, putting clients at serious risk and undermining the integrity of the profession. To address this critical gap, ACI was established to set standards, provide accreditation, and advocate for addiction counselling professionals.

Why ACI is unique

While other accrediting bodies cover a wide range of counselling and psychotherapy disciplines, ACI focuses exclusively on professionals within the field of addiction. This specialisation allows ACI to have a deeper understanding of the unique needs and expectations of addiction professionals.

What ACI membership offers

As an ACI member, you are aligning yourself with Ireland's leading accreditation body in the addiction sector, recognised by the HSE and other key organisations. Membership assures your clients, employers, and colleagues of your qualifications and commitment to high standards, continuous professional development, and ethical practice. Members join a professional, peer-centred community with exclusive access to CPD opportunities, monthly peer networking, expert-led events, quarterly updates, and dedicated support from a body committed to representing their concerns and interests.

Your role in shaping the future

If you are an Addiction Worker committed to strengthening standards, advancing your skills, and elevating your profession - ACI urges you to reach out. Your unique insight and experience are crucial in shaping the future of addiction recovery and policy.

To learn more about becoming a member, visit www.addictioncounsellors.ie, or contact the ACI team at info@addictioncounsellors.ie or 01 - 797 9187



REPORTS

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD HUMAN RIGHTS

A series of presentations from the service user's as well as the service provider's perspective provided a varied and interesting agenda for the over 160 people attending the HSE Mid West safeguarding seminar, 'Working together to safeguard human rights' at the Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick on 14th of November. The audience was made up of healthcare workers, community partners and service providers and MC for the event was by Prof Gary O'Brien, Vice President, Mary Immaculate College. The main aim of the seminar was to promote a greater understanding and awareness of adult safeguarding amongst our services (community and hospital) and in our communities.

The service user perspective, a summary:

The [Streetwise Learners](#) from the Brothers of Charity in Clare (pictured above with Mary O Dwyer Head of Quality, Safety and Service Improvement HSE Mid West) gave a superb multimedia presentation, with music and film, providing unique insights into their views on safeguarding and human rights. This was hugely appreciated by the audience and got loud applause.

A video showing a series of Vox Pops from service users in the Limerick City North Community Healthcare Network using the FREDa principles (Freedom, Respect, Equality, Dignity and Autonomy), provided their personal insights on the HSE's approach to human rights and safeguarding. You can watch the Vox Pop video [here](#).

Maggie McNally, HSE Mid West Principal Social Worker linked the FREDa principles with a project that the Mid West Safeguarding Team is working on to make information about local safeguarding resources more accessible for service users.

The service provider perspective, a summary

Dr Aoife Leahy, consultant geriatrician shared common safeguarding issues that are encountered in clinical practice with older patients in the Integrated Care for Older Persons (ICPOP) service at St Camillus's Hospital. Amanda Casey, HSE Chief Social Worker spoke to the group about her role and her key priorities in what is the first Chief Social Worker post for the HSE. Teresa Cronin, Director of Nursing at the National Safeguarding Office, gave an overview of the role of nursing in safeguarding.

National Safeguarding Office Annual Report

The event also provided a platform for the launch of the 2023 HSE National Safeguarding Office Annual Report which outlines adult safeguarding activity, developments and trends. You can download a copy of the report [here](#). Read the full press release [here](#). There were information stands for attendees from the HSE Mid West Safeguarding and Protection Team, Sage Advocacy services and also the Office of the Confidential Recipient. A Values in Action stand was organised by Marie O'Flynn.

Further information is available on www.hse.ie/safeguarding or from Safeguarding Ireland on www.safeguardingireland.org





SOCIAL FARMING AND ECO SOCIAL WORK

SOCIAL FARMING AS A WAY OF INTEGRATING ECO SOCIAL WORK INTO OUR PRACTICE

As an Adult Mental Health Social Worker managing a small beef farm in Cork, I sought to merge these roles by becoming a registered Social Farmer with Social Farming Ireland, an organisation whose values resonate deeply with me. I collaborated with Occupational Therapy to provide Social Farming placements for service users. This initiative owes much to my colleague, Caitriona Cronin, an Occupational Therapist, whose support was instrumental. An interdisciplinary focus on service development is key to building and sustaining interventions with service users. I am also grateful to my Principal Social Worker, Alison Bonar and the extended management team for supporting the funding of this hugely successful Pilot Scheme.

Social Farming is a great way of taking Eco Social Work, rooted in social justice, human rights, and sustainability, and integrating that concept practically into our Social Work practice. Social Farming emphasises person-centred outcomes through Individualised Support Plans. Social Farming leverages farming activities—plants, animals, and the rural environment—to promote therapy, social inclusion, and education. It integrates participants into real farming environments, fostering relationships and community connections.

As Social Work Practitioners in Ireland, being predominantly rural, we have vast rural resources at our disposal that remain largely immobilised. This non-clinical, cost-effective model supports mental health recovery by combining meaningful farm activities with community engagement. Over the last two years, Cork's North Lee Adult Mental Health multidisciplinary teams completed six ten-week placements. These involved specialised teams like Early Intervention Psychosis Team (EIST) and Rehabilitation & Recovery team.

Embracing Social Farming Ireland has created immediate results by getting 'feet on the ground' within our service. Delivered through Leitrim Development Company, Social Farming Ireland is a registered charity that already has service-level agreements with the H.S.E in other C.H.O.'s. Next year we endeavour to finalise an agreement with C.H.O.4 as well as presenting a research proposal to the H.S.E. Ethics Committee to strengthen its evidence base further. Please contact me on stan.linehan@hse.ie for more information. Stan Linehan





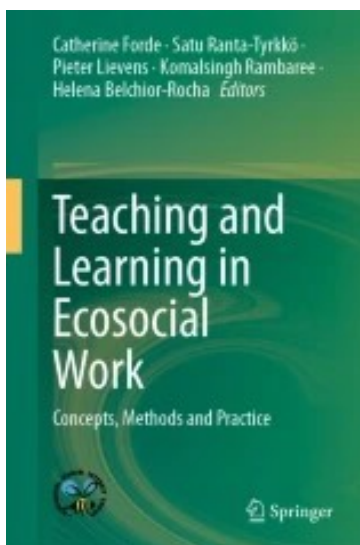
IRISH INTERESTS

The Social Care Podcast has just wrapped up its third series. With guests such as Irish Red Cross Humanitarian of the year and founder of Tiglin, Aubrey McCarthy, Chair of Social Care Ireland Leon Ledwidge and topics including aging in those with an intellectual disability, the joy of working in residential care, play therapy, burnout and resilience, managing exam stress and many more, there is something for everyone. The hosts Audrey and Baggie also collaborated with Social Care Ireland at their conference this year to interview speakers, award winners and those involved in the student mentoring programme.

The hosts Audrey and Baggie would like to thank all of our guests for contributing to this podcast by sharing their stories. Link to [**podcast on Spotify**](#).



New Book



This new book aims to champion teaching and learning of ecosocial work in educational institutions which offer social work and related programmes. It is the first book to focus specifically on teaching and learning in ecosocial work and one of the first to incorporate student perspectives on and initiatives in ecosocial work teaching, learning and practice.

Ecosocial work is an evolving framework to learn about and practice social work from the premise that humans are part of the web of life on Earth. While this understanding should guide human activities, current planetary-scale anthropogenic socio-environmental problems such as the climate crisis, ocean acidification, biodiversity and species loss, prove the opposite. Social work and allied professions stem from the same anthropocentric world view and need to reconsider their relationship to other-than-humans and the planetary limits of existence. This requires in-depth renewal of social work and related professions

and an ecosocial/ecological paradigm change in which education is pivotal.

Written by academics, students and practitioners working in Ireland and different parts of the world and offering interdisciplinary perspectives, the book provides:

- Chapters and case studies on concepts, methods, and experiences of teaching and learning in ecosocial work.
- Discussion of the current landscape of ecosocial work in principle and practice.
- Ideas on the kinds of new thinking ecosocial work requires and on how these can be taught and practiced, promoting economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Details on the book here: [**Teaching and Learning in Ecosocial Work: Concepts, Methods and Practice | SpringerLink**](#)

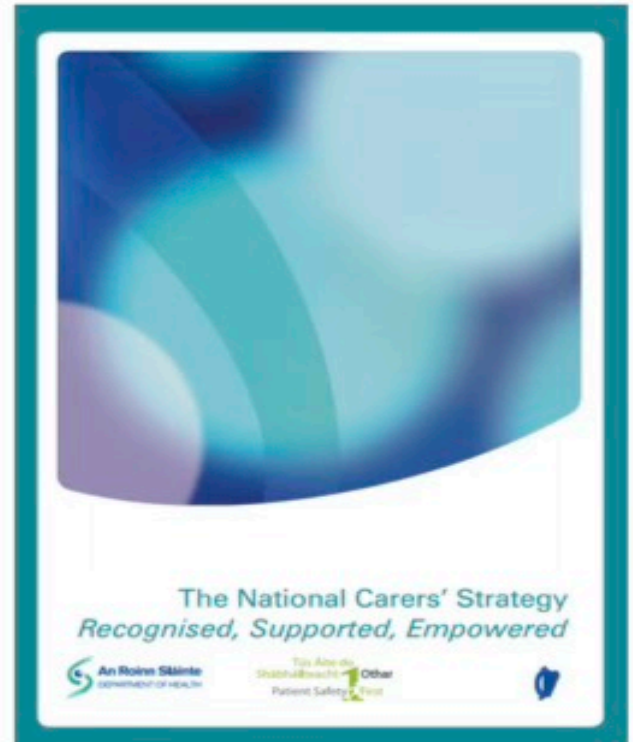


NATIONAL CARERS' STRATEGY 2.0?



NATIONAL CARERS STRATEGY 2.0?

What's next for national family carer policy in Ireland?



Spend an afternoon unpacking some of the more challenging aspects of research & policy in preparation for the next National Carers Strategy

- Intersectionality
- The Travelling Community
- Disability & Family Support
- The Built Environment for Family Carers
- Online Supports & Technology

December 11th 2024

2:00pm-4.30pm online - Zoom



Register by scanning the code above or going to

bit.ly/CAISeminar2024

Queries: zoe@carealliance.ie



SURVEY

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann



Children's Health Ireland

'Are you caring for a baby under 6 months old?'

Please take this survey to help us understand how you feel about infant crying.

Scan the QR code or go to the following link for more information and to take the survey <https://tinyurl.com/29pkhzwmm>

Survey closes 20th June 2025



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www.childrenshealthireland.ie





The FRIENDS preventive programme for reducing anxiety symptoms in children and adolescents: A systematic review and meta-analysis

TRINE FILGES, GEIR SMEDSLUND, TINE ERIKSEN, KIRSTEN BIRKEFOSS, MALENE WALLACH KILDEMOES

Background

Anxiety and stress responses are often considered normative experiences, and children and adolescents may benefit from anxiety prevention programmes. One such programme is FRIENDS which is based on a firm theoretical model which addresses cognitive, physiological and behavioural processes. FRIENDS is manualised and can, thus, easily be integrated into school curriculums.

Objectives

What are the effects of the FRIENDS preventive programme on anxiety symptoms in children and adolescents? Do the effects differ between participant age groups, participant socio-economic status, type of prevention, type of provider, country of implementation and/or implementation issues in relation to the booster sessions and parent sessions?

Search Methods

The database searches were carried out in September 2023, and other sources were searched in October 2023. We searched to identify both published and unpublished literature. A date restriction from 1998 and onwards was applied.

Selection Criteria

The intervention was three age-appropriate preventive anxiety programmes: Fun FRIENDS, FRIENDS for Life, and My FRIENDS Youth. Primary outcome was anxiety symptoms and secondary outcome was self-esteem. Studies that used a control group were eligible, whereas qualitative approaches were not.

Data Collection and Analysis

The number of potentially relevant studies was 2865. Forty-two studies met the inclusion criteria. Twenty-eight studies were used in the data synthesis. Four studies had a critical risk of bias. Six studies did not report data that enabled calculation of effect sizes and standard errors. Two studies had partial overlap of data to other studies used, and two were written in Persian. Meta-analyses were conducted on each outcome separately. All analyses were inverse variance weighted using random effects statistical models.

Main Results

Studies came from 15 different countries. Intervention start varied from 2001 to 2016. The average number of participants analysed was 240, and the average number of controls was 212. Twenty-five comparisons reported on anxiety symptoms post-intervention. The weighted average standardised mean difference (SMD) was 0.13 (95% CI 0.04 to 0.22). There was some heterogeneity. Twelve comparisons reported on anxiety symptoms at 12 months follow-up. The weighted average SMD was 0.31 (95% CI 0.13 to 0.49). There was a large amount of heterogeneity. Five comparisons reported on self-esteem post-intervention with a weighted average SMD of 0.20 (95% CI -0.20 to 0.61) and a large amount of heterogeneity. At follow-up, we found evidence that programmes implemented by mental health providers appears to perform better than programmes implemented by teachers. The evidence was inconclusive beyond 12 months follow-up.



*The FRIENDS
preventive
programme for
reducing
anxiety
symptoms in
children and
adolescents: A
systematic
review and
meta-analysis*

**TRINE FILGES, GEIR
SMEDSLUND, TINE
ERIKSEN, KIRSTEN
BIRKEFOSS,
MALENE WALLACH
KILDEMOES**

Authors' Conclusions

Our results indicate that the FRIENDS intervention may reduce anxiety symptoms in children and adolescents when reported by children and adolescents themselves. The majority of trials employed a wait-list design, implying only a few studies reported on the long-term effects of the FRIENDS intervention. Our findings suggest that the FRIENDS intervention may increase the reduction in anxiety symptoms 12 months after the intervention. This emphasises the need for future research that apply designs that allows for long-term follow-up. We are uncertain about the effects on self-esteem. The overall certainty of evidence varied from low to very low. There is a need for more rigorously conducted studies.

You can read the full review [**here**](#).



Family-based interventions versus standard care for people with schizophrenia

**WAI TONG CHIEN,
DENNIS CHAK FAI MA,
DANIEL BRESSINGTON,
HUANYU MOU**

Background

People with schizophrenia often experience long-term psychosocial disabilities and frequent relapse. Family plays a key role in caring for ill relatives, which in turn probably contributes to high levels of distress and burdens for the family. Family-based interventions have been developed and applied to family members and their relatives with schizophrenia to improve their outcomes. This is an update of a Cochrane review that was last updated in 2011, which has been split into this review, one on group-versus individual-based family interventions and one on family-based cognitive versus behavioural management interventions.

Objectives

To assess the effects of family-based interventions for people with schizophrenia or schizophrenia-like disorders and their families compared with standard care.

Search methods

We searched the following electronic databases from inception until April 2023: CENTRAL, Medline, Embase, PsycInfo, CINAHL, WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP), Clinicaltrials.gov, SinoMed, China Network Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), Wanfang, and Chinese Scientific Journals Database (VIP). We also searched the reference lists of included studies and accessible reviews for additional references.

Selection criteria

We included randomised controlled trials (RCTs) that compared the effects of family-based interventions

for people with schizophrenia or schizophrenia-like disorders and their families and reported at least one patient's and one family member's outcomes. In this update, we only investigated standard care as the comparator.

Data collection and analysis

We used standard Cochrane methods. The review authors independently screened studies, extracted data, and assessed risk of bias for each study using the Cochrane risk of bias tool for RCTs. We pooled data and estimated effects with the mean difference (MD), standardised mean difference (SMD), or risk ratio (RR) with 95% confidence interval (CI). We judged the certainty of evidence using GRADEpro GDT. We divided the outcomes into short-term (≤ 1 month postintervention), medium-term (> 1 to 6 months postintervention), and long-term follow-up (> 6 months postintervention), if available.

Main results

We identified 26 RCTs in this review, with 1985 people with schizophrenia or schizophrenia-like disorders, and 2056 family members. Most family-based interventions were conducted on a weekly or biweekly basis, with duration ranging from five weeks to two years. We had substantial concerns regarding the methodological quality of the included studies given that we judged all studies at high risk of performance bias and several studies at high risk of detection, attrition or reporting bias.



Family-based interventions versus standard care for people with schizophrenia

**WAI TONG CHIEN,
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HUANYU MOU**

Low-certainty evidence indicated that family-based interventions may reduce patients' relapse at one month or less postintervention (RR 0.66, 95% CI 0.49 to 0.89; 4 RCTs, 229 participants). We downgraded the evidence by two levels due to imprecision (small number of participants) and high risk of performance, detection and attrition bias.

Compared to standard care, family-based interventions probably reduce caregiver burden at one month or less postintervention (MD -5.84, 95% CI -6.77 to -4.92; 8 RCTs, 563 participants; moderate-certainty evidence) and may result in more family members shifting from high to low expressed emotion (RR 3.90, 95% CI 1.11 to 13.71; 2 RCTs, 72 participants; low-certainty evidence).

Family interventions may result in little to no difference in patients' death (RR 0.48, 95% CI 0.18 to 1.32; 6 RCTs, 304 participants; low-certainty evidence) and hospital admission (≤ 1 month postintervention; RR 0.81, 95% CI 0.51 to 1.29; 2 RCTs, 153 participants; low-certainty evidence) in comparison with standard care.

Due to the heterogeneous measures and various follow-up periods, we were unable to provide pooled effect estimates for patients' compliance with medication and quality of life. We were very uncertain whether family interventions resulted in enhanced compliance with medication and improved quality of life for patients. We downgraded the evidence to very low certainty due to high risk of bias across studies, inconsistency (different directions of effects across

studies), and imprecision (small number of participants or CIs of most studies including the possibility of no effect).

Authors' conclusions

This review synthesised the latest evidence on family interventions versus standard care for people with schizophrenia or schizophrenia-like disorders and their families.

This review suggests that family interventions might improve patients' outcomes (e.g. relapse) and families' outcomes (e.g. caregiver burden and expressed emotion), with little to no difference in patients' hospital admission and adverse effects in terms of death. However, evidence on patients' compliance with medication and quality of life was very uncertain.

Overall, the evidence was of moderate to very low certainty. Future large and well-designed RCTs are needed to provide more reliable evaluation of effects of family interventions in people with schizophrenia or schizophrenia-like disorders and their families.

You can read the full review [**here**](#).

VIDEOS

The female phenotype of autism: 12 signs autistic women & girls

This video describes 12 common traits/signs among people who present with the "female phenotype of autism" updated with my most current research deep dives as of Sept 2024

**Reach Out animation on Coercive Control**

[The Cork Traveller Visibility Group \(TVG\)](#) is a community development organisation which works to support Travellers in their day to day lives so they can participate in Irish society as equals. Their YouTube channel provides a number of informative videos including this one about Coercive Control



PODCASTS

The Lived Experience Series hosted via **The Turnaround Project** presents the stories that unite us all. Real life insights, perspectives and challenges we can all connect with. Are you ready to meet the leaders, activists, professionals and experts driving change within the addictions recovery, criminal justice and personal transformation space.

[The Lived Experience Podcast](#)

[Irish Examiner Growing Pains Parenting Podcast](#)

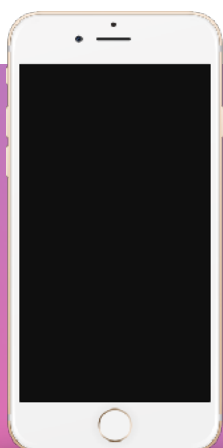
Our parenting experts address your most pressing concerns, from toddler tantrums to teenage tempers

[Tallaght teachers call for compassion in migrant community](#)

Melanie Martin & Leah O'Shaughnessy are both teachers from a Tallaght secondary school who have collected stories from people seeking international protection. Listen to their interview on **Oliver Callan's** morning radio show where they are calling for people to show compassion and challenge the anti-immigrant rhetoric that has been growing in recent times.

BLOG

[Scéalta Blog](#) from **Early Childhood Ireland** which is the leading organisation in the sector, working to ensure quality experiences for children in Early Learning and Care and School Age Childcare settings.



APPS & SOCIAL MEDIA

APPS

The Ehlers Danlos Society

The Ehlers-Danlos Society's official app is a vital tool for anyone interested in the Ehlers-Danlos syndromes (EDS) and hypermobility spectrum disorders (HSD). Whether you are personally affected or are a healthcare professional providing care, this app offers practical information and resources tailored to your needs

[EDS App for iOS](#)

[EDS App for Android](#)

Countdown Timer Plus reminds about important dates and events, so you do not have to manually calculate days left with your calendar.



[Countdown Timer Plus for iOS](#)

ARTICLES

Irish Examiner articles

[Colman Noctor: Everything parents need to know about their child's use of Snapchat](#)

[Two traumatic events in a child's life doubles their chances of problematic drug use – study](#)

CORMAC O'KEEFFE, SECURITY CORRESPONDENT

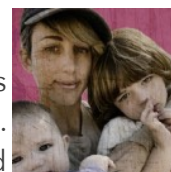
Young adults who experienced two traumatic events as children are twice as likely to be problematic drug users compared to peers who did not have such experiences as kids, a major Irish study shows.



THREADS

Positive Parenting & Play for Kids' Emotions ([@theteachingmother_](#))

Connection based tips to support kids social & emotional development. Understanding the why behind behaviour.



Speire Nua [@speire_nua](#)

Advocacy and peer mentoring for people exiting the CJS. Positive disclosure - supporting people to demonstrate their commitment to change

Women's Hour BBC

Radio 4 programme & podcast. Informing, entertaining, surprising.

[@bbcsounds](#)



National Autistic Society

[@nationalautisticsociety](#)

We are here to transform lives, change attitudes and create a society that works for autistic people.

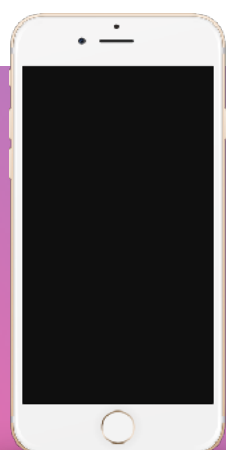
Ehlers Danlos Society [@ehlers.danlos](#)

The global nonprofit organization dedicated to change & progress in the Ehlers-Danlos syndromes (EDS) & hypermobility spectrum disorders (HSD).

The Turnaround Project Belfast

[@the_turnaround_project_belfast](#)

Working to create opportunities and turnaround futures for those leaving the justice system through employment.



APPS & SOCIAL MEDIA



Falling Through the Cracks

CONTENTS

Introduction

CHAPTER 1: CHILD CARE IN THE DISTRICT COURT

CHAPTER 2: SPECIAL CASE AND WAREHOUSING

CHAPTER 3: KEY ISSUES REVEALED BY REPORTS

CHAPTER 4: ISSUES SPECIFIED BY CONTRACT

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS FOR REFORM

The report is published by the
Child Law Project (CLP)
 100 Victoria Road, Suite 101, 2007 WYD
 800-361-1000
 100-1010 VICTORIA RD
 The CLP is a Public-Private Partnership for the
 improvement of governance and the protection of
 accountability of the courts in child care proceedings and
 children's services in the province of Ontario.

The report is published by the
Ontario Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services
 100 Queen Street West, 10th Floor
 Toronto, Ontario M5H 2M2
 416-325-2600

100-1010 VICTORIA RD
 TORONTO, ONTARIO M5H 2M2
 416-325-2600

Child Law Project

An Analysis of Child Care Proceedings from 2021 to 2024

Dr Maria Corbett and Dr Carol Coulter

Falling Through the Cracks

Child Law Project

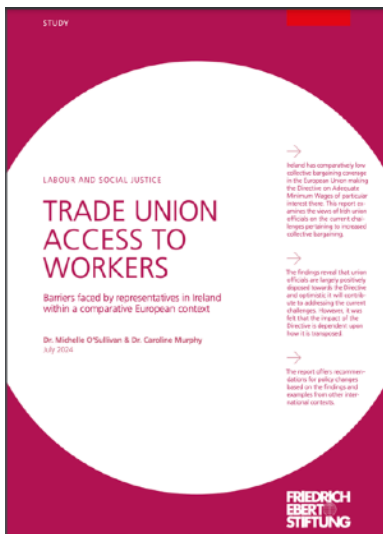
An Analysis of Child Care Proceedings from 2021 to 2024

Dr Maria Corbett and Dr Carol Coulter

The Child Law Project examines and reports on judicial child care proceedings. It provides information to the public on the operation of the child care system in the courts with the aim of promoting transparency and accountability. The project strives at all times to be fair and balanced in its reporting, and to respect the anonymity of the parties and any children involved in the proceedings.



NEW PUBLICATIONS & REPORTS



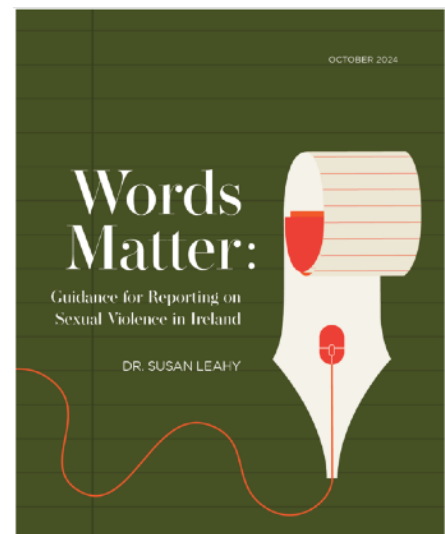
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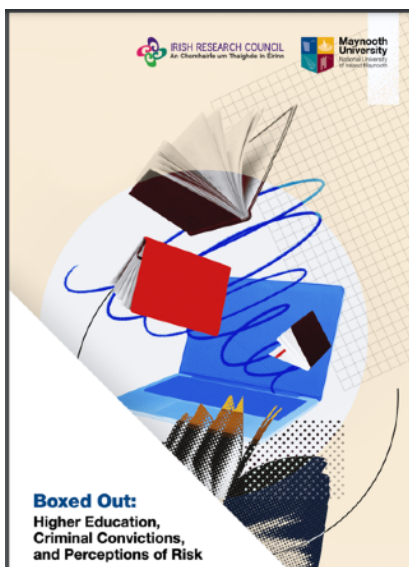
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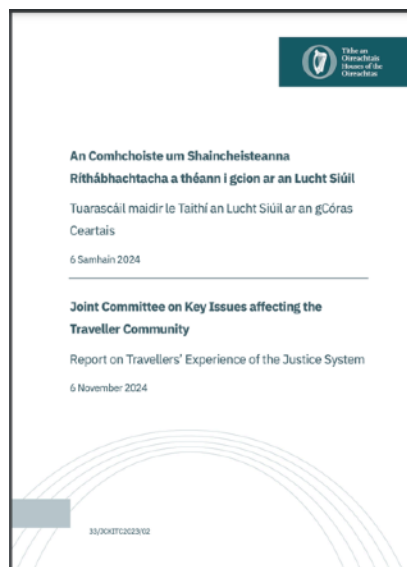
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Click [here](#) to read full report



Boxed Out:
Higher Education,
Criminal Convictions,
and Perceptions of Risk

and Perceptions of Risk
Criminal Convictions,
Higher Education
Boxed Out:



An Comhchoiste um Shaincheisteanna
Rithabhachtacha a théann i gcoin ar an Lucht Siúil
Tuarascáil maidir le Taithí an Lucht Siúil ar an gCóras
Ceartais

6 Samhain 2024

Joint Committee on Key Issues affecting the
Traveller Community

Report on Travellers' Experience of the Justice System
6 November 2024



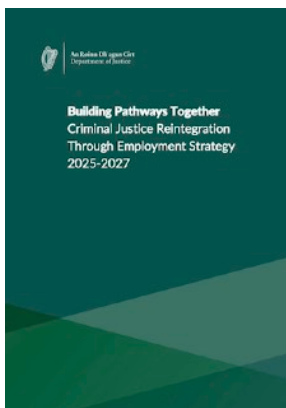
Building Pathways Together
Criminal Justice Reintegration
Through Employment Strategy
2025-2027



Research Report on CSOs and Short Prison sentences



The Department of Justice has published a new report on community service orders (CSOs) and short prison sentences. The research project, which is based on a literature review and the views of judges, examines the impact of the Criminal Justice (Community Service) (Amendment) Act 2011 and aims to provide insight into the causes for the continued over-use of short prison sentences of less than 12 months and the possible underutilisation of CSOs, as well as to shed light on any barriers to the increased use of CSOs and potential options for increasing uptake of CSOs. The report is [available here](#).



Building Pathways Report on employment of offenders

The Building Pathways Together: Criminal Justice Reintegration Through Employment Strategy 2025-2027 has been developed by the Department of Justice, in conjunction with the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service, and in consultation with key stakeholders including Government Departments, agencies, and those with lived experience of the criminal justice system and who have faced barriers to reintegration. The strategy seeks to provide effective interventions to ensure that those who have ceased offending, and those who are looking for stability to move away from a life which involves offending, have the appropriate supports and opportunities open to them to make the success of their endeavours more likely. The report is [available here](#).

Poll shows public opinion in favour of progressive change in criminal justice

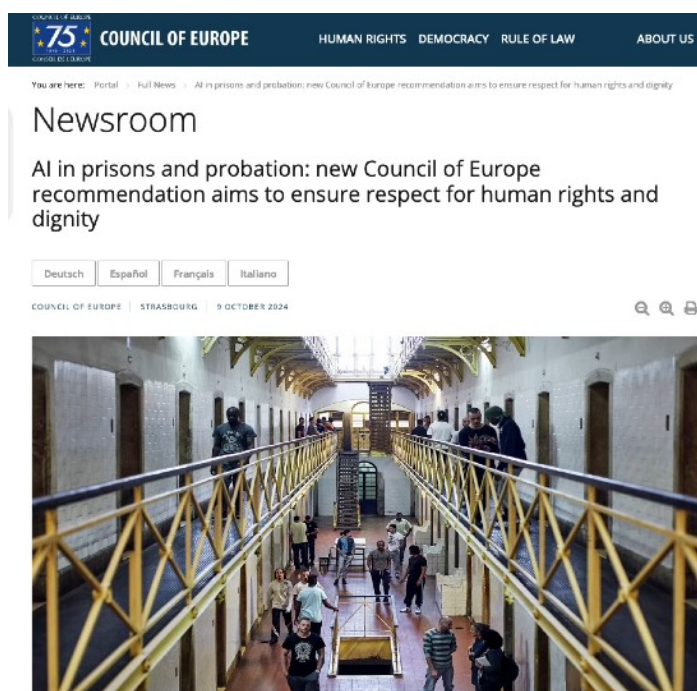
In the run-up to the recent General Election, a RED C poll commissioned by the Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) and aimed at gauging public opinion on a range of issues related to prison and the criminal justice system, showed that a majority of voters in Ireland across the largest political parties were open to reforms within the criminal justice system that would tackle prison overcrowding through alternatives to imprisonment, specifically in the case of people who commit non-violent offences. This poll data also showed widespread support for progressive change.

One in eight adults believed it is important for the next government to prioritise alternatives to imprisonment in cases of non-violent offences. Only one in four respondents viewed prison as an effective tool for addressing non-violent crime, underlining a strong appetite for more innovative approaches, such as specialist courts and community service. Fewer than one in ten saw additional prison spaces as a priority. More information [available here](#).



Council of Europe standards on use of AI in Probation and Prisons

The Council of Europe has issued recommendations to its 46 member states aimed at ensuring that the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and related digital technologies by prison and probation services respects the human rights and dignity of those in prison and on probation, as well as staff. The new Recommendation calls on governments to ensure that prison and probation services use technologies legitimately and proportionately and only if they contribute to the rehabilitation of those concerned. The document is [available here](#).



Guardian article on AI in Social Work

An article published in The Guardian newspaper discussed the use of artificial intelligence (AI) by social workers in seven local council areas in England. According to the report, the AI application in question “sits on social workers’ phones to record and analyse face-to-face meetings” and “records conversations, drafts letters to doctors and proposes actions that human workers might not have considered” with an aim of reducing the time spent on administration work. The article is [available here](#).

Two new reports, on Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes and Inclusive Recovery Cities, from the UK’s Inspectorate of Probation

HM Inspectorate of Probation has published two new reports in their Academic Insights series. The first, produced by Nicole Renehan and David Gadd, examines appropriate standards and the principles of effective practice for working with domestic abuse perpetrators. The second report, by David Best, Shelley Duffy and Charlotte Colman, explores the Inclusive Recovery Cities model, which has been introduced in various cities in the UK and more widely across Europe, and its applicability in the criminal justice system, in addition to the addiction and mental health fields. The reports are [available here](#).

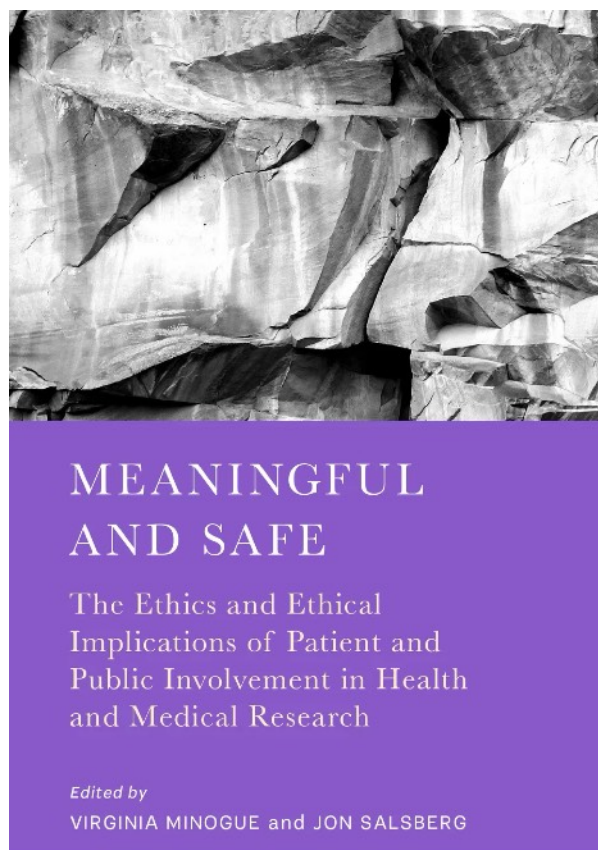


'Meaningful and Safe: The ethics and ethical implications of Patient and Public Involvement in health and medical research' Edited by Virginia Minogue and Jon Salsberg.
<https://lnkd.in/emqZ8R6C>

'Meaningful and Safe' explores the challenges and tensions in conducting ethical patient and public involvement (PPI) in research and examines specific issues such as diversity and inclusion, power relationships, participatory research, research with children and young people, and those with intellectual disabilities and other vulnerabilities. It also explores the research funder perspective and the role of the Research Ethics Committee. The book concludes by introducing a new conceptual framework for effective ethical PPI.

The majority of contributions to this book also include the lived experience and perspective of the PPI contributor.

Click here for more information on our book.



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](#).

RESEARCH DATA ARCHIVES:

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

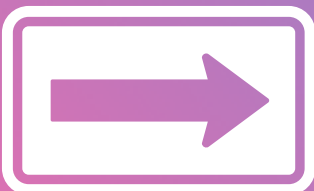
Irish Social Science Data Archive (ISSDA) - [click here](#)

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.

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](#)



PRACTICE LINKS



Team

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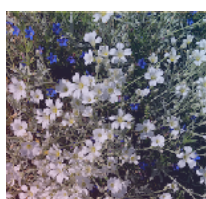
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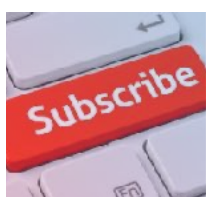
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