

# CDI Newsletter

Introduction	1
Restorative Practice Case Study	2
Restorative Practice Evaluation Report	3
Restorative Practice National Conference	4
Primary Care Seminar All-Ireland	5
CDI Sharing the Learning Internationally	6
CDI Seminars	7
CDI Training Opportunities	8
CDI New Staff Members	9



## Seminars:

### 'Incorporating Research Evidence into Academic Learning: A Seminar for Third Level Institutions'

Monday May 20<sup>th</sup>  
9am to 1.30pm  
Fitzwilliam Hotel, Dublin 2

### 'Giving Young People a Voice'

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May  
10am to 1pm  
Brookfield Youth & Community Centre



### 'Research & Evidence to Inform & Prevent Educational Disadvantage'

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May  
4pm to 6pm  
Dublin West Education Centre



## CDI SHARING THE LEARNING 2013

When CDI was established in 2007, we were tasked with a number of responsibilities including:-

- To identify and prioritise the needs of children and families;
- To design, deliver and evaluate a range of services aimed at addressing need, with the objective of improving outcomes for children and families;
- To receive, interpret and disseminate the independent evaluations;
- To influence policy, practice, training and curriculum development.

We have now completed the first of these two objectives, we are very close to finalising the third, and we have begun to put significant energy into the final task. Over the last six months, a range of activities have been undertaken to support this influencing remit, as follows:-

- The publication of five independent evaluation reports;
- The publication of six policy papers;
- Hosting three roundtable discussions for senior policy makers and influencers, to consider the research undertaken, the findings and learning, and the possible next steps. We are grateful to all of those who have committed time to participate in these valuable and informative discussions. The issues raised and discussion points at each of the roundtables are noted further below;
- Coordinating a number of large-scale events for specific audiences, to share the learning from the evaluations and identify mechanisms through which to utilise these insights;
- Presentations by members of the CDI team and the evaluations teams at a range of national and international conferences;
- Publication of articles and media interviews with CDI staff and other stakeholders regarding the learning.

Read on for more information about how we have already disseminated our learning, and our future plans for doing so. Remember we are open to any and all suggestions, so please feel free to let us know if you have ideas which can support us in this.

Marian Quinn,  
CEO.

## RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN ACTION -- A CASE STUDY

Foróige Tallaght work with young people aged 10-25 years through their general services and also with vulnerable young people who require additional support through a full range of targeted services. General services such as clubs, special interest groups, volunteer-led youth cafés, feeder clubs and youth fora, enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and encourage young people to take responsibility for and be part of shaping the world around them while developing their talents, skills and character. Targeted services such as Garda Youth Diversion Projects, Teen Health Initiatives and Drug Use Prevention Projects, help young people to deal with issues associated with poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion, under-achievement at school, early school leaving, youth crime, substance misuse and family difficulties in a safe friendly environment.

**“THE RESTORATIVE PROCESS GAVE EVERYONE A CHANCE TO SAY WHAT HAD HAPPENED FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW.”**

Foróige Tallaght became a member of CDI's Restorative Practice (RP) Management Committee when it was established in 2010 and supported its frontline Youth Workers to undertake RP training as part of their continuing professional development. Youth Workers found the RP skills that they developed to be very useful in managing the clubs, groups and targeted interventions that they were working with and many have made the use of restorative circles, conferences and communications “business as usual” for their on-going work. Foróige Tallaght also supported three of their Youth Workers in becoming accredited as RP Trainers through CDI's RP Programme. These Trainers are proving to be a very valuable resource as they have particular skills in providing the training to young people and fellow Youth Workers, thus supporting a sustainable approach within the organisation.

A very concrete example of where RP supported the work of both Foróige Tallaght and CDI occurred in June 2012 at a community resource centre in Tallaght West where Foróige Tallaght operate a number of youth clubs and targeted programme/interventions. In June 2011 CDI began work with



an Estate Management Group based in the community centre to develop a Community Safety Initiative (CSI) within the centre's catchment area. The Estate Management Group identified a small neighbourhood of relatively new housing as the priority for a CSI as this was a neighbourhood that was experiencing high levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB).

Work began with a local survey which identified the priority safety issues for residents and also identified the small group of young people who were principally responsible for incidents of ASB that were causing residents to feel very unsafe in their own homes and neighbourhood.

The CSI group undertook a series of actions to respond to the issues identified by residents including a variety of interventions with the young people and some small security-related investments (e.g. one CCTV camera, locks for refuse bins). Over the space of 12 months, the young people were challenged to examine their own behaviour and were supported to get involved with alternative pro-social activities and groups. Foróige Tallaght had engaged six young people aged 10-12 years of age that were referred by the Juvenile Liaison Officer (JLO) and Community Gardai in 2011. A number of the young people were on the verge of being excluded from the premises.

**“RESIDENTS HAVE REPORTED A POSITIVE SEA-CHANGE IN THEIR EXPERIENCE OF SAFETY IN THEIR HOMES.”**

## RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN ACTION – A CASE STUDY

Continued from page 2:



At the suggestion of Foróige Tallaght Youth Workers, the young people and centre staff agreed to participate in a restorative conference about the incidents involving the young people and this was organised and facilitated by two of the RP Trainers (who were independent of all of the groups within the community centre). The conference was attended by all of the young people involved and some of their supporters (family or friends), by all of the staff of the community centre and some of the voluntary Board of Management. The restorative process gave everyone a chance to say what had happened from their point of view and, as importantly, to hear how what had happened impacted everyone else. In this instance, the young people got to hear how their behaviour had impacted centre staff and the centre staff got to hear what had prompted the young people to behave in the way that they had.

The group as a whole came to a set of agreements about both how the young people would behave while in the community centre and how they would be treated by centre staff. These agreements made it possible for the young people to begin using their community centre and the agreements have been held to by everybody since. Residents of the CSI neighbourhood have reported a positive sea-change in their experience of safety in their homes and community and the community centre has reported an increase in the use of its services by young people in the area.

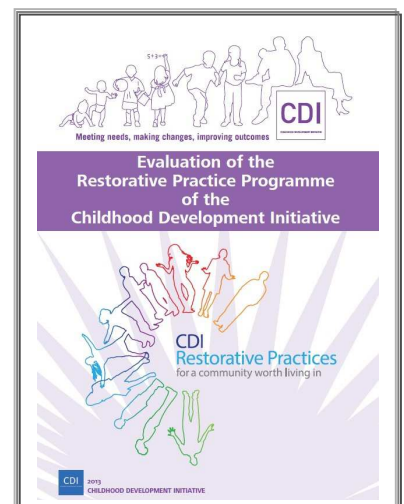
Foróige Tallaght staff continue to use RP approaches in their day-to-day engagement with young people across Tallaght. Staff find the tools effective in supporting good communication, in establishing the expectations of young people and adults and in resolving problems within and across the communities in which they provide services.

## LAUNCH OF THE EVALUATION OF CDI'S RESTORATIVE PRACTICE PROGRAMME



The Child and Family Research Centre at the National University of Ireland, Galway, conducted an independent evaluation of CDI's Restorative Practice Programme between 2010 and 2012. The research team evaluated both the process of delivery of the RP Programme and its impact and their report has some very positive things to say about both.

CDI are delighted to announce that retired Governor of Mountjoy Prison, John Lonergan has agreed to launch this evaluation Report, which will be launched following a Roundtable Discussion with policy makers drawn from a variety of sectors including local government, education, justice, community development, and the Oireachtas. This is an opportunity to share the important learning from this evaluation and its potential to assist the public reform agenda. The Roundtable will also consider the findings of the CSI Evaluation Report.



**The Launch will take place**  
**From 12noon to 1.30pm**  
**On Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2013**  
**At Buswells Hotel on Moleswoth Street, Dublin 2**

**All Welcome!**

Both the RP and CSI Evaluation Reports and their accompanying Policy Briefs will be available on our website from the 23rd of May at:

<http://www.twcdi.ie/resources-information-centre/publications>



## Working Together Towards a Restorative Society: Applying Theory, Demonstrating Evidence and Sharing The Practice



On March the 20<sup>th</sup>, over 150 people attended a national conference in Dublin that was funded and organised by CDI on behalf of the All-Ireland Restorative Practice Strategic Forum, which was established by CDI in order to develop the sustainability and quality of RP approaches. This is a cross-border, inter-agency group (see [www.twcdi.ie](http://www.twcdi.ie) for membership). The conference was entitled ***Working Together Towards a Restorative Society: Applying Theory, Demonstrating Evidence and Sharing The Practice*** and featured speakers and workshops that covered a broad spectrum of arenas where Restorative Practices (RP) is being used to support better outcomes for service users and communities.

The conference was opened by the Children's Ombudsman, **Emily Logan**, who spoke about the importance of supporting children and young people to have a voice in decision-making that affects their lives and how restorative approaches can empower children and young people to actively participate in civic society

### Other Speakers included the following:

- **Steen Sogaard**, a Development Consultant from Denmark. Drawing on 15 years of experience of working in many disadvantaged communities (including Chicago, Denmark and Bosnia) he shared learning and tools for recognising and overcoming resistance to change, and maximising opportunities for collaboration among residents and service providers.
- Dún Laoghaire Home School Liaison Cluster and Dún Laoghaire VEC *Partners in Education Group*. **Sheila Connolly and Elaine O'Connor** (both of whom are parents with the Group) shared what they have learned in their journey of discovery of Restorative Practices. They showed the DVD made by the group, which highlights the use of RP in community settings, and spoke of their hopes and plans for sharing their knowledge, skills and experiences with organisations throughout Dun Laoghaire and beyond.
- **Tim Chapman and Hugh Campbell**, lecturers on the University of Ulster's Restorative Practice Programme, outlined the thinking and practices which underpin a major research programme focusing on some of the recent civil conflicts in Europe and attempting to assess what contribution RP has made to healing in these communities. Their presentation also outlined a theoretical framework and strategy to enable communities to strengthen social cohesion and to socialise young people through RP. Tim and Hugh presented findings on the restorative practices that are being implemented in the engagement of a very troubled group of young men in a specific area of social need in Belfast.
- **Fiona Temple**, Principal of Mulroy College in Milford, Co Donegal. As a teacher using RP for over eight years Fiona was able to share how this approach has informed her teaching, improved the teaching and learning in her classroom and improved relationships where it has become embedded. Fiona has been in educational management for over six years and talked about overcoming the many challenges that arose along the journey of embedding the RP through the entire community of three schools.

The day also included the opportunity for delegates to participate in two out of six workshops that were offered in the morning and afternoon. The workshops covered topics such as RP and Youth Work; RP in Communities and RP in Schools and were all lively, informative and interactive events that shared learning on best practice from a range of sectors and fields.

Feedback from delegates on the day was overwhelmingly positive, with people saying that they had found the conference very well organised and enjoyable, as well as a hugely useful day in terms of gaining information and inspiration and for the networking opportunities that were afforded.

A video of the main conference speakers and further information on the All Ireland Restorative Practice Strategic Forum are available at <http://www.twcdi.ie/our-programmes/restorative-practice>.

## PRIMARY CARE SEMINAR



*Dr. Sinéad McNally, Research & Policy Manager, CDI, Gráinne Smith, Quality Specialist, CDI, and Mr Alex White, TD, Minister of State with Responsibility for Primary Care.*

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, CDI held a seminar on **The Interface Between Primary Care and Children’s Services: An Early Intervention Approach to the Needs of Children and Families.**

The seminar was aimed at those working with children and families, particularly those delivering primary care services or supporting referrals to them. The objectives of the seminar were:

- To explore the learning from CDI’s independent evaluations which inform the delivery of effective primary care delivery;
- To consider current national policy and thinking and the maximisation of effective primary care and supports;
- To share mechanisms which can promote an effective interface between health, education and other stakeholders.

The first part of the seminar was chaired by Dr. Sean Denyer from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and Department of Health (DoH), with the second half chaired by Joe Horan (Chair of CDI Board). The seminar included presentations from Alex White, TD,

Minister of State with Responsibility for Primary Care; Dr. Sinéad McNally and Gráinne Smith, CDI; Julie Cruickshank, Primary Care Manager/Social Inclusion Manager, Dublin South West; and Gerry Murphy from the Irish Primary School Principal Network (IPPN). Dr. Sara Burke, Health Policy Analyst, acted as rapporteur for the seminar, closing with her reflections, recommendations, and summary remarks.

### “What’s involved in informing a primary care team.”

Participant answer to ‘What was the most useful aspect of the seminar?’

Minister Alex White began his presentation by acknowledging the work undertaken to date in relation to the development and expansion of primary care. He went on to outline the Governments’ commitment to developing the primary care structures further. Acknowledging resource constraints Minister White emphasised the important role and function played by primary care teams, and concluded by referring to CDI’s policy briefs which make specific recommendations for policy and practice, indicating that the learning from the policy briefs would be considered by the Government.

Sinéad gave an overview of the findings from three of CDI’s independently evaluated programmes which are of particular relevance for primary care policy and practice: CDI’s Healthy Schools Programme, Early Years Programme, and Speech and Language Therapy service. Findings regarding key factors for the effective implementation of services and for successful child outcomes were presented, and recommendations for primary care policy and practice explored.

Gráinne gave an insight into how services and families in CDI’s programmes were supported to access primary care services. The presentation highlighted the challenges and successes in engaging with primary care services, both from a service and family point of view. In conclusion, Gráinne provided some practical steps for practitioners in how they, as a service, can effectively engage with primary care services as well as steps to support family engagement.

Julie’s presentation provided a background to the establishment of primary care teams in the Tallaght and also gave an overview of the services offered at primary care level. She explored some of the key developments at national level and how these may impact on the development of services locally.



*Dr. Sara Burke, Health Policy Analyst and Mr Alex White, TD, Minister of State with Responsibility for Primary Care.*

## PRIMARY CARE SEMINAR

Continued from page 5

Gerry gave his experience of services not being availed of, or being accessed too late in a child's development and suggested that the role of Special Educational Needs Officer (SENO) be expanded to include the health as well as the education needs of a child. He concluded that a designated coordinator could place the child in the centre of service providers and would be a single point of contact for parents during the critical years before commencing primary education when such supports can offer optimum impact.

### **“The importance of collaboration (timely) to early interventions.”**

Participant answer to 'What will you take away from the day?'



Both Chairs opened the floor to questions and comments. While many comments welcomed the support by the Government, majority feel that in order for primary care to be effective, more personnel are needed. Given the backlog of cases/workload, it will be very difficult to be preventative and intervene early. Some comments drew on the findings and experience of CDI's work and urged that the learning be taken on board for both policy makers and practitioners alike.

Sara summarised the main points from the seminar, which reflected the need to have more comprehensive primary care teams established, through Government funding and support. She also noted that engaging families is complex but is the duty of all those who work in services which provide support and care to children and families. Services need to be creative and proactive in engaging and supporting families, at both an early intervention stage and throughout care and support processes.

Despite the terrible weather conditions, there was a good attendance at the seminar, ranging from social workers to Non-Governmental Organisations.

## CDI SHARING THE LEARNING INTERNATIONALLY

CDI will be speaking at a number of international conferences this summer:

On the 26<sup>th</sup> June, Marian Quinn (CEO) has been invited to speak at the “Tacking the Causes of Child Poverty” conference in Central London to explore CDI's work on the Prevention and Early Intervention Programme, to examine the Irish Government's proposals for an “area based approach” to tackling child poverty, and to share CDI's experience on how we can deliver the strongest possible local services for children.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of July we will be making a presentation at the Fourth European Network for Social and Emotional Conference (ENSEC) which has been organised by ENSEC in collaboration with the University of Zagreb, Croatia. The paper will focus on the importance of evaluating children's services and will make reference to the Mate-Tricks evaluation.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of July CDI will present at the 49<sup>th</sup> UK Literacy Association (UKLA) International Conference in Hope University, Liverpool. This presentation will focus on Doodle Den and creative approaches for teaching literacy.

In August, we will be making a second presentation based on Doodle Den at the 18<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Reading, organised by SCIRA (Swedish Council of International Reading Association) in cooperation with School of Education and Communication, Jönköping University IDEC (International Reading Association's International Development in European Committee) and FELA (Federation of European Literacy Association). The focus of this paper will be on professional development and practice.



## CDI SEMINARS:

### “Giving Young People a Voice”



This is a Seminar for anyone who is responsible for, involved or interested in, supporting children and young people to participate in civic society and to influence policies that affect them. It will also be of interest to young people who want to have their voices heard by decision-makers.

It aims to showcase examples of good practice and share learning in supporting the participation of children and young people in decision-making about issues that impact on their lives. The seminar will provide examples of innovative work to give young people a voice and influence policy at both local and national levels.

Learning about best practice will be shared by:

Claire Casey, Community Engagement Coordinator, CDI: findings in relation to the empowerment of young people from the evaluation of CDI's Restorative Practices Training programme;

Michelle Costello and Petrina Egan, Youth Workers with Foróige Tallaght Youth Service: the work that is currently being done to support young people to influence policies at both a local and national level and to have a voice and advocate on the issues that affect them;

Celine Dillon of Amplifying Voices (Barnardos): hearing the voice of young people and exploring key issues within the community from a young person's perspective;

Joanna Seery of EPIC (Empowering People in Care): a presentation that explores advocacy in action in the lives of young people in the care system and looks at current issues in the lives of young people in care.

The Seminar will take place from 10am – 1pm on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of May at Brookfield Youth and Community Centre and will be followed by lunch.

There is no charge for this Seminar but places are limited so booking is essential.

### Incorporating Research Evidence into Academic Learning: A Seminar for Third Level Institutions

Fitzwilliam Hotel, St Stephen's Green, Dublin

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
9.00am to 1.30pm

#### Who Should Attend?

This seminar is aimed at all those working in the Third Level Sector, particularly Heads of Departments, Lecturers, Researchers, those involved in academic course design and post graduate students.

#### Seminar Objectives:

- To share the findings from our evaluations;
- To encourage the utilisation of this research in academic courses;
- To consider the recommendations arising which relate to the training of professional; and
- To promote the use of archived CDI data.

### Research & Evidence to Inform & Prevent Educational Disadvantage

Dublin West Education Centre  
Blessington Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
4pm to 6pm

#### Who Should Attend?

Primary school teachers and allied professionals, particularly those working with disadvantaged children.

#### Seminar Objectives:

- To explore why educational disadvantage is important;
- What do the 'Growing Up In Ireland' statistics tell us about educational disadvantage?
- CDI's learning and evidence in relation to education;
- Why is evidence/research important in the education sector?

**The seminar will include presentations on CDI's evaluations, and reflections from Professor Mark Morgan.**

**To book all seminars please contact:  
Paula Kavanagh at CDI by phone 01 4940030,  
or email [paula@twcdi.ie](mailto:paula@twcdi.ie).**

## CDI TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:



### Summer Course:

#### **'Using Evidence Based Programmes to Support Speech, Language and Literacy Development Amongst Young Children in Disadvantaged Communities'**

CDI is delighted to announce that we have received DES approval for an online summer course this year. The course titled *'Using Evidence Based Programmes to Support Speech, Language and Literacy Development Amongst Young Children in Disadvantaged Communities'* will look at what it takes to deliver evidence-based programmes and make particular reference to Doodle Den and CDI's Early Intervention Speech and Language Therapy Model.

The course will cost €35 and participants will be required to complete 20 hours of study. Teachers will be eligible for three EPV days on successful completion of the course.

Further details will follow in the coming weeks. Should you wish to receive more information about the course or register your interest, please contact Anne-Marie Reid on 4940030 or by email at [annemaire@twcdi.ie](mailto:annemaire@twcdi.ie).

### Attention All Teachers!

#### **New EPV Accredited Summer Course for Primary and Post-Primary Teachers**

***"Using Restorative Practices to Strengthen Positive Classroom and School Norms."***

This course will take place from 10am to 3pm each day from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2013, at a Tallaght venue to be confirmed.

#### **Course Objectives:**

- An introduction to the philosophy and processes of Restorative Practices (RP) in schools and to the evidence from CDI's research of how RP can support the aims of the Primary and Secondary Curriculum; i.e. to enable the child to develop as a social being through living and cooperating with others and so contribute to the good of society.;
- Exploration of the potential of a restorative approach to create a positive relational environment in the classroom and school as a whole is a key course objective;
- The steps and mechanisms for implementing a whole-school approach to RP;

The language and processes practiced throughout the week will enable teachers to gain skills identified as a national priority for the Summer Course Programme 2013 i.e. addressing bullying and promoting emotional health and well-being.;

A full list of literature and resources available will be provided.

#### **The expected Learning Outcomes for Teachers include:**

- Understanding the philosophy and practices involved in Restorative Practices (RP) and how using this approach creates a climate and provides the tools to enhance the positive learning environment in the classroom and school;
- Understanding how RP can be used as a highly effective mechanism for managing challenging behaviour;
- Practice in RP skills that lead to restorative processes and environments that:
  - Enable positive communication and interaction in classrooms;
  - Develop personal responsibility in whole-school approaches to discipline; and
  - Create safe forums for children and young people to voice feelings and fears.

This Course will be delivered by a team including Teachers, a School Completion Coordinator and a Community Engagement Coordinator who are accredited International Institute for Restorative Practices trainers and the Course Fee is €50.

**The closing date for bookings is June 14<sup>th</sup> 2013.**

For further information and/or booking enquires please contact Claire Casey on 01 4940030 or [Claire@twcdi.ie](mailto:Claire@twcdi.ie)



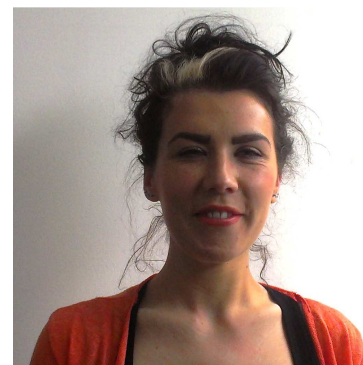
## NEW CDI STAFF MEMBERS



CDI would like to welcome Prasanth Sukumar and Holly Megan who joined us earlier this year.

Prasanth is a qualified researcher with more than five years of hands-on experience in research and has worked for many prominent companies like The Nielsen. At CDI, he is responsible for providing support and assistance in the research process by undertaking comparative research, analysing data, writing policy documents, and support the dissemination of research findings. Prasanth holds an MPhil in Population Studies, MSocSc in Health and Illness (UCD), and MA in Rural Management.

Holly provides administrative assistance to the team in CDI and has many years experience working as an Administrator in various organisations including Business & Finance Magazine. Holly holds a FETAC Level 5 Certificate in Secretarial Studies and also a FETAC Level 5 Certificate in European and Language Studies.



**Childhood Development Initiative  
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