### FAMILY SUPPORT NOW:

**REFLECTING ON CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES**

**THURSDAY 18TH & FRIDAY 19TH JUNE 2009**

**Venue:** Áras Moyola Building  
National University of Ireland, Galway  

**Contact:** For Conference Bookings/Information  
Please visit www.conference.ie  

**PLACES ARE LIMITED SO PLEASE BOOK EARLY**

---

**The Child and Family Research Centre (CFRC)**

The Child and Family Research Centre (CFRC) is a partnership between the Health Service Executive and the National University of Ireland, Galway. Based at the University’s School of Political Science and Sociology, the Centre undertakes research, evaluation and training in the area of child and family care and welfare. In 2008, it was awarded a UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement.

The vision of the CFRC is:

To improve outcomes for children and their families, and advance practice and policy in Ireland and internationally, through research, evaluation and service development.

The CFRC objectives are to:

- Understand child and family needs by producing scientific research and evaluations.
- Improve services for children and families through: third and fourth level education; better service design; and learning networks for service practitioners.
- Build research capacity in family support through applying best practice methodologies, developing researchers and supporting practitioner research.
- Influence policy for children by engaging with researchers, policymakers, service providers, children and their families.

Underpinning the CFRC vision and objectives is a commitment to research and evaluation of Family Support as a broad-based policy and services paradigm.

Thematically, this involves a commitment to research on Social Support, Resilience, Ecological approaches and Reflective Practice.

---

**CONFERENCE TIMETABLE**

### DAY ONE - THURSDAY 18TH JUNE 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.15 - 10.00</td>
<td>Registration – Tea/Coffee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10.00 – 10.30 | Official Opening  
Professor Pat Dolan, UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement |
| 10.30 – 11.30 | Refocusing Family Support: A Scottish Case Study  
Dr John Davis & Ms Mary Smith |
| 11.30 - 11.45 | Tea/Coffee                                                         |
| 11.45 – 12.45 | Combating Neighbourhood Disadvantage: Where Family Support Fits In  
Professor Tony Talty |
| 12.45 – 2.00 | Lunch                                                              |
| 2.00 – 3.00 | Walking the Walk in Adversity, Family Support and Personal Discovery  
Father Aidan Troy |
| 3.00 – 4.00 | Practice Seminars  
Ten practice-focused seminars, led by our key speakers and other specialists in the field, providing a further opportunity to examine the issues arising in the conference |
| 4.00 – 4.15 | Tea/Coffee                                                         |
| 4.15 – 5.15 | Making a Public Health Approach to Supporting Parents Work  
Professor Matt Sanders |

### DAY TWO - FRIDAY 19TH JUNE 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9.00 – 10.00 | Family Support, Policy, Practice and Research into the Future  
Dr. John Canavan |
| 10.00 – 11.00 | Child Rights and Family Support in Countries Affected by Conflict  
Professor Alan Smith |
| 11.00 – 11.30 | Tea/Coffee                                                         |
| 11.30 – 12.30 | Special Guest  
Patrick McCabe |
| 12.30 – 1.30 | Policy and Practice Panel  
An interactive forum with senior policy makers and practitioners |
| 1.30 – 2.30 | Lunch                                                              |
The conference will explore how policymaking and service delivery of Family Support programmes have evolved over the years; research papers presented in the programme will be examined, taking into account the centrality of community and the wider social environment in which children and families live, as determinants of their well-being.

**Conference Themes:**

- Supporting families in the context of community regeneration
- Community, social exclusion and family support
- Achieving youth mental health and well-being through supporting families
- Children's rights and Family Support: tensions and complementarity
- Family Support: Past, present and future

This event will create opportunities for practitioners, service-providers and researchers to share learning from both applied practice and theoretical perspectives.

**SPECIAL GUEST**

**PATRICK MCBRACIE**

Patrick McCabe was born on March 27th 1955 in Clones, County Monaghan, Ireland. After graduating from St. Patrick’s Training College in Dublin, he taught at Kingsbury Day Special School in London. While there, he won the Irish Press Hennessy Award for his short story, “The Call.”

**Professor Tony Fahy** is Professor of Social Policy and Head of the School of Applied Social Science in University College Dublin. He is a sociologist by training and has published on family demography, family policy, the elderly, housing, and quality of life. Among his current research projects is a study of living conditions in local authority housing estates in Ireland.

**Professor Matt Sanders** is Professor of Clinical Psychology and Director of the Parenting and Family Support Centre at The University of Queensland. He conducts research and has published extensively in the area of parenting, family psychology and the prevention of behavioral and emotional problems in children. He is the founder of the internationally acclaimed Triple P Positive Parenting Program, which has won a National Voluntary Prevention Award from the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Australia and is now run in 17 countries around the world.

**Professor Alan Smith** is UNESCO Chair in Education at the University of Otago. His work includes research on young people's understanding of human rights and citizenship. He has been a visiting fellow to Nigeria, Indonesia and Hong Kong; a consultant for DFID, UNICEF and World Bank in Bosnia, Nepal and Sri Lanka with publications on ‘Education, Conflict and International Development’.

**Ms Mary Smith** is an Integration Manager with a local authority in Scotland and an associate lecturer at Edinburgh University where she tutors final year students on the BSc in Childhood Practice. Mary’s work over the last fifteen years has been around the area of disaffected children and families. Mary recently completed a Doctorate in Education exploring the role of Family Support Work within her authority.

**Father Aidan Troy** was born in Bray, County Wicklow, Ireland in 1945. He was ordained a priest in 1970 and has ministered in Ireland, London, San Francisco, and Rome and more recently at Holy Cross, Belfast. He has one book published, Holy Cross – a personal experience (2005), and a book on suicide due for publication in late 2009.

**Dr John Davis** is Head of Department in Educational Studies at the University of Edinburgh. He has written and produced many conference papers, research reports and publications on a range of topics: Participation in hospitals, mental health services, out of school clubs, and rare care centres; skills training and blended learning, in early years, children and family service contexts; equality issues in health, education, community, leisure and social services; isolation and inter-agency working; and research methods for working with children and adults.

**Dr John Canavan** is joint founder and Associate Director of the Child and Family Research Centre. He has extensive experience in researching and evaluating social intervention programmes in the areas of child and family care, educational disadvantage, and community and local development. In his current role he oversees the work programme of the CYC, acting as Principal Investigator on a number of major projects.

**Catherine Sherlock** is an Integration Manager with a local authority in Scotland and an associate lecturer at Edinburgh University where she tutors final year students on the BSc in Childhood Practice. Mary’s work over the last fifteen years has been around the area of disaffected children and families. Mary recently completed a Doctorate in Education exploring the role of Family Support Work within her authority.

**Father Aidan Troy** was born in Bray, County Wicklow, Ireland in 1945. He was ordained a priest in 1970 and has ministered in Ireland, London, San Francisco, and Rome and more recently at Holy Cross, Belfast. He has one book published, Holy Cross – a personal experience (2005), and a book on suicide due for publication in late 2009.

**Marie Fenny** has worked for the Forum Community Development project for the past fifteen years and is also a Practioner in relation to ten years of an Adolescent Support Project based in North West Connemara. She has published a book, titled, the Cloncon Bay Disaster which is based on a sea disaster that affected four rural communities along the west coast of Ireland in 1974. Marie will deliver: Intergenerational Programmes: The Vokus and Potential Role in Community Based Family Support Practice

**Description:** Forum, a community development organisation in North West Connemara, Galway, has had in place, over the past nine years, intergenerational programmes involving the children of thirteen National Schools in the area with focus on elderly people annually on one day basis.

Every locality has the valuable resource of older people, and social capital building and social support networking is a core element in family support practice. In addition, intergenerational programmes could also be used as a tool to increase resilience in young people, as Gilligan (2000) has identified that factors that help young people, such as having close social supports and spare-time activities, can help enhance resilience. Thus, these programmes can be considered in family support practice as a strategic and an innovative way of working with children and families.

**John Fitzmaurice** is Programme Manager for Jigsaw Galway. John previously managed the GAP Youth Café in Galway, which is based on a social health model. A Post Primary teacher by profession, John has also studied Health Promotion and Primary Care. John will deliver: Jigsaw Galway - A Model for Enhanced Youth Mental Health Support System

**Description:** Jigsaw Galway is operational since December 2008. The Jigsaw model is an innovative evidence based approach for organising services and supports to enhance the mental health and well being of young people. It is designed to promote systems of care that are more accessible, youth-friendly, integrated, and engaging for young people. The basic premise of Jigsaw is that whatever their level of need, young people should be able to access quality support, where they need it, in settings where they feel safe, comfortable and respected. It is about meeting young people where they are.

Catherine Sherlock currently works as a Senior Social Worker with a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Team in HSE Dublin North East. Prior to this she worked as a Lecturer in Social Work at NUI Galway for over 3 years, having had over 11 years practice experience in the field of children and families social work and medical social work in Ireland, UK and Australia. She has researched and published in the areas of child rights and family unity. She is currently undertaking doctoral research with the Child and Family Research Centre NUI in relation to culturally responsive social work practice. Catherine will deliver: Child Rights and the Challenge of Culturally Responsive Practice.

**Description:** This seminar aims to investigate the idea of culturally responsive practice in working with children and families; taking a child rights focus, it will ask questions about the applicability of the rights framework to reflexive approaches in working cross culturally. It will explore more specifically the dilemmas and debates in relation to children in families who are subject to immigration control in Ireland, and will examine dimensions of what may be considered good practice from international examples.