The use of implementation science to actively build capacity to implement the Meitheal Practice Model

Implementation is defined as a specified set of activities designed to put into practice an activity or program of known dimensions. (Fixsen et al, 2005). The seminal work by Fixsen et al, provides a comprehensive synthesis and a framework which is adaptable to a variety of contexts. The study of how a practice that is evidence based or evidence informed is translated to a “real world” setting is called Implementation Science.

In recent years, an increasing focus has been given to the process and practice of implementing programmes, practices and new ways of working. A key consideration is the correlation between model fidelity and positive outcomes for children. Further considerations in introducing a large scale change program is the ability to ensure that a new practice model is sustained long term and that it is implemented at a sufficient level to impact on the wider system. This presentation will outline the critical aspects and applicability of a framework required for successful implementation including the stages, implementation teams, implementation drivers and improvement cycles.

The overall aim of this presentation is to explore how the Science of Implementation can close the research to practice gap in introducing the Meitheal Practice Model in Dublin North City. It is the presenter’s view an Implementation Science framework can support the successful introduction and sustainability of this new national model. The presenter will provide examples and demonstrate how this approach can be used at both Area and Child and Family Support Network level. It is hoped that given the infancy of this national programme of work, that this presentation will provoke discussion and generate ideas to inform the wider system.