



## Conference Biographies

18th October 2012  
The Gresham Hotel



[www.ballymunlocaldrugtaskforce.ie](http://www.ballymunlocaldrugtaskforce.ie)

# ***Family Based Prevention***

**9:30-11:30am**

## **Chair**

### **Andrew Montague**

Andrew Montague, is a former Lord Mayor of Dublin and a councillor on Dublin City Council. Andrew lives in Ballymun and is the Chair of Ballymun Local Drugs Task Force. In his year as Lord Mayor, Andrew set up a Commission to examine evidenced-based approaches to tackling antisocial behaviour. The Commission's report highlighted the importance of positive parenting, especially in early childhood. Andrew is also the councillor that first proposed the Dublinbikes scheme, one of the most successful City Bike schemes in the world.

## **Opening Address**

### **Alex White TD, Minister of State for Primary Care and the National Drugs Strategy**

Alex White, Senior Counsel, is a Labour TD for Dublin South. He is Chairman of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure & Reform. He is a graduate in Economic and Social Studies from Trinity College Dublin and qualified from the Kings Inns. Before this, Alex was a current affairs producer with RTE. He has been a leading practitioner in employment and labour law, appearing regularly before the Irish Courts and in employment tribunals on behalf of employee and employer clients. Alex was elected to South Dublin County Council as a first-time candidate in June 2004 and was Deputy Mayor in 2006/2007. He was elected to the Senate on the Cultural and Educational panel, becoming group leader of the Labour Party, as well as being national spokesperson on Children for the party.

## **Building the Pillars: It Takes a Village to Raise a Child**

### **Fergal Landy**

Fergal joined the Child and Family Research Centre in September 2009 as Researcher – Service Development and Design. Fergal previously worked in practice with the HSE as a Community Development Worker with responsibility for the development of family support services in North Tipperary, as a Child Protection Social Worker in Galway and as a Social Worker with out of home

adolescents as part of the Crisis Intervention Service in Dublin. He teaches on the Higher Diploma/Masters in Family Support Studies; Masters in Social Work and the BA Connect in Children's Studies in NUI Galway. He has been involved in the evaluation of the Jobstown Alternative Response Model (ARM) and the Identification of Need Project (ION) in Sligo/Leitrim and Donegal.

## **Risk and Resilience: The Evidence for Family Based Prevention**

### **Eric Carlin**

Eric has recently taken up a new position as Director of SHAAP (Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems). He is also currently carrying out PhD research based at Birkbeck College, London, exploring how theories of social exclusion, resilience and social capital can describe contemporary youth transition experiences in Pilton, Edinburgh. Since 2010, Eric has been a member of the UK's Independent Scientific Advisory Committee on Drugs. From 2008-2010, he was a member of the UK Government's Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD). He also served for six years each as Vice Chair of the United Nations NGO Committee on Drugs and as Chair of the English Drug Education Forum. He was Chief Executive of Mentor UK for 9 years, a charity which focuses on promoting effective drug misuse prevention activities. Prior to that, from 2005, he was Chief Executive of Angel Drug Services, a London-based street drugs agency. He also served for three years as Chair of Islington Community Health Council in London.

## **The Strengthening Families Programme: An Evidence Based Approach (& Workshop 2: Cultural Adaptation)**

### **Henry O. Whiteside, Ph.D.**

Henry is a Managing Partner of Lutra Group, Inc., authorized distributors, trainers and providers of implementation and training, quality assurance and evaluation services for the Strengthening Families Program (SFP). He is co-author with Dr. Kumpfer of the more recent versions of SFP for other age groups, particularly the SFP 12-16 Year and SFP 3-5 Year versions as well as the 2011 school-based universal 10-session SFP 10-16 Years that is now available in group and Home Use DVDs. He has published widely and travels frequently worldwide to conduct SFP Group Leader training Workshops with his team of international trainers.

# ***SFP in the Community***

**12:00-1:30pm**

**Chair**  
**Mick Creedon**

Mick Creedon is Manager of the Ballymun Job Centre. The BJC is a community based employment supports service providing a range of services to unemployed people in Ballymun. Prior to taking up this position he worked for the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice as a Research Officer. He is co-author of a number of research reports on labour markets and unemployment. He is an Associate Lecturer with the National College of Ireland (NCI) where he lectured in Management and Ethics and Employee Relations. He holds a BA and MA in Human Resource Management. He is chair of the Ballymun SFP Management Committee. Staff from the BJC are facilitators on the SFP.

**The Families Behind the Children: Beyond Criminal Justice**  
**Rosemary Fox**

Is a Senior Probation Officer in Young Persons Probation, Cork. Her work is targeted specifically towards assisting parents and children who present re offending with risks around parenting/teen attitude and behaviour. She has been involved in SFP since 2007 as a member of two interagency steering committees, Lutra Trainer, facilitator and developing policies and procedures in association with Le Cheile (as youth justice funded project) and Steering Committees.

**From Paper to Practice: A Local Community Implementation Framework for 12-16 years in Ballymun**  
**Tom O'Donnell**

Tom has been employed by the HSE for the past 19 years as a Project Worker, based in Geraldstown House, Family Resource Centre, Dublin. In this role, he has worked with families, parents and teenagers and younger children. This has included group work; family and one-to-one support; and family therapy. Tom has been Site Coordinator for 10 programmes to date, in Ballymun, and a member of the interagency Management Committee since SFP began in Ballymun in 2008. Tom has also been involved in the delivery of SFP Facilitator training in a number of communities.

**Multiplying the Pillars: A Multi-Site Approach to SFP in the North West**  
**Donna Butler**

Donna has been with the North West Alcohol Forum since August 2009 and since then has been responsible for the successful planning, implementation and evaluation of programmes rolled out in Co. Donegal and more recently the expansion of SFP into Sligo/Leitrim. The first pilot Strengthening Families Programme (SFP 12-16) was delivered in Donegal on 2nd March 2010 – 15th June 2010. Since then a further seven SF Programmes have been rolled out across rural Donegal, one of which targeted 6-12 yrs and the remaining 7 programmes catered for families with teens aged 12-16 yrs.

## ***Parallel Workshops***

**2:30-3:30pm**

**Workshop 1: The 4 P's of Implementing SFP – Planning, Practice, Procedures and Promotion:**

**Chair: Lorraine O'Donovan**

Lorraine is a Development Officer with West Cork Development Partnership for youth and family supports under the Local Community Development Programme. Her work targets disadvantaged and at risk young people and their families across a broad rural area. Lorraine has been involved with the Strengthening Families Programme since early 2011 and she is also a member of the West Cork SFP Steering Committee. She was Site Coordinator of two rural Strengthening Families Programmes in Bantry and Dunmanway and will also occupy this role for the Bandon programme which will begin in November 2012.

**Sean Kinahan, Le Chéile**

Current CEO of Le Chéile's Mentoring and Youth Justice Support Services which provides Mentoring, Restorative Justice and Family Support programmes to families involved in the Youth Justice system, and primarily to Young Persons Probation. The Family Support element of Le Chéile provides the Strengthening Families Programme, Parent Mentoring, Parents Plus and other Family Support programmes to families. Seán has been involved in the funding, facilitating and the general roll out of the SFP on a national level since 2009.

## **George McAteer, Gaining Ground Probation Project**

Project Worker with the Gaining Ground Probation Project (GGPP), Dundalk/Louth. George's background is in conflict resolution and mediation. Post University I have been involved in working with x-political prisoners and combatants. This progressed into designing accredited courses in various subjects. Later on more work involved working with young people, specifically in disadvantaged areas. GGPP is funded by the Probation Service, managed by Cox's Demesene Youth and Community Project Ltd in Dundalk. It targets 16-18 year olds who have been referred to the Probation Service via the courts, for the purpose of training and activities orders and community service. Strengthening Families in Dundalk and the wider area is coordinated by the GGPP. Our third programme is underway since September 2012.

## **Workshop 2: Cultural Adaptation**

### **Chair: Ciara Jubani**

Ciara Jubani is the Education, Prevention & Intervention Coordinator and Deputy Manager with the Blanchardstown Local Drugs Task Force, Dublin, Ireland. She is a graduate member of the Psychological Society of Ireland. Ciara holds a degree and postgraduate training in Psychology and has 9 years' experience working in the field of addiction and family based interventions. She is the Programme Manager and Site coordinator for the SFP implementations run in Blanchardstown and is also an accredited SFP Ireland group leader trainer. She has trained SFP group leaders across Ireland. She is also an accredited therapist in the Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (ACRA) - an evidence based model for working with adolescent drug and alcohol users.

### **Henry O. Whiteside**

See details in morning session

## **Workshop 3: SFP Developments in the Community**

### **Chair: Sunniva Finlay**

Sunniva is the Manager of Ballyfermot STAR, and has worked there for 9 years. Her work targets programmes which focus on rehabilitation of substance misusers, drug specific interventions, and supporting children and families affected by substance misuse. Ballyfermot has implemented four SFP's which Sunniva has been Site Coordinator of. The next programme is expected to begin in February 2013.

## **1) Parent Development and Support**

### **Mary Fitzpatrick**

Mary has worked in the Ballymun Community as a Family Support Worker for the past 10 years. She currently works as a Development Worker in the Drop In Well Family Resource Centre in Ballymun and is a member of the board of the Community and Family Training Agency (CAFTA). I am currently Co-Facilitating on my 9th round of Strengthening Families in Ballymun. Since February 2012, Mary has taken on the role of SFP Parents Advocate Worker with the Ballymun Local Drugs Task Force for the Strengthening Families Programme.

### **Frank Keogh**

Frank is a local parent and volunteer in Ballymun. Frank spent 25 years in the construction industry where he progressed swiftly up the ranks in various companies to eventually become a General Manager. Frank has recently completed Business Administration & Management Fetal Level 6 course, and is currently partaking in a Train the Trainer Fetac level 6 course. Following participation on the SFP in Ballymun in 2011, Frank volunteered as an SFP parent on the Ballymun programme in early 2012 and is now training up to become a local parent Co-Facilitator on the current programme

## **2) Reflections on a Pilot Junior SFP (6-12 years)**

### **Peter Doherty**

Peter has been working in Aisling Project Balcurris for the last 12 years. He started his time there as a volunteer, then became a part time staff member and has been managing one of the Aisling Centres for the last 5 years. He worked in schools for 5 years as a Special Needs Assistant – mostly with students who experience emotional behavioural difficulties. Peter has also worked as a childcare worker in Mountjoy Prison working with family members, both adults and children, who came to visit the inmates. His educational background is in Youth Work in DKIT and Community and Voluntary sector Management in NUI Maynooth. Peter has been involved in the Strengthening Families Programme as a facilitator and floater on the 12 – 16 programme for the past 5 years in Ballymun.

# ***Pulling the Pieces Together***

***3:45-4:30pm***

**Chair: Dr Aisling Gillen**

Dr Aisling Gillen qualified as a Speech & Language Therapist from Trinity College Dublin. She has 15 years of clinical experience working as a SLT. She has worked as a Counsellor for Special Needs and in Quality Assurance, also as a Disability Service Manager in Donegal. She worked for approximately 5 years as a Regional General Manager for Children's Services in the HSE West. Aisling is involved in a cross-border project looking at the development of a model of outcomes based needs led planning. Aisling has a PhD in Linguistics by Research and an MSc in Innovation Management in the Public Sector specialising in integration of Children's Services. Aisling is currently employed as a National Specialist in Family Support with the Department of Children & Family Services, HSE. Aisling is currently leading out on a Family Support Action Plan for the Children & Family's Directorate. This programme of work is being funded by Atlantic Philanthropies and involves in conjunction with the Child & Family Research Centre, NUIG, developing a Supporting Parents Strategy, a Commissioning Strategy, detailed design of the Local Area Pathway component of the proposed new Service Delivery Framework for the new Child & Family Support Agency, a Framework for the engagement of children and What Works in Family Support?

