

IRISH AFTERCARE NETWORK

Providing Support to People Working With Care Leavers

Presentation Overviews Friday 7th October 2022 Sheraton Hotel, Athlone

“Looking Forward – Working With Young People Leaving Care”

10.00am-10.30am	Young people’s stories of their journey through aftercare David Kelly Thomas Mongan Kye Brax Noble
Presentation Overview	Young peoples experience of aftercare and the importance it played in their lives.
10.30am-11.00am	“A home is a human right for those leaving care” Dr Rory Hearn , - <i>Assistant Professor in Social Policy, Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University</i>
Presentation Overview	The presentation outlines the housing challenges faced by care leavers, the problems with relying on the rental market and HAP for those leaving care, hidden homelessness, the particular importance of housing for care leavers given their experience and necessity for a secure base after leaving care, why the state should take responsibility for providing a home as a human right to those leaving care, using the ETHOS and human rights approach to frame policy for housing for care leavers.
11.30am-12.30pm	“A Life Worth Living” Bronagh Starrs – <i>Founder & Director of Blackfort Adolescent Gestalt Institute and Programme Director for the MSc Adolescent Psychotherapy in Dublin Counselling & Therapy Centre</i>
Presentation Overview	The presentation will focus on supporting adolescents to make meaning of their lifespace dynamics, with a particular emphasis on the integration of trauma and hardship. Rich and influential contact with young people grows out of the structured ground of our interventions. This structured ground has two critical dimensions: the relational (i.e. the fostering of supportive connections) and the strategic (i.e. assessment of developmental status and formulation of praxis strategy for promoting new development). Within this presentation, we will attend to both the relational and strategic grounds of working with young people. During adolescence, we embark on an intense search for meaning and integrity, working to develop inner strength, a sense of personal worth and an individuality which will in time enable richer experience of connection and relationship with self and other. Within this journey we struggle with making meaning of distressing and overwhelming dimensions of our experience and there can be shame at every turn. Participants will learn how developmentally attuned interventions can support

	young people to make healthy, life-giving decisions and support choiceful direction for their lives.
12.30pm – 1.00pm	<p>“Looking Forward – Working With Young People Leaving Care”</p> <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Kate Duggan, -<i>Director of Services & Integration (Deputy CEO) Tusla</i> Bronagh Starrs - <i>Founder & Director of Blackfort Adolescent Gestalt Institute and Programme Director for the MSc Adolescent Psychotherapy in Dublin Counselling & Therapy Centre</i> Dr Rory Hearn - <i>Assistant Professor in Social Policy, Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University</i> Dr Eavan Brady - <i>Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work & Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin</i></p>
2.45pm-3.15pm	<p>“One more adversity: Exploring the lived experience of care leavers in Ireland during the Covid-19 pandemic”</p> <p>Dr Eavan Brady, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work & Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin</p>
Presentation Overview	In this presentation, Eavan will outline the background to the Covid and Care Leavers Study which examined the lived experiences of 16 care leavers (aged 18-27) in Ireland during the Covid-19 pandemic. Key findings will be presented relating to the challenges faced by participants, what helped participants and key lessons that participants learned about themselves during the pandemic. The implications of the study in relation to policy and practice will also be highlighted.
3.15pm – 3.35pm	<p>“Connection and Anchoring”</p> <p>Órlaith Hayes, <i>Person in Charge, Wellsprings</i></p>
Presentation Overview	During the presentation Orlaith, will take you through the history and evolving story of Wellsprings Residential and Aftercare Services. Detail the current services with particular focus on Bethany – Dedicated Outreach Service. The outreach service is dynamic and unique offering lifelong access to a skilled, trauma informed professional staff team. How Wellsprings use analytics and data to track outcomes, client profile and practice. Taking tacit knowledge and breaking it down to reflect skills practice. How Wellsprings is sought by other service providers to guide and support through challenges. DAF Outline of new interagency project in partnership with Tusla.