

ACES Conference and CAWT EU INTERREG VA Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (MACE) Project Launch Friday 28th September 2018



**Kieran Downey, Director of Women and Children's Services,
Western Health and Social Trust (WHST)**



Kieran has worked in the health service for 30 years. He initially trained as a teacher and subsequently qualified as a social worker. Kieran has worked in a variety of senior management posts before being appointed as Assistant Director of Children's Mental Health and Disability Services with the Western Trust in April 2007. He was appointed Director of Women and Children's Services and Executive Director of Social Work in September 2012.

The Women and Children's Directorate brings together a comprehensive range of acute and community services with an annual budget of £80 million. As well as all of the statutory Family and Child Care, Children's Services, Kieran also has responsibility for Public Health, Maternity, Pediatric and Adult Safeguarding Services across the Trust.

Kieran was instrumental in securing the first Charter Mark Award for Day Care services in Northern Ireland and was on the Expert Working Committee for the Bamford Review Group. He has most recently led on the development of the Western Trust Infant Mental Health Strategy (2011) which was the first strategic plan for infant mental health in Northern Ireland.

Dr Karen Treisman, Clinical Psychologist



Karen is a Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist who has worked in the National Health System and children's services for several years. Karen has also worked cross-culturally in both Africa and Asia with groups ranging from former child soldiers to survivors of the Rwandan Genocide. She has extensive experience in the areas of trauma, parenting, and attachment, and works clinically using a range of therapeutic approaches with families, systems, and children in or on the edge of care, unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people, and adopted children. Karen also specialises in supporting organisations and systems to become more trauma-informed and trauma-responsive. In addition to holding a doctorate in Clinical psychology, Karen has undergone a range of specialist training courses including in EMDR, Narrative Therapy, Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy, Video Interaction Guidance, and Therapy.

Karen is an external consultant, trainer, speaker, and assessor to a variety of local authorities and organisations including Barnardos, PAC-UK etc. Karen is also an expert witness and regularly undergoes a variety of assessments for court. Additionally, Karen is also a reviewer for the Journal of Adoption and Fostering.

Karen is the author of "Working with children and adolescents who have experienced relational and developmental trauma" and "A Therapeutic Treasure Box for Working with Children and Adolescents with Developmental Trauma: Creative techniques and activities".

Trevor Spratt, Professor in Childhood Research, Trinity College



Trevor has worked for 10 years in social work practice with children and families and his research interests are in this area. These include, decision making by professionals, how policy objectives are translated into professional practises, the development of child protection systems internationally and the impact of early adversities in childhood as realised across the life-course.

His first academic position was with the University of Ulster in 1997, moving thereafter to Queen's University Belfast in 2000. He took up his present position as Professor in Childhood Research and Director of Trinity Research in Childhood Centre at Trinity College Dublin in 2014

Mark Feeney, Director of Managing Authority, Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)



The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is a North South Implementation Body, responsible for the implementation of the EU's PEACE IV (€270m) and INTERREG VA (€283m) Programmes. It also has a signposting role to promote involvement in the INTERREG VB Transnational and INTERREG VC Interregional Programmes. SEUPB's role is to help facilitate the positive impact that European Regional Development Funding will have on the lives of people living across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

As part of the senior SEUPB management team, Mark is responsible for the management and delivery of the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA EU funded Programmes for the period 2014-2020.

With a combined Programme estimate value of €500 million, Mark's role is to ensure the SEUPB meets its obligations with respect to its Managing Authority responsibilities under these programmes.

Jim Gibson, Chief Operations Officer, TUSLA



Jim is a native of Belfast and achieved qualifications as a Social Worker from Swansea University in 1987. Jim has worked in several jurisdictions and has extensive experience as a social work practitioner and manager.

Jim joined the South Eastern Health Board in 1995 and held numerous front line management positions as the service transitioned into the HSE and then TUSLA. Jim held the position of Area Manager for Waterford/Wexford, prior to taking up his current role as Chief Operations Officer.

Alasdair MacInnes, Head of the Child Protection Unit, Department of Health, Northern Ireland



Alasdair has worked in the field of family and children's policy since 2011, initially as head of the Department of Health's Family Policy Unit, and, since 2015, head of the Child Protection Unit.

Before joining the Department of Health, he worked in the Department of Agriculture and in the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

Éimear Fisher, Assistant Secretary, Child Policy and TUSLA Governance Division, Department of Children and Youth Affairs



Éimear has responsibility at Assistant Secretary level in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs for TUSLA governance; policy and legislative developments relating to child welfare and protection; alternative care; family support and related issues of children's rights; research and evaluation as well as leading policy innovation and cross-sectoral working in the area of children services.

A career civil servant, Éimear has worked in a wide range of posts from central Departments to State agencies, including a period as Deputy Director of the National Children's Office. In 2012 she was appointed the first Executive Director of Cosc – the National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence. Having established the office, led the development of the first National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender-based Violence and led the implementation of that strategy for several years, Éimear then moved to head up the executive management of the Garda Inspectorate. Her work has focused on agency reform and cross-sectoral working with particular regard to the impact on victims, most recently focusing on child sexual abuse. Éimear holds a master's degree in management practice from TCD, a diploma in Applied European Law from the Law Society of Ireland and a BA (UCD). She has also successfully completed several international programmes on leadership.

**Sean McGrory, MACE Project Manager,
CAWT**



Prior to joining the MACE project Sean worked as the project manager with Jigsaw Donegal. Jigsaw is an early and brief intervention youth mental health service for young people aged 15-25 years. The focus of this role was to plan, design, implement and manage the service in partnership with community stakeholders and young people themselves who were at the centre of the design and delivery of the service.

Previously Sean held a number of roles designing and delivering youth services, with many of these being on a cross border basis. The primary focus of many of the roles was on developing services to promote social inclusion and overcome marginalization of key target groups with the focus on the youth population and the worker/volunteers who supported them. Sean has an academic background in Social Care, Psychology and Information/systems development and has worked with young people in a wide variety of settings with a particular interest in programme development with partnership service users.

**Panel Facilitator
Pamela Cooper, Regional Implementation Manager,
TUSLA**



Pamela has worked in the area of Social Care provision with special focus on early intervention and prevention models of work for more than 15 years and is a graduate of the National University of Ireland Maynooth.

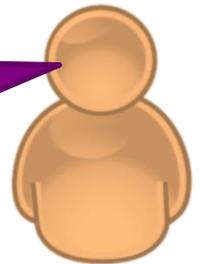
She began her career as a youth worker and has extensive international experience of working with children and families with complex needs. Pamela began working with TUSLA Child and Family Agency from its infancy as a Senior Child & Family Support Network Co-ordinator in Dublin North City. In this role she supported the roll out of Meitheal, TUSLA's national practice model for early interventional and prevention. In her current role as Regional Implementation Manager for Prevention, Partnership and Family support, she supports the further development and implementation of TUSLA's Prevention Partnership and Family Support programme of work.

Panel Members



My name is **Kaylem Ruane**. I am currently a Masters student in NUI Galway studying International Finance. I received an honours degree in my undergraduate Course (1.1). I entered the care of the state when I was in my Junior cert aged 14 and I am currently in the aftercare service. I volunteer with EPIC as much as possible. I also train and coach Mixed Martial Arts in the evenings and spare time.

My name is **Finn O'Farrell**, I am 19 and from Carrickmacross Co. Monaghan. I am Chairperson of a local child and youth participation seed funding project, called the Youth Queer Ball. I am a member of the transgender community and will speak to the importance of resilience in my life. I recently spoke at TUSLA's National Child and Youth Participation Conference. I am supported by Emma Hanaway, Participation and Partnership Officer, Dublin North East.



My name is **John Brattin**. I am 17 and studying my A-levels in Math's, PE and Spanish at St. Columb's College (Derry), my education is very important to me and my future. I currently live in a supported lodging placement as a result of my adoption having broken down. I was adopted at the age of 3 months along with my twin brother Jackson who has autism. I am my brother's advocate as I always have to look out for him and constantly ensure that his needs are met, my relationship with my family members is paramount. I enjoy playing Soccer and I play for two local teams, my position is in goal. I work in a local adventure facility with young people which I thoroughly enjoy, ultimately I would like to become a journalist or a PE teacher.

