

HIDDEN HARM CONFERENCE Workshop Biographies

Sheena Prentice

After qualifying as a midwife in 1982 I worked as a hospital midwife in Scunthorpe and Dartford and in 1985 obtained a community midwife post in Nottingham. I worked as a midwife for 18 years within the inner city areas of Nottingham developing an interest in the public health and social issues that affect pregnant women and their families. In 2000 with HAZ funding I undertook the developmental post of drugs liaison midwife and as a result of the success of this post the role of specialist midwife in substance misuse is now permanently funded. The key component of the role is to engage early and retain pregnant drug/alcohol using women in maternity and drug services to improve the health outcome of mother and baby.

I am an independent non-medical prescriber and have a qualification in contraception and sexual health.

I have attended the CEMACH regional meetings as an expert in my specialist field and have been published in the British Midwifery Journal (2004) and Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Reproductive Medicine (Sept '07)

This role is ever expanding, working with this vulnerable group of women as a midwife shows the complexity of their lives and the necessity for us all to continue improving our skills and knowledge within the public health arena

Jan Fry

Jan Fry is coordinator for Adfam's Family Changes project which aims to improve the support given to grandparents raising their grandchildren because of parental substance misuse.. She was previously Deputy Chief Executive, Parentline Plus, leading on policy, information, development, research, media and fundraising. Prior to taking up this post in 2003, Jan worked for 10 years in the voluntary sector as a consultant on strategy, fundraising, development and management issues and training. She worked for the Maternity Alliance for 10 years developing projects aimed at supporting disadvantaged pregnant women and new mothers and securing funding for the projects.

Anne Nerva

Having graduated in Psychology from The University of Manchester in 1982 Anne qualified as a social worker in 1986 obtaining a CQSW and MA in Social Work at the University of Kent. In 1992 she gained a Diploma in Advanced Children and Families Social Work. She has worked in a various roles within Children's Social Services and for the past 7 years has been a District Manager in East Kent, initially in Dover and for the past 3 years in Thanet.

Anne has a long standing interest in the impact of parental substance misuse on families and is a champion of collaborative working between children's and

adult services. In Dover and Thanet she has been instrumental in the design and joint commissioning of local services that focus on protecting children growing up in families where there is parental substance misuse.

Karen Sharp

Karen Sharp is currently a Local Children's Trust Manager for Kent County Council. Her background is commissioning drug and alcohol services and prior to this delivery and managing a large drug and alcohol children and young people's service in the voluntary sector. Karen has been at the heart of developing the Hidden Harm Strategy in Kent.

Cristina Osorio

Cristina joined Adfam's criminal justice team in October 2000 as an outreach family support practitioner delivering direct support to families of drug/alcohol using prisoners in most of the London prisons. Cristina's extensive knowledge in direct service provision and management helped her to shape, set up and manage the Holloway Family Support Service at HMP/YOI Holloway, the Peterborough Family Support Service at HMP Peterborough and the Brixton Family Support Service at HMP Brixton.

Cristina is now leading and co-ordinating the **Including Diverse Families** programme in London and has since carried out extensive work to increase the awareness, develop the skills and promote inclusive and sensitive practice in the family support sector around working with men and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender families.

Originally from Portugal, Cristina has lived, studied and worked in London for the past 20 years. She secured a BA (Hons) in Criminal Justice and has worked in numerous voluntary organisations primarily with the homeless. She is particularly interested in the criminal justice and addiction field and has contributed at numerous conferences in the field of alcohol, drugs and families and she also represents Adfam at the Stella Steering Group and GLADA.

Wendy Robinson

Wendy Robinson is an independent consultant, trainer and clinical supervisor specialising in children, families, and substance misuse. She has a particular interest in safeguarding children and child protection. She is a qualified counsellor and play therapist, and has worked in frontline services within the alcohol and drug field for 15 years. Her work has focused on expanding the choice and effectiveness of services to children and families affected by alcohol and drug misuse, and she has been involved in the design, development and operation of a number of specialist services across the UK, including the NSPCC Family Alcohol Service in London which was

the first service to work with the whole family including services to children in their own right.

As an independent consultant, trainer and supervisor she works with agencies and organisations across the board, advising, educating and supporting professionals in their child and family focused work from strategy through to policy and in direct practice. She regularly speaks at national conferences, and sits on a number of expert and advisory groups/panels and all her work is built around the sharing of knowledge and experience to enable a child and family focused response to parental drug and alcohol misuse.

She is also a lecturer on addiction and the family at – KENT UNIVERSITY: Dept Medicine & Health Sciences, and co-author of two NSPCC publications:

Alcohol, Childcare and Parenting: A Handbook for Practitioners
Alcohol and the Family: From Stigma to Solution.

Vicky Stewart

Vicky Stewart is the Holding Families Coordinator based at Early Break in Bury which is a multi-disciplinary service working with families affected by parental substance use. Previously employed to work with families in a service working with parental alcohol use and in a Young Offenders Institution as a substance misuse worker and teacher. Education and training includes BA (Hons) Social Ethics, Teaching, Counselling and Level 3 Substance Misuse.

Alison Later

Alison Later works with Bury Young Carers Service as Young Carers Officer. The role involves supporting young people who provide care for a member of their family with either a physical disability, mental illness, sensory illness or problematic use of drugs and/or alcohol. Previously worked supporting young offenders and volunteer panel member for referral orders with the Youth Offending service. Education and training includes BA (Hons) Criminology and Psychology

Sarah Mills

Biography - I have spent the the past 10 years working in the field of young people and substance misuse. Since qualifying in Social Work in 1999 I have worked therapeutically with children and young people misusing substances and those affected by the use of others. In my current role as Operations Manager for KCA Young Persons' Service in Kent and Medway I oversee the running of a treatment service for 10 -17 year olds; specific work aimed at engaging young offenders - including a dual diagnosis project; the delivery of

early intervention services for young people and the development of the Sunlight project - for children affected by parent substance misuse.