

# Irish Attachment in Action Conference 2017 Overview



# Why Attachment Matters for All

In May 2017 at University College Dublin, 120 Individuals from a range of backgrounds and disciplines from across all sectors welcomed the opportunity to come together to learn more about attachment, to connect with others and debate the way forward. Delegates came from all over Ireland to attend this event which reached capacity within 6 weeks of being announced.

The launch event helped inform delegates about strategies and priorities for government on both sides of the border. It provided insights into the impact of childhood experiences, the presentation and consequences of different types of attachment disorders and programs which help address these issues. The Conference also demonstrated the need for everyone working with children and especially within the educational sector to do whatever it takes to 'build resilience in children'; some current successful examples were presented of what works to build confidence and 'hope'.

Delegates endorsed the need for a membership organisation and opportunities for similar learning events in future. The IAIA Committee is working to achieve these goals and will be shortly announcing a program of events.

Irish Attachment in Action inaugural conference was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at the Helix, DCU, Dublin. Pictured from left; Cahal McHale, IASW/Independent SW, IAIA Committee Member and Conference Timekeeper, Laura Glynn and Maeve Healy conference administrators, and delegates preparing for conference.





Lynne Peyton and Conference MC, Committee Member, Independent Child Care Specialist.



Johnnie Gibson Independent Trainer and Child Care Consultant, Chair and Co-founder of Irish Attachment in Action Introduced IAIA to Conference and it's vision for the future.



Paul Harvey SW/BASW Co-Founder of Irish Attachment in Action presented on the journey of IAIA to conference, pictured with Professor Helen Minnis, Patron of Scottish Attachment in Action



We are committed to promoting better experiences of attachment to enhance our relationships between ourselves, our children and our society.

Find us on

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[f @iaia.matters](https://www.facebook.com/iaia.matters)

<https://twitter.com/IrishAttachment>





Peter O'Toole, Counselling Psychologist and Head of Support IFCA, presents on the 'Irish Foster Care Association'.



Maurice Meehan, Head of Health and Social Wellbeing Improvement, Public Health Authority, Northern Ireland, presented on Public Health Strategies, ACES, Early Intervention and Supporting Parents, highlighting the many complex issues impacting on the well being of children and adults.





Jim McGuigan, National Lead, TUSLA, presents on Alternative Care and Attachment, was much applauded when he stated for children who are cared for by the state “We must love these children.”





Doctor Helen Minnis, Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Patron of Scottish Attachment in Action, Keynote Speaker, presented 3 plenaries on the 'Development and Accomplishments of SAIA', 'Why Attachment Matters for All' and 'Why Attachment Matters in Education'. Each was followed by a lively and engaging question and answer session with delegates.



Marie Dunne, Mental Health Promotion Specialist, Health Improvement Service, Western Health & Social Care Trust gave a heartfelt and lively presentation on the 'Schools for Hope' program.





Christina Enright, Family Therapist and Child Psychotherapist presented an informative and comprehensive presentation on 'Five to Thrive', a formula for healthy brain development and positive parenting.





Snapshots from Conference. Thanks to all our presenters, delegates and organisers for creating a wonderful motivating experience. Delegate evaluation of conference will be posted soon.



# Last Words from Our Delegates

It was really well presented and facilitated.

*It was inspiring and energising. The focus on networking. The idea of working together to change. I really enjoyed every aspect of this training, very well organised.*

*The enthusiasm of IAIA committee and presenters was infectious.*

*Excellent presentations, up beat atmosphere, practical information and facts.*

It was especially good in the open discussion parts to hear everyone else's views and stories. Q and A with keynote speaker.

*Taking notes during each presentation - key learning documented, the 'truth bombs' provided concise points of learning.*

Great opportunity for cross border networking also.

*Exciting to be part of the first conference. How it was run, change over in speakers. Sticking to times and hearing from other professionals.*

Variety of guests, i.e. foster carers, professionals worked very well. Good experienced speakers. Very engaging and interactive.

*Lots of time for questions and discussion. Fantastic speakers. Content was excellent. Interactive and interesting day. Well organised and much needed!!*