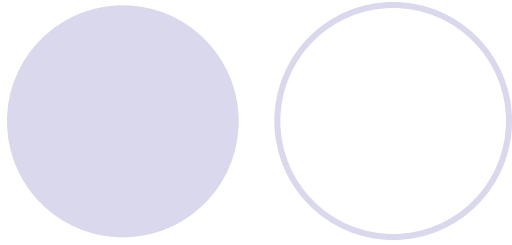


Irish Foster Care Association

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Due to the circumstances which lead to children being received into care, they may have specific vulnerabilities, and will often have experiences of trauma and loss. An understanding of such issues assist all involved to meet such children's needs, help them to overcome challenges and to build productive, new relationships that can safeguard their future.

Who is IFCA?



Our Mission

The Irish Foster Care Association is the representative body for foster care in Ireland. Child-centred and rights-based, IFCA promotes excellence in foster care for all those involved.

Our Vision

Supporting excellence in foster care so that children in care have the best chances in life.

Who is IFCA?



What we do

- IFCA provides information, support and learning opportunities for all those involved in foster care.
- We deliver targeted support to all those involved in foster care through our Support and Branch/Regional Development Services.
- We promote the development of positive change for children in alternative care.
- We influence policy, legislation and opinion through our Advocacy work.

The Link with IAIA



Irish Foster Care Association

Initial Findings:

- Head of Support – attendance at counselling/psychology trainings.
- Trained Professionals – lack of wider dissemination of knowledge
- The importance of involving everyone concerned with Foster Care.
- Became aware of a number of like minded individuals
- Attendance at SAIA conference in October 2016.

Why are we involved???



Irish Foster Care Association

IFCA Learning & Development

- Review of IFCA's Learning Programme (2015): Learning on Attachment & Trauma cited as a priority area of interest.
- Learning events centred on Attachment always fully booked and well received.
- Success of attendance at and positive feedback on attachment- themed workshops at our National Conference.
- Positive feedback on Dr. Una McCluskey (2015), Judith Furnivall (SAIA/CELSIS) at 2016 Conference – 2017 Plenary Speaker: Dr. Helen Gogarty

Why are we involved???



Irish Foster Care Association

IFCA Support Service

- IFCA Survey of the Emotional and Psychological Support Needs of Carers, the children in their care, and their families(2015) : A need for more available training on attachment and trauma & access to relevant services.
- Support Helpline: Frequent Requests for information on Attachment and Trauma.

Why are we involved???



Irish Foster Care Association

IFCA Branch & Regional Development

- Frequent requests from membership at regional levels for training and information on Attachment.
- High turnout and positive feedback relating to all such learning provision – either IFCA or Tusla – led.

IFCA's Hopes for the future



- To develop an awareness of attachment and developmental issues relating to children and adolescents within the all relevant professions.
- To promote practice and research in these areas.
- To share experience, knowledge, resources and expertise and to develop a support network that is available to all those involved in the care of children.
- To promote inclusiveness of all relevant parties, not just mental health professionals with regards to the provision of training and learning regarding attachment and developmental trauma.
- Development of additional training provision to Foster Carers, Social Workers and Social Care workers – and the establishment of appropriate funding to make access to such learning possible.
- The compilation of robust database of trained professionals in this area and the sharing of such information with all relevant parties.
- To use our knowledge to inform the public, policy makers and legislators of the needs of children and adolescents who have encountered attachment issues or developmental trauma.



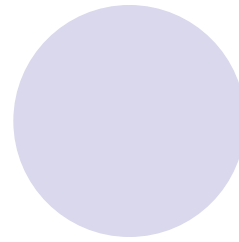
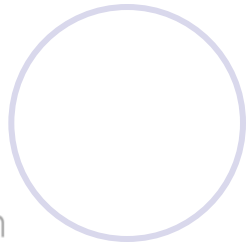
IFCA & IAIA

How we have collaborated:

IFCA currently offering a secretariat to IAIA with a view to relating shared objectives and working together to ensure better outcomes for children.



Irish Foster Care Association



Thank You....enjoy the
rest of the day!