

THE IMPORTANCE OF FATHERS IN CHILDREN'S LIVES: OUTCOMES, EVIDENCE AND RIGHTS INTO PRACTICE

9:00 am – 2:00 pm, Thursday 12 February 2015
The Canada Room, Queen's University Belfast



Both fathers and mothers play a significant role in providing good outcomes for children and young people. The best outcomes are achieved when there is co-operation between parents, irrespective of whether the parents are themselves in a relationship with each other.

The specific role and importance of fathers in children and young people's lives is a neglected area. There is a growing realisation in a practice context of the importance of fathers in children's lives with regard to their outcomes. However, the evidence is still largely anecdotal and much more systematic and rigorous research is required. Furthermore, there is arguably a void with regard to specific government policy supporting fathers in making a positive contribution to improving their children's outcomes.

This half day seminar, with a range of invited speakers, will be of interest to academics, practitioners and policy makers. It will provide an opportunity to: develop a common understanding of the issues; co-ordinate the work of interested stakeholders; and discuss how to integrate outcomes, evidence and children's rights into current practice.

Registration: This is a free, open event, though space is limited. To secure your place, please contact David Piekaar, Improving Children's Lives administrator: d.piekaar@qub.ac.uk.

Parenting NI is a leading organisation, which has been supporting parents in Northern Ireland since 1979. The focus is on prevention and early intervention, and the organisation has a reputation for delivering high quality services.

Family Mediation NI is an early intervention charity, providing a child focussed mediation service for over 10 years to separated parents to reduce the numbers entering the court system with the aim of facilitating agreement on future co-parenting. FMNI is a family mediator training provider.

Men's Health Forum in Ireland (MHFI) is a diverse network of individuals and organisations, men and women, which seeks to promote all aspects of the health and well-being of men and boys on the island of Ireland through research, training, networking, practical initiatives and advocacy.

Improving Children's Lives is an interdisciplinary network of leading researchers within QUB who work with children and young people. ICL supports both research and educational activities promoting children's services which are: rights based; evidence informed; and outcomes focused.

