

Hidden issues in rural social work and communities



rural social work virtual conference
THURSDAY 9TH MAY



PROGRAMME

09:30–09:35	Welcome and housekeeping	Kerry Musselbrook
09:35–09:50	‘Hidden issues’ in rural social work and communities: making these seen	Jane Pye & Colin Turbett
09:50–10:05	Understanding child poverty in rural and island Scotland	Jane Atterton
10:05–10:20	Out of sight, out of mind: the lasting impact of historic and ongoing discrimination of Gypsy Traveller communities and what can be done	Roseanna McPhee
10:20–10:40	Q&A	
10:40–10:55	Protecting rural young people from sexual abuse and exploitation	Sarah Nelson
10:55–11:10	Domestic violence and abuse in same sex women’s relationships	Vik Kelly-Teare
11:10–11:30	Q&A	
11:30–11:45	Break	
11:45–12:00	Older people in rural communities: challenging notions of inevitable decline and highlighting the importance of place	Becky Squires
12:00–12:15	Making sure rural social worker’s voices are heard	Ben Farrugia
12:15–12:35	Q&A	
12:35–12:45	Close and thanks	

HIDDEN ISSUES IN RURAL SOCIAL WORK AND COMMUNITIES

This online conference will explore hidden issues and injustices in rural communities and the role of rural social workers.

It aims to challenge prevailing myths and stereotypes, and make these more visible in thinking about policy and practice. In doing so it will celebrate what is good about rural social work practice, while not shying away from challenges for the future.

Kerry Musselbrook from Iriss will be your Chair for the day.

SCOTTISH RURAL SOCIAL WORK FORUM

The conference has been developed by the Scottish Rural Social Work Forum. The partners who put together the programme and who support its webinar series include Iriss (Chair), Scottish Association of Social Work (SASW), University of the West of Scotland, Lancaster University and University of the Highlands and Islands, along with representation from Argyll & Bute, Dumfries and Galloway, Highland, Orkney and the Western Isles, in addition to the Social Work Education Partnership hosted by Social Work Scotland. Follow the Forum on X(Twitter) @ScotsRuralSW.

'HIDDEN ISSUES' IN RURAL SOCIAL WORK: EXPLORING STIGMA, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY

JANE PYE & COLIN TURBETT

Jane and Colin's keynote will look at the theme of the conference – *hidden issues* – and introduce how the contributions to their edited book explore *stigma, environment and community* as matters that make rural social work different and challenging – but worthy of celebration.



 @JanePye



 @ctur282388

BIOGRAPHIES

Jane Pye and Colin Turbett have collaborated regularly in recent years in promoting rural social work and the community social work models that they contend underlay the concept. Jane is a lecturer in social work at Lancaster University, and Colin is a retired social worker, author, and member of the Common Weal Care Reform Group. They have co-edited the new book *Rural Social Work Practice in the UK — Themes and Challenges for the Future*.

UNDERSTANDING CHILD POVERTY IN RURAL AND ISLAND SCOTLAND

JANE ATTERTON

Jane will summarise recent research carried out for the Scottish Government to explore existing evidence about child poverty in rural and island communities and to examine existing interventions to tackle the causes of, and support those experiencing, child poverty in these communities. We found some key gaps in the evidence base, particularly at sub-local authority level, about child poverty which hamper the ability of organisations to respond, for example, relating to welfare eligibility and take-up, the higher cost of living in rural and island locations and the ‘lived experience’ of those families experiencing poverty. Based on our review of existing interventions, we proposed a series of recommendations for Scottish Government and other stakeholders.



 @RuralPolicySRUC

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Jane Atterton is a Senior Lecturer in the Rural Policy Centre at SRUC (Scotland’s Rural College). She has been researching rural issues for over 20 years, with a particular focus on rural community change (including demographic change, poverty and exclusion and connectivity), rural businesses and how they operate, and rural proofing and rural policy. Jane has undertaken work for the European Commission, the UK and Scottish Governments, local authorities and enterprise companies and a number of third and community sector organisations.

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND: THE LASTING IMPACT OF HISTORIC AND ONGOING DISCRIMINATION OF GYPSY TRAVELLER COMMUNITIES AND WHAT CAN BE DONE

ROSEANNA McPHEE

Roseanna will talk about what is known as the Tinker Experiment and the impact of historical and ongoing discrimination and degradation that Gypsy Travellers face. She will highlight how this affects the life chances of Gypsy Travellers and what she thinks needs to be done to address the legacy of historic wrongs and current issues, with real leadership and strong allies needed to uphold human rights.



BIOGRAPHY

Roseanna McPhee is a Scottish Gypsy Traveller and grew up in the first and last Tinker Experiment site at Bobbin Mill, Perthshire where she still resides. She has an honours degree in Celtic Studies/English, a PGCE and postgraduate diploma in Television Studies. She has also completed training in human rights in Strasbourg and is a voluntary advocate for members of her community. She was involved in the landmark legal ruling which established ethnic minority status for Gypsy Travellers in the case of K.MacLennan v. GTEIP.

Roseanna has served for eight years on the Adequate Standard of Living Working Party and Lived Experience Leadership Group in work with the SHRC. She is a committee member of RAJPOT and member of the St. Andrews University Tinker Experiment Research Scrutiny Panel and Advisory Board Member of their Third Generation Project.

PROTECTING RURAL YOUNG PEOPLE FROM SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

SARAH NELSON

I consider risks of CSA and CSE for young people in rural and remote areas, contending that difficulties are greater than in urban settings. I then propose some ways in which challenges can be addressed, and the inherent strengths of rural and remote areas harnessed and increased. The neighbourhood mapping for children's safety schema of Sarah Nelson and Norma Baldwin, the contextual safeguarding principles pioneered by Carlene Firmin, and existing best-practice against CSE, 'county lines' and domestic abuse can all play valuable parts. Provision cannot be based on known demand, but rather on need established through proactive investigation.



BIOGRAPHY

Dr Sarah Nelson OBE (CRFR, University of Edinburgh) has written and presented widely for decades on sexual abuse issues. Her research and publications include the voices of young survivors, critiques of child protection systems, community prevention, social work's role, organised abuse, media representations of abuse cases, and survivors' experiences of mental and physical health services. She has been a professional adviser to the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament. Her publications include *Tackling Child Sexual Abuse: Radical approaches to prevention, protection and support* (Policy Press (2016)); and 'ACES and adults: the missing role of sexual abuse', *Scottish Affairs*, 29, 4 (2020).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE IN SAME SEX WOMEN'S RELATIONSHIPS

VIK KELLY-TEARE

Domestic Abuse is most commonly spoken of as a heterosexual issue and as such it remains hidden within the lesbian community both from the inside and the outside. In the era following civil partnership and same sex marriage legislation, it may be logical to assume that speaking out about abuse would be easier, however this is not the case. Vik will present on learning drawn from research on the hidden nature of domestic abuse in same sex relationships between women, identity abuse, and lessons that can be learnt from it that are helpful for practice.



 @TeareVik

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Vik Kelly-Teare is Associate Dean of Health, Social Care and Life Sciences at UHI. Vik has worked in academia for nearly two decades as a course leader and head of social care and social work. Before entering academia, Vik was a social worker in practice holding roles in children's and family social work, youth justice, and older people's teams. Vik's research interests lie in domestic violence and abuse, feminism, gender and sexuality. Vik has been involved in training professionals around domestic abuse in hard-to-reach communities such as the LGBT community for several years.

OLDER PEOPLE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES: CHALLENGING NOTIONS OF INEVITABLE DECLINE AND HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF PLACE

BECKY SQUIRES

This talk will explore the prevailing stereotypes surrounding older people who have care and support needs. Ageism essentialises older people into passive recipients of service provision, and social workers have a critical role in remaining rights-based and challenging this narrative. Person-centred practice with older people in rural communities must explore the importance of place in sustaining many older people's wellbeing, reciprocal relationships and sense of self. Maintaining older people's place in rural communities needs resources in place and brave social work to build capacity and challenge assumptions that nothing but the inevitable can be done.



BIOGRAPHY

Becky Squires is Principal Social Worker for Adults with Westmorland and Furness Council, Cumbria. She also lectures in Social Work with Adults at Lancaster University. She has written on rural social work with older people, social pedagogy and social work with adults, and mental capacity and intimacy.

MAKING SURE RURAL SOCIAL WORKER'S VOICES ARE HEARD

BEN FARRUGIA

Ben will cover the future of NSWA what is already happening and what options are still in discussion. He will speak about how the rural Social Work perspective and needs are included in planning for future Social Work delivery in communities.



 @socworkscot

BIOGRAPHY

Ben Farrugia has been the Director of Social Work Scotland since October 2018, and a member since 2014. Prior to his current role, Ben was part of the senior management team at CELCIS (Scotland's Centre for excellence for children's care and protection) at the University of Strathclyde, responsible for the organisation's research, policy and consultancy offer. He has worked for the Scottish Government (looked after children team) and in Westminster (on children's services and regional economic development).



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