

# Responding to Domestic Violence & Abuse in Ireland, North & South

**Thursday 29 February 2024**

Fairways Hotel, Dundalk

## PARALLEL SESSIONS INFORMATION

Session One: 11:45am–12.45pm

Session Two: 2:30pm–3:30pm

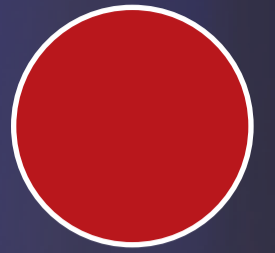


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# Working with Children

(Blackrock Suite 3)

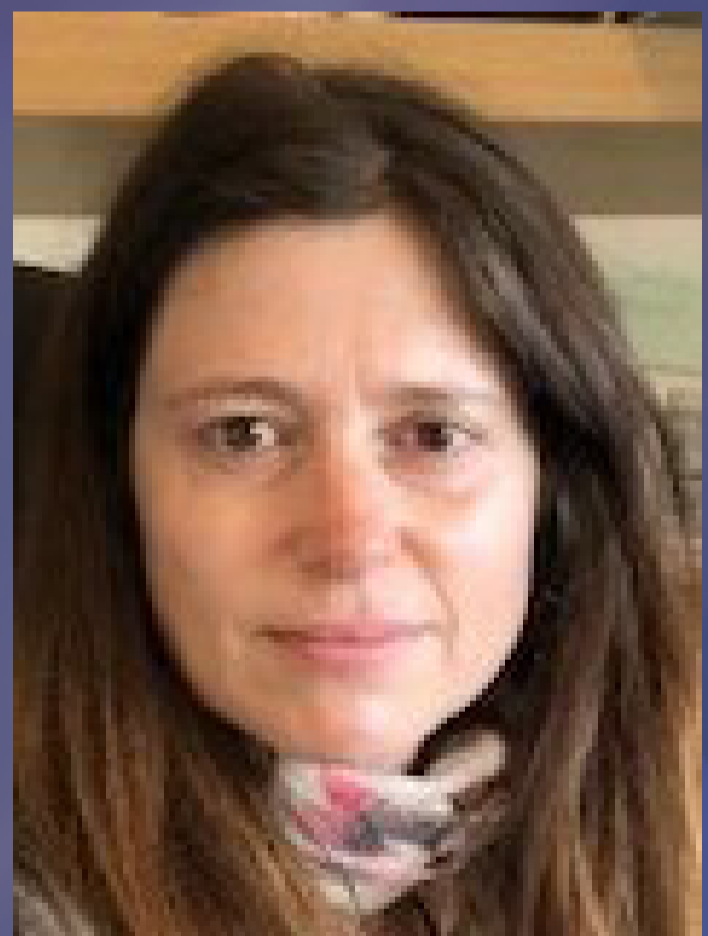


## Áine Costello

National Coordinator for the Barnardos Ireland  
National Childhood Domestic Abuse Project

### *Childhood Domestic Violence & Abuse— What children say*

Áine Costello is National Coordinator of Barnardos' National Childhood Domestic Abuse Project. Áine has been working in the area of social care for the past 22 years and with Barnardos for the last 16 years in both family support capacity and as coordinator for the TLC Kidz programme, working exclusively with children and mothers who have experienced domestic violence. She took on the role of National Coordinator 5 years ago, and has been working towards increasing the visibility of childhood domestic abuse and to support a collective and collaborative approach to identifying the needs of children.



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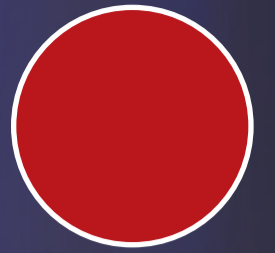


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# Working with Children

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## Erin Jobb

Safeguarding Manager, Barnardos Northern Ireland

*Assessing the risk of harm to children experiencing domestic abuse: An introduction to Barnardo's Northern Ireland's Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment for Children (DARAC) Framework*

Erin is the Safeguarding Manager for Barnardo's NI. Originally from Canada, she qualified in Social Work in 1999 and has worked for Barnardo's NI for the past 21 years in various services and roles. She has significant experience working with children and families experiencing domestic abuse including assessment, intervention and support. She trains both internal staff and multi-agency partners in Barnardo's NI Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment for Children framework.



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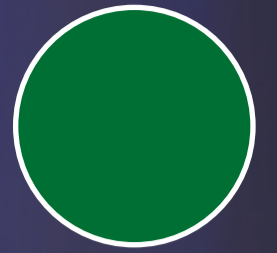


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# Adult safeguarding

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## Dr Lorna Montgomery

Reader in Social Work, Queen's University,  
Belfast

### *Adult Safeguarding: The Northern Ireland Context*

Prior to taking up post in Queen's, Lorna practiced as a social worker/ social work trainer within the adult sector for 20 years, primarily within the area of mental health and adult safeguarding. She has also worked for 5 years in a NGO in Uganda, East Africa. Her academic interests have focused on specific aspects of adult sector social work. Her teaching and research include work on adult safeguarding, mental health, parenting, and cross-cultural practice. She has a particular interest in the influence of deprivation and poverty on adult safeguarding and also on developing tools to support social workers in their practice.



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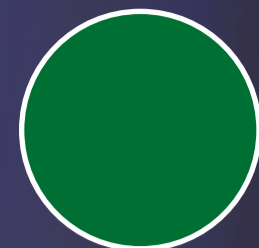


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# Adult safeguarding

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## Amanda Casey

Principal Social Worker, Adult Safeguarding  
and Assisted Decision Making Ireland East  
Hospital Group

### *Social Work Practice—A Balancing Act throughout the Life Course*

Amanda joined the Ireland East Hospital Group in June 2023 as Principal Social Worker for Adult Safeguarding and Assisted Decision Making. Prior to this, Amanda spent 24 years in medical social work at the Mater Hospital. She has a strong interest in human rights based practice and person centred care and is passionate about the opportunities that the ADM Capacity Act creates for patients and healthcare staff to work collaboratively. Amanda sits on the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee of Safeguarding Ireland and is currently co-investigator on a research project looking at Attitudes and Awareness to Adult Safeguarding Practice in Acute Hospitals.



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# Working with People who use abusive / violent behaviour

(Carlingford Suite 2)



## Dr Declan Coogan

Lecturer in Social Work, Research Fellow with the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, University of Galway. University of Galway

### *Ending Fear and Finding Fun in Families after Child to Parent Violence and Abuse*

Declan Coogan, PhD is a CORU registered social worker with a practice background in CAMHS, child protection and welfare services and in psychotherapy. An FTAI registered psychotherapist, Declan works at the University of Galway as a lecturer in Social Work and a Research Fellow with the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre.

Declan focuses on child to parent abuse / violence and facilitates training for practitioners on Non-Violent Resistance as a response to this abusive / violent behaviour. Committed to working closely with clients, practitioners and researchers, Declan co-authored an NVR Parents/ Carers Handbook for Parentline. He is a member of the NVR Ireland network of practitioners and researchers.



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# Working with People who use abusive / violent behaviour (Carlingford Suite 2)



## Ruth McKelvey

Area Manager, Probation Board for Northern Ireland

### *PBNI (Probation Board Northern Ireland)— Our work with perpetrators*

Ruth qualified as a Social Worker from the University of Ulster Magee in 1997. After qualifying she worked with Extern West as an Early Years project coordinator, then with Down Lisburn Trust and the Western Trust as a family and child care social worker. Ruth has been employed by PBNI for 21 years, the past 8 of which she has been an Area Manager managing a rural team and an ISU team and has held the position of Assistant Director of Programmes.



Currently she is an Area Manager in the ISU North West Team with responsibility, amongst other duties, for Chairing Public Protection Panel meetings and assisting with housing issues in relation to PBNI Approved Accommodation.

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# Women affected by violence

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## Sonya McMullan

Regional Services Manager for Women's Aid Federation NI

*'Hear Our Voice' How women & children impacted by domestic abuse experience social and justice systems in NI*

Sonya is the Regional Services Manager for Women's Aid Federation NI and has worked for Women's Aid for over 25 years in various roles including managing Helpline service until 2019.

Sonya has a background in law and a keen interest in legal issues in relation to domestic and sexual abuse and has completed several pieces of research in this area. She has contributed to Killean, R., Dowds, E. and McAlinden, A.M. eds., 2021. Sexual violence on trial: Local

and comparative perspectives and Bettinson and McQuigg, 2023 Criminalising Coercive Control, Challenges for the Implementation of Northern Ireland's Domestic Abuse Offence.



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# Women affected by violence

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## Grainne McHugh

Regional Champion for the Women's Aid Federation NI, See Hear Act Project

*'Hear Our Voice' How women & children impacted by domestic abuse experience social and justice systems in NI*

Grainne is the Regional Champion for the Women's Aid Federation NI, See Hear Act Project. The project supports local Women's Aid services across NI to implement a trauma and evidence informed response. It also supports practitioners within the fields of Education, Health, Social Care and Justice to understand the needs and experiences of children in relation to domestic abuse.

Grainne has a keen interest in children's experience of adversity and trauma.

She has a BA in Childhood Studies, a PG Dip in Person Centred Counselling, and

a MA in Psychoanalytical Observation Studies. Prior to her current role, she managed family support services within Action for Children and Sure Start.



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# Women affected by violence

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## Lavina Temple

Signs of Safety Practice Lead, Tusla

*Shifting our practice with mothers who are living with domestic violence & coercive control*

Lavina is a Social Worker who is currently in role as a Practice Lead for Signs of Safety in Tusla since implementation of the approach in 2017. With 17 years of experience working in the child protection and welfare services, Lavina has significant experience of assessment, safety planning and practitioner supervision where families are living with domestic violence and coercive control.

Over the past 18 months Lavina's practice has focused on supporting frontline social work teams to become more domestic violence informed in their practice, particularly in analysis of child protection concerns and safety planning.



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# Collaborative practice

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## CEO of Cuan, the Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency

### *Collaboration and Co-Design*

Cuan, the statutory agency dedicated to tackling and reducing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and to supporting victims and survivors, was established on 1 January 2024, realising a key priority in Zero Tolerance, our national DSGBV strategy.

The new CEO of Cuan will discuss how collaboration and co-design helped to identify and develop the agency's functions and organisational design and will be embedded in Cuan's ways of working.



## CUAN

An Ghníomhaireacht um Fhoréigean Baile,  
Gnéasach agus Inscnebhunaithe

The Domestic, Sexual and  
Gender-Based Violence Agency

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# Collaborative practice

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## James Draper

Designated Officer for Child Protection  
Support Service, Education Authority

*Policing & Education in Partnership—Delivering  
Operation Encompass in Northern Ireland*

James is a social worker with expertise in statutory children's services. He currently works as a Designated Officer for Child Protection for the Education Authority's Child Protection Support Service. His role includes provision of guidance for frontline workers, risk assessment, staff training, and policy development. He is the EA's lead for the development and roll out of Operation Encompass in NI.

Operation Encompass is an early intervention partnership between Police and Schools aimed at supporting child victims of domestic abuse. James graduated with a BSW (QUB) in 2010 and obtained his MSc (UU) in 2019.



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# Collaborative practice

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## Sergeant Ryan Duffy

Police Service of Northern Ireland

### *Policing & Education in Partnership—Delivering Operation Encompass in Northern Ireland*

Ryan has been a Police Officer for 25 years and has broad experience in Policing, particularly Detective roles, within Serious Crime namely 'Child Abuse' and 'Rape Crime Unit'. Ryan returned to uniform duties in 2015 in Response and Neighbourhood Policing. Ryan currently works in Newry, Mourne and Down as Supervisor in the Multi Agency Support Hub.

Ryan was involved in the initial Operation Encompass Pilot in September 2021 in Newry, Mourne and Down, and has been instrumental in its implementation across all Police Districts in Northern Ireland in conjunction with Public Protection Branch colleagues.



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