Childrens Research Network for Ireland and Northern Ireland

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Project Manager
Childrens Research Network for Ireland and Northern Ireland

• An inclusive, independent, non-profit network that works to support the research community in Ireland and Northern Ireland to better understand and improve the lives of children and young people

• Integrated into CES in 2015 – retains identity as membership led research network

• 300+ members in Ireland and Northern Ireland from academia, policy & practice

• Network Committee of membership leaders, chaired by Dr Liam O’Hare, QUB

• Special Interest Groups, e.g. Early Childhood Research Group

• Sub-Committees e.g. Activities Committee
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The Network seeks to

• build bridges between researchers in different sectors of this research community
• develop structures and mechanisms to promote the sharing of information, joint learning, joint working and better understanding across the different sectors
• link more and less experienced researchers
• develop a range of membership services that support researchers in this field to build better technical skills
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Contributes to research working through:

• Training, e.g. in SPSS, MaxQDA

• PhD Symposium

• Seminars, e.g. ‘Using Research to Improve Practice’

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Dissemination through:

• Children’s Research Digest (peer reviewed)

• Early Childhood Research Bulletin

• Mailings on events, jobs, news, etc.

• Website: www.childrensresearchnetwork.org
  (A new Website is being developed and will be launched shortly)
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• The major current contribution to what works research is the Atlantic Philanthropies funded Prevention and Early Intervention - Research Initiative (PEI – RI)

• Concerns the data collected through the evaluations of 52 Atlantic funded Prevention and Early Intervention Initiative (PEII) services and programmes run by about 20 partner and community groups and organisations in Northern Ireland and Ireland between 2004 and 2014

• Estimated that 90,000 children and young people, 24,000 parents and carers and 4,000 professionals were involved in the PEII programmes
Aims of the PEI – RI are to:

• Build upon and add value to the initial PEI investments in order to promote the use, exploration and learning from the data collected through the evaluations

• Support capacity building on PEI research in Ireland and Northern Ireland

• Benefit policy makers, service organisations, practitioners and researchers

The data and knowledge that can be generated from the collected data represent a key national and international resource
The PEI – Research Initiative is preparing for further data analysis and knowledge generation through:

- Agreeing on archiving with the organisations that are data owners
- Gathering the data sets from the evaluators
- Preparing the data sets for archiving through cleaning and anonymising
- Archiving the data sets in two of three national archives:
  - UK Data Archive (University of Essex) and
  - Irish Qualitative Data Archive (Maynooth University) for qualitative data
  - Irish Social Science Data Archive (UCD) for quantitative data
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PEI Research Grants

• To researchers in organisations or the university sector
• Will enable researchers to carry out mining and secondary analysis of archived data, but will not be available for research involving new data collected through field studies
• Will facilitate less experienced researchers to work on their PhD or in a post doctoral fellowship
• Will also facilitate more experienced researchers to carry out research alongside their work or instead of some work
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Senior Scholar Grants

• These grants will enable a small number of experienced academic scholars to carry out further mining, exposition and analysis of archived data and to combine multiple data sets through meta-analysis and to potentially make major national or international contributions through their research
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How the Network and its activities contributes to improving outcomes:

• Connects academics and other researchers with practitioners and this can support using research evidence in practice

• Research outcomes, learning and resulting knowledge shared through events and the Digest

• Some events will share knowledge on how the research evidence has or can improve practice

• Training sessions can improve specific skills of researchers and contribute to effective research and skills
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Network can contribute to improving outcomes through the PEI-RI:

• The data collected and archived through the Research Initiative will provide a key national and international resource that may be used to improve services and practices and therefore outcomes for children, young people and their families and communities.

• The secondary analysis and meta-analysis of the archived data may produce further evidence that can contribute to practices in prevention and early intervention services and in services for older children and young people.
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The **sustainability** of the Network is a current priority for the Network Committee and the staff team, as well as for CES.

Aideen Ward is working on this as a consultant. She is here today and will consultation through completion of the one page form that you have already received.

If you undertake this as a member or non-member this will assist our plan for sustainability.

Thank You
Consider becoming a member of the Network

You can consult today

With Network Committee members:

- Liam O’Hare
- Alison Montgomery
- Laura McQuade

With Team members:

- Marian O’Dea
- Ruth Geraghty
- Maja Haals Brosnan
- David Kenefick
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