



**Complex needs,
human rights and
social justice –
inaugural lecture**



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Queen's University Belfast

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Overview of the presentation

- Inaugural lecture – Praxis Chair of Social Care
- The role of research in social care
- The importance of human rights in social care
- The need for involvement and effective implementation
- Priorities for the future

The role of research in social care

- “It is perfectly possible for the good-hearted, well-meaning, reasonably clever, appropriately qualified, hard-working staff, employing the most promising contemporary approaches available to them, to make no difference at all to (or even on occasion to worsen) the condition of those whom they seek to assist” (Sheldon and Macdonald, 2008, p. 66)
- First experience of research as part of social work course
- Experiences of people who were detained by the police under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983
- Most aspects of social care continue to be relatively under-researched

The role of research in social care

- First role post-qualifying, in 1995, as a support worker for Praxis Care
- 1995-1998 CMHT in Newtownabbey (Pat Potter and Ciaran Mulholland)
- 1998-2003 Continuing Care Project Manager in Holywell Hospital
- 2003-2008 Community Outreach, PhD and Rehabilitation
- 2008 moved to Queen's as a Lecturer in Social Work
- 2013 Senior Lecturer in Social Work
- 2018 appointed as the first Praxis Chair of Social Care
- Plans for inaugural initially pre-Covid

The role of research in social care

- Continuing Care Project in Holywell Hospital
- Wing and Brown (1961, 1970) had established the negative impact of institutionalization, desinstitutionalisation process since 1960s
- DHSS (1997) *Health and wellbeing into the next millennium*:
- “By 1998 Boards should assess the needs of their populations and determine the future requirements for specialist hospital services for people with a mental illness. The strategic goal should be that long-term, institutional care should no longer be provided in traditional psychiatric hospital environments” (paragraph 11.4)

The role of research in social care

- Continuing Care referred to everyone who had been in hospital for over a year – at that time 116 people (from 1-55 years)
- Over the next three years 62 moved to community settings (including to some new services), 15 died and there were also 36 additions
- Key role of research (especially Opening New Doors) including needs assessment and challenging some perspectives (people mainly viewed family as most important and where they grew up as home)
- Key learning about the need for involvement
- Identified need for intensive support for some people to prevent the need for hospital care

The role of research in social care

- Proposals for new service developments (crisis service, assertive outreach and early intervention)
- Broadening Horizons Bursary with Ciaran Shannon
- Appointed as a team leader for one of the new outreach teams
- Opportunity, through the R&D Division's Doctoral Fellowship Scheme to research the new teams compared to standard CMHT support – supervised by Jim Campbell
- Statistically significant impact in terms of hospital use but not other outcomes
- High use of coercion across teams
- Important role of trauma regardless of the service model



The role of research in social care

- Important to help inform change
- Can be difficult to design due the complexity of issues and interventions
- It may be necessary but is not sufficient to achieve change
- Report on Ely Hospital (1969)
- Key ongoing role for Praxis in facilitating ongoing process of deinstitutionalisation and social inclusion – Active Support
- Important to also have a rights based framework for decision making

The importance of human rights in social care

- Trained as an Approved Social Worker in 1999
- NIHRC report in 2003 – Connecting mental health and human rights
- Role of stigma and discrimination
- Importance of equity and social justice
- Bamford Review
- Reference Group for the development and implementation of the Mental Capacity Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

CONNECTING
MENTAL HEALTH & HUMAN RIGHTS

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The importance of human rights in social care

- One legal framework for all
- Central role for supported decision making
- Development of training for partial implementation and for the role of the IMCA
- Next steps could be full implementation – Praxis has an opportunity to be an exemplar
- Further considerations may involve economic, social and cultural rights to further promote social inclusion



The need for involvement and effective implementation

- Support of SLT and Board
- Research Department and wider networks
- Partnership with Queen's - Chair
- The role of peer/co-researchers
- Getting involved in research - co-produced course
- Support for staff led projects and PhDs
- Strategies for more effective and accessible dissemination
- Role of champions
- Research into Practice Group



The need for involvement and effective implementation

- Praxis primary research studies
- Supported Decision Making; Physical Activity; Getting Our Voices Heard; Green and Blue Spaces; Workforce
- PhD projects including Trauma-informed care; supported housing; best interests; implementation of PBS; VR intervention for ASD and social anxiety
- Service evaluations
- Cork transitions; SPELL training; Co-production of course for peer researchers; Kaleidoscope
- Evidence reviews and synthesis – key findings

The need for involvement and effective implementation

- Physical design – important role of involvement
- Learning disability – possible introduction of Active Support
- Mental health – further development of the recovery approach
- Autism – SPELL (Structure, Positive approaches and expectations, Empathy, Low arousal, Links) Framework
- Potential of new technology (especially for social inclusion)
- Benefits of co-production – peer researchers
- Possibility of an integrated approach (Positive Behaviour Support, Active Support, SPELL, the recovery approach, Good Lives Model)
- The importance and challenges of implementation

Priorities for the future

- Scoping reviews to inform children's services, the use of technology and the further development of peer support work (Health Service Executive)
- Learning organisations in social care
- Change management models
- Active support project application
- Using research evidence to inform service development and improve outcomes for service users and carers.

SEARCH RESULTS
The PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) flow diagram (Figure 1) presents the main stages of the scoping review.

Figure 1. PRISMA Flow Diagram

