

Centre for Effective Services

NEWSLETTER NO 2

July 2008

Following the decision of the Irish Government and Atlantic Philanthropies to co-finance the Centre for Effective Services¹, the Chairman and Board are delighted to announce the appointment of **Dr Deborah Ghate** as Director of the Centre. Mr Dan Flinter, Chairman of the Board said, "We are delighted that Deborah has accepted our invitation to become the first Director of the Centre. She will bring her deep experience as an applied researcher as well as her proven skills as a manager and leader to the position". The next immediate tasks will be the recruitment of the first cohort of staff; engagement with potential clients of the Centre; and the development of an active dialogue with stakeholders.

Our Role

The role of the Centre for Effective Services Ltd (CES) is to make available technical and organisational expertise to client organisations that offer support to children and families at community level. CES will fill an internationally recognised gap by connecting the design and implementation of children's services with scientific and technical knowledge of what works.

New Director

Dr Deborah Ghate has been carrying out applied social policy research and evaluation with children, young people and their parents for twenty years. Her work has been widely used by policy makers, service planners and front line practitioners in the UK and elsewhere in Europe. She is the author of a number of major publications on parenting, family support and children's services. Some recent publications include a large scale study of the support needs and experiences of parents in poor communities across Great Britain, a study of how fathers access family support services, and a series of reviews of the international research evidence on

¹ The background to the establishment of the Centre was set out in the first Newsletter published in March 2008. See www.effectiveservices.org

“what works” in parenting support. She also has considerable first-hand experience of designing and implementing evaluations of community-based family support interventions. These have included a national support programme for parents of children in the youth justice system, and the national evaluation of a multi-dimensional early intervention programme known as “*On Track*”, operating in 24 high crime, deprived areas in the UK.

Between 1998 and 2007, Dr Ghate was Co-Founder and Director of the Policy Research Bureau, an independent research centre based in London and specialising in applied policy research on children, young people and their families. In 2007 she joined the Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London, as Principal Research Officer.

Deborah will take up her position at CES in September 2008.

Recruitment of Staff

In addition to the appointment of the Director, CES is currently in the process of recruiting an initial staff of up to seven persons. In addition to a number of support posts, we are seeking research or practice specialists with a strong interest in evidence-based services and multi-disciplinary approaches to achieving better outcomes for children and families. We are also interested in hearing from those with experience in organisational development in the human services.

Office Accommodation

The Centre has now established initial office accommodation for the team in the National College of Ireland in IFSC, Dublin.

Web Site

A web site for the Centre is accessible at www.effectiveservices.org

Contacting Us

You can contact us at information@effectiveservices.org.