Curriculum Vitae

Name: Sinéad Hegarty

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Education:

University of Ulster, 2004: MSc Social Work

University of Ulster, 2001: Post graduate diploma Social Work, (CCETSW)

North East London Polytechnic, (now UEL), 1990, BSc (Hons) Psychology.

Skills: Experienced in:

Trauma Informed Practice and working in a Trauma Informed Workplace; Therapeutic Recovery Work with Children and Young People who have experienced CSA/E, and their parents; Understanding of trauma, including sexual abuse trauma and its impact; Development, delivery and review of training and therapeutic programmes relating to trauma, child sexual abuse, safeguarding, healthy relationships, consent, sexual violence; Completion of comprehensive, evidence-based assessments of therapeutic need, victim impact reports, court reports, parent capacity assessments and fostering assessments. Risk assessment; Working complex cases, and making informed and difficult decisions; Multi-disciplinary working; Change management and conflict resolution; Team building and development; Staff training; Training of Partner Agencies; Supervision; Networking and development of referral pathways. I have been media trained and have some experience in same.

Additional skills: I have excellent communication skills, both written and verbal. My written reports are lucid and meticulous, with the child as the focus. I am experienced in Microsoft Office including excel. I am conversant with both the Children Order NI and Children First Legislation, have completed my Children First Training, and refer to these in all aspects of my work, ensuring that my all aspects of my work are in line with relevant legislation.

Registration and Membership: I am registered with CORU and NISCC; a member of IASW and NAGALRO, as well as Action Trauma and AOCPP and an Associate of the Irish Child and Family Institute.

I am also a CPD accredited trainer.

Employment:

Ongoing: Completion of: Parenting Assessments as directed by Local Authorities in NI and England, undertaken throughout Ireland; and Court Reports as directed by Irish State Claims Agency, and also Private Cases

September- December 2024, and Currently: Consultant Facilitator with Donegal Rape Crisis Centre: Co-developing and delivering, with RCC Staff, a training programme on Sexual Violence Awareness, Consent and Healthy Relationships to young people and also migrants living in the Donegal area.This was a time limited contract for a Pilot Project.

November 2023- April 2025: Council of Europe: Part of a Team developing a Trauma-informed training course for the multi-agency team of Barnahus Ireland.

I also, on behalf of the Council of Europe, worked on Mapping Therapeutic Services in Ireland for children and young people following Child Sexual Abuse, to identify the availability and accessibility of such services within the Statutory, Voluntary and Private Sector in the Republic of Ireland.

July 23- Present: Independent Assessor of an Independent Therapeutic Residential Home for Children: Completing a monthly assessment of the facilities and operation of the residential unit as required by RQIA. I also delivered part of the Home's induction training.

Nov 2021-present: Independent Therapeutic Social Worker: delivering therapeutic recovery work to children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse, and also their parents/carers and siblings. In addition, I offer consultancy to professionals working complex cases.

As a CPD Accredited Trainer, I offer remote learning and training to professionals working in the areas of Trauma, CSA/E Trauma and working with families following disclosure of abuse.

Completion of therapeutic court reports, including parenting capacity assessments and foster carer assessments, as well as reports involving complex cases.

October 2018 - November 2021: Service Manager NSPCC: My role and responsibilities included: f the running of the Foyle NSPCC Service Centre, and, for a period of time, the Belfast Service Centre; Responsibility for ensuring the delivery of high quality therapeutic services for children and families who had experienced Child Sexual Abuse, or Domestic Abuse; Staff development in the programmes, ensuring that their training was up to date and in line with best practice; Chairing recruitment panels and ensuring induction programmes were completed; Compliance with policies, standards and procedures; I chaired meetings at senior managerial level within the organisation and also Multi-Agency Meetings. Recruitment and professional development of a new Social Work Manager; supervision on a formal and ad hoc basis; Working with the Senior Management Team in the administration and moderation of the annual performance review process, and on strategic development; Initiation of disciplinary procedures as appropriate; I was a member of regional and national fora within the organisation; externally I sat on the Belfast and Western Health

and Social Care Trusts Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland regional panels and the Domestic and Sexual Violence Multi Agency Partnerships; Negotiation and review of the service level agreement with Western Health and Social Care Trust; working with the communications team to promote the services of NSPCC; I also worked with the Western Domestic and Sexual Violence Panel on campaigns for Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Week; I co-developed and delivered training to partner agencies. While in post, I supported the team through two significant periods of change, during which I negotiated the transition to a dual-located site, ensuring that both services had equal priority and developed a supportive working environment within the site. I also drafted and submitted a counter-proposal resulting in a reversal of the decision to close NSPCC Foyle Service Centre.

January 2011 – October 2018: Social Work Team Manager NSPCC: I was involved in/ had responsibility for:

Programme development, and training of staff in same; ensuring the delivery of high quality programmes for children and families who had experienced CSA, Domestic Abuse, or parental alcohol/substance misuse; preparation of files for court; attendance at area multi-agency fora in relation to Domestic and Sexual Abuse including Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences; assessing risk and implementing organisational procedures as appropriate; support and professional development of staff; allocation of cases and management of caseloads; training needs analyses; supervision both formal and ad hoc; file audits; monthly and quarterly reports and returns; performance reviews; performance improvement plans; supporting staff in the application of theory to practice and evidencing same; recruitment and staff induction; participation in management fora at service centre, regional and national levels; participation in development groups for new services; completion of Implementation Plans for new services; liaison with partner agencies; negotiating and developing referral pathways; development and delivery of training programmes for staff, voluntary and statutory organisations and community groups. I was involved in the development of programmes including the ‘Fed Up’ programme for children living with parental alcohol and substance misuse and the ‘Letting the Future In’ programme, which is a therapeutic recovery programme for children who have experienced child sexual abuse. I also managed the DART programme for mothers and children moving on from domestic abuse, and the Caring Dads programme, a positive parenting programme for fathers who had perpetrated domestic abuse.

November 2004 – January 2011: Social Work Practitioner NSPCC: Assessment of therapeutic need, delivery and review of tailored therapeutic programmes to children and young people following child sexual abuse. Completion of risk assessments, reports for, and attendance at, Child Protection Case Conferences and contributing to Child Protection Safety Plans. I also developed and delivered a training programme for Foster Carers in relation to understanding child sexual abuse and caring for children who had experienced CSA and other forms of abuse. From 2009-2010 I was co-ordinator of the Stop it Now! Programme which aims to prevent Child Sexual Abuse. Within this I worked closely with the Lucy Faithful Foundation and developed and delivered training programmes to Statutory and Voluntary Groups in relation to the prevention of child sexual abuse.

March 1994 – October 2004: Education Welfare Officer: Supporting parents in meeting their responsibilities in ensuring their children received an education. Working in partnership with families, schools and relevant professionals to identify obstacles preventing children achieving their potential and work to resolve them. I implemented Multi-Agency Support Teams in the schools I had responsibility for. Attendance at Court and provision of Court Reports. Attendance at Child Protection Case Conferences and contributing to decision making and Child Protection Safety Plans.