

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Conference

Thursday 26 February 2009
Worcester Rugby Football Club

Programme

FASD Conference

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9.30am	Arrival Coffee and pastries
10.00am	Welcome Worcestershire County Council
10.05am	Every Child Valued? The Challenge of Children with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Professor Barry Carpenter <i>Fellow at the University of Oxford</i>
10.20am	DVD (Introduced by Professor Barry Carpenter)
10.45am	Binge Britain Professor Moira Plant <i>Professor of Alcohol Studies, University of the West of England, Bristol and Director of the Health and Alcohol Research Trust</i>
11.30am	Coffee
12.00pm	The Worcestershire Early Years Project Teresa Whitehurst <i>Research and Development Officer, Sunfield Research Institute</i> Carolyn Blackburn <i>Research Assistant, FASD Project, Sunfield Research Institute</i>
1.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Living with a child with FASD Gloria Armistead <i>Parent and founder/volunteer of FASawareUK</i>
2.30pm	Diagnosis and Characteristics of FASD Dr. Raja Mukherjee <i>Consultant Psychiatrist, Surrey and Borders NHS Trust</i>
3.15pm	A School Perspective on FASD Celia Dawson <i>Headteacher of Cricket Green School, Surrey, a school for children with diverse learning needs</i>
3.45pm	Summary Susan Fleisher <i>Executive Director, NOFAS-UK</i>
4.00pm	Close of day Professor Barry Carpenter

Speaker biographies

Professor Barry Carpenter

Professor Barry Carpenter is a Fellow at the University of Oxford, where his research focuses on the education of children with FASD. He is Honorary Professor of Early Childhood Intervention at the University of Worcester. He is a trustee of NOFAS (National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome).

Professor Carpenter has been instrumental in both initiating the idea of the Worcestershire FASD project and in supporting its progress. He has fully supported the development of further work streams including this national conference.

Professor Moira Plant

Professor Moira Plant has worked in the 'alcohol field' as a therapist and researcher since 1970. She has published widely and is a regular broadcaster on issues related to alcohol consumption and its effects. She was chair of the expert working group on drinking and pregnancy of the International Life Sciences Institute and has for many years served as an advisor to the World Health Organisation. In 1998 she was elected as President of the International Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol. She is Senior Research Consultant to the Addiction Research Institute in the Netherlands. Moira is currently co-ordinating the UK part of a major collaborative study on gender and alcohol.

Moira's main areas of interest and expertise are women and alcohol, drinking in pregnancy and alcohol-related foetal harm.

Moira's publications include: 'Women, Drinking and Pregnancy', 'Risk takers: Alcohol, Drugs, Sex and Youth' and 'Women and Alcohol: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives'.

Teresa Whitehurst

Teresa Whitehurst has been Research and Development Officer at Sunfield for five years. She has a BSc Honours Degree in Psychology, postgraduate research qualifications and has undertaken a range of research projects prior to joining Sunfield, primarily evaluating services for vulnerable populations. She is currently studying for a Masters degree in Neuroscience. Teresa's role focuses on developing and sustaining a dynamic and productive research culture within the school in addition to conducting focused research projects. Research projects are determined by a child-centred, family focussed approach utilising a range of emancipatory/participatory methodologies. Teresa is responsible for direct supervision of a pool of research assistants engaged on a range of research projects within the organisation. She has written and co-authored a number of publications and played an active role in the dissemination of research findings at regional, national and international level.

Speaker biographies (continued)

Carolyn Blackburn

Carolyn was recruited to the Building Bridges with Understanding project in order to work with early years practitioners across Worcestershire with a view to establishing best practice in supporting young children with FASD. Carolyn was previously employed by Worcestershire Pre-school Learning Alliance in a role that encompassed providing advice and support to early years staff and practical and emotional support to families. She has worked in early years settings across Worcestershire in a support and management capacity and has also worked in a local authority reception class supporting children on the autistic spectrum, as well as children with complex communication needs and general learning difficulties. She has also co-tutored short courses for early years practitioners and is now Chair of the Voluntary Management Committee for Worcestershire Pre-school Learning Alliance. Previous research experience includes a project looking at what advice/support parents need when their child is first diagnosed with a disability. She has a BA Honours Degree in Social Sciences and a Diploma in Pre-school Practice.

Dr Raja Mukherjee

Dr Raja Mukherjee is a Consultant Psychiatrist for people with learning disabilities at Surrey and Borders Partnership Trust. He has a lifespan interest and expertise in neurodevelopmental conditions such as autism and ADHD. His interest specifically in FASD started five years ago. The discovery that there was very little UK work into FASD led him to begin to research, teach and publish as well as see patients with FASD clinically. Dr Mukherjee has given evidence on FASD to the Department of Health, House of Lords and is a member of the NOFAS-UK medical advisory panel. He has spoken at over 20 national, regional and international conferences on the subject of FASD. Dr Mukherjee has published numerous articles in peer reviewed journals and lay press about FASD as well as appearing on numerous TV programmes on the subject. Dr Mukherjee is currently one of the few people in the UK specialising in children and adults with FASD, offering tertiary advice and support in order to raise the profile of the condition in the UK.

Celia Dawson

Celia Dawson has worked in the field of special education for over 25 years, primarily in special schools. She is currently Headteacher of Cricket Green School, a school for children with diverse learning needs aged between 5 to 16 years. Her main focus has always been on supporting young people with challenging behaviour and furthering the inclusion agenda. Her school also offers outreach support to mainstream colleagues.

Susan Fleisher

Executive Director, Founder of NOFAS-UK, member of the Alcohol Health Alliance, Royal College of Physicians, the Department of Health Advisory Group on Foetal Effects of Alcohol, reviewer of the FASD Systematic Review, founder of the International FASD Medical Advisory Panel and member of the Advisory Committee for the International Conference on FASD Research: Integrating Policy and Practice Around the World. Former television producer and secondary school teacher. Adoptive mother of a 20 year old daughter with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

To the best of our knowledge all information was correct at the time of printing: December 2008