

# Centre for Effective Services (CES)

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*Who we are and what we do*

**Dearbhaile Slane**

Project Specialist

[www.effectiveservices.org](http://www.effectiveservices.org)



# Who are we?

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## Dearbhaile Slane

- Project Specialist at CES
- Previously a Social Worker in Statutory Family and Childcare and Childline services
- Recent Work:
  - Evaluation of RNIB & Guide Dogs NI 'Our Futures' project
  - Implementation support to the Social Care Council to help implement the Social Work Leadership Framework



## Dr. Alison Montgomery

- Senior Project Specialist at CES
- Previous experience in academic and parliamentary research and policy analysis across education, social development and issues impacting children and young people. Recent Work:
  - Evaluation of STAR (Supporting Traveller and Roma Students to participate in education)
  - Evaluation of School Counselling Pilot Project



# About CES

CES is a not for profit, all island organisation.

CES aims to improve the lives of people living in Ireland and Northern Ireland by supporting the implementation of excellent public services through evidence informed policy and practice.

CES works with government departments and service providers to design, develop, implement and evaluate public policies and services.



# Peer Research – what is it?



A participatory methodology



Involves people with lived experience of an issue in designing, conducting, analysing and/or disseminating the research.



Service users can be involved in service evaluations as peer or co-researchers.



# Evaluation examples involving peer research

- Fostering Attainment and Achievement Project (The Fostering Network)
- Independent Guardian Service (Barnardo's)
- Supporting Traveller and Roma communities in Education (STAR) - evaluation of the pilot
- The Our Futures project (RNIB & Guide Dogs NI)
- Young care leavers career and education journeys (DCEDIY)



# Our work with the Social Care Council



Evidence review



Supporting the use of  
evidence and evaluation in  
the SCC



Building capacity for  
implementation



Implementation support  
for the social work  
leadership framework



# THE NORTHERN IRELAND REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES — **REPORT** — PROFESSOR RAY JONES



## CES supported the review of children's social care services in NI by Professor Ray Jones

The CES team undertook a comparison of children's social care services' data in NI with other UK countries and the Republic of Ireland.

The research highlighted the challenges of comparing datasets across countries however the report noted that the '*emerging similarities and differences between the countries and in trends over time are worthy of reflection*' (p.81)



# Research into the impact of financial hardship on separated parents for Parenting Focus

SOLUS Research Summary

[Solus-Research-Summary.pdf](#)

SOLUS Full Research Report

[SOLUS Research Report.pdf](#)





# Reaching Out, Support Families Programme



For Policy.  
For Practice.  
For Impact.

[www.effectiveservices.org](http://www.effectiveservices.org)



[Good family support in the community and voluntary sector](#)

[Partnership working in the community and voluntary sector](#)

[The Power of Trust and Relationship in Implementation](#)

Capturing the Learning from the  
Reaching Out, Supporting Families Programme

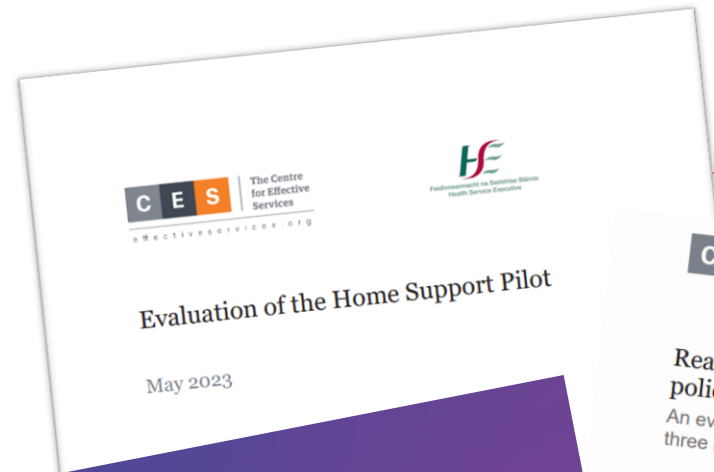
*Good family support in the community and voluntary sector*

August 2021





# STABLE LIVES SAFER STREETS NORTH/SOUTH RESEARCH HUB



## What is EPPI?

EPPI aims to develop evidence-using and evidence-informed practitioners in Tusla by increasing the knowledge levels and confidence of staff and improving the consistency and quality of practice across the Agency

# Evaluating impact Training

C E S

The Centre  
for Effective  
Services

## Programme Outline

### Module 1: Understanding the Essentials of Evaluation

- Outcomes & Outputs: what are they and why do they matter?
- Theory of Change: how do you know that your activities are achieving the outcome you expect?
- Indicators: how do you know it is working?

### Module 2: The Nuts & Bolts of Evaluation

- What to evaluate at different stages of your work.
- Data gathering methods.
- Qualitative and quantitative evaluation: choosing the right method for the situation.
- Developing an evaluation plan.

### Module 3: Telling your Evaluation Story

- What to do with your data: collating, coding, theming and analysing data.
- Using quantitative data to tell the story of your numbers.
- Reporting: framing your story for different audiences.

We can also provide a tailored training course on evaluation for your organisation.  
Contact us if you would like to find out more.

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