

# E-Male Matters

October 2011

The newsletter of the Men's Health Forum in Ireland

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## News

### Men and Reproduction - A Call for Conference Abstracts

Internationally, many societies are experiencing a cultural transformation in the role of fathers, and an increased expectation of men's involvement in family life - from reproductive planning to equal parenting. This momentum is being 'pushed' by government policies which are based on the perceived economic, health and well-being benefits of fathers' involvement in children's lives. In academic research, the application of Critical Studies of Men and Masculinities to the sociology of human reproduction also provides an impetus for the conceptualisation of reproduction in inter-relational terms - rather than as 'women's difficulty'. The [Second ISA Forum of Sociology](#) (which will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> August 2012) is calling for papers which will critically explore men's involvement within the reproduction / parenting arena. Abstracts are invited for papers which might focus upon, for example: fertility / infertility; pregnancy and abortion; adoption; childbirth preparation; experiences of pre-natal ultrasounds; assisted reproductive technologies; miscarriage; gay men's desire to have a child; HIV and reproduction; sperm donors; the politics of reproduction ... Abstracts must be submitted via the ISA website ([www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012](http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012)) by 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011. For more information, contact Maria Lohan, Queen's University Belfast, at Email: [m.lohan@qub.ac.uk](mailto:m.lohan@qub.ac.uk)

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### Disrupting Alzheimer's Project

The "Disrupting Alzheimer's Project" has just launched a documentary which explores their innovative approach to challenging this degenerative disease. The project is coordinated by Christy Fleming (also a member of 'Men Alone in No-Man's Land' based in Dublin), and it

developed out of his concern to offer practical help to his brother, Pat, when he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease a few years ago. The documentary looks at the methods adopted by this initiative. More detail can be found online at: [www.thegenieexperience.com/disrupting\\_alzheimers\\_project\\_proposal](http://www.thegenieexperience.com/disrupting_alzheimers_project_proposal) or by contacting Christy at Tel: 086 1045197 or Email: [christyf1@eircom.net](mailto:christyf1@eircom.net)

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## Events

### Launch of "Providing Meaningful Care" Report

You are invited to the launch of a research report on suicide titled "Providing Meaningful Care: using the experiences of young suicidal men to inform mental health care services". This research was undertaken in both the Belfast and the Southern Health and Social Care Trust areas by a team which included researchers from [Queen's University Belfast](#) and the [University of Ulster](#). The overarching aim of this study was to obtain a comprehensive understanding of suicidal behaviour amongst men aged 16-34 years, in order to underpin the provision of accessible, acceptable, and appropriate mental health services for this age group. The evidence from the research highlights the importance of implementing a package of measures. These include Northern Ireland-wide, population-level public health measures, which are directed at reducing the stigma and discrimination associated with suicidal behaviour and help-seeking. The Launch will take place at Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim, on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011, from 9.30am - 11.50am. Registrations are on a first-come-first-served basis, and the closing date is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011. Contact Cara McClure at Email: [cara.mcclure@hscni.net](mailto:cara.mcclure@hscni.net) to book a place.

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### International Men's Day - Giving Boys the Best Possible Start in Life

Men and women from more than 50 countries are calling on people around the world to unite and focus on "[Giving Boys the Best Possible Start in Life](#)" in the run up to [International Men's Day](#) (Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2011). Organisers are promising the biggest boys' weekend ever seen, as the worldwide observance of International Men's Day shares a 48 hour partnership with Universal Children's Day (Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011), and is endorsed by the United Nations. This event asks people around the world to focus on five key challenges that boys experience in the areas of health, education, family life, violence, and life choices, and to develop local solutions to the global problems that young men face.

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### 17th Annual Regional Sexual Health Conference

This year's event will bring together a wide range of experts who will present up-to-date research and activities from throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland. The conference will include both keynote presentations and interactive workshops, and will focus upon Sex and the Media; Children's Rights in Relation to RSE; Young People and Grooming; Resilience; Sexual Health and STI Update; Children and HIV. The conference will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011, in Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim. For further details, Tel: 028 9090 0051 or Email: [shealth.team@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:shealth.team@belfasttrust.hscni.net)

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## Safefood Events

[Safefood](#) is hosting two events over the coming months: (1) “Food on a low income: what is people’s real life experience?” (Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011, in Belfast, from 10.00am - 1.30pm) - a new Safefood funded research project which explored the ‘why’ behind the statistics around poverty and food will be launched at this event. This research sought to investigate the everyday experiences of food among people in four household types i.e. families with children, single men, older people and lone parents. (2) “Counting up the Pounds - The economic cost of obesity” (Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011, in Dublin, from 10.15am - 2.30pm) - this event will focus on the economic cost of obesity, and will be hosted by the All-island Obesity Action Forum, supported by Safefood and the HRB Centre for Health and Diet. This meeting is for Forum members only. For further information on these events, Email: [obesityforum@safefood.eu](mailto:obesityforum@safefood.eu)

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## Training

### Suicidology Courses at Queen’s University Belfast

A series of courses related to the scientific study of suicide (suicidology) is being offered during the next academic year in the Open Learning Programme of the School of Education at [Queen’s University Belfast](#) (QUB). In most cultures, death by suicide is predominantly a male occurrence - particularly affecting both younger and older men. A special invitation to participate is, therefore, extended to men, but everyone is welcome to register for these practical courses. Each course offers participants the opportunity to reflect upon, and develop further insights into, human suicidal behaviour. The next scheduled courses in suicidology are: “An Introduction to Suicidology” (20 session / 40 hour course during the Autumn 2011 and Winter 2012 semesters); “Suicidology - Further Studies” (10 session / 20 hour course, available in Autumn 2011 - for those with a good basic knowledge of the principles of suicidology); “Researching Suicide” (5 sessions / 10 hour course scheduled for Spring 2012). The course tutor, Philip O’Keeffe, is an experienced counsellor, supervisor, tutor and researcher. Further information and application forms are available on the QUB website at: [www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofEducation/OpenLearning](http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofEducation/OpenLearning) or Tel 02890 973323.

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### Male Volunteers Needed for Parents Helpline

Based in Belfast city centre, [Parenting NI Helpline](#) volunteers make a significant difference to the lives of families. It is not only a rewarding way to help others, but it also brings benefits such as gaining a qualification, learning valuable new skills, and meeting new people.

[Parenting NI](#) is working in partnership with the [Man Matters](#) project to encourage more men to consider volunteering in this role. So, if you have substantial parenting experience and/or significant experience of working with families - and are ready for a new challenge - why not train to be a Parents Helpline volunteer? The Preparation Training Course will take place on Tuesdays 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011, from 10.00am to 3.00pm, in Belfast. For more information, contact Andrea on Tel: 028 9031 0969 or Email:

[volunteer@parentshelpline.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@parentshelpline.org.uk) Alternatively, visit [www.parentingni.org/volunteering](http://www.parentingni.org/volunteering) for more details.

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### **MoneyActive - Citizens Advice Free Money Management Training**

MoneyActive, an innovative programme developed by Citizens Advice and funded by Nationwide Building Society, is providing a free three hour information session on money management for staff and volunteers. This course is designed to increase participants' confidence and ability to engage with their service users on financial capability topics. By the end of this session, participants will be able to: list some common banking problems and identify strategies for dealing with them; identify the advantages of budgeting and saving; identify the pros and cons of different types of credit; distinguish between priority and non-priority debts; recognise how their attitudes and assumptions about money could affect how they engage with service users; offer support with next steps (including effective referral for advice); identify strategies and skills to engage service users. The session will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011, from 10.00am to 1.00pm, in Volunteer Now, Shaftesbury Square, Belfast. Demand for this session is expected to be high and places are limited. Spaces will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. For further information, contact: Nichola MacDougall, at Tel: 028 90262525 or Email: [MacDougallN@citizensadvice.co.uk](mailto:MacDougallN@citizensadvice.co.uk)

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### **Self Harm and Alcohol - The Intoxicated Client: Keeping them Safe**

[Causeway Rural and Urban Network](#) (CRUN) is offering a one day skills based training course which will increase awareness of the links between self-harm and intoxication. This will take place in Cushendall, Co. Antrim, on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011, from 9.30am - 4.30pm. This training is directed specifically to people who work directly with vulnerable individuals (including youth and community workers, community mental health practitioners, sports coaches, church leaders, teachers, GPs, pharmacists, pub owners, suicide prevention officers ...) and to practitioners from the Cushendall / Moyle areas in Co. Antrim. For further information, or to register for a place, contact: Geraldine Wills at Tel: 028 7034 4934 or Email: [geraldine@crun.org](mailto:geraldine@crun.org)

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## Research

### **European Commission Publishes “State of Men’s Health in Europe” Report**

The much-anticipated “[State of Men’s Health in Europe](#)” Report (*large PDF file*) has been published by the European Commission. This report highlights that the health of European men is a serious concern, and draws upon data from the 27 European Union countries plus Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Lichenstein, Croatia, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Dr Noel Richardson, Chairperson of the [Men’s Health Forum in Ireland](#), was a member of the team (led by Professor Alan White of the [Men’s Health Forum in England and Wales](#)) which produced this document. The report shows that every year twice as many men of working age (16-64 years) die compared to women; with 630,000 male and 300,000 female deaths across the EU27 countries in this age group. Men’s Health Fora across Europe are, subsequently, calling for this group of men to be explicitly targeted.

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### **Research on the Road - Free Training Seminars**

Increasingly, funders and social policy makers are looking for reliable evidence before they fund a project or implement policies or strategies. As public sector funding cuts begin to bite - and the economic situation of the voluntary and community sector becomes more volatile - it is vital that organisations provide solid evidence of their effectiveness and value.

“Research on the Road” is a half-day event which includes both a ‘rough guide’ to research methods, and a ‘surgery’ where future or on-going projects can be discussed. The seminars will take place in Omagh Community House (Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011) and in Ballybot House, Newry (Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2011), from 10.00am - 1.00pm on each day. These free events are being facilitated by [ARK](#) and [NICVA](#) and are part of the ‘[Festival of Social Science](#)’. Places are free, but must be booked in advance with Cathy Breslin in NICVA at Tel: 028 9087 7777 or Email: [cathy.breslin@nicva.org](mailto:cathy.breslin@nicva.org) Spaces will be limited to one person per organisation, and are for voluntary and community organisations only. Further details can be found on the [ARK Events page](#)

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## Web Links

### Men’s Issues on the Web ...

[Men’s health is no laughing matter](#)

[Bowel cancer screening must improve men’s uptake to reduce unnecessary deaths](#)

[Coffee may reduce risk of lethal prostate cancer](#)

[Blue September in Ireland](#)

[Football could give homeless men a health kick](#)

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## Next Edition

The next edition of E-Male Matters will be released in November 2011. Do you know of anything (research, events, resources, news etc.) affecting men and boys which should be included in it? There’s a simple template for all articles. Let us know (within 150 words) all the crucial details e.g. title, date, time, venue, short description, contact details for further information (name, telephone and/or email address), and web link (if available) for a fuller explanation. To keep the file size of this newsletter small, we cannot, unfortunately, accept photographs or images. Please email your information to: [emalematters@mhfi.org](mailto:emalematters@mhfi.org) The submission deadline for the November edition is Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

“E-Male Matters” is also available online at: [www.mhfi.org/about-e-male-matters.html](http://www.mhfi.org/about-e-male-matters.html)

The views expressed in E-Male Matters are not, necessarily, those of the Men’s Health Forum in Ireland

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