

IFCW WorldForum 2008
'Early Intervention and Prevention'
29th September- 1st October 2008
Cardiff, Wales, UK



Conference Report

Introduction

IFCW WorldForum 2008 was co-hosted by Children in Wales and took place in Cardiff, Wales, UK between the 29th September and 1st October 2008 on the theme of 'Early Intervention and Prevention'. Almost 300 delegates attended from over 30 different countries across the globe.

Keynote Address by Rhodri Morgan, First Minister, Welsh Assembly Government

The WorldForum 2008 opening address was given by Rhodri Morgan, First Minister for Wales who spoke of the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to tackling child poverty and its importance in relation to early Intervention and Prevention.



The Minister for Children, education, Lifelong Learning & Skills, Welsh Assembly Government also gave an address at the conference and spoke of the way in which the Welsh Assembly Government policies for children and young people are based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).



Plenary Sessions

Plenary speakers at WorldForum 2008 came from 8 different countries and gave a real flavour and insight into the work that is being undertaken all over the world in relation to early intervention and prevention.



Professor Jaap Doek

Emeritus Professor of Law (Family and Juvenile Law) at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam & Chair, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2001 – 2007)



Gerison Lansdown

Vice-Chair of UNICEF -UK and co-director of CRED –PRO

"How to intervene: The significance of the evolving capacities of children in the realisation of their rights"



Professor David Hawker

Director of Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Welsh Assembly Government



Razia Ismail

India Alliance for Child Rights, India

"Intervention for Integration: Issues of Identity"



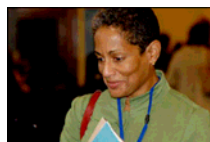
Coleen Clare

Chief Executive, Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, Australia



Professor Tom Arnkil

Stakes, National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, Finland



Christine James Brown

President and Chief Executive Officer of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)

Dr Alison Kemp

Clinical Reader, Child Health, School of Medicine, Cardiff University

"Welsh Child Protection Child Protection Systematic Review Group: Translating the evidence into practice"

Young People at WorldForum 2008



Young people from Wales, Cyprus, Hungary and Germany came together to take part in a 6-day young people's programme which ran alongside WorldForum 2008. The programme was interlinked with WorldForum 2008 with young people playing a key role. Having opened the conference on the Monday they then set to work on preparing a presentation for three Children's Commissioners/Ombudsmen from Greece, Wales and the Province of British Columbia, highlighting some key issues for children and young people across Europe.



George Moschos

Ombudsman for Children's Rights, Greece

"Promoting school democracy as a means to prevent school violence and pupils' alienation: The role of Children's Ombudspersons"



Keith Towler

Children's Commissioner for Wales

"Key Children's Rights issues in Wales & UNCRC reporting"



Martin Wright

Office of the Representative for Children and Youth, Province of British Columbia

Break-out Session Presentations and Posters

Over the course of the three days almost one hundred presentations were made to delegates on a range of themes including:

- Children's rights
- Bullying/school violence
- Parenting/Family support
- Health visiting
- Evaluating parenting programmes
- Childcare
- Child protection
- Domestic abuse
- Education of looked after children
- Paediatric services
- Play
- Youth Justice
- Literacy
- Citizenship
- Child Accident prevention
- Screening
- Foster care
- Families
- Substance misuse
- Sexual health
- Poverty /social exclusion
- Community capacity building
- Young Carers
- Disabled children and young people
- Mental health/emotional health

Site Visits

Delegates were offered the opportunity to go on site visits in and around the Cardiff area which demonstrated the innovative work in early intervention and prevention being undertaken by projects in Wales. These included:

- Caerphilly Children's Centre
- Barnardos Cymru Marlborough Road Project
- St Mellons Family Centre (Child and Parent Support Team)
- Tros Gynnal Family Circle
- Barnardos Cymru Neville Street Project
- Carmarthenshire Dragon Bus

Action for Children- Gweithredu Dros Blant Sponsored Lunch

Action for Children- Gweithredu Dros Blant kindly sponsored a lunch during one day of WorldForum 2008. Having recently changed their name it provided the perfect opportunity to let people know and to explain a little about their work to an international audience.



Exhibitors

A number of organisations (from Wales and beyond) displayed their work at WorldForum 2008 by having an exhibition stand in the lower hall where delegates networked during lunch and refreshment breaks.



Social Activities

A social activity was arranged for each evening of the conference to provide delegates with an opportunity to network and also to see some of the sites of interest in Cardiff.

The Lord Mayor of Cardiff hosted a reception at Cardiff Castle on the first evening and children from Ysgol Melin Gruffydd came along to perform and to welcome delegates to Cardiff.



The conference dinner was held on the second evening where Professor Jaap Doek was presented with the IFCW's Distinguished Service award. Delegates were also treated to a performance by Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmbbran.



The final evening saw delegates heading to the Senedd (The National Assembly for Wales) for a reception by the Presiding Officer, Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas.

Conference Declaration

A conference declaration has been produced (below) to which delegates have been asked to comment and sign up. If you have not yet signed up to the declaration, you can do so by downloading it from www.worldforum2008.org and returning it along with your comments to worldforum2008@childreninwales.org.uk

We, over 280 participants of the 19th WorldForum 2008 from more than 30 countries call upon our Governments to:

•FULLY COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: To sign up to and ratify the Convention if they have not already done so, to withdraw any reservations to the Convention, and to educate children and young people in their rights under the Convention.

•PLACE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF SOCIETY: to listen to them and respect their views and to involve them in designing policies and programs and in monitoring their effectiveness.

•DEVELOP SERVICES APPROPRIATE TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: To intervene in their lives at the earliest possible opportunity in order that children and young people may achieve their fullest development and social integration.

•PREVENT ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: To safeguard their rights to education, to shelter them against exploitation at work, and to protect them against physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect, within the family and in the world outside.

•ENSURE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: To eradicate poverty and other forms of deprivation, to provide support to all those made vulnerable by the lack of parental care, and to ensure that no child or young person is discriminated against by reason of race, national origin, religion, culture, age, language, gender, sexuality, disability, and political circumstance.