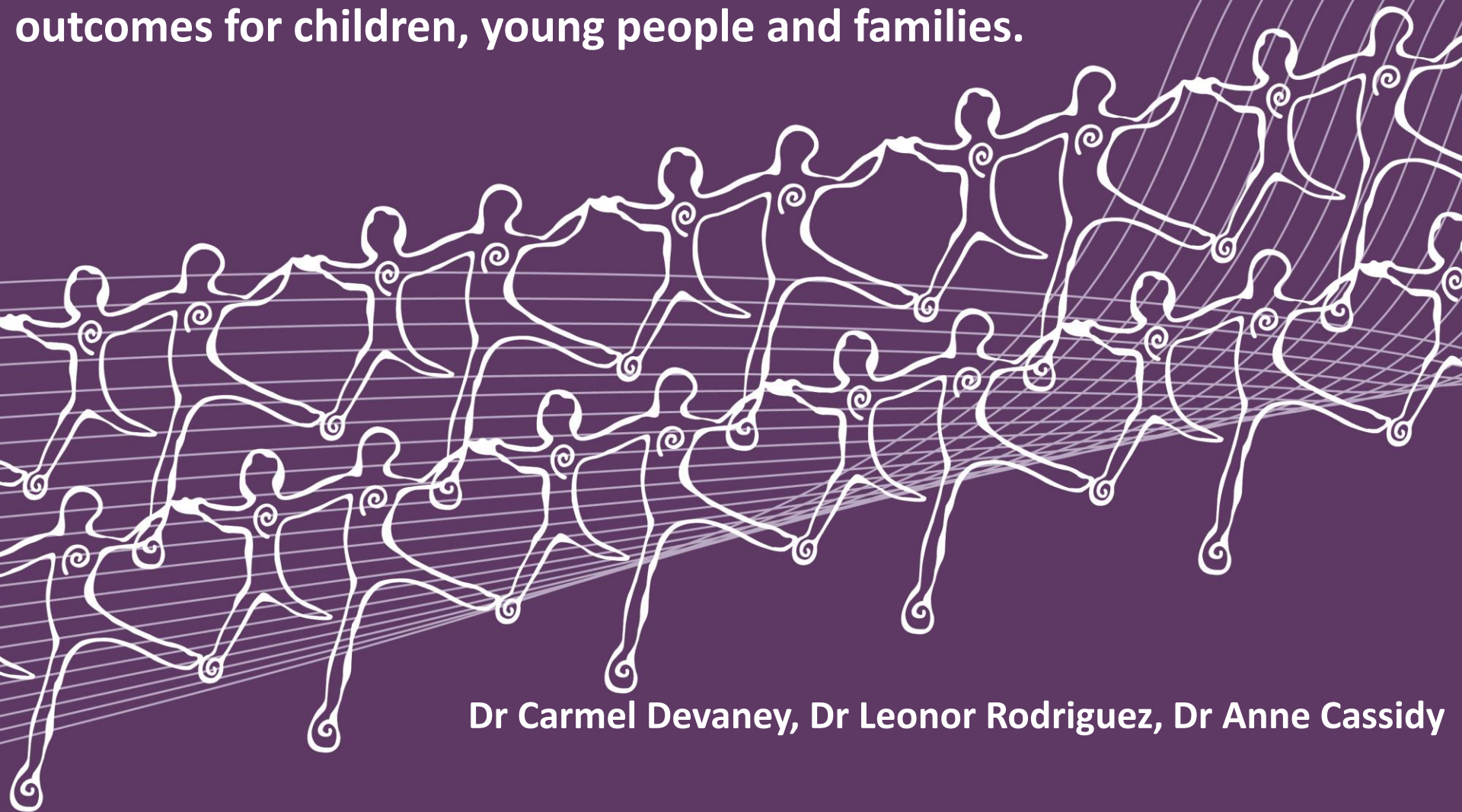
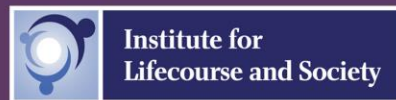
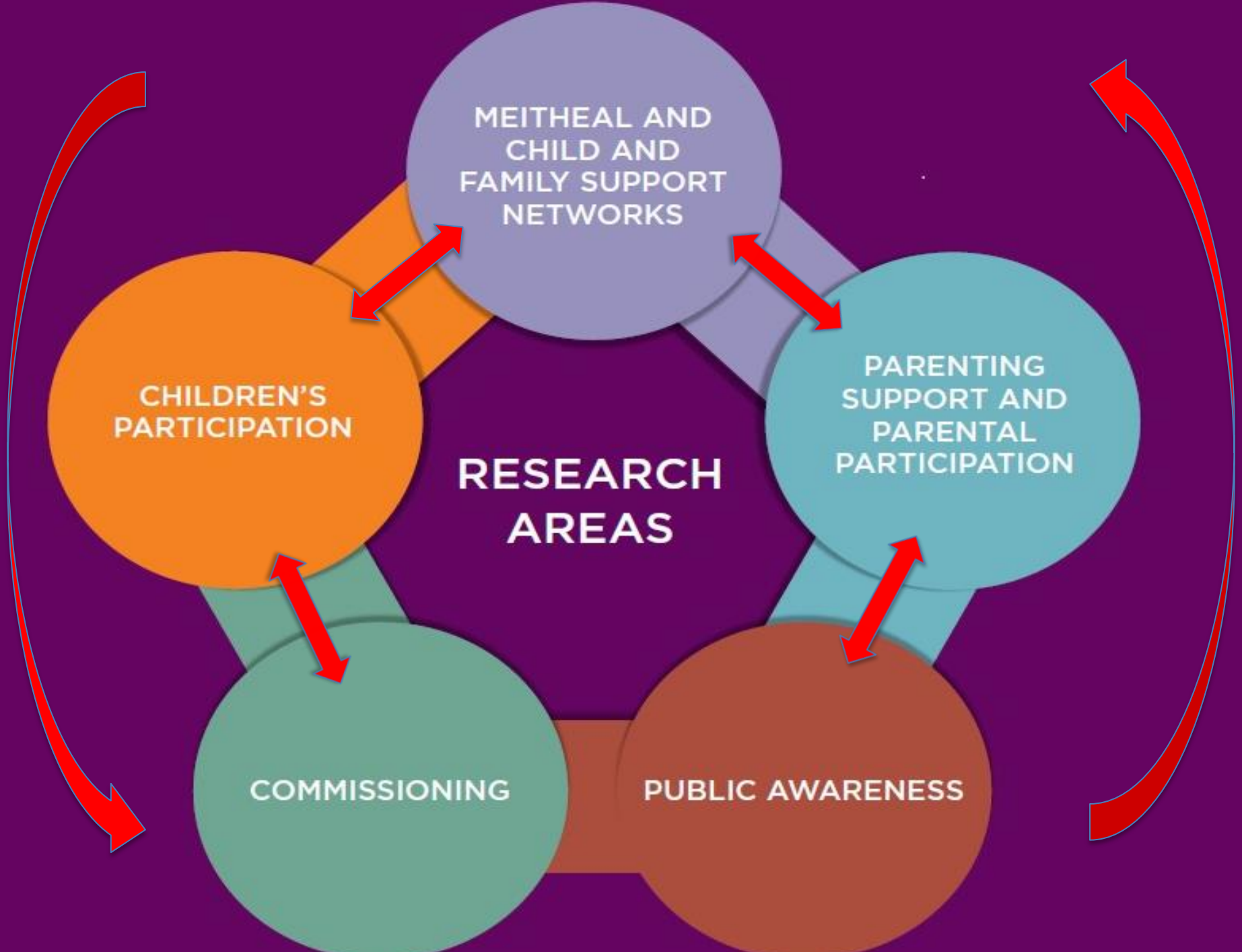


Preliminary Findings of the Meitheal Model on outcomes for children, young people and families.



Dr Carmel Devaney, Dr Leonor Rodriguez, Dr Anne Cassidy





Meitheal Process and Outcomes Study (2017 – 2018)

Provide

Provide a detailed understanding of the provision of family support through Meitheal nationwide including the perspectives of children, young people, families and practitioners.

Ascertain and describe

Ascertain and describe the impact of Meitheal in the context of the Irish child welfare system.

Determine

Determine the mediating and/or moderating effects of implementation and fidelity on the Meitheal outcomes and process.

Exploratory, Longitudinal, Mixed methods (Interim Report ... end May 2017)

Qualitative	Quantitative
Total: 41 18 families 10 children and young people 19 parents/guardians 12 Lead practitioners	Total: 40 children/ young people 35 families 41 parents/ guardians 25 Lead practitioners

Quantitative

Children/ young people:

Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

My Star

Youth Star

Parents/ guardians:

General Health Questionnaire (GHQ)

Family Outcomes Star

Lead Practitioner:

Meitheal Fidelity Checklist.

Secondary Data Analysis:

Tusla Integrated Performance and Activity Data (2014-2017)

Qualitative

Semi-structured interviews:

Parents/ guardians

Children/ young people

Lead Practitioners

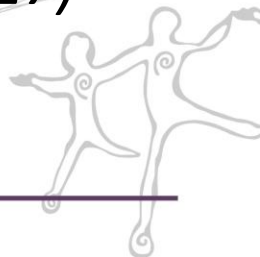
Thematic Analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2006)

Overall Experience of Meitheal

- Positive - access to support and services.
- Meitheal is empowering and non-judgemental.
- Trust and hope
- Lead Practitioners - positive attitudes
- Children and young people voices harder to capture

“You have to do it to see how it works but it does work, once you get that first step and get going, it does work then” (P5)

“I don't see any drawbacks at the moment , I really don't. I was very apprehensive but it is working out well...” (LP17)



Making a positive difference...

“My child is using his own little skills. So it’s definitely changing the dynamics in the house

(Parent)

“Myself and my child are attending counselling at the minute, but myself, I’m bringing the tools in that they give me in the counselling, bringing the tools and their ideas and using them in certain situations at home” (Parent)



Making a positive difference...

“I was struggling at school and I’m getting better at school. I’m a bit more focused now in school as well. At home; I’m after getting a lot of help at home. I’m after getting; I don’t know whether it’s counselling or what, but it’s something. [...] I feel much more; like I don’t feel like I’m going to blow a gasket and mill it now, like; if someone annoys me, I’m not going to blow. I’ll try to walk away, and sometimes I’ll stay there but I feel much better and more relaxed, like”

(Young Person)



Common goal... joint working....

“I do think that there is something very powerful about bringing those agencies together and those groups of people together, each having their own strand and bringing that together. That’s how change can happen”

(Lead Practitioner)



Common goal... joint working....

“Everything works out better than going in separate directions, and that makes a difference. I didn’t feel threatened or nothing. I went with it, like what am I going to lose. Nothing. I am going to gain, go for it”

(Young Person)



Common goal... joint working....

I can only see it bringing different sectors closer together. With all of our defensiveness, our egos, our need to appear a certain way, we are only people trying to do the best that we can for the children that we are talking about

(Child Protection Social Worker)



A continuum of service provision...

I feel it is actually a very good programme because it is early intervention. If the support is given that the child needs at least or hopefully they will catch it in time, it has not gone to another level.

(Lead Practitioner)



Shared responsibility....

One of the key things I see with Meitheal is that clearly the responsibility is not just with the child protection department, it is a sharing that responsibility out to all the other services that acknowledge that we do have a key role to play within the lives of these children by becoming part of this process

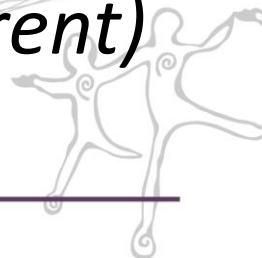
(Educational Welfare Officer)



Relationship with practitioner is central...

“It’s just given me more tips and to know that there’s somebody there that you can go to and be able to talk to rather than getting a practitioner that you can’t relate to. Like we can relate to the Lead Practitioner and she relates to us and explains everything as we’re going along”

(Parent)



Relationship with practitioner is central...

“They give an awful lot of time, both of them. They always return our calls; if we’ve anything bothering us they give us the time; we can come over and have meetings with them. They put us in if they can; they help us in the right direction”

(Parent)



Needs led... family's pace...

“With Meitheal you can’t, Rome wasn’t built in a day; you have to do it in like a stepping process, and that’s what we’re getting and that’s what I like about it – that it’s not, there’s not too much of an overload, too much to take in at once. You can speed it up if you want, you can slow it down if you want; you’re in control”

(Parent)



Inclusive... motivating...

“Because I knew what they want is what I want and the best for my child, you know what I mean? We are doing it together. So, if they didn’t care, they wouldn’t have come, you know what I mean? And as I said, I just trust them, I do, 100 per cent, like”

(Parent)



Well-being

Parental	Child and Young person
<p data-bbox="19 339 927 406">General Health Questionnaire</p> <p data-bbox="19 521 483 578">Cut off score=4</p> <p data-bbox="19 692 772 842">40.5% of mothers scored above 4</p> <p data-bbox="19 956 937 1021">1 father/ carer scored above 4</p>	<p data-bbox="994 339 1758 492">Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire</p> <p data-bbox="994 606 1874 763">Maternal reports: average of 18.5 (high)</p> <p data-bbox="994 878 1874 1035">Children self-reports (over 11s): 16.9 (slightly raised)</p> <p data-bbox="994 1149 1796 1306">Father/other reports: 15.8 (slightly raised)</p>

Predictor of Family Outcomes

- Hierarchical multiple regression

Step 1: Model fidelity

Step 2: Maternal GHQ

Step 3: Maternal SDQ

Total model explained 11.5% of the variance in family outcomes

Maternal GHQ Significant predictor ($beta = -.513$, $p < .05$)



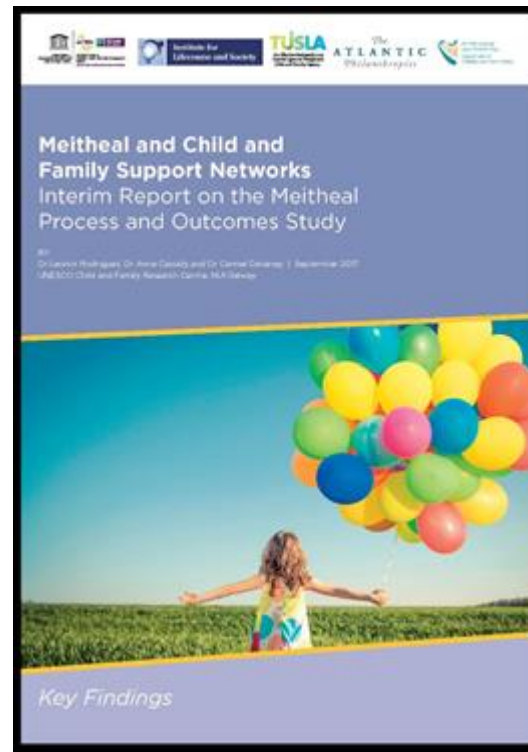
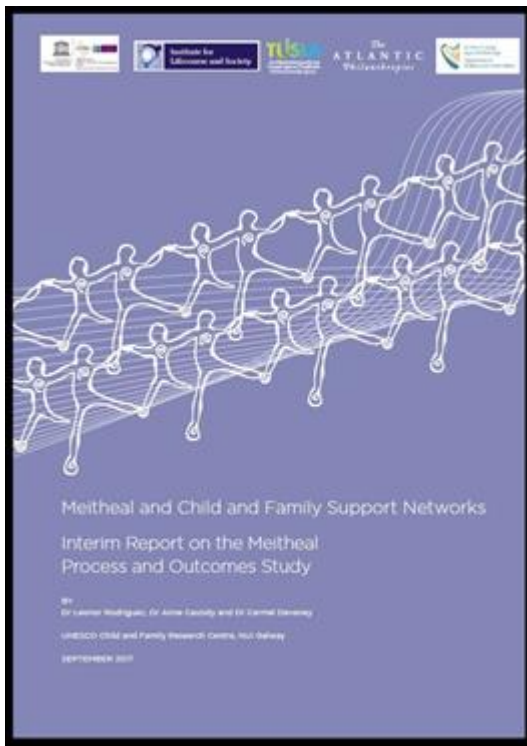
Challenges to Implementation

- Lack understanding of Meitheal concept and role in Meitheal

I didn't know what it was like, I just did it' (c)

- (*Perceived*) Unfair emphasis on children and young people as sources of family issues - blame
- Lack of availability/ engagement of services - waiting lists
- General public lack awareness
- Workload/ Not enough LPs





Final Report on Meitheal & CFSNs (n = 85 families)

Collecting:

- 6 month follow-up data now
- 12 month follow-up in January & February 2018...

Issued a call for families involved in Meitheal pre-2017 to share their 'story' of participating in the process.

Thank you...

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