

Summary Report – Research Ethics

First name: Helena

Last name: Kennedy

Name of course: Masters in Child Protection and Welfare, Trinity College Dublin

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Title of research study: The Effects of Domestic Violence Exposure; Helping Young People in Residential Care Cope with the Aftermath

Abstract: This research focuses on young people who are living in residential care where domestic violence exposure forms part of their pre-care history. The study examines the impact domestic violence exposure can have on a young person who lives in residential care and what social care practitioners can do to help these young people cope with the aftermath. Three focus groups and one semi-structured interview were conducted with social care practitioners who work in residential care for Tusla, The Child and Family Agency.

The findings and analysis suggest that a pre-care history of domestic violence exposure can have a significant impact on young people living in residential care. Participants in this study acknowledged that domestic violence exposure rarely occurs in isolation and is usually present within an accumulation of other adverse childhood experiences. The findings of this study suggest that helping young people in residential care manage or cope with the trauma symptoms associated with domestic violence exposure can be a complex one. This complexity can be associated with lack of knowledge by the professional with regards to the presence of domestic violence, the age of the young person on admission to residential care, the ability of professionals to form relationships with young people in their care and the training and support needs of social care practitioners. Strategies to be introduced to enhance

children's resilience to cope with childhood adversity and increased training for social care practitioners are among the study recommendations.

Email address: helena.kennedy@tusla.ie

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(This is a sample list as the references were quite extensive)

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