

Event Schedule 2017

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Past Events

October 17th 2017 – Witchcraft Branding, Spirit Possession and Child Safeguarding Research Seminar and ‘The W Word’ Book Launch

October 17th 2017 - The Centre for Social Work Research at the University of East London, was pleased to host the research seminar, “The W-Word: Witchcraft branding and spirit possession: Challenges for professionals”, followed by the book launch. The seminar focused on the issue of witchcraft labelling/branding and spirit possession, and considered how practitioners can work effectively with such concerns. Dr Prospera Tadam, opened the research seminar with a general overview of the issue of witchcraft branding, spirit possession and child safeguarding. Psychologist & PhD Student Laura Hamblin-Opaluwa documented early findings from her research on the topic of child abuse linked to a belief in witchcraft and spirit possession particular to the issue of the self-disclosure, and Noktula Ruparaganda, a newly qualified social worker, discussed the role of the church in addressing abuse of children linked to witchcraft and spirit possession.

The research seminar was followed by the successful launch of the newly published book “The W word: Witchcraft labelling and child safeguarding in social work practice” by Dr Prospera Tadam. Professor Stephen Briggs introduced the book, which was then followed by a further presentation by Dr Tadam.

To book: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-w-word-witchcraft-branding-and-spirit-possession-challenges-for-professionals-tickets-37875316090#>

March 30th - 31st 2017 – Hosts PA.G.E. EU Consortium Meeting

The CSWR will be hosting and EU Erasmus+ Parental Guidance and Education (PA.G.E) project consortium meeting. The PAGE project is an international collaboration on the exchange of the application of models of best practice; theories and methods, on parental support and positive parenting solutions. This involves members from 5 EU countries including France, Spain, Italy, Romania and the UK partner The African Families Service (AFS).

March 29th 2017 – AFS Workshop on Safeguarding Black and African Children

We at the CSWR will be hosting 1 day workshop run by Amma Anane-Agyei of The African Families Service (AFS) on the Safeguarding of Black and African Children. This passionately delivered training includes a range of the following subjects;

- History of Black African Children and Families
- Cultural competences
- Relevant knowledge base
- Child Trafficking
- Spirituality/Culture/Religion
- Spirit Possession
- How one relates theory to practice
- Engaging Black African Children and Families
- The concept of the two houses
- The concept of the self and extended self
- African Psychology
- The “ Ecomap” culture sheet
- Private fostering
- The development of the Black self-concept
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Asylum, Refugee, Unaccompanied Minors and Special Guardianship
- Human Rights Act

January 18th 2017 - How will this country address the rights and care of migrant children?

Roundtable Debate and formal launch of BME and Migrants Advisory Group: Safeguarding Children and Young People. Host: Sir Keir Starmer QC, Shadow 'Brexit' Minister and MP for Holborn & St Pancras

The flow of migrant children arriving from Calais, as part of a national transfer scheme, has initiated calls for action to effectively safeguard these children, in addition to those already in the UK in need of ongoing support.

Leaving aside the humanitarian and emotive response to migrants, there is a clear - and agreed - responsibility on the UK to offer refuge to unaccompanied children in the wake of attacks on the Syrian people and to uphold their rights to care and protection, not currently afforded to them in their countries of origin.

Media headlines in the wake of the clearance of the Calais 'jungle' highlighted an extraordinary lack of planning to assess and transfer the relatively low numbers of child migrants to the UK. The plight of unaccompanied minors is not new, and yet we do not appear to have a coordinated response or contingency planning in place for a process that has seen significant delays, with some local authorities opting out of the expanded Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement (VPR) Programme.

Frontline teams in health and social care are ready to assist, with little or no structure in place to facilitate this work within the community or through our schools. Home Office figures show that over 4,000 individuals have been resettled under their initiative to date, many it seems in Local Authorities already requiring improvements in child protection and safeguarding practice.

The Victoria Climbié Foundation UK (VCF) and the University of East London (UEL) Centre for Social Work Research have established an advisory group for the safeguarding of BME and migrant children; a multi-disciplinary response to identifying and responding to the very specific needs of these children and young people, including unaccompanied minors coming to the UK, to ensure their immediate and longer-term health and wellbeing.

Failure to respond appropriately in the short-term inevitably leads to longer-term adverse consequences for health and wellbeing. The advisory group aims to ensure that these children and young people receive support and protection provided by services, working to accepted standards of best practice.

We call upon policy makers, service leaders and practitioners in all sectors to identify and deliver coordinated, effective services for migrant children, young people and their families.

