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Research report from School of Health and Social Work, University of Hertfordshire, UK

B. Littlechild

Caroline Meffan and Professor Shula Ramonin theSchool have just submitted their report on a research project funded by the EuropeanUnion on ‘Empowering Women and Providers: Domestic Violence and Mental Health’ We gathered partners from Athens, Warsaw, Slovenia and Italy to take part in the two year pilot project which aims to help women affected by domestic violence by focusing on empowerment and resilience and encouraging them to build a life outside domestic violence.

In parallel, training will be provided for mental health providers so that they become skilled in dealing with women who face this scenario, and there will be a module to train some of the women involved as trainers to help other women affected by domestic violence.

The aim is to use the pilot studies so that they can be rolled out nationally and eventually, across Europe.

Project partners are: University of Hertfordshire, UK Association against violence communication, Ljubljana, Slovenia Asti mental health department, Italy Epapsy, Athens, Greece Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia Health Psychology, University of Turin, Italy Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Warsaw, Poland Ozara Life Quality Association, Mirabor, Slovenia Welwyn Women Refuge, Welwyn, UK.

(see www.herts.ac.uk/.../Women-and-Domestic-Violence.cfm)

Brian Littlechild PhD is currently undertaking a piece of research in a large-scale project with ‘Community Care’ magazine and Professor Chris Goddard of Monash University, Australia, with over 600 respondents, on experiences of social work and social care staff of working with aggressive clients.

He is also undertaking with colleagues from around the globe a research survey on the education and training of social workers worldwide for the International Association of Schools of Social Work. They are publishing a chapter on this in a new book on international social work education on this and then provide an article for the *International Social Work* journal.

Brian is currently developing and leading a joint MSc Mental Heath Recovery and Social Inclusion action research development in an ERASMUS Life Long Learning project with Professor Ramon.

Partners are:

New University Lisbon (Portugal)

- The University of Torino (Italy)

- The Maria Grzegorzewska Academy of Special Education (Poland)
- Azienda Sanitaria Locale ASL AT, Asti (Italy)
- Experts by experience
- National Advisory Groups
- Professor Larry Davidson, Yale University, USA.

He has recently been appointed to the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) /Royal College of Psychiatrists Guidelines Development Group on 'Violence and aggression: the short-term management of violent and physically threatening behaviour in health settings guidance', which will report in 2015, updating the current NICE (2005) guidance (<http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/10964/29719/29719.pdf>). The guidelines consist of recommendations and good practice points based on the best available evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness. He is very pleased to be able to contribute to this important area of work, with the aims of benefitting mental health service users, mental health staff and the wider community.

Brian has also just published a new book, Littlechild B. and Smith R. (eds) (2013) *A Handbook for Interprofessional Practice in the Human Services: Learning to work together*, Pearson Education, Harlow

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