
Speaker Profiles

Mat Crozier

Mat is the father of three children aged eight, nine and thirteen. He is a Young Men's Development Worker with YouthAction NI. This work involves supporting young men within their communities to explore and reflect upon their lives, and to develop their full potential. This includes programmes which look at fatherhood, violence, health and sexuality.

Shirley Ewart

Shirley is, currently, writing-up her Doctoral research at the University of Ulster, Magee College. Her study examined the nature and extent of paternal involvement in family centre services in Northern Ireland. She is a qualified social worker who also works part-time in a residential childcare setting. Shirley was a founding member of The Male Link network and a co-author of their study into men's attitudes and values in the north of Ireland.

Colin Fowler

Colin is the Development Worker with The Men's Project within Parents Advice Centre. He is a professionally qualified Youth and Community Worker and has had a special interest in men's work/issues since the early 1980's. Much of his experience has been gained through detached youth work, residential social group work, facilitating community relations programmes, and by conducting qualitative and quantitative research. Colin founded The Male Link - a network body for men's issues in the north of Ireland.

Dympna Gallagher

Dympna is qualified as an Enrolled Nurse (EN), a Registered Nurse (RN) and a Registered Midwife (RM). She has been nursing for 30 years, this year, and has a keen interest in all aspects of health and sexual health. She has led the Ante-Natal Parentcraft Classes at Derry Well Woman Centre since 1990, and is involved with the local Breastfeeding Network and Support Group.

Janet Gaynor

Janet is the Manager of the Fás le Chéile Programme (North Western Health Board's Parenting initiative).

Jimmy Gleeson

Jimmy is a father, "Raising Boys" facilitator, and school guidance counsellor. Raising Boys is a programme for fathers of boys at primary school. It runs over two evenings, is held in the school, and aims to help fathers to see how important they are to their sons. Nine fathers from the community were involved in designing the programme. They have delivered it in twelve schools to one hundred and forty fathers.

Seamus Gordon

Seamus is the father of Molly and Ben. He is one of the founding members of the Letterkenny Fathers' Group. This group has been in existence for almost two years. It meets every 6-8 weeks and functions as a sharing forum and a support mechanism for its members.

Paul Gorman

Paul is the father of two children and a member of the Inishowen Fathers' Group. This group was set-up three years ago and meets monthly. It offers an opportunity for fathers to discuss issues, support each other, and bring the importance of being a father to the community's attention.

Bill Methven

Bill is a father of three boys, who has been separated from his wife for three years. He lives in Bangor and works as a Business manager for a large wholesale company in Belfast. Bill was the founder of Men to Men - a Belfast based men's support group. He lives a short distance from his sons to whom he has unlimited access.

Frank Rafferty

Frank is the father of a nine year old girl, Emer, and a three year old boy, Eoin. He is one of the "Raising Boys" facilitators in primary schools in Donegal, and wants to begin work with fathers and boys in his job in Galliagh Community Development Group in Derry.

David Simpson

David has worked with men for twenty years on personal development, health and fathering issues. He is, currently, Men's Health Development Officer and Co-ordinator of the Fathers' Project within the North Western Health Board. He was recently re-elected as Chairperson of the Men's Health Forum in Ireland.