

Welcome to the twelfth edition of *DASH!*

This special research edition focuses on recently released research reports, including:

- *Healthcare Issues for Transgender People Living in Northern Ireland*, by the Institute for Conflict Research
- *LGBT Communities' Experiences of Faith and Church in Northern Ireland*, by the Irish Peace Centres
- *Is Teenage Motherhood Contagious? Evidence from a Natural Experiment*, by the Centre for Market and Public Organisation
- *Research Briefing No 1*, a briefing by the Sexual and Reproductive Health Special Interest Group
- *Left Out of the Equation: A Report on the Experiences of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Young People at School*, by the Rainbow Project and Cara Friend.

FPA is contracted by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSC) to write and produce *DASH*. Showcase your project, publicise an event or comment on this edition by contacting the editor, Grace Keery, on tel: 028 90 316116 or email: graceg@fpa.org.uk.

Healthcare Issues for Transgender People Living in Northern Ireland

A report by the Institute for Conflict Research

The report examines healthcare issues for transgender people resident in Northern Ireland. It highlights social factors impacting on transgender individuals' sense of well-being, their experiences of healthcare services provision and draws attention to a number of issues relevant to policy makers in ensuring equality in healthcare services provision. The findings were collected through a series of interviews and focus groups with members of the transgender community and health professionals that work with transgender service users.

A number of respondents reported experiences of inappropriate and prejudicial treatment when accessing some healthcare services, such as healthcare

staff: using inappropriate pronouns; using and displaying old names in front of other patients; offering inappropriate services; providing inaccurate advice; and refusing service provision. Such experiences heightened respondents' emotional vulnerability and delayed access to appropriate support.

Some respondents reported positive experiences of good working practice including healthcare staff: asking service users their preferred pronoun; using service users' preferred name; seeking accurate information of where to signpost service users to; and not letting personal views or beliefs prevent them from their duty of care.

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Healthcare Issues for Transgender People Living in Northern Ireland

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The majority of respondents who attended the Gender Identity Clinic (based in the greater Belfast area) were satisfied with the services provided, finding them to be timely and person centred. However, some respondents were unhappy with the limited number of staff and the difficulties in accessing the service for those who live outside the greater Belfast area.

The report made a number of recommendations, including:

- equality and diversity training on gender identity issues for existing health professionals
- increased funding for the Gender Identity Clinic
- the DHSSPS to develop a comprehensive service framework for gender variant children and transgender youth.

To read the report, go to:
www.conflictresearch.org.uk ■

LGBT Communities' Experiences of Faith and Church in Northern Ireland

An experiential learning paper by the Irish Peace Centres

The paper is a multi-layered report that represents many different experiences of church and faith. It is divided into two main sections. The first section provides background information about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people and sets out the social, religious and legal context in which LGBT people live. The second section discusses the participants' experiences under a number of themes which arose from the interviews.

The writers of the paper collected stories and experiences from 23 participants with a range of gender, age, class and religious identities. Participants spoke about struggles towards self-acceptance, as well as tensions in relationships with family, friends and the wider LGBT community, as well as churches.

The majority of participants describe negative experiences of churches in Northern Ireland, with stories of hurt and exclusion. Some did however describe positive experiences, with the All Souls Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church singled out as a place of acceptance.

The paper strives to help readers understand what it feels like to be an LGBT person of faith in Northern Ireland, and acts as a catalyst for public dialogue about LGBT people's experiences of faith and church in Northern Ireland.

To read the stories, go to:
www.irishpeacecentres.org/files/LGBTPublication7BOOKLET.pdf. ■

Is Teenage Motherhood Contagious? Evidence from a Natural Experiment

A working paper by the Centre for Market and Public Organisation

A joint Norwegian and British study of more than 42,000 Norwegian teenage girls* found that teenage girls were more likely to become pregnant if their older sister had a baby as a teenager. The researchers chose to focus on sister-to-sister relationships as sisters spend more time together than with friends, and are therefore more likely to be influenced by the behaviour of their siblings. The research by British and

Norwegian scientists showed that although there is evidence that better education of women leads to lower teenage pregnancy rates, in families with teenage mothers the chances of a younger girl having a child in her teens double from 1 in 5 to 2 in 5.

To read the report, go to: www.bris.ac.uk/cmpo/publications/papers/2011/wp262.pdf. ■

* Researchers analysed census data from 42,606 Norwegian women who were born after the second world war and their families as they got older.

Research Briefing No 1

A briefing note by the Sexual and Reproductive Health Special Interest Group

The Sexual and Reproductive Health Special Interest Group recently carried out a survey of 1,200 people to gauge attitudes to the teaching of relationships and sexuality education (RSE) in post primary schools in Northern Ireland. Key findings from the survey include:

- 92 per cent of respondents believed that RSE should include information on contraception and STIs.
- 68 per cent of respondents believed that RSE should teach about sexual relations within and outside marriage.

The briefing note recommends that further research be carried out to explore the views of parents of both primary and post-primary school children.

To read the briefing, go to: www.qub.ac.uk/sites/TheResearchForumForTheChild/FileStore/Fileupload,260840,en.pdf. ■

Left out of the equation: a report on the experiences of lesbian, gay and bisexual young people at school

A report by the Rainbow Project and Cara Friend

The report highlights the inequalities experienced by lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) young people in school. It looks at bullying, the Northern Ireland curriculum, the role of teachers and the education structures of Northern Ireland. As part of the report, an anonymous online survey was conducted, where 133 young people aged between 15 and 25 responded. Key findings include:

- Homophobic language and bullying are prevalent in schools with 98 per cent of LGB young people reporting hearing homophobic language from pupils, teachers, non-teaching staff and visitors to schools.
- 69 per cent of respondents reported that teachers ignored homophobic language.
- 75 per cent of LGB young people did not report incidents of bullying and harassment to school

authorities. The most frequently cited reason was that they thought that the school would not take it seriously (43 per cent).

- 94 per cent of respondents reported that they were taught nothing in sexual health education which was relevant to them as an LGB person.

The report made a number of recommendations, including:

- the introduction of a complaints mechanism for young people and their families to bring complaints against schools which have not responded to incidents of homophobic bullying
- that all schools should have a comprehensive policy tackling homophobic bullying within a school setting.

To read the report, go to: www.rainbowproject.org. ■

Speakeasy is back!

The FPA Speakeasy project is up and running again throughout the Belfast Trust area. Speakeasy is a personal development programme that encourages and empowers parents to communicate with their children and young people about sex, sexuality and relationships.

Speakeasy offers weekly workshops that are free and designed to be flexible, confidential and fun.

If you would like further information or to take part in a Speakeasy programme please contact:

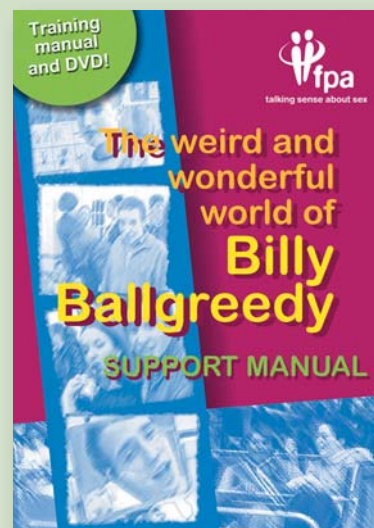
Heather Low, Speakeasy Project Officer, tel: 028 90 316109 or email: NIrelandspeakeasy@fpa.org.uk. ■

The weird and wonderful world of Billy Ballgreedy now on DVD!

Back by popular demand, and now on DVD, *The Weird and Wonderful World of Billy Ballgreedy* addresses young men's issues around sexual health and sexuality.

The pack contains a DVD and manual to help those working in sex and relationships education to provide young men aged 12 and above with information about sexual health issues, including puberty, contraception, sexually transmitted infections and individuality.

Copies of this resource are available from www.fpa.org.uk, tel: 0845 122 8600 or email: fpadirect@fpa.org.uk. Price £19.99. ■



Clinic locations

Visit www.fpa.org.uk to find clinics in Northern Ireland.

Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Clinic
5th Floor, 16 College Street, Belfast BT1 6BT
Tel: 028 90 821555
Mon, Tues and Thurs 10am–12.30pm;
Weds 11am–1.30pm;
Fri 9am–1.30pm

Brook Northern Ireland
Belfast City Centre (Under 19s),
3rd floor, 9–13 Waring Street, Belfast BT1 2DX
Tel: 028 90 328866
Mon, Tues and Wed 2.30pm–5pm;
Thurs 5.30pm–8pm;
Fri 2pm–4.30pm;
Sat 1.30pm–4pm;
Sat (young men under 25) 4pm–5.30pm;
Sun 1.30pm–3pm

Brook Benview
Benview Community Centre, 80 Ballysillan Park, Belfast BT14 8HD
Tel: 028 90 719271
Weds 4.30pm–6.30pm

HYPE Team (under 25s)
5th Floor, 16 College Street, Belfast BT1 6BT
Tel: 028 90 821555
Tues 2.15pm–5pm

(HYPE Service Enquiries – general enquiries only)
Tel: 028 95 040317
Mon–Fri 9am–5pm

The Bradbury Centre
1–17 Lower Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7AA
Tel: 028 90 912111
Mon, Tues, Weds and Thurs 9am–11.30am; Tues 5pm–7pm; Weds 5pm–7pm

Carlisle Health and Wellbeing Centre
40 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AX
Tel: 028 90 163758
Thurs 9am–11.30pm; Mon and Thurs 1.45pm–4pm

Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital (emergency contraception only)
Grosvenor Road, Belfast BT12 6BA
Tel: 028 90 632037
Sat 4.30pm–6.30pm

Beech Hall Wellbeing and Treatment Centre
21 Andersonstown Road, Belfast BT11 9AF
Tel: 028 95 040305
Mon, Weds and Fri 9am–11.30am;
Weds and Thurs 1.45pm–4pm, and Weds 5pm–7pm

Knockbreda Centre
110 Saintfield Road, Belfast BT8 6HD
Tel: 028 90 635150
Weds 9am–11.30am, 1.45pm–4pm and 4.45pm–6.45pm

Dundonald Health Centre
16 Church Road, Dundonald BT16 2LN
Tel: 028 90 534700
Thurs 9am–11.30am

Hollywood Arches Health Centre
Westminster Avenue North, Belfast BT41 1QQ
Tel: 028 90 563218
Mon and Tues 1.45pm–4pm;
Weds 4.30pm–6.30pm;
Fri 9am–11.30am