



**SIHR**

# WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

## **working with babies in distress**

**The role of the professional**

**Key note speakers**

**Adam Ingram MSP**

Minister for Children and Early Years

**Dr Amanda Jones**

of the Channel Four documentaries

'Help me love my baby'

**3 November 2010**

**Scottish Health Service Centre, Edinburgh**

A conference for professionals working with infants and  
their families



**‘The period between pregnancy and 3 years is increasingly seen as a critical period in shaping children’s life chances, based on evidence of brain formation, communication and language development, and the impact of relationships formed during this period on mental health. It is therefore also critical opportunity to intervene to break cycles of poor outcomes.’**

### ***The Early Years Framework***

**This conference reflects the values and aspirations of the Scottish Government’s policy papers ‘Early Years Framework’ and “Getting It Right for Every Child’.**

A conference for professionals working with infants and their families: including health visitors, midwives, Sure Start workers, nursery workers, social workers, mental health professionals; and for those working in mother and baby psychiatric units, special care units, Equally Well projects.

***With support from The Scottish Child Psychotherapy Trust***

## **Introduction**

**This multidisciplinary conference will give you the opportunity to explore with Dr Amanda Jones** the similarities between the tensions in disturbed parent-infant relationships and those which are sometimes manifest in the very organisational structures set up to support and respond to the needs of suffering parents and their babies.

Emotional neglect is a serious public health issue, and the root of many later adult mental health problems. In her second presentation Dr Jones will examine the implications when a parent/carer cannot help but reject their baby. She looks at how emotional rejection operates in invisible ways to the untrained eye and may only be communicated by non-verbal signals. The parent too may be communicating subtle but crucial signals that their baby's primitive love is unwanted. Amanda Jones uses cases to identify where it might be possible to intervene, and when a parent might not be able to make use of such help.

**The conference will also give you the opportunity to listen to two practitioners as they discuss their work in early years and how they use their psycho-dynamic theory to inform their practice.**

## **Who should attend?**

For practitioners across the NHS, social care and education, including health visitors, midwives, Sure Start workers, nursery workers, those working in mother and baby psychiatric units, special care units, Equally Well projects and all front line staff working with early years.

## **Aims**

The conference aim is to explore the demands and rewards of offering a psychodynamic therapeutic way of working with babies and their carers; of thinking about and taking account of past developments and experiences, and the impact of unconscious feelings on the emotional and psychological difficulties in baby-mother relationships. The learning element of the conference will focus on the importance of the earliest relationships and the significance of close observation on practice.

## Keynote speaker

**Adam Ingram MSP** has a local family business background coupled with professional training and experience as an economist and prior to his election he worked for ten years as an economic development consultant.

He was elected to the Scottish Parliament as a list member for the South of Scotland in 1999. In the Parliament he has convened the Cross Party Group on Mental Health and has been a member of the education committee and the subordinate legislation committee.

**Amanda Jones**, Consultant Parent-Infant Psychotherapist, is head of North East London NHS Foundation Trust's Tier 3 Perinatal/Parent-Infant Mental Health Service. She trained as a family therapist and has a particular interest in the use of psychoanalytic and systemic theories when working therapeutically with disturbed parent-infant relationships. Her doctoral research at the Tavistock/UCL investigated how the maternal use of defensive 'projective identification' can derail a baby's development. In collaboration with the Anna Freud Centre, Amanda was involved in the Channel Four documentaries 'Help me love my baby', winner of the 2007 Royal Society of Television's best factual programmes award. She speaks at national and international conferences on psychodynamic parent-infant treatment and teaches on the clinical psychology programmes at UCL and UEL.

## Conversationalists

**Francesca Calvocoressi**, MPsychPsych, MACP, is a child and adolescent psychotherapist working at the Scottish Institute of Human Relations (SIHR) and in a multi-disciplinary CAMHS team at NHS Lanarkshire. She has a particular interest in the under 5s and Tier 1 work. Currently the Organising Tutor for SIHR's Professional Doctorate in Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy, Francesca was joint developer of SIHR's ten-week Infant Mental Health Course, has tutored on the one-year Infant Observation Course, teaches attachment theory on the Adult Psychoanalytical Psychotherapy Training and, before taking up her post as Organising Tutor, was leader of SIHR's Children & Young People's Service.

Francesca represented child psychotherapy on the Scottish Government's short-term Workforce Planning Group; she is a member of the Association of Child Psychotherapists' Executive Committee, a Board member of AIMUK; and is a peer reviewer for The Journal of Child Psychotherapy.

**John Walker** is the Senior Charge Nurse at the Mother-Baby in-patient Mental Health Unit in the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow, where he has worked since it opened in 2004. He has responsibility for 18 members of staff, including mental health nurses, nursery nurses and a health visitor. The

unit was the first of its kind to open in Scotland, providing specialist care for mothers with mental health problems and for their babies. It covers the West of Scotland from Dumfries to Stornoway and the Outer Hebrides. John is interested in the impact of maternal mental health problems on the mother-infant relationship and on the wider family. He will be discussing the exciting development of his practice over the last 6 years, including his use of psychodynamic theory, and the role that a short training at SIHR played in his thinking.

## Programme

Conference Chair: Eileen Francis, Chair of SIHR

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 8.50          | Coffee and Registration  |
| 9.15          | Introduction<br>Adam Ingram MSP<br>Minister for Children and Early Years   |
| 9.30          | Amanda Jones<br>The story of the formation of a well-resourced NHS<br>Perinatal/Parent-Infant Mental Health Service  |
| 10.30         | Coffee   |
| 11.00         | Amanda Jones<br>The consequences of emotional rejection for a baby's<br>forming personality  |
| 12.00 - 12.45 | Small groups - discussion  |
| 12.45 - 2.00  | Lunch  |
| 2.00 - 3.00   | John Walker<br>New ways of working and thinking in an in-patient<br>mother-baby unit.<br>–: A conversation between Early Years practitioners<br>Francesca Calvocoressi and John Walker |
| 3.00 - 3.45   | Small groups – discussion  |
| 3.45 - 4.00   | Questions and plenary<br>Close   |

At the time of going to press this programme was deemed correct. However, we reserve the right to alter or cancel any part of the programme due to unforeseen circumstances.
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## **Attendance fee**

£65 per person including refreshments and lunch

£55 per person for voluntary organisations

Delegate Cancellations: These must be made in writing prior to **22 October 2010** and will incur an administration charge of £10. We regret that no refunds can be made after that date unless the place is accepted by someone on the waiting list.

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**Scottish Health Service Centre, Edinburgh EH4 2LF**

*An event co-ordinated and facilitated by*

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**The Scottish Institute of Human Relations**

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