

Fuse QRM

Healthy Ageing Research Programme

Loneliness and social isolation in an ageing society: a public health challenge?

Wednesday, 5th October 2016, 12noon-4pm

Venue: The Core, Science Central, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 5SQ

Aims: to bring together academics, practitioners and policy-makers to: (i) identify the health risks arising from loneliness and social isolation; (ii) explore interventions addressing loneliness and social isolation; (iii) consider the implications for policy and practice.

Speakers:

Professor Brian Lawler – *Professor of Old Age Psychiatry*, Trinity University Dublin

Professor Tom Scharf – *Professor of Social Gerontology*, Newcastle University

Dr Kellie Payne – *Learning and Research Manager*, Campaign to End Loneliness

Professor Barbara Hanratty – *Professor of Primary Care and Public Health*, Newcastle University

Nicole Valtorta, *NIHR Doctoral Fellow*, University of York

12.00-12.35 Lunch

12.40-12.45 Welcome and introduction

Dr Suzanne Moffatt, Fuse Healthy Ageing Programme Lead

12.45-1.30 Professor Brian Lawler – **'Loneliness or social isolation: is there a difference and does it really matter?'**

1.30-2.00pm Professor Thomas Scharf – **'Responding to loneliness: opportunities and potential pitfalls'**

2.05-2.35pm Dr Kellie Payne – **'Campaigning to End Loneliness: learning from the research and practice'**

2.35-2.55pm Tea break

- 2.55-3.25pm Professor Barbara Hanratty & Nicole Valtorta - **'Public health perspectives on loneliness and social isolation'**
- 3.25-3.50pm Speakers Panel Q&A - questions collected in advance as well as questions from the floor
- 3.50-4.00pm Summary, conclusions and actions from the day (Prof Tom Scharf)

Speakers

Kellie Payne

Before joining the Campaign to End Loneliness, Dr. Kellie Payne completed her PhD in Cultural Geography at the Open University. She is the Campaign's Learning and Research Manager. She is responsible for the Learning Network which is made up of over 1000 member organisations who work with older people on the issue of loneliness. She also manages the Research Hub which is comprised of over 100 academics working in the area of loneliness research. She is passionate about making loneliness a key public health issue. Kellie is originally from Chicago, Illinois and has been in London since moving there to do her MSc at the LSE in 2004.

Brian Lawlor

Brian Lawlor is Conolly Norman Professor of Old Age Psychiatry at Trinity College Dublin and Consultant Psychiatrist, St. James's Hospital Dublin. His main research interests are in Alzheimer's disease, behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia, late-life depression and the study of the impact of loneliness on the health and wellbeing of older people. He is Deputy Co-Director of the Global Brain Health Institute (www.gbhi.org) a human capital program that trains interdisciplinary leaders in the field of dementia and co-ordinator of NILVAD (www.nilvad.eu), an intervention trial of an antihypertensive medication in Alzheimer's disease.

Tom Scharf

Thomas Scharf is Professor of Social Gerontology in the Institute of Health & Society at Newcastle University and leads the 'Economic and Social Impacts of Ageing' theme in the University's Institute for Ageing (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ageing/>). Before joining Newcastle at the start of 2016, Tom was Director of the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, NUI Galway, Ireland (2010-2015) and Director of the Centre for Social Gerontology, Keele University (2006-2010). He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and has held visiting professorships at the universities of Manchester, Keele and Vienna. Tom's research on themes relating to social exclusion in later life and to ageing in different environmental contexts has been published in some of the world's leading gerontology and interdisciplinary social science journals. His pioneering work on a study of ageing in deprived urban communities, conducted under the ESRC's *Growing Older Programme* in the early 2000s, continues to shape public policy and professional practice. Further information is available at: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ihs/people/profile/thomas.scharf>

Barbara Hanratty

Barbara Hanratty is Professor of Primary Care and Public Health at Newcastle University. Barbara trained in general practice and public health and has worked in low income

countries. Barbara works clinically as a GP and is an honorary consultant in public health. She is training lead for the NIHR School for Primary Care Research in Newcastle. Her research is concerned with older adults and encompasses three complementary themes; end of life care, loneliness and isolation and care homes. Equitable access to care, patient and caregiver experiences and the influence of socioeconomic disadvantage are particular interests.

Nicole Valtorta

Nicole Valtorta is a researcher in public health, working on older adult care and the health implications of social relationships. She is currently competing an NIHR doctoral fellowship which has used systematic review and longitudinal data analyses to investigate the adverse effects of loneliness and isolation on the health of older people. Nicole's background is in history; she has degrees in modern and medieval history from Oxford and an MPH from Paris

Further information and booking details can be found on the [fuse website](#)

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