



Evaluation of SSCB Conference 2017: Under the Radar 'Young Minds – Safeguarding their Future'

Introduction

The SSCB Conference, held on 22 November 2017, focused on adolescent mental health and wellbeing. Three speakers explored the themes of adolescent brain development, coordination of mental health and wellbeing support in schools and prevention of radicalisation of young people. Delegates also attended the theatre production 'Tough Love', which explored the theme of domestic abuse among adolescents. In addition, there were five workshops focusing on modern slavery and trafficking, peer on peer abuse, the CAMHS service, the experiences of children who are looked after and the Heads Together programme by the YMCA in Surrey.

Methodology

The conference was attended by approximately 500 professionals from 36 agencies. Out of the 500 professionals, 414 booked their places via the SSCB online learning platform and out of the 414 bookings, 361 professionals attended and consequently, following the conference, asked to complete an online questionnaire in order to receive their certificate of attendance. The representation of each agency can be seen in Figure 1 below.

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Total Bookings</u>	<u>Attended</u>	<u>No Shows</u>	<u>Cancellations</u>
Boroughs and Districts	26	22	4	2
Charitable Organisation	73	67	6	0
Early Years: Home-based childcare/childminder	2	2	0	0
Early Years: Maintained Nurseries Schools and Classes	0	0	0	0
Early Years: Private, Voluntary, Independent Sector (Full day & Sessional Day Care)	12	9	3	1
Early Years: Sure Start Children Centres	7	6	1	0
Education: Academy	22	18	4	2
Education: Independent school	14	12	2	2
Education: Maintained school	25	21	4	1
Faith Sector	4	3	1	0
Further Education	14	12	2	0
Health: GP and Dental Practice	4	4	0	0
Health: Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals	4	4	0	0
Health: Children and Family Health Surrey	15	11	4	7
Health: Clinical Commissioning Group	6	6	0	1
Health: Epsom and St Helier Hospitals	0	0	0	1
Health: Frimley Park Hospital	1	1	0	0
Health: Private/Independent Health Sector	3	2	1	0
Health: Royal Surrey County Hospital	4	4	0	0
Health: SABP	7	6	1	0
Health: Surrey and Sussex Health Care NHS Trust	0	0	0	0
HM Armed Forces	0	0	0	0
Independent Organisation/Individual	11	10	1	0
OTHER	18	17	1	0
Out of School (Breakfast, After School, Holiday, Evening and Weekend Activities)	2	2	0	0
Police	18	16	2	0
Probation: Kent, Sussex and Surrey Community Rehabilitation Company	4	3	1	0

Probation: National Probation Service	1	1	0	0
Sports and Leisure Organisation	1	1	0	0
SSCB	9	8	1	1
Surrey CC: Children and Safeguarding	8	7	1	0
Surrey CC: Children's Services	65	53	12	9
Surrey CC: Commissioning and Prevention	1	1	0	0
Surrey CC: Other	14	14	0	0
Surrey CC: Public Health	3	3	0	0
Surrey CC: Schools and Learning	16	15	1	0
TOTALS:	414	361	53	27

Figure 1: Attendance by agency

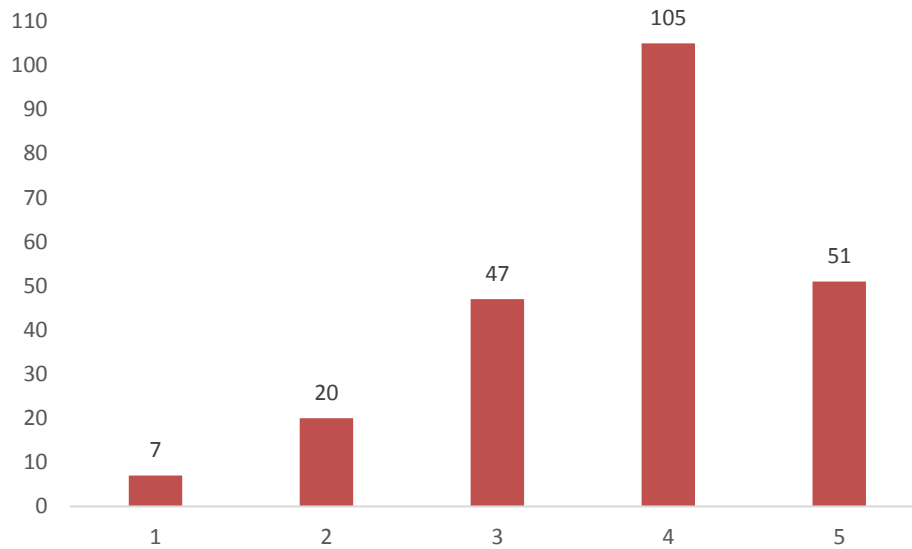
The responses received until 31 January 2018 were 115. Therefore the analysis in the next section is based on the feedback of approximately 32% of attendees. Although the findings of the report are limited to the responses of the online survey, the percentage of respondents is not statistically irrelevant.

Findings

Delegates were asked to provide feedback on the conference as a whole and on each speaker and workshop that they attended.

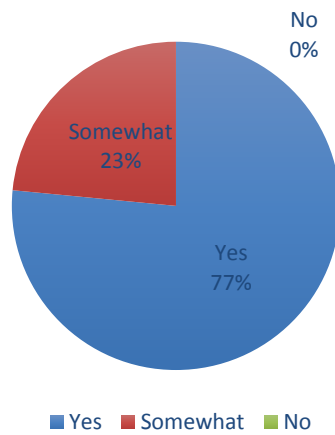
In regards to the three key speakers, delegates were asked whether or not each presentation will enhance their practice when working with children and young people. 60% answered 'yes', 34% 'somewhat' and 6% answered 'no'. Similarly, when asked the same question about the theatre production, 61% answered 'yes', 35% answered 'somewhat' and 4% said 'no'.

In regards to the workshops, delegates were first asked if the workshops increased their knowledge and understanding of the topic. 63% answered 'yes', 27% said 'somewhat' and 10% answered 'no'. They were then asked to rate the workshops in terms of enhancing their practice when working with children and families on a scale of one to five, where one is 'not at all' and five is 'significantly'. The majority of the delegates reported that the workshops enhanced their practice notably. The results are shown below:

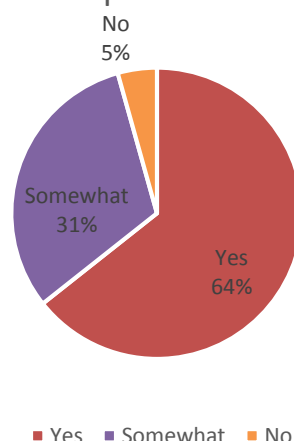


Furthermore, delegates reported that the conference met its identified aims and provided them the opportunity to network and learn from other professional groups to improve working together and to improve outcomes for children and families. The responses are shown below:

Has the conference met its identified aims?



Opportunity for networking and learning from other professionals



In what follows, a selection of delegates' individual remarks is presented:

'This was an exciting and worthwhile day. I was incredibly impressed with the range of workshops, how they addressed the needs of so many different types of young people. I have recently moved to a Surrey school and wish my previous local authority had been as dedicated and active in regards to ensuring we protect the future of our young people. Thank you!'

'Enjoyed the networking and the knowledgeable speakers, thank you.'

'The services that are presented at these training days should really be available to all areas of Surrey. It is frustrating to sit through a workshop, to then find out that the work they do only covers a specific part of the county.'

'Useful, informative and raised awareness. Provided awareness about other resources and services available to support students we are working with. I feel that the workshops would benefit from being smaller in order to promote greater discussions around the subject. It was often hard to hear questions and responses from other delegates and to then participate in further discussions.'

'Overall the conference was exceptional and I would recommend future conferences to others. The Magna Carta school was an inspiration and relevant to any setting involved in improving the mental health of young people.'

'Excellent input and well worth attending.'

'It would be useful for the FGM workshop to run again, also an e-safety update and tips for new technology.'

'The workshops were particularly useful; it was really beneficial to hear from the perspective of young people.'

'I am a new safeguarding midwife. Information very relevant for teenager pregnancy midwife. There were lots of aspects and can use for training fellow colleagues.'

Concluding remarks

Based on what was presented above, the SSCB conference was successful in raising awareness about the themes it explored and in enhancing participants' understanding about the topics that were presented. The conference also succeeded in providing opportunities for participants to network and learn from other professionals. At the same time, it was felt that smaller workshops would provide better opportunities for discussions around the subject. In addition, it would be helpful to include presentations that outline how research can be utilised in practice.

Therefore, when considering future conferences, it would be useful to explore organising smaller workshops and encourage practical and active learning by, for example, working on case studies or other appropriate activities. Finally, it is recommended that presentations focusing on application of research into practice are also included in future events.

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15/03/2018