Angie Hart is Professor of Child, Family and Community Health and the Academic Director of the Community University Partnership Programme at the University of Brighton. She is also the parent of three children adopted from the care system and has written extensively on inequalities, and on resilience in relation to children and families.

Abstract

Resilient Therapy™ (RT) is a new therapeutic methodology that draws on resilience research and strategically harnesses selected therapeutic principles and techniques to find the best ways of helping disadvantaged children and young people. RT is a way of working with resilience being developed through a community-university partnership approach based in a coastal community in the UK.

There is a large body of evidence on resilience as applied to disadvantaged children and families. However, parents and practitioners are often unaware of this evidence base and struggle to support those children who need the most pressing help. Addressing difficulties in an upbeat way that doesn’t leave families feeling even more inadequate is a real challenge for workers. With a shared passion to support children and young people, and a willingness to scrutinise practice and be open to new ways of thinking and doing, partners are working across organisational and community boundaries, to learn about, test and develop RT in their homes and workplaces. Led by university academics in the first instance, parents, young people and practitioners from health, social services and the voluntary sector have helped translate the messages from resilient research into everyday practice. This session illustrates how doing things together provides us with a way of knowing more about and improving the inequalities experienced by marginalised social groups. Our partnership working has achieved effective implementation across traditional agency boundaries, begun to inform the development of new services, and empowered parents to become Resilient Therapists themselves.

WHEN:     Friday 7 August, 2009 at 1.00pm
WHERE:    Griffith University, Mt Gravatt campus, Social Sciences Bldg (M10), Room 5.01
RSVP:     For catering, please email Susan Lockwood-Lee (s.lockwood-lee@griffith.edu.au) if you would like to attend, by 3 August.