

Summary of NVR & NA work 2014 – England

Written by: Peter Jakob

There have been many developments regarding NVR in the UK over the course of 2014. NVR has been highlighted in a UK Government document for the first time, following research on adoption disruption at the University of Bristol, which identified a very high level of severe child to parent violence, especially in adolescence. This has led to a surge in interest among post-adoption departments in local authorities and adoption support charities across the country. PartnershipProjects has delivered numerous one-day workshops in NVR to adoptive parents, many of whom immediately “got it”, and also reported rampant parent blaming within many professional groups responding to adoptive families.

The number of in-service NVR Certificate courses delivered by PartnershipProjects has increased. The course consists of a 4-day foundation level, a 6-day advanced level and a 3-day training and consultancy module for colleagues who will become local supervisors. In this way, we aim to anchor the practice of NVR within the structure of each local authority or child mental health area. We have also completed the third annual Certificate Course delivered directly by the organisation to self-referring professionals in London. An integral part of the training is the adaptation of NVR to developmental trauma and traumatised families which was developed by Peter Jakob, who presented on this work at a number of conferences in Europe on this topic in the course of the year.

Under the leadership of Diana Alvis Palma and Shila Desai, the Birmingham Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (Birmingham Children’s Hospital NHS Trust) has developed its NVR service provision to a high level. The last year has seen the establishment of a new “NVR Care Pathway”, as well as an integration of NVR in a number of other pathways, such as the neurodevelopmental, the emotional and behavioural and the trauma pathways. A strong and cohesive multi-disciplinary group of colleagues at Birmingham is continuing to develop this service within the Trust. The Family Therapy Program which is linked to the Trust, is planning to deliver training to professionals in other agencies, such as Young Offender Services, over the next two years.

The entire April issue of “Context”, the magazine of the UK Association for Family Therapy (AFT), was devoted to NVR ([download for free here](#)). There have been further publications in UK periodicals and books on using NVR within different areas, such as ADHD and autism spectrum. Beth and Roger Nichols, who are very experienced parents who are now supporting other parents in developing nonviolent responses, and Peter Jakob, spoke at the National Autistic Society conference in Harrogate to a very large audience, who showed a great interest in using the approach. Finally, the first NVR UK national conference in London was oversubscribed, and took place in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and excitement over the different ways in which colleagues in the UK are using NVR in their various work contexts. Under the current leadership of Michelle Shapiro and Liz Day, NVR UK is a burgeoning, non-for-profit organisation which aims to promote work with NVR and New Authority, and is already planning a second national conference next year.

It is fair to say that after much effort, NVR finally appears to be really “taking off” in the UK!