

Non Violent Resistance and PartnershipProjects activities in 2015

Written by: Peter Jakob

Many practitioners are now using NVR in the UK. Due to this wider proliferation of NVR and New Authority - based practice, this overview is written solely from the perspective of our systemic institute, the training consultancy “PartnershipProjects”. PartnershipProjects provides training in the use of NVR to behaviour practitioners and professionals, as well as parent coaching and family therapy involving NVR.

There has been strong growth in training practitioners and professionals in NVR over 2015; the largest part of this provided as agency-based courses for local authorities and child-and adolescent mental health services. PartnershipProjects also ran a full Certificate Course in London, which was attended by colleagues from the UK and from abroad. Most practitioners have undertaken 4-day Foundation Level training, but many follow on with the 6-day Advanced Level. We have also provided a number of 3-day courses to help local supervisors deliver specific NVR-based clinical supervision and develop support structures for work with NVR in their organisations. We have also been presenting and training internationally.

A number of Associates at our institute have undertaken professional development and are now delivering Foundation Level training to colleagues across the country. In a joint project, several colleagues who teach family therapy at the Family Therapy Institute at Birmingham Children’s Hospital have qualified to teach NVR at Foundation Level.

PartnershipProjects is expanding its “clinics” to offer NVR coaching to parents in a number of geographic locations, when they cannot access the intervention from local agencies. The areas in which we provide services are Birmingham and Midlands, London, Brighton and Sussex, Hampshire, and Southwest England.

In cooperation with other organisations, especially PAC-UK and Adoption UK, we have been presenting numerous one-day workshops introducing nonviolent and new authority principles to adoptive parents and adoption social workers. This activity developed in the wake of government commissioned research into adoption disruption (Selwyn et al, 2014), which identified child to parent violence as the most important factor in adoption disruption and recommended work with NVR.

In the UK, there is a strong interest in using NVR with multi-stressed families – families which have suffered interpersonal trauma, often over generations, but also other difficulties such as socio-economic hardship and social exclusion – and with children who have experienced abuse and neglect, and who are now living in foster care, residential care or adoptive families. Our training takes this into consideration, and focuses at Advanced Level on an adaptation of NVR that meets the therapeutic needs of these clients.

The focus on trauma is reflected in a publication in the German family therapy journal “Familiendynamik” (Jakob, 2015). The article illustrates one aspect of the trauma-based adaptation of the approach, the child-focused work in NVR, which addresses unmet need in children and young people with difficulties relating to developmental trauma and attachment insecurity.

The members of our core team are Shila Desai (Lead for Birmingham and Midlands), Nicola Maund, Michelle Shapiro, Michele Dadswell (Lead for London), Annie Fatima, Ben Shannahan, Rachael Aylmer (Lead for Hampshire), Rosemary Baragwanath and Jill Lubiensky (Southwest), and Peter Jakob (Director).

Outlook for 2016

A new member of PartnershipProjects, Roz McCormick, will be promoting her model for working with Leaders and Managers in organisations, the New Leadership Authority Approach (NLAA).

We are currently developing a new training structure, which will extend beyond Certificate level and enable practitioners to further their professional development, enhance their competencies within their own specialisms, and extend their work into areas such as working with anxiety, self-harm or self-isolation.

Peter Jakob will present a keynote speech on the adapted trauma model of NVR at the International NVR Conference in Malmo, Sweden, in May next year.

PartnershipProjects is hosting a number of events for 2016, including the London Certificate Training, and 3 Days of NVR. (further information www.PartnershipProjectsUK.com)

- Foundation Level NVR training: 20th – 23rd September 2016
- Advanced Level NVR training: 25th – 26th October & 20th – 23rd September 2016

Three Days of NVR – specialist workshops

- Day 1: Reversing the Trauma Cascade
16th March 2016. Dr Peter Jakob, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, UK
- Day 2: NVR in Social Withdrawal, Suicidal Terror and Failure to Emerge into Adulthood
17th March 2016. Dan Dolberger, Clinical Psychologist, Tel Aviv
- Day 3: The New Leadership Authority Approach
18th March 2016. Rosaline McCormick, Organisational Consultant, UK