Introduction

The Department of Adult and Community Education, National University of Ireland Maynooth has been engaged by the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme to deliver an NUI Certificate level in-service training course in Crisis Pregnancy Counselling that will serve as a model of good practice in the field.

The Department of Adult and Community Education has been offering Certificate level courses in Counselling and related areas since 1985 and has developed a significant standing in the field of counselling skills.

Course Aims
- To define and explore key aspects of Crisis Pregnancy Counselling
- To enhance Crisis Pregnancy Counselling skills in the context of a reflective practice model of learning
- To situate Crisis Pregnancy in an intercultural context
- To explore core professional issues underpinning Crisis Pregnancy Counselling
- To raise awareness of Ethical, legal and professional issues in Crisis Pregnancy Counselling

Content
This is a 100-hour course over one academic year which will consist of four modules totalling 20 credits. The course will be delivered in seven two-day workshops and has been designed in an integrated and flexible way with cross-reference and interconnections across modules.

Teaching Methods
- Inputs from specific expert tutors
- Group work
- Learning journal
- Research and course assignments

The issues that relate to crisis pregnancy counselling as identified by the participants together with the themes emerging from consultation with the field will form the subject matter for learning.

These themes include:
Loss and Grief, Adoption, Parenting, Abortion, Fatal Fetal Abnormality, Law and Ethics, Cultural Dimensions of Crisis Pregnancy.

Assessment Procedures
85% Minimum Attendance

At the end of the course the following assignments will be completed:
1. Journal
2. Case Presentation
3. Essay
4. Group Research Project and Reflection
Modules

Module 1
Adult Learning and Professional Development
The module objective is to introduce participants to one another, to adult education theories and approaches to continuous professional development in the context of counselling skills.

Module Content
- Reflective practice and adult learning
- Models of experiential and adult learning
- Identifying learning needs in counselling skills practice
- Journaling as reflective practice
- Creating and maintaining a learning community
- Ethical reflexivity in counselling provision

Module 2
Reflective Practice in Crisis Pregnancy Counselling
The module objective is to enhance professionalism, competence and understanding by engaging in a supervised reflective practice process.

Module Content
- Models of reflective practice and professional development
- Models of supervision in developmental settings
- Critical reflection and adult learning in supervision
- Identifying and using psychodynamic issues in supervised practice
- Case presentation, feedback and evaluation

Module 3
Skills and Models in Crisis Pregnancy Counselling
The module objective is to enhance participants’ understanding of core counselling skills and models in the field of crisis pregnancy counselling.

Module Content
- Theoretical models of counselling
- Approaches to counselling skills in crisis pregnancy
- Boundary, confidentiality and contract issues
- Time limited models
- Referral and networking

Module 4
Special Issues in Crisis Pregnancy Counselling
The objective is to raise participants’ knowledge and awareness of key legal, ethical and cultural issues in the provision of crisis pregnancy counselling.

Module Content
- Legal and ethical issues
- Critical reflection on values in the use of counselling skills
- Systemic issues in crisis pregnancy counselling
- Working with minors in crisis
- An intercultural approach to crisis pregnancy counselling
Eligibility and Selection for the Course

Candidates are required to be either actively engaged in providing crisis pregnancy counselling or in providing other frontline supports to those experiencing crisis pregnancy, or those who are at (significant) risk of experiencing crisis pregnancy, with at least one year’s experience in the relevant role. In addition to those agencies directly funded under the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (formerly the Crisis Pregnancy Agency), applications are invited from employees of the HSE who work in the broad field of children and family social services. Applications are also welcome from the education, medical and youth and community sectors.

Application Form

To make an application please go online to: https://app.hobsons.co.uk/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=nuim

If you need to discuss any details concerning the application please contact Breda Gibney on 01-7083752 or breda.gibney@nuim.ie

Applications should be made no later than Friday 19th August 2016

An interview process will be conducted on Tuesday 13th September 2016 to make the final selection for this course.

We strongly recommend you consider the following before applying.

Participants will be expected to:
- Be willing to engage with group activities and group learning
- Have a commitment to learn through dialogue and reflection on experience
- Have an openness to explore interpersonal challenge and conflict
- Take responsibility for your emotional health and wellbeing.

Participation on this course can generate strong feelings and emotions. If you are in doubt as to your emotional capacity to engage fully in the learning process please contact Mary Ryan at mary.ryan@nuim.ie

Fee €2,500

(Services funded by the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme and employees of the HSE are eligible to apply for funding for this course) The venue is Maynooth University. The dates for the course are as follows:

Dates
14th and 15th October 2016
11th and 12th November 2016
09th and 10th December 2016
13th and 14th January 2017
10th and 11th February 2017
10th and 11th March 2017
21st and 22nd April 2017

NB
It is important to emphasise that this is not a therapeutic course. It does not offer a professional qualification in counselling.

I am delighted to say this course has exceeded my expectations. The course always links theory to practice and with the help of group work, mentoring, essay writing and presentations I was able to reflect on how I learn best. I felt completely supported at all times. I can confidently say that I would recommend this course to anybody wanting to enhance their counselling skills and theoretical knowledge
Noreen Bergin, Counsellor Cura Kilkenny

The course provided me with excellent practical information that is directly relevant to me as a midwife. It developed a deep understanding of the woman in crisis’ experience, improving my empathy and professionalism. The amount of knowledge I gained through this course with its rich learning environment is immeasurable. I strongly recommend this course to any person with an interest in women’s health and wellbeing. You will leave a better person!
Roisin McLaughlin, Staff Midwife, Midlands Regional Hospital Mullingar

I found this course fantastic, it helped me reflect on my work and equipped me with extra skills dealing with crisis pregnancy among young adults. I enjoyed the teaching methods used and there was a perfect balance between theory and practice.”
Metasebia Kereta, Aftercare Project Worker. Team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum, Dublin.