



Welcome to this newsletter.

We have timed this to coincide with the Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development taking place in Stockholm from 8th – 12th July.

A number of SWHIN members will be attending and presenting at the conference and the piece from Mariann overleaf will help to link some of the issues into the Swedish context.

Conference News

Amongst the many valuable plenary speakers we are delighted that Michael Marmot, Chair of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization, will be speaking at the conference. Please see the programme for further details.

SWHIN events

A meeting for network members and anyone else who is interested will take place on Tuesday 10th July from 12.30 – 1.45 pm in Room A6.

As well as individual presentations from members during the conference, there will be a SWHIN symposium on health inequalities and migration.

For further information about SWHIN please contact Julie Fish or Kate Karban,

Network Convenors, or visit our website:

<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/swhin>

Members of the network receive weekly updates of relevant international news and journal articles.

Social Work in Health – the Swedish Research Agenda

Mariann Olsson, Assoc Professor, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Social Welfare in Sweden has, since the 1910s, been based upon general insurance systems and striving for equal rights. However, a century later, there are several threats to equality in health in Swedish society. Areas in need of special concerns and certainly meriting research as well as enhanced services are e.g. children at risk, disability or long term illness issues and caring for the frail elderly. A national research network among social workers in health care was established in the 1980s, hosted by Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. Members of this network develop social work research in health care domains and will participate in the upcoming Stockholm conference.

Children at risk

In the autumn of 2011 the Swedish National Institute of Public Health (<http://www.fhi.se>) published a systematic review “Social health inequalities in Swedish children and adolescents”. Most health problems were more common in children that live in less favourable social circumstances. Children and youth with impairments had poorer mental health, poorer life circumstances and ran a higher risk of being bullied than children in general. Further research is devoted to understanding life circumstances for children with impairments, and to developing methods for enhancing the quality of services for children / adolescents including support for parents.

Disability and social inclusion

Absence from work due to illness is a public health problem with consequences for individuals, organizations and for society as a whole. Research addresses return to work issues, including patient participation in encounters with professionals and collaborative practices between agencies. At the conference, social inclusion will also be addressed by a Nordic study about persons with acquired deaf-blindness and their restrictions from full participation in society. Knowledge is provided about the process of social exclusion and the mechanisms involved in the process of inclusion.

The Social Work and Health Inequalities Network (SWHIN) aims to promote research, discussion and action by social work researchers, educators, practitioners and managers, to combat the causes and consequences of unjust and damaging socially created inequalities in health.

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/healthatwarwick/research/devgroups/socialwork/swhin/