

# Early Notice of International Conference **2-4 July 2018**

## Psychological wellbeing and mental health of children and young people with visual impairment and their families: Needs, research and intervention

**Call for abstracts: submissions will be open from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 until 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

Venue: UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, London.

**The psychological wellbeing and mental health needs of children and young people with visual impairment and their families have been greatly neglected. Two main charities, the Mary Kitizinger Trust and Royal Society for Blind Children, have come together with Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and University College London to host this conference. Together with the contributors and participants, we hope to spearhead important changes to improve understanding and meeting needs better.**

The focus will be on innovative research and evidence based practice developments and skill learning workshops with international and nationally renowned contributors. It is relevant to all clinicians, practitioners and researchers in the field of childhood visual impairment and related disabilities from the UK and internationally. There will be opportunity for new or existing researchers in the field to share their latest research through posters or oral presentation. The conference will also include perspectives from parents and from young people with visual impairment.

#### **Themes to include**

- **Needs, research and outcomes**
- **Early childhood needs and intervention**
- **Recreation, sport and wellbeing**
- **Anxiety, mood and emotion regulation**
- **Social, behaviour and multi-sensory challenges**
- **Children's needs in middle childhood and adolescence**
- **Enhancing participation, habilitation and wellbeing**

Workshops of research into practice covering the early years and early intervention, risk and protective factors for mental health, CBT and therapeutic approaches, managing depression and low self-esteem, complex behaviour needs, social communication and autism assessment, measuring quality of life.

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#### **Gala event: evening reception and buffet**

The conference is sponsored by the Mary Kitizinger Trust and Royal Society for Blind Children