

# TARA SCOTT

taras123@gmail.com / 0852608771

## PROFILE

Researcher and project manager, skilled in strategy and service development, implementing evidence-based interventions, and connecting research, policy and practice, with a particular commitment to advancing child rights. 16 years' experience in managing programmes, projects, teams and stakeholder relationships, monitoring and evaluation within the realms of both NGOs and the Public Sector, working to enhance the wellbeing of children, families and communities, driving positive outcomes and systemic, sustainable improvements.

## SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

- ✓ Published a [research paper on Peer Research](#), with clear recommendations for future adoption of Community-Based Peer Research processes and methodologies.
- ✓ Managed annual review and evaluation of a suite of evidence-based programmes for the Childhood Development Initiative, to ensure they meet objectives and improve outcomes for children and families.
- ✓ Successfully led the strategic planning, development, implementation and pilot evaluation of [Healthy Early Years London](#). This is accessible guidance and resources for professionals and parents/carers of young children, with a mission to ensure the sustainability of outcomes and reduce inequalities for children across London. The pilot phase was completed two months ahead of schedule and within budget, leading to the successful launch of HEYL by the Mayor of London, subsequently expanding its implementation to 13,000 education settings.
- ✓ Significant experience working in child rights and access to education: contributing author of "[No Need to Exclude](#)" - a good practice guide for schools, which focuses on reducing exclusions by prioritising the well-being of all children and young people.
- ✓ Expertise in participatory models of consultation. Actively apply the Lundy model for inclusion to support the development and evaluation of evidence-based programmes.
- ✓ Operational member of Steering Committees advising on governance, project management and implementation, innovation and strategy.
- ✓ In-depth knowledge and understanding of relevant outcomes frameworks and their development; eg ABC Outcomes Framework and the design and development of the PPFs Outcomes Framework.
- ✓ Career to date has focussed on improving outcomes for disadvantaged communities, children and young people through collaboration and partnership with statutory, voluntary, and community sectors, including multi-disciplinary agencies and teams, to deliver and evaluate health promotion and education activities, reducing access inequalities.

## CAREER EXPERIENCE

### **Independent Research Consultant**

**Sept 2023 – Present**

- Associate Quality Specialist – Programme Management with [CDI](#). Manage quality management systems and processes, and manage project evaluations. Commissioned to undertake a research literature review of an interagency SLT project.
- Associate Consultant – [Nexus](#). Research, evaluation and strategic planning.

### **Programme and Quality Manager**

**Feb 2018-Sept 2023**

Childhood Development Initiative (CDI), Dublin, Ireland

- Led project planning, budgeting, implementation, risk management, monitoring and evaluation across 10 public health and education programmes to meet objectives.
- Managed 4 external consultants (including on EU-funded projects); negotiated complex agreements including project time/cost/scope, closures or extensions.
- Led the evaluation of all evidence-based programmes using data from 1000s of participants.
- Managed multidisciplinary teams. Oversaw large programme budgets. Deputised for CEO.
- Led the implementation of large projects, including bringing the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to Ireland, delivering 300,000 books to children since 2019 and receiving national press/TV coverage.

- Delivered nationwide project implementation training to senior Public Sector leaders, covering quality assurance, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation.
- Outperformed 97% of companies when achieving the [EIQQA Q Mark](#) certification to Level 3 within 2 years by instilling a continuous improvement culture and following best practices.

**Project Manager, Healthy Early Years London (HEYL)**

**Feb 2017-Jan 2018**

Commissioned by the Greater London Authority (GLA), UK

- Strategic lead for development, planning and implementation of the pilot phase in 6 London boroughs and 18 education settings.
- Collected and analysed data, evaluated the project, and revised the outcomes framework and tools.
- The pilot was completed 2 months ahead of schedule and within budget, enabling the Mayor of London to launch [HEYL](#) in May 2018 and roll it out to 13,000 education settings.

**Health Improvement Officer**

**Feb 2017-Jan 2018**

Islington Borough Council, London, UK

- Partnered with statutory, voluntary and community sectors to deliver and evaluate health promotion and education activities for parents/carers and families.
- Trained and supported staff to ensure sustainability and effective delivery, reducing health inequalities across London.

**Education Welfare and Safeguarding Officer**

**Oct 2012-Feb 2017**

Hackney Council, London, UK

- Advised the Head Teacher, Governing Body, Senior Leadership and Attendance Lead on strategy to improve access, participation and retention in Education.
- Conducted internal audits, reviewed policies and procedures.
- Volunteered for an extra role as **Business Partnership Manager**, which required liaising with senior leadership providing school improvement services, updates on legislation and Ofsted preparations.

**Senior Family Practitioner**

**Sept 2010-Oct 2012**

Anne Taylor Children’s Centre, Hackney Council, London, UK

- Supported the development of an Early Intervention framework for vulnerable at-risk families, which was commended by Prof Eileen Munro in [The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report A child-centred system](#).
- Successfully established the Early Years Family Support Service; a multi-agency approach providing positive child-centred learning opportunities that meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage; Every Child Matters; and Every Parent Matters framework.

**Senior Key Worker**

**Sept 2008-Sept 2010**

Horizon Children’s Residential Home, London

- Managed child protection issues, Looked After Children in Care and conducted comprehensive parenting assessments.
- Supported, assessed, identified, reviewed and reported on the needs of the young people in care.
- Prepared UK Section 7 and Section 37 court reports, delivering well-structured, evidence-based recommendations.

**EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS**

May 2023                      Dublin, Ireland  
**PRINCE2® Agile Registered Practitioner**

June 2018                      Dublin City University DCU, Ireland  
**Post Graduate Course in Contemporary Issues in Organisational Leadership**

Sept 2007 – Sept 2008      University of Manchester, UK

## Master's Degree in Psychology of Education (Merit)

Sep 2003 - Jun 2004 Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales, UK

### Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology (Distinction)

Sep 2000 - Jun 2003 Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK

### B.A. Joint Honours Degree Psychology and Health Studies (2:1)

## VOLUNTARY ROLES

### Mayoress

London Borough of Haringey, UK

May 2014-May 2015

- Represented the borough at all major events and historical ceremonies in Haringey demonstrating commitment to community engagement and representation.

## RESEARCH & CONFERENCES

### Publications

- Leitao, C, Shumba, J, Scott, T (2023) *Conducting Peer Research: Learning from the Evaluation of a Parenting Support Intervention*. International Journal of Qualitative Methods.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/16094069231211775>
- Scott, T., Reilly, E., and Shumba, J. (2021). *The Great Eight: Delivering literacy programmes from birth to eight years in Tallaght and beyond*. Dublin: CDI.

### Contributing Author

- Childhood Development Initiative (2023) *CDI DOODLE STEAM: Parent Handbook*. Dublin: CDI
- Childhood Development Initiative (2023) *CDI DOODLE STEAM: Facilitators Manual*. Dublin: CDI.
- Childhood Development Initiative (2021) *Being Dad: Father's voices on the hopes and struggles of Fatherhood*. Dublin: CDI.
- Childhood Development Initiative (2019) *Quality Services, Better Outcomes (2nd Edition)*. Dublin: CDI.
- Childhood Development Initiative (2018) *Toolkit for Parental Engagement in Early Learning and Care Services*. Dublin: CDI.
- Hackney Learning Trust (2015) *No Need to Exclude - A good practice guide for schools: Reducing exclusions by promoting the wellbeing of all*. London: HLT

### Conferences

- Leitão, C., Shumba, J., & Scott, T. (2023). *Conducting peer research: Learning from the evaluation of a parenting support intervention*. Poster presented at the Pedagogical and Early Education Research Student Conference.
- Tara Scott & Elaine Fagan (2023) *Being Dad: Fathers' voices on the hopes and struggles of Fatherhood*. Poster presentation at the World Association of Infant Mental Health Congress. Ireland.
- Tara Scott & Jeffrey Shumba (2022) *Improving the Home Learning Environment: How child and family characteristics contribute to changes in the Home Learning Environment over time. Results from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library*. Literacy in the Early Years. Paper presentation at the European Literacy Policy Network.
- Jeffrey Shumba & Tara Scott (2022) *The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on early childhood literacy skills for children engaged in the Doodle Den literacy programme*. Literacy in the Early Years. Paper presentation at the European Literacy Policy Network.
- Tara Scott (2018) *Area Based Initiatives to tackle Child Poverty – Irish policy and context*. Regional Centre for Child and Youth Mental Health and Child Welfare at UiT, the Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø.
- Tara Scott (2018) *Implementation of evidenced prevention and early intervention services to improve education, health and social outcomes for children and families*. Tusla Low to Medium Prevention Showcase Initiative. Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin.