**

*“Once Upon a Time…”*

Inaugural Children's Literature Conference Comes to Dublin

*Parental Pathways and Children’s Books Ireland come together for groundbreaking Irish conference*

If you read any book during childhood that informed your view of the world, transformed your thinking or stuck with you for life, you’ll be acutely aware of the incredible power children’s literature has on developing minds. This June, parenting education and training centre **Parental Pathways** in partnership with **Children’s Books Ireland** will host an inaugural conference in Dublin, titled ***‘Children’s Literature: Building Resilience’***.

Taking place on Saturday 17th June, fittingly in the historic surrounds of The National Library of Ireland on Kildare Street , the one-day conference from Parental Pathways will be the first of its kind in Ireland, promoting childhood mental health in a coming together of two worlds and two different disciplines – the literary and the therapeutic.

**Roddy Doyle, Siobhan Parkinson, Kevin Stevens, Hillary Fannin** and **Trish Forde** are just some of the names making up a diverse line-up of Irish and international authors, writers, illustrators and artists as well as psychotherapy professionals speaking throughout the day. Other speakers include **Damien O’Connor** (*Brown Bag Films*)**,** **Professor Amanda Piesse** and **Mary Pyle** of Trinity College Dublin, senator **Marie-Louise O’Donnell** and **Fergus Finlay**, CEO of Barnados Ireland.

Delving into the world of children’s literature, the conference will celebrate the transformative power which child and young adult-focused writing has on little minds with big imaginations and how that inspires resilience in children. The one-day conference is designed for adults who are interested in the rich diversity and power of children’s literature as well as those in both the literary and the psychotherapy fields and industries.

Running from 9:00am – 4.45pm on Saturday 17th June, tickets are available at a cost of €65 per person via Eventbrite at this link: <http://bit.ly/PPconF>. For more information, log on to [parentalpathways.ie](http://parentalpathways.ie)or email [info@parentalpathways.ie](mailto:info@parentalpathways.ie).

[parentalpathways.ie](http://parentalpathways.ie) | [childrensbooksireland.ie](http://childrensbooksireland.ie)

**@ParentalPathway** | **@KidsBooksIrel**

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**Notes to Editors:**

**About Parental Pathways**

Parental Pathways was founded in 2015 by Maria McGrane and Linda Hanlon, with a combined 35 years of clinical experience in both public and private sectors working with adults, parents, adolescents and children.

“We met professionally eight years ago and, whilst still working in our independent practices as psychotherapists and trainers, we simultaneously realised that working directly with parents and family units was proving effective in providing long-lasting improvements to family communication.

“As parents ourselves, we know how useful this service can be and only wish we could have had this kind of support, guidance and access in our own early parenting years. This drives the ethos of Parental Pathways, combining our years of experience and unique skills to bring our shared vision to fruition: providing a dedicated service offering therapy, education and training for parents, children and families across Ireland.”

Parental Pathways’ aim is to educate, equip and empower parents. Linda and Maria offer group workshops, day courses, seminars and and one-on-one sessions leading, training and advising parents on topics related to the parent-child relationship. The courses are adapted to suit the needs of each group and draw on a wealth of Linda and Maria’s experience, from themes like ‘understanding adolescence’ for parents of teens to ‘the feeding relationship’ for parents to understand this process with their newborns, and the likes of ‘understanding family dynamics’ or ‘the impact of screen time’.

Parental Pathways is also the first facilitators on the island of Ireland of the research-informed Lighthouse Parenting Programme, modelled on an approach pioneered by the Anna Freud Centre in London. For more information log on to www.[parentalpathways.ie](http://parentalpathways.ie)