

THE UK REGISTER OF CHILD PROTECTION RESEARCH

VOLUME 1

Bernard Gallagher

and

Claire Fraser

Centre for Applied Childhood Studies

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HUDDERSFIELD

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1. Experiences of those affected by abuse and neglect

1.1 Children

1. BEST FOR WHOM? THE EXPERIENCE OF CHILD WITNESSES DURING INVESTIGATIONS AND CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS OF PERPETRATORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Philip Gilligan

Co-workers: none

Institution: Bradford Family Service Unit

Contact details: Philip Gilligan, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Bradford, Bradford BD7 1DP

Dates: December 2002 – August 2004

Duration: 20 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: experience of child witnesses during investigations and criminal prosecutions of perpetrators of sexual abuse

Keywords: experiences; investigations; sexual abuse

Aims

The research will explore the hypothesis that, while for some child victims of sexual abuse, the impact of providing evidence can be a positive one; for many it is extremely negative, to the extent that the negative emotional and psychological consequences of abuse may be compounded and their transition from 'victim to 'survivor' is unnecessarily delayed.

Methodology

The study will seek to collaborate with young people who live in Bradford, aged 12 to 18 years, who have disclosed sexual abuse within the past five years and who have had their abuse investigated by the police and/or social services. It will involve at least 10 individuals, who are most likely to be current or former services users of the Alma Street Project. It will include individuals from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. Participants will be asked to provide a narrative account of their experiences of investigations, which will be analysed to provide codifiable data. They will be offered a choice of methods and medium in which to provide their accounts and will be encouraged to use more than one. Data obtained from these young people will be triangulated with that available from non-abusing carers and professionals and from the 'Speaking Out' events, which the Alma Street Project's Peer Mentoring scheme plans to run between January and July 2003. (These will culminate in an event, to be attended by other young people (aged 12 to 18 years) who have been sexually abused and by relevant professionals, where the 'Speaking Out' group will present a 'play', exploring their experiences of investigations, appearing as, for example, witnesses, and facilitate workshops aimed at developing recommendations to improve such experiences for victims.

Results

Not available

Publications

Not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

2. THE VIEWS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ON THEIR EXPERIENCES OF REGISTRATIONS IN BARNSELEY

Principal researcher(s): Anne M. Jones

Co-workers: none

Institution: Social Services Department, Barnsley

Contact details: A.M. Jones, Principal Social Worker, Social Services Dept., Lundwood Health Centre, Littleworth Lane, Barnsley. S70 5RG

Dates: June 1997 – September 1997

Duration: 3 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: children's views upon registration

Keywords: children's viewpoints; effectiveness of registration; behaviour problems; inner world of the child

Aims

To obtain children's views of registration (ages 5 – 16 years). To evaluate the effectiveness of registration. To evaluate methods of direct work with children. To examine issues about team management and stress in relation to child protection procedures, if these issues emerge

Methodology

Interviews (open-ended) with children, social workers, parents and teachers.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

3. DISCLOSURE: THE CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE

Principal researcher(s): Corinne May-Chahal (previously Wattam)

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children), Northern Region

Contact details: Department of Applied Social Science, University of Lancaster, Cartmel College, Lancaster. LA1 4YL

Dates: January 1988 – December 1991

Duration: 4 years

Funding body: NSPCC/Preston Borough Council

Funding amount: £40,000

Main subject area: organisational responses to child sexual abuse and the child's perspective

Keywords: children's views; evidence; child sexual abuse

Aims

To understand the child's perspective when telling others about child sexual abuse. To make recommendations to improve the process of investigation and interviewing for a more child centred approach.

Methodology

Participant observation. Documentary analysis (videos, files, literature, law and policy). Interviews (children and professionals). Database of careers of children reported for child sexual abuse

Results

The child's perspective was not accountable in file texts; it was not a visible overt feature of decision-making. The social worker's focus was bounded by matters of organisational relevance in particular: why an allegation had been made (motive), and what other information supported the allegation (corroboration). In this way children became objects of evidence under a forensic gaze. The response to child sexual abuse changed between the mid-1980s and the early 1990s from one of therapeutic concern to one of legal priority.

Publications

Wattam, C. (1991) *Disclosure: The Child's Perspective*. London: NSPCC Library–Research Report

Wattam, C. (1992) *Making a Case in Child Protection*. London: Wiley

Wattam, C. (1996) *Child Abuse Troubles* (PhD Thesis). Lancaster: University of Lancaster

Wattam, C. *Truth and Belief in the Disclosure Process*. London: Wiley

Wattam, C. A sociological approach to child witnesses. In: H. Westcott, G. Davies and R. Bull (Eds.) (2002) *Children's Testimony: A Handbook of Psychological Research and Forensic Practice*. Chichester: Wiley.

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

4. CHILDREN'S PERCEPTIONS OF THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM SERVICE

Principal researcher(s): Mrs Maria Ruegger

Co-workers: none

Institution: none

Contact details: Mrs M. Ruegger, Independent Consultant/Trainer. Tel: 07714 988136.
E-mail: Mariaruegger@aol.com

Dates: October 1996 – June 1998

Duration: 21 months

Funding body: Hertfordshire Panel of Guardian ad Litem and Reporting Officers

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: representation of children's view in care proceedings

Keywords: children's views; guardian ad litem; user perspective

Aims

To identify children's perceptions of the Guardian ad Litem Service and to learn how far they feel that their views have been sought, respected and relayed. To identify how Guardians ad Litem deal with conflict in their duties towards children. To discover what factors influence Guardian/expert witness decisions about the competence of children.

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews with children (all children aged 7-16 years who have guardian appointed).
Questionnaires for guardians.

Results

Children valued their involvement with guardians in that they felt listened to by someone who was primarily interested in their wishes and feelings. They also welcomed the sense of being involved in and kept informed about the proceedings. They did, however, have some important messages to convey to guardians about the need for improvements in the services. The major areas of concern were the interview venues, in terms of the privacy afforded them; the fact that they were not always aware that their families, as well as the judiciary, would learn of what they had confided to their guardians; and their anger/disappointment about contact issues.

Publications

Ruegger, M. (1995). Eliciting children's views on the Guardian ad Litem Service. *Seen and Heard*, Volume 3
Ruegger, M. (Ed) (2001). *Hearing the Voice of the Child: The Representation of Children's Interests in Public Law Proceedings*. Dorset: Russell House
Ruegger, M. (2001). Seen and Heard but how well informed: Children's perceptions of the Guardian ad Litem Service. *Children and Society*, 15, 3, 133-145
Ruegger, M. (2000). Children's experiences of the guardian ad litem service and public law proceedings. *Seen and Heard*, Volume 10
Ruegger, M. (1999). Protection or Empowerment: An exploration of the Dilemmas involved in Research with Children. In: B. Broad (Ed.) *The politics of Research and Evaluation in Social Work*. Haywards Heath: Venture Press

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

5. IDEOLOGIES OF CHILD PROTECTION: POLICY, PRACTICE AND EXPERIENCE

Principal researcher(s): Mr Alan Wood

Co-workers: none

Institution: Keele University

Contact details: Mr. A. Wood, Codsall Area Office, Children's Team, Histons Hill, Codsall, Staffordshire.

Dates: October 1996 – 2001

Duration: 4-5 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: policy, practice and experience within child protection

Keywords: child focused; ideologies; practice, policy

Aims

To examine the relationship between policy, practice and experience of those subject to the child protection process. Development of an empirically based package to facilitate user involvement. Give credence to the 'child's voice'.

Methodology

Documentary analysis. National policy context/local authority context. Semi-structured interviews and self-completion questionnaires: practitioners/managers. Semi-structured group interviews: practitioners. Child focused individual interviews: service users.

Results

As hypothesised, relationships between policy, practice and experience are conflictual.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

1.2 Survivors

6. YOUNG MEN LIVING THROUGH AND WITH CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE – A PRACTITIONER RESEARCH STUDY

Principal researcher(s): Dr. Andrew Durham

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Warwick

Contact details: Dr. Andrew Durham, SIBS (Sexually Inappropriate Behaviours), Consultancy Manager, SIBS, Social Services Department, The Grange, Coventry Road, Southam, Warwickshire. CV47 1QB

Dates: October 1994 – July 1999

Duration: 4¹/₂ years

Funding body: Warwickshire Social Services Department

Funding amount: £800 per year (PhD fees)

Main subject area: impact of child sexual abuse

Keywords: child sexual abuse; boys; young men

Aims

What perceptions do young men have of the experience of child sexual abuse and how do they perceive and understand its impact on their lives?

Methodology

Anti-oppressive life-story methodology

Results

Asymmetrical power relationships are shown to be characteristic of child sexual abuse. It is important to understand the diversity, and socially contextualised nature of the young men's experiences, in surviving the impact and aftermath of child sexual abuse. The importance of understanding the resistance of the young men is also emphasised and some of the survival strategies they employed are discussed. An oppressive context of patriarchal relations, characterised by compulsory heterosexism and homophobia has shaped and exacerbated the young men's harmful experiences. Internalised oppression and power relationships generate beliefs and subsequent responses, which affirm and perpetuate oppressive social constructions and consequent marginalisation. Through its anti-oppressive methodology, its analytical framework and its use of prior substantive knowledge and experience, the study presents a strong and fresh link between research, social work practice and future research. In making this link, the study explicates the role and skills of the practitioner researcher, and thereby strengthens the academic discipline of social work.

Publications

Durham, A. (2002). Developing a sensitive practitioner research methodology for studying the impact of child sexual abuse. *British Journal of Social Work*, 32, 4, 429-442

Durham, A. (2003). Young men living through and with child sexual abuse: A practitioner research study. *British Journal of Social Work*, 33, 3, 309-323

Durham, A. (2003). *Young Men Surviving Child Sexual Abuse – Research Stories and Lessons for Therapeutic Practice*. London: John Wiley

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

7. LETTERS FROM SURVIVORS OF CHILD ABUSE TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE (NCIPCA)

Principal researcher(s): Corinne May-Chahal, Claire Woodward

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Lancaster

Contact details: Corinne May-Chahal, Department of Applied Social Science, University of Lancaster, Cartmel College, Lancaster LA1 4YL

Dates: 1994 – 1996

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: NCIPCA

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: survivors experiences of child abuse

Keywords: prevention; survivors accounts

Aims

To identify main themes emerging from survivors accounts. To represent survivors views on prevention of child abuse.

Methodology

Content analysis of 1,200 letters. Establishing a database of themes.

Results

Survivors of child abuse responded to an advertisement in the agony aunt columns of national newspapers. Although no specific details were requested writers responded with surprisingly similar categories of information including their personal details (age, gender and address) accounts of their experience (perpetrator, circumstances leading up to and during the maltreatment, length of time and frequency) and recommendations for prevention. 80% had experienced sexual, 33% physical and 22% emotional maltreatment, and 68% repeatedly. These accounts propose that prevention should focus on creating protective family contexts, combating domestic violence, talking about sex, developing positive responses in formal and informal networks to telling, early identification of effects and improvements within society including respecting children.

Publications

Wattam, C., and Woodward, C. (1996) And Do I Abuse My Children, No.1 in *Childhood Matters: Report of The National Commission of Inquiry into the Prevention of Child Abuse*, Volume 2: Background Papers. London: HMSO

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

1.3 Parents/carers

8. WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES OF A SUPPORT GROUP RUN BY AND FOR MOTHERS OF SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILDREN

Principal researcher(s): Mr. Andrew Hill

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children), York

Contact details: Mr Andrew Hill, NSPCC, 65 Osbaldwick Lane, York

Dates: 1998 – 1999

Duration: not stated

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: relationships between mothers of sexually abused children, professional and peer support

Keywords: mothers; sexual abuse; peer support group

Aims

To understand the success of a thriving peer support group for mothers of sexually abused children. To compare and contrast professional and peer support.

Methodology

Qualitative study using semi-structured interviews

Results

Previous studies have shown that when a woman finds out about the sexual abuse of her children the consequences for her are serious and can represent a major life crisis. Women in this position often report a lack of professional understanding and support.

Publications

Hill, A. (2001). 'No-one else could understand': Women's experiences of a support group run by and for mothers of sexually abused children. *British Journal of Social Work*, 31, 3, 385-397

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

9. THE EXPERIENCE OF INVESTIGATIONS AND SUPPORT FOR MOTHERS WHOSE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED

Principal researcher(s): Ms. Shirley E. Jackson

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Southampton

Contact details: Shirley E. Jackson, Social Work Studies Dept., University of Southampton, Southampton SO17 1BJ. E-mail: sej2@soton.ac.uk

Dates: 1st June 1994 - August 1997

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: University of Southampton (Small Grants Fund)

Funding amount: £641

Main subject area: experiences of non-abusing carers in the investigation and support following child sexual abuse

Keywords: child sexual abuse; child protection procedures; effects of child sexual abuse

Aims

To investigate the experiences of mothers whose children had been sexually abused in terms of their experiences of the child protection process.

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews with three well established groups for non-abusing carers.

Results

Non-abusing carers found the support from their groups invaluable. Many had found their treatment by the police to be better than their treatment by the social service departments. People found it very distressing to be ill informed about the outcomes of any court proceedings and if the perpetrator was not convicted this proved very distressing for the children who thought they were considered liars.

Publications

A booklet giving information for mothers and carers on the effects of child sexual abuse (in conjunction with Dartington Social Research Unit)

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

10. 'THERE REALLY IS NOTHING ELSE LIKE IT': SERVICE USER REFLECTIONS ON A SUPPORT SERVICE FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Claire Fraser

Co-workers: none

Institution: Consult Research

Contact details: Consult Research, Bank Lane, Holmbridge, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire. HD9 2NG.
Tel. 07940 587 434. Email: info@consultresearch.co.uk

Dates: 2008 - 2012

Duration: 4 years

Funding body: The Big Lottery

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: support services for parents/carers of victims of child sexual abuse

Keywords: parent/carer; protective parent; supporting families

Aims

To assess the impact of a therapeutic and alternative therapy support service for non-offending parents/carers of victims of child sexual abuse.

Methodology

Outcome monitoring using in-house outcome indicators. Client and Referring Agency satisfaction questionnaires. Semi-structured interviews.

Results

To date, the service has supported over 350 parents/carers, providing a 'lifeline' for these secondary victims of childhood sexual abuse, who would otherwise remain unsupported. The impact of the service continues to be evidenced during this ongoing independent evaluation both by individual outcome monitoring and additional in-depth data gathered during qualitative interviews.

Publications

not available

Data source: website entry (2011)

1.4 Siblings

11. BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Principal researcher(s): Mr. Robert Sanders

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Wales, Swansea

Contact details: Mr. R. Sanders, Dept. of Social Policy and Applied Social Studies, University of Wales
Swansea, Swansea SA2 8PP

Dates: April 1993 – April 2000

Duration: 7 years (part time)

Funding body: unfunded

Funding amount: unfunded

Main subject area: sibling relations, social work and abuse

Keywords: sibling; social work; child abuse

Aims

Part One: to explore the sibling relationship within families engaged in work by child and family social workers; and to explore social work attitudes towards the sibling dimension in practice. Part Two: to explore the sibling dimension in families with children who have been on the child protection register.

Methodology

Part One: Stage 1 - survey of all social workers who are likely to work with children and families over the following six months exploring attitudes towards sibling relationships in their work; Stage 2 - social workers asked to use the 'Sibling Checklist' (Source: 'Patterns and Outcomes in Child Placement') over a six-month period in their work with children and families; Stage 3 - interviews with all social workers who completed the initial survey about the families in respect of which the checklists have been completed; Stage 4 - A follow up survey of social work attitudes towards sibling relationships in their work.

Part Two: File Study - A study of files of children with siblings who were previously on the child protection register which are now closed to social work involvement.

Results

unavailable

Publications

unavailable

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

1.5 Families

12. UNDERSTANDING THE EXPERIENCE OF FAMILIES WITH A CHILD/ CHILDREN WHO HAVE RECENTLY BEEN SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED AS PHYSICALLY ABUSED, EMOTIONALLY ABUSED OR NEGLECTED

Principal researcher(s): Mrs Ann Cody, Mr Ron Ipophen

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Wales, Bangor

Contact details: Mrs A. Cody, Education Centre, Glan Clwyd Hospital, Bodelwyddan, Rhyl, Denbighshire.
LL18 5UJ

Dates: September 1997 – September 2000

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: understanding parental experience

Keywords: parental perspective; meanings of child abuse; ways of coping with child rearing and parenting roles

Aims

Explore the understanding and meaning of child abuse by families where a child's name is recorded on the child protection register. Compare the child rearing and parenting practices of the male and female parents. Discover the coping processes and coping behaviour used in managing their parenting role. Elicit the stated families' perspective of the use of, response and access to, support networks and statutory agencies.

Methodology

Qualitative – Hermeneutic approach. Longitudinal.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

1.6 Partners of survivors

13. INTIMATE PARTNERS: LIVING WITH A SURVIVOR OF SEXUAL ABUSE. AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

Principal researcher(s): Dr Annie Huntington

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Central Lancashire

Contact details: Annie Huntington, Directorate of Social Work, University of Salford, Allerton Building, Frederick Road, Salford M5 4WT E-mail: A.Huntington@salford.ac.uk

Dates: November 1994 – August 1995

Duration: 9 months

Funding body: CCETSW (Central Council for the Education and Training of Social Workers) funded MSc programme

Funding amount: Bursary and fees

Main subject area: survivors of child sexual abuse, adult relationships and partner experiences

Keywords: not stated

Aims

To document and explore the experiences of women in adult sexual relationships with other women who were survivors of sexual abuse.

Methodology

In depth interviews with voluntary participants. Interpretivist paradigm and feminist theory informed the study.

Results

not available

Publications

Huntington, A. (1998). When the professional is personal: Issues of identity and practice. *Practice*, 10, 1, 5-14

Huntington, A. (1996). *Between Women: Talking about the consequences of sexual abuse*. Paper for Women and Equality Conference. John Moores University, Liverpool, England

Huntington, A. (1996). *Between Women: Reporting on the outcome of research with adult sexual partners of childhood victims of sexual abuse*. Paper for the 4th International Social Science Methodology Conference, University of Essex, Essex, England

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

2. Aspects of practice

2.1 Prevention

14. EVALUATION OF ASPECTS OF 'TAKE CARE': A RESOURCE PACK DESIGNED FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL SAFETY

Principal researcher(s): Mary Baginsky

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Mrs. M. Baginsky, Senior Research Officer, NSPCC, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH

Dates: January-July 2001

Duration: 7 months

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection and schools

Keywords: child protection; school-based intervention programme

Aims

To examine how best to: distribute materials to schools; provide appropriate training to support the introduction of the materials; collect the views of schools on the materials; and assess the appropriateness of the materials for nursery settings.

Methodology

Survey

Results

See reports

Publications

Baginsky, M. (2001). Report on the Evaluation of Early Training on 'Take Care'. London: NSPCC

Baginsky, M. (2001) Report on the Initial Distribution of 'Take Care' and Feedback from Schools. London: NSPCC

Baginsky, M. (2002) 'Take Care' Protective Curriculum Pack: How Appropriate Is It For Early Years Pupils? London: NSPCC

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

15. THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN PREVENTING SEXUAL ABUSE OF GIRLS IN SPORT

Principal researcher(s): Celia Brackenridge

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Gloucestershire (formerly Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education)

Contact details: Celia Brackenridge, Coalheughhead Cottage, Harburn, By West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland EH55 8RT

Dates: 1996

Duration: not stated

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child abuse in sport

Keywords: child abuse; prevention; sport

Aims

To explore parents' assumptions about their sporting daughters' safety in the coaching and competition setting.

Methodology

Survey of 183 parents of elite female athletes aged 13-19 years in the south west of England (telephone interviews and focus group).

Results

Fathers of young elite female athletes were more sceptical about their safety but less likely to attend events. Mothers were more complacent but more likely to attend events.

Publications

Brackenridge, C.H. (1998). Healthy sport for healthy girls: The role of parents in preventing sexual abuse of girls in sport. *Sport, Education and Society*, 3, 1, 59-78

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

16. PROMOTING PREVENTION: A PILOT PROJECT EXAMINING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A MEDIA BASED INTERVENTION TO REDUCE CHILD ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Imogen Howse

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Bath

Contact details: Imogen Howse, Mental Health Research and Development Unit, Wessex House Level 7, University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY

Dates: August 2001 – August 2002

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: Avon and Somerset Constabulary

Funding amount: £6,500

Main subject area: child abuse prevention

Keywords: evaluation; child abuse prevention; media-based intervention

Aims

To establish the effectiveness of a written media child abuse prevention pack on increasing child abuse knowledge and child protection behaviours in organisations offering extra-curricular activities to young people. To establish the relative effectiveness of distributing a free written media child abuse prevention pack in conjunction with an explanatory seminar compared with a postal distribution strategy.

Methodology

Longitudinal, experimental design. Data collection by questionnaire.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

17. REVIEW OF SCHOOL-BASED CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMMES

Principal researcher(s): Ian Kaplan

Co-workers: Mary Baginsky

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Mrs M Baginsky, Senior Research Officer, NSPCC, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH

Dates: January – July 1999

Duration: 7 months

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection and schools

Keywords: child protection; school-based prevention programmes

Aims

To begin to understand and evaluate child abuse prevention programmes in schools.

Methodology

Literature review

Results

The report assesses existing programme evaluations and makes recommendations for future work.

Publications

Kaplan, I. (2002). *Report on the Effectiveness of School-Based Child Abuse Prevention Programmes*. London: NSPCC

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

18. PARENTS AS EDUCATORS IN THE PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Dr. Lindsey MacLeod

Co-workers: Dr. J. Gillies, Dr. D. Warden (Research Supervisors)

Institution: University of Glasgow, University of Strathclyde

Contact details: Dr. L. MacLeod, Clinical Psychologist, Child and Family Clinic, 49 Airbles Road, Motherwell ML1 2TJ

Dates: 1991 – 1993

Duration: 2 years (part-time)

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: role of parents as educators in the prevention of child sexual abuse

Keywords: prevention; education; child sexual abuse

Aims

An investigation of what makes some parents inform or educate their child about child sexual abuse and others shy away from these issues. The differences between “educators” and “non educators” were explored in terms of demographics, knowledge levels, differences in locus of control and self and response efficacy variables.

Methodology

Questionnaire and a semi-structured interview

Results

Of 42 mothers interviewed, only 14 reported having participated in some sort of prevention education with the child targeted from their family. The most consistent differences between educators and non-educators were that educators tended to perceive prevention education as more effective in preventing abuse (higher response-efficacy) and tended to perceive themselves as more capable of carrying it out (higher self-efficacy). Locus of control was not found to be as clearly associated with the implementation of education as a preventative strategy. Only when using a small scale, very specific to the topic of CSA prevention, were educators found to be significantly more internal than non-educators. These findings suggest that health threat paradigms such as Protection Motivation Theory (Rogers, 1975; 1984) provide a more useful theoretical framework for understanding how parents think about, and respond to the threat of CSA.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

19. CONCERTED ACTION ON THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE IN EUROPE

Principal researcher(s): Corinne May-Chahal

Co-workers: M. A. Cerezo, M. Gerard, A. Grevot, F. Lamers-Winkleman, T. Berlotti, P. Di Blasio, U. Thyen, D Thorpe, K Koojiman

Institution: University of Lancaster

Contact details: Corinne May-Chahal, Department of Applied Social Science, University of Lancaster, Cartmel College, Lancaster, LA1 4YL

Dates: 1996 – 1998

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: European Union

Funding amount: €245,000

Main subject area: prevention of child maltreatment

Keywords: comparative; child maltreatment

Aims

To identify existing measures of child abuse prevention and evaluations of their effectiveness. To collect standardized data in eight European countries on children referred into child protection services. To identify health measures of child maltreatment in eight European countries.

Methodology

Literature review in each participating country. Standardised data collection over 12 month period in selected child protection service sites. Workshops for information exchange.

Results

All participating countries (Belgium, England, France, Germany, Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Norway) had prevention strategies at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Very few services had been subject to evaluation and when they were this was most frequently process/formative evaluation. Services were rarely evaluated in terms of outcome i.e. whether they stopped child abuse. The levels of prevention were reframed to lend themselves to evaluating outcomes – PRIMARY stops child abuse before it occurs, SECONDARY stops child abuse from happening again, TERTIARY minimises impact of child abuse. Data was collected on 2,205 children. Four categories of child maltreatment emerged: harms caused by a) excessive actions, b) absent actions, c) sexual actions, d) material/environmental situations and e) other, including substance misuse. Patterns in excessive/absent cases were identified and their implications for prevention discussed.

Publications

Wattam, C. (1998). *An Overview of Child Maltreatment Prevention Strategies in Europe: Volume One*. European Commission, Science Research and Development

Thyen, U., Kirchhofer, F., and Wattam, C. (2000). Gewalterfahrung in der Kindheit – Risiken und Gesundheitlich folgen (Abuse and violence experienced by children: Risks and effects on health). *Gesundheitswesen*, 62, 311

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

20. ACCIDENT PREVENTION IN 0 – 5 YEAR OLDS

Principal researcher(s): Barbara Potter, Gillian Newall

Co-workers: Louise Earll

Institution: Beeches Green Health Centre, Stroud

Contact details: Barbara Potter, Health Visitor, Beeches Green Health Centre, Stroud GL5 4BH

Dates: October 1996 – September 1997

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: local PND

Funding amount: £4,000

Main subject area: parenting skills in accident prevention

Keywords: behaviour; group work; beliefs; attitudes

Aims

Do health visitor facilitated first aid courses increase knowledge of accident prevention, increase intention to change behaviour and result in measurable behaviour change?

Methodology

Prospective longitudinal study with: parents and carers of 0 – 5 year olds in Gloucestershire (sample group); parents and carers who attended health visitors facilitated first aid courses (intervention group); and randomised sample of parents and carers who were not given the opportunity to attend training (control group).

Questionnaires developed and piloted to collect data containing theoretically derived questions on approach to accident prevention, teaching and learning methods.

Results

Intervention group felt the courses had increased their knowledge of home safety and accident prevention. Intervention group were more likely to be planning changes in approaches to home safety. Intervention group reported actual changes as a direct result of attending courses. Knowledge of child development and child safety – statistically significant numbers of respondents in both groups view safety as a discipline issue rather than a parenting skill. Beliefs about how children learn did not always influence parent's strategies to teach their children about safety. Most favoured giving clear explanations and setting good examples but actually used smacking, shouting and withholding privileges. This suggests that the dominant belief is that unsafe behaviour is grounded in naughtiness and does not reflect a child's developmental stage. The first aid courses can bring about behaviour change by increasing knowledge and awareness. They did not lead to a change in underlying belief or attitude about the child's behaviour, reflecting developmental stage rather than naughtiness.

Publications

Not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

21. AN EVALUATION OF A CHILDREN'S SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAMME

Principal researcher(s): David Warden, Ellen Moran

Co-workers: John Gillies, Gillian Mayes, Lindsey MacLeod

Institution: Strathclyde University, Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow University

Contact detail: Dr. L. MacLeod, Clinical Psychologist, Child and Family Clinic, 49 Airbles Road, Motherwell
ML1 2TJ

Dates: not stated

Duration: not stated

Funding body: Scottish Office; Economic and Social
Research Council; Scottish Health
Education Group

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: educating children

Keywords: children's safety; child education; prevention programme

Aims

To evaluate whether learning achieved from the *Kidscape* Safety Training Programme generalises to other personal safety situations. To evaluate whether such learning persists over time. To evaluate whether certain aspects of the programme are more effective than others.

Methodology

Interviews with children completing *Kidscape* training – before, immediately after and 2-3 months after training (n=60). Interviews with control group who did not undergo training (n=60).

Results

The results revealed a significant improvement in the safety awareness of the experimental (trained) group after training and also a significant difference between the groups, in favour of the trained group. However, an improved performance of the control (untrained) group suggests that factors other than the *Kidscape* programme itself may influence these differences. Age differences in children's wariness of four safety situations were also observed.

Publications

Warden, D., Moran, E., Gillies, J., Mayes, G., and MacLeod, L. (1997). An evaluation of a children's safety training programme. *Educational Psychology*, 17(4), 433-448

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

2.2 Public education

22. JENSI TASHADUD KE BARE MEIN BAAT KEYJA: DEVELOPING MATERIALS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AMONGST ASIAN COMMUNITIES IN BRADFORD

Principal researcher(s): Philip Gilligan

Co-workers: Shamim Akhtar

Institution: Bradford Family Service Unit, 207 Cutler Heights Lane, Bradford BD4 9JB

Contact details: Philip Gilligan, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Bradford, Bradford BD7 1DP

Dates: August 2002 – April 2003

Duration: 9 months

Funding body: Children's Fund Innovations Fund

Funding amount: £15,000

Main subject area: methods of increasing awareness of, and appropriate responses to, child sexual abuse within the Asian communities in Bradford

Keywords: Asian communities; sexual abuse

Aims

The development in consultation with the Asian communities and relevant professionals of an information pack, in a variety of languages (English, Urdu, Punjabi and Bangla) and formats (written, audio and video) which can be used by both professionals and community leaders within the Asian communities in Bradford and which will be launched publicly in 2003.

Methodology

Questionnaires. Focus groups.

Results

Initial responses confirm the view that while many members of Asian communities are aware of the existence of child sexual abuse, the subject is rarely discussed, there is little knowledge of services available to assist victims or non-abusing carers and much anxiety regarding the consequences of disclosures. It is hoped the information pack will enhance outreach and education work within the Asian communities in Bradford to increase awareness of and appropriate responses to child sexual abuse, with the aim of eventually increasing the use of relevant services by Asian children who have been sexually.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

23. BETTERS SAFE EVALUATION

Principal researcher(s): Dr Julie Skinner, Dr Gerald Midgley

Co-workers: Jeanette McNaught

Institution: University of Hull

Contact details: Dr. Julie Skinner, University of Hull, Scarborough Campus, Filey Road, Scarborough YO11 3AZ

Dates: February 2002 – June 2002

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: The Children's Society

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection policies

Keywords: child safety; policy-making

Aims

To evaluate the effectiveness of Bettersafe – a programme for developing child protection policies in north-east England.

Methodology

Narrative by key worker. Interviews (in depth) with workers and participants. Steering group discussion and involvement. Conference/workshop with appropriate national representatives.

Results

Bettersafe focused on community development work using guiding principles about child safety. There was consensus that this model should be widely implemented, although disagreement over whether it should form a challenge to the mainstream regulatory approach or be complementary to it. There is a significant cultural gap between the statutory sector, which focuses on enforcing regulations and community groups that, although aware of the rationale for regulations, need to balance this against volunteer numbers, staff turnover, and limited resources. In such circumstances, maintaining awareness of regulations is difficult. Community groups need to ensure children's safety, so gaining their commitment is essential. Bettersafe was effective and demonstrated that given appropriate information and effective facilitation, community groups can raise *their own* awareness of child safety issues. Once awareness is raised, regulations can be addressed. Bettersafe could provide useful brokerage between the sectors. It is therefore in the interests of child safety to further develop and disseminate this model. What can be achieved in the voluntary sector, without changes in the policies and practices of statutory agencies, is limited. There was agreement that the community development approach could be beneficial to workers in schools, social services, and others. Whilst statutory services and community groups would benefit from this approach, the most important winners would be children whose safety in their local community would improve.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

2.3 Indicators and detection

24. THE IDENTIFICATION OF EARLY INDICATORS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT: A MULTI-PROFESSIONAL MODIFIED DELPHI SURVEY

Principal researcher(s): Dr Catherine Powell

Co-workers: Prof. E.A. Glasper, Dr. J. B. Clough (Research Supervisors)

Institution: University of Southampton

Contact details: Dr Catherine Powell, Lecturer in Child Health Nursing, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ

Dates: 1997 – 2001

Duration: 4 years

Funding body: Smith and Nephew Nursing Research Fellowship; Southampton University

Funding amount: £34,000

Main subject area: early identification

Keywords: multi-professionals; Delphi methodology

Aims

To seek consensus as to what may constitute an early indicator of child maltreatment.

Methodology

Three-round Delphi survey. Retrospective case-notes review. Secondary analysis of Delphi data to measure the strength and extent of inter-professional agreement.

Results

Using the Delphi technique, this study draws on the expertise of British child protection academics and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines in seeking to develop a consensus opinion on possible early indicators of child abuse and neglect. Although it is recognised that inter-agency working is a crucial component of child protection practice, secondary analysis of Delphi data suggested a number of significant differences in the strength and extent of inter-agency agreement on a number of possible early indicators. A tentative conclusion arising from the study is that the early indicators of child abuse and neglect that achieved consensus of agreement may help in diagnosing child abuse and neglect at an earlier stage, although they are not necessarily *diagnostic*. Alternative explanations, differential diagnoses and information gathering are paramount, as is willingness and ability to act on concerns. Although great caution is urged, it is suggested that the findings from the study are credible and of interest to those who are working towards more timely recognition and referral of abused and neglected children.

Publications

Powell, C. (2003). Early indicators of child abuse and neglect: A multi-professional Delphi study. *Child Abuse Review*, 12, 25-40

Powell, C. (2003). The Delphi Technique: Myths and Realities. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 41(4), 376-382

Powell, C. (1998). Using the Delphi Technique to develop a consensus on appropriate and timely referral of cases of child abuse and neglect. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, 12(3), 334-336

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

25. RECOGNISING CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE IN PRACTICE: A MULTI-PROFESSIONAL STUDY

Principal researcher(s): Professor Wagner Marcenes, Professor Ruth Freeman, Dr Anne Lazenbatt

Co-workers: none

Institution: School of Nursing and Midwifery, Queen's University, Belfast

Contact details: Mary Russell, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Queen's University, 50 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast BT9 6AZ. E-mail: m.russell@qub.ac.uk

Dates: July 2002 – ongoing

Duration: not available

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: recognition of child abuse by health professionals

Keywords: recognition of abuse; health professionals

Aims

To examine how health professionals recognise physical abuse in their everyday practice.

Methodology

Postal survey

Results

Study on-going

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

2.4 Risk

26. RISK AND SOCIAL WELFARE: PROTECTING VULNERABLE CLIENTS

Principal researcher(s): Prof Andy Alaszewski, Ms Jill Manthorpe, Dr Larry Harrison

Co-workers: Mike Walsh, Linda Tindall

Institution: Institute of Health Studies, University of Hull

Contact details: Andy Alaszewski, Centre for Health Services Studies, University of Kent at Canterbury, Canterbury CT2 7NF

Dates: 1994-1996

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: Economic and Social Research Council

Funding amount: £84,000

Main subject area: definition, assessment and management of risk

Keywords: risk; hazard; danger; trust

Aims

To examine and contrast the ways in which agencies engaged in child protection and/or supporting vulnerable adults define, assess and manage risk. To examine the impact of agency definitions and policies relating to risk on the practice and decision making of professional practice. To explore the ways in which users and clients define and seek to manage risk.

Methodology

Survey of 110 agencies in one region in UK regarding agency approaches to risk. Survey of 160 staff in 15 agencies to explore their definition of risk and influence of agency policy. Diary study of 15 professionals to examine every-day risk management and decision making.

Results

At the time of the research, policies for risk assessment and risk management were poorly developed within agencies especially those providing support for vulnerable adults. There was a tension in agencies between risk assessment policies that often formed part of a health and safety framework and policies concerned with user empowerment that formed part of clinical/practice guidelines. There was little evidence that front-line workers were aware of their organisation's risk assessment and management policies. Most organisations had a strong informal professional culture with a value base emphasising user interests and involvement.

Publications

Alaszewski, A., Harrison, L., and Manthorpe, J. (1998). (Eds.) *Risk, Health and Welfare: Policies, Strategies and Practice*. Buckingham: Open University Press

Alaszewski, A., and Manthorpe, J. (1998). Welfare Agencies and risk: The missing link? *Health and Social Care in the Community*, 6(1), 4-15

Alaszewski, A. (1998). The Dangers of Risk: Professional Practice and Organisational Policies. In: I. Allen (Ed) *Best Value, Regulation and Risk*, Policy Studies Institute, London (pp. 55-74)

Alaszewski, A. (2000). Restructuring Community Care: Risk, Decision-Making and Control. *Managing Community Care*, 8(1), 22-26

Alaszewski, A. (2002). Risk and dangerousness. In: B. Bytheway, V. Bacigalupo, J. Bornat, J. Johnson, and Spurr, S. (Eds.) *Understanding Care, Welfare and Community: A Reader*. London, Routledge (pp. 183-191)

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

27. RISK ASSESSMENT IN CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Hedy Cleaver, Corinne May-Chahal

Co-workers: Pat Cawson

Institution: University of London, University of Lancaster

Contact details: Pat Cawson, NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Children), National Centre, 42, Curtain Road, London.

Dates: 1993 – 1995

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: Department of Health (DoH)

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: risk assessment

Keywords: risk assessment; referral tools

Aims

To identify risk assessment in practice. To review literature on risk assessment. To develop tools to assist Practitioners.

Methodology

Documentary analysis. Interview with practitioners.

Results

No single predictive factor could be identified in relevant research. Forms of maltreatment (physical, sexual, emotional and neglect) were often conflated as were sample populations (for example, mothers only, clinical population substantiated and risk cases). Information processes identified in research and inquiries were reviewed as important factors in risk assessment. Ten 'common mistakes' were summarized (see Working Together to Safeguard Children, DOH, 1999) and a referral chart to enhance information collection was devised.

Publications

Cleaver, H., Wattam, C., and Cawson, P. (1998). *Risk Assessment in Child Protection*. London: NSPCC

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

28. THE DANGEROUS CARERS PROJECT

Principal researcher(s) Renuka J. Dent, Dr Ann Hagell

Co-workers: none

Institution: NCH (National Children's Homes) - The Bridge Childcare Development Service

Contact details: Elaine Anderson, The Bridge Child Care Development Service, 1st Floor, 34, Upper Street, London N1 0PN. E-mail: e.Anderson@thebridgeccds.org.uk

Dates: September 1995 – September 1997

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: The Bridge Childcare Development Service

Funding amount: £100,000

Main subject area: dangerous carers in child protection

Keywords: risk; dangerousness; child protection

Aims

To review English language literature in relation to dangerous carers in the child protection arena. To produce a schedule to identify dangerous carers. To pilot the schedule. To publish the literature review, schedule and associated training pack.

Methodology

Literature review. Design of schedules (taking into account practice information from approximately 20 Part 8 inquiry reports). Pilot of schedule.

Results

The findings will focus on the viability of using a schedule to collect information systematically in child protection work (multi-professional). It will look at advantages and disadvantages of this method of working. The schedule asks questions related to dangerousness as addressed in research literature. Much of this research has been carried out in fields other than child-protection. The schedule has considered this research in relation to child protection.

Publications

Hagell, A. (1998). *Dangerous Care: Reviewing the Risks to Children from Their Carers*. London: Bridge Publishing
Dent, R. J. (1998). *Dangerous Care: Working to Protect Children*. London: Bridge Publishing
BridgeALERT (1998). *Key Information for Identifying Children in Danger*. London: Bridge Publishing
BridgeALERT (1998). *Training Materials*. London: Bridge Publishing

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

29. CONSTRUCTING A RISK ASSESSMENT MODEL FOR CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Dr. Vic Tuck

Co-workers: none

Institution: Warwickshire ACPC (Area Child Protection Committee)

Contact details: Vic Tuck, Warwickshire ACPC, Children's Planning Section, 152 The Parade, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. CV32 4BQ E-mail: vicktuck@warwickshire.gov.uk

Dates: 2001 – ongoing

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: risk assessment in child protection

Keywords: risk assessment; analysis

Aims

To investigate the possibility of constructing a viable model for risk assessment and analysis in child protection. To investigate the possibility of drawing from such a model, tools and templates for use by practitioners in compiling reports for child protection conferences that contain sound risk assessments. To investigate the effectiveness in practice of these tools and templates and by implication, the model itself.

Methodology

Construction of a model for risk assessment by means of functional analysis and the application of relevant theory. Identification of practice tools and templates which can be field-tested by means of two pilot projects. Refining of the model, tools and templates in response to the findings of the pilot projects.

Results

In 2001, Warwickshire ACPC embarked upon a project to explore the possibility of developing a risk assessment model for use by child protection professionals. The rationale for this was that while the Framework for Assessment of Children in Need and their Families provides us with a systematic approach to collecting information with families where there are child care issues, there is a need for more sophisticated models and tools for identifying and managing risk in situations where children may be experiencing harm. The requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children make plain that professionals should be able to make judgements about whether a child is at continuing risk of harm. Whatever shifts of emphasis may have occurred in the discourses surrounding safeguarding children since the 're-focusing debate commenced in 1995, sound risk assessment and analysis therefore remain at the centre of good planning and decision-making in child protection cases.

Publications

Tuck, V. (forthcoming) Analysing risk in child protection: A model for risk assessment. In: V. White and J. Harris (Eds.) *Developing Good Practice in Child Care*. London: Jessica Kingsley

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

2.5 Assessment

30. THE ROLE FOR THE CHILD IN THE CHILD PROTECTION ASSESSMENT

Principal researcher(s): Ms. Kim Drake

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of East Anglia

Contact details: Ms K Drake, Senior Practitioner, Child Protection 74, Pople St., Wymondham, Norfolk
NR18 OLP

Dates: April 1992 – March 1993

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: University of East Anglia

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: enabling children's participation in assessment work

Keywords: practical; child-centred; practice based

Aims

To explore the role for the child in the formal process of assessment. Understand levels of appropriate participation for children. Review working tools and methods applicable to subject. Identification of principles for practice.

Methodology

Review of known relevant literature. Analysis of theoretical and value base for work. Application of above to 'live' cases.

Results

There are some common threads in working with children in child protection assessment work which can lead us to establish some principles for practice. The role for the child is essentially threefold. Primarily their role is to 'just be' and allow themselves to be observed by the assessment worker. Secondly, the child's role is to provide valuable information about their family life and how safe they are within this. Thirdly, the opportunity to express their worries, fears, wishes and feelings to an empathic, listening adult. All of these roles require the child to participate and to be involved in any assessment process. The challenge for the worker is to enable and facilitate this participation to a level appropriate to the needs of the individual child. The achievement of this can result in the child suffering the least stress possible from the professional process. Also the assessment will be enriched and more accurate, which in the long run will enhance positive outcomes for children. The research also includes the development of original material in the form of the 'Worries Game' to use as practical assessment tool.

Publications

not stated

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

31. CHILD ASSESSMENT RATING AND EVALUATION (CARE PROJECT)

Principal researcher(s): Dr. Kevin Browne, Ms. Jean Ware

Co-workers: none

Institution: Essex Child Protection Committee; University of Birmingham

Contact details: Ms J. Ware, Senior Nurse, Child Protection, Queensway House, Essex Street, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 5TD

Dates: August 1995 – August 1998

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: identifying children at risk of abuse

Keywords: assessment; need; child abuse; identifying risk

Aims

To target effective services. To identify children in need. To identify children at high risk of abuse.

Methodology

Every new birth up to age of one year to receive planned visits from a health visitor. To observe: a) quality of parenting; b) parental attributions; and c) attachment behaviour. Every visit is analysed at Birmingham University for significant index of need and significant behavioural observations.

Results

The CARE Project provides a child-centred assessment of need and provides parents with a means of identifying their own situation and perceptions of parenthood. It allows health visitors to perform a professional objective assessment and it provides opportunities for intervention at any point in the assessment process throughout the first year of the child's life. Assessment is developed over a year, rather than being a 'one off' judgement and it identifies the components of 'concern' and provides words to match 'gut feelings'. It is a professional educational tool and it provides a meaningful approach to joint working and referral to other agencies and it is in keeping with recommendations for practice in the 3rd edition of the Hall Report.

Publications

Ware, J. (1995). The Care Project. *Royal College of Nursing Newsletter*, November

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

32. DEVELOPMENT OF A FRAMEWORK TO ASSESS THE NEEDS OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES: AN ACTION RESEARCH STUDY

Principal researcher(s): Dr. Helen Buckley, Ms. Jan Horwath

Co-workers: Sadhbh Whelan

Institution: Research Centre, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

Contact details: Jan Horwath, Department of Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield, Elmfield, Northumberland Rd, Sheffield S10 2 TU. E-mail: j.Horwath@Sheffield.ac.uk

Dates: January 2002 - December 2004

Duration: not stated

Funding body: North East, South East and South West Area Health Board

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: assessment

Keywords: assessment; multidisciplinary practice; vulnerable children; social work

Aims

To develop a national framework for assessing the needs of vulnerable children and their families. To develop a framework to be used by all professionals coming into contact with children and families. To create a framework that is developed with and informed by the experiences of frontline staff.

Methodology

Focus groups to identify what practitioners and managers want from and believe should be included in an assessment framework. Development of a framework to be piloted in six sites. Evaluation of the pilot including interviews with practitioners, managers and service users.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

33. COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS IN CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Dr. Sally Holland

Co-workers: none

Institution: Cardiff University

Contact details: Dr. S. Holland, Lecturer, Cardiff University School of Social Sciences, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff. CF10 3WT

Dates: October 1996 – December 2000

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: Doctoral research

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection social work

Keywords: social work; assessment; child protection; decision making

Aims

To examine social workers' decision making when carrying out comprehensive assessments in child protection cases. To research assessments carried out by social workers in both the voluntary and statutory sectors.

Methodology

Qualitative interviews with social workers. Observation of assessment sessions and team room. Documentary analysis of 20 case files. Literature search.

Results

Social workers are good at gathering information but find it difficult to explain how they analyse it. Children's views are not consistently reported. The relationship between assessor and assessed appears to be an important factor in the assessment outcome.

Publications

Holland, S. (1999). Discourses of decision-making in child protection: Conducting comprehensive assessments in Britain. *International Journal of Social Welfare*, 8, 276-286

Holland, S. (2000). The assessment relationship: Interactions between social workers and parents in child protection assessments. *British Journal of Social Work*, 30(2), 149-164

Holland, S. (2001). Representing children in child protection assessments. *Childhood*, 8(3), 322-339

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

34. A FOLLOW UP STUDY OF CHILD PROTECTION ASSESSMENTS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO CASES OF UNEXPLAINED SERIOUS INJURIES

Principal researcher(s): Dr. Peter Sale

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Dr. P. Sale, NSPCC East Sussex, 2 Sedlescombe Road South, St. Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TN38 OTA

Dates: 1997

Duration: not stated

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: follow-up of child protection arrangements

Keywords: child protection; assessments; follow-up

Aims

To identify outcomes for children and families who have been subject to child protection assessments by NSPCC East Sussex between 1986 and 1996. To explore whether further information could be ascertained on follow-up in relation to serious injuries which were unexplained at the time of the assessment.

Methodology

not available

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

2.6 Family participation and partnership

2.6.1 Child protection system

35. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS IN CHILD PROTECTION	
Principal researcher(s): Ms. Anne Jenkins	
Co-workers: none	
Institution: Nottingham Trent University	
Contact details: Ms. A. Jenkins, Principal Lecturer in Social Work, Dept. of Health and Human Services, Nottingham Trent University, Burton St., Nottingham NG1 4BU	
Dates: 1994 – 1999	Duration: 5 years
Funding body: not stated	Funding amount: not stated
Main subject area: not stated	
Keywords: partnership; parents; child protection	
Aims	
To analyse the way in which partnership practice is undertaken with parents of children whose names are placed on the child protection register. To analyse how far the Department of Health's 15 essential principles of partnership practice had been achieved in this context.	
Methodology	
A qualitative study of the experiences of a small sample of families, in a Midlands county social services department. Study examined the experience from three perspectives: social workers, parents/carers and managers. A two year longitudinal study commencing in 1996.	
Results	
Interim findings suggest the partnership practice was good in respect of those aspects of the intervention, which pertained to process, but the partnership practice was less effective in respect of parent's rights and development. It was difficult to predict the possibility of working in partnership, based purely on the criteria of parental characteristics. The success of working in partnership related more to the skills of individual practitioners rather than the characteristics of the parents. The social services department achieved higher standards of partnership practice with those families of the children considered to be at the greater risk.	
Publications	
Jenkins, A. (1996). Working in Partnership with Parents in Child Protection. International Conference on Comparative Practice in Child Welfare, Oslo, September	
Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)	

36. PARENTAL PARTICIPATION IN CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Kieran O'Hagan

Co-workers: none

Institution: Queen's University, Belfast

Contact details: Kieran O'Hagan, Department of Social Work, The Queens University, 7, Lennoxvale, Belfast.
BT9 5BY

Dates: March 1992 – September 1993

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: Southern Area Child Protection Committee

Funding amount: £8,500

Main subject area: parental participation in child protection work

Keywords: parental participation

Aims

Determining perceptions of parents in child protection work. Monitoring implementation of Parental Participation policy.

Methodology

Interviews with parents whose children were the subject of case conference and child abuse enquiries.

Results

Policy on parental participation not being implemented. Parents views/perceptions of social workers and social services very negative. Enormous diversity in the nature and degree of parental contact/involvement with child protection agencies.

Publications

O'Hagan, K. [date not given] *Evaluations of Policy on Parental Participation in Child Protection*. Published by Southern Area Child Protection Committee, Northern Ireland.

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

2.6.2 Case conferences – family and parental aspects

37. CHILD PROTECTION: FAMILIES AND THE CONFERENCE PROCESS

Principal researcher(s): Dr. Margaret Bell

Co-workers: Prof. Ian Sinclair

Institution: University of York

Contact details: Dr. Margaret Bell, Dept, of Social Work, University of York, York. YO10 5DD

Dates: 1992-1995

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: The Nuffield Foundation

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: families and the child protection conference process

Keywords: case conference; families; child protection

Aims

To evaluate the involvement of families in the child protection case conference. To evaluate the attitudes of professionals to presence of parents in the child protection case conference. To establish whether registration decisions were different in child protection case conferences where parents were present.

Methodology

Questionnaires to family members and professionals invited to child protection case conferences. Interviews with family members. Observation at child protection case conferences and training events

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

38. PARENTAL PARTICIPATION AT CHILD PROTECTION CASE CONFERENCES (BELFAST HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TRUST)

Principal researcher(s): Mr. David Hayes

Co-workers: none

Institution: The Shankill Centre, Belfast

Contact details: Mr. D. Hayes, The Shankill Centre, 151-157 Shankill Rd., Belfast BT13 1FD

Dates: September 1994 – September 1995

Duration: one year

Funding body: EHSSB (Eastern Health and Social Services Board)

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: parental participation at child protection case conferences

Keywords: case conferences; parental participation

Aims

Monitor and evaluate parental participation at child protection case conferences. Assess the effects of parental participation on parents and professionals. Assess the effects of parental participation on the focus and purpose of case conferences. Identify ways of enhancing parental participation at case conferences.

Methodology

Review of Trust planning department statistical data relating to parental participation. Semi-structured interviews with 22 parents. Postal questionnaire field social workers; non-field social workers (family centre and residential staff); police; doctors (General Practitioners and Community Medical Officers); teachers; community nurses.

Results

Results indicate that a positive start has been made to the participation of parents at child protection case conferences, and that this process was generally welcomed by parents and professionals. Parents do not appear to be 'emotionally damaged' by participation and the results indicate that they have a clearer understanding of concerns and a greater commitment to plans as a result of attending. Parental participation does not appear to affect the focus and purpose of conferences, and indeed professionals mainly found the presence of parents helpful to conferences. The research highlighted deficiencies in the preparation of parents, a general feeling of inhibition amongst professionals and a divergence in the views of parents and professionals as to whether or not participation should be full or partial.

Publications

[author and date not given] 'Parental Participation at Child Protection Case Conferences: An Evaluation of Practice in North and West Belfast' Social Services Inspectorate (Northern Ireland)

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

39. PARENTAL PARTICIPATION IN INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CASE CONFERENCES – A CHAIR'S PERSPECTIVE

Principal researcher(s): Helen Kirkby

Co-workers: Prof Tony Gear

Institution: Rhondda Cynon Taff C.B.C (County Borough Council); University of Glamorgan

Contact details: Helen Kirkby, Reviewing Officer, Rhondda Cynon Taff C.B.C., Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ

Dates: January – June 2002

Duration: 5 months (p/t)

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: Chair's role in facilitating parental participation in child protection conferences

Keywords: case conference; chair's role/perspective; parental participation

Aims

To consider the effect of parental participation on the initial child protection case conference process, with particular reference to the chair's management of their involvement.

Methodology

Action Research and Grounded Theory approach. Semi-structured interviews with parents/family members before/after conference. Confidential individual questionnaires for all conference participants/observers. Semi-structured interviews with the Chair/observer.

Results

The main findings were that good preparation of parents by the Chair, with a focus on their needs during the conference, facilitated positive parental participation whatever the conference outcome. However, although parents felt professionals listened to them, they did not believe they influenced the decision, an opinion confirmed by professionals. Practice and procedural service improvements are recommended, along with the identification of areas where further guidance is needed and suggestions for ways forward, both for the structure of the initial conference as it now stands, and for possible alternative models, like the family group conference.

Publications

not stated

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

40. PARENTAL PARTICIPATION AT CASE CONFERENCES: EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT ON PROFESSIONALS

Principal researcher(s): Mrs. Pat Rouse

Co-workers: none

Institution: Social Services, West Sussex County Council (WSSCC)

Contact details: Mrs. P. Rouse, Monitoring and Development Unit, Social Services Department., West Sussex County Council, The Grange, Tower Street., Chichester. PO19 1QT

Dates: May 1994 – March 1995

Duration: 11 months

Funding body: WSSCC

Funding amount: in house time

Main subject area: impact on professionals of parents attending child protection case conferences

Keywords: impact on professionals; parental participation

Aims

To assist professionals' awareness and assess attitudes to the change. To ascertain the circumstances when professional discussion was considered necessary and unnecessary in review conferences. To consider whether professionals were able to contribute fully to the discussion in the presence of parents; whether the focus of the conference remained on the child and any effects on conference decisions.

Methodology

Questionnaires regarding the number of conferences attended, preparation for sharing information and opinions with parents, and views regarding aspects of conference procedure/decisions completed by professionals.

Results

The move towards greater parental participation had a degree of support amongst professionals. The presence of parents was felt to enhance the conference discussion, making it more decisive and helping in reaching an appropriate decision. Difficulties in some instances of sharing information in front of parents had not had an overriding effect. Nevertheless, some professionals were considered to have modified/minimised their information to the conference in the presence of parents. There was a substantial core group of regular conference attendees but a much larger group who attended few conferences. The needs of the two groups in terms of conference planning were likely to be different. Various issues relating to preparation for conferences were noted, some of which have been followed up in later work (such as guidance on presentation of reports and sharing information with parents). There was general agreement as to the need for separate professional discussion in certain review conferences. However, opinion was divided in relation to the initial conferences – conference Chairs were more likely to feel that a separate discussion was not essential. Ten situations were identified which highlighted when a separate professional discussion was considered appropriate in both initial and review conferences.

Publications

Parental Participation at Child Protection Case Conferences. An evaluation of the impact on professionals attending (produced for Western Division)

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

41. FAMILY PARTICIPATION IN CHILD PROTECTION CASE CONFERENCES

Principal researcher(s): Dr Bernard Gallagher

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Manchester

Contact details: Centre for Applied Childhood Studies, Human and Health Research Building, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield. HD1 3DH. Tel: 01484 473158. Email: b.gallagher@hud.ac.uk

Dates: 1992 - 1993

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: Liverpool Area Child Protection Committee

Funding amount: £5,000

Main subject area: family participation in child protection conferences

Keywords: family participation; child protection conferences; child participation; parental/carer participation

Aims

To determine the feasibility of adopting the practice of family participation in initial child protection case conferences. To ascertain the amount and type of training agency workers had received concerning family participation in child protection conferences.

Methodology

Questionnaires were administered to agency workers who had attended the 20 case conferences that had taken place in the pilot period November 1991 – January 1992 (in three districts in the Liverpool local authority area). A total of 125 questionnaires were completed by 81 agency workers (some workers attended more than one conference). Interviews were conducted with at least one family member who had attended 17 of the above 20 conferences.

Results

Family members believed that they should be invited to initial case conferences. However, they found attendance stressful and felt that the format of conferences was not conducive to their participation. Family members and even more so agency workers felt that efforts to prepare family members for participation were moderately successful at least. Family members and even more so agency workers felt that family members had participated in the conference to a moderate degree at least. Agency workers believed that the presence of a family member had little overall effect on the conference; had negative but also some positive consequences on the operation of the conference; and affected both their own behaviour in the conference and their attitude to the family and/or their situation. Agency workers indicated that they valued training around family participation but felt that they had not received enough of this. When problems arose around family participation these tended to be particular to specific families, agencies or conferences; exclusions (of family members) occurred rarely; and young people are able and willing to take part in conferences.

Publications

Gallagher, B. (1993) *Family Participation in Child Protection Case Conferences*, Report to the Liverpool Area Child Protection Committee, Manchester: University of Manchester

Data source: study carried out by researchers responsible for this Register

2.6.3 Case conferences – agency aspects

42. REPORT ON THE CHAIRING, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF CHILD PROTECTION MEETINGS

Principal researcher(s): Mr. Tony Cole, Mr. Pat Clewer, Dr. Alexis A. Taylor

Co-workers: Mr. Glyn Lloyd

Institution: Devon County Council Social Services Department

Contact details: Dr. A. A. Taylor, Devon County Council, Social Services Department, Ivy Bank, 45 St. Davids Hill, Exeter EX4 4LN

Dates: January 1995 – September 1996

Duration: 9 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: effectiveness of the meeting process in facilitating decision making for vulnerable children

Keywords: meetings; effectiveness; outcome

Aims

To evaluate the effectiveness of the child protection meeting process in terms of decision making

Methodology

Questionnaire to all attendees at child protection meetings during one month. Follow-up interviews of parents and children.

Results

The meeting process facilitated decision-making that was centred upon the needs of the child. A high level of satisfaction with the way Chairs carried out their duties was indicated. Parents were glad they attended and thought the correct people were present. However, it was noted that Chairs should introduce themselves beforehand to parents and that greater attention is required to ensure the child's perspective is heard. In addition, many male participants did not feel listened to and excluding people for parts of meetings was disliked. Finally, attention should be given to attendee's emotional state at the end of meetings and the role of the solicitor as supporter requires further development.

Publications

Report for circulation to Area Child Protection Committee and others in Devon

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

43. USE OF GROUP PROCESS SUPPORT AT CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES

Principal researcher(s): Prof. Tony Gear

Co-workers: Jane Prince, Cath Jones

Institution: University of Glamorgan

Contact details: Prof. Tony Gear, School of Care Sciences, University of Glamorgan, Trefforest, Pontypridd CF37 1DL. E-mail: aregear@glam.ac.uk

Dates: 2004 - ongoing

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: The Nuffield Foundation

Funding amount: proposal submitted

Main subject area: development/testing of group-based on-line support to aid conferences and group-based training

Keywords: processes; conferences; group support; professional judgement; training

Aims

Developing and evaluating the application of various forms on group process support for use at [child protection] conferences and for use in training in professional judgement.

Methodology

Action research in the field

Results

not stated

Publications

Gear, A., Jones, C. and Read, M. (2005) The child protection conference: A study of process and an evaluation of the potential for on-line group support, *Child Abuse Review*, 14, 2, 113-131

Private report for funding body

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

44. ESTIMATING THE COSTS OF CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Principal researcher(s): Mrs. Kate O'Brien, Miss Wendy Sturgess, Mrs Kate Baxter

Co-workers: Julie Selwyn

Institution: University of Bristol

Contact details: Wendy Sturgess, Hadley Centre for Adoption and Foster Care Studies, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol, 8, Priory Road, Bristol BS8 1TZ. E-mail: w.sturgess@bristol.ac.uk

Dates: 2001-2002

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: Department of Health

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection conference cost estimation

Keywords: child protection conferences; unit costs; cost estimation

Aims

To estimate a unit cost for a typical child protection conference.

Methodology

Unit cost methodology developed by Beecham (2000)

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

45. GENERAL PRACTITIONERS (GPs) AND CHILD PROTECTION CASE CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Principal researcher(s): Dr Janet Polnay

Co-workers: none

Institution: Nottingham City Hospital

Contact details: Dr J. Polnay, Papplewick Ward, Nottingham City Hospital, Hucknall Road, Nottingham NG5 1PB

Dates: October 1997 – June 1998

Duration: 8 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: GPs and child protection conference participation

Keywords: GPs; case conferences

Aims

To explore the attitudes of GPs to child protection case conferences, in the belief that commonly cited practical reasons, such as inconvenient timing, fail to provide a complete explanation for poor participation, with a view to enhancing GP involvement for the benefit of the child.

Methodology

A preliminary investigation by telephone interview. Followed by a postal questionnaire.

Results

The response rate was 100% for the preliminary study, and 82% for the questionnaire. The postal survey showed that nearly half the respondents agreed that there were too many other tasks of higher priority than case conference attendance, confirming that previously mentioned constraints alone did not account for poor participation. Contrary to previous research, issues such as confidentiality and parental attendance, do not stop the majority of GPs contributing. Suggestions that might improve participation, such as facility to stay for the first half-hour of a conference and guidance on the content of reports, had favourable responses.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

46. PREPARATION OF PROFESSIONALS FOR CASE CONFERENCES: ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FORMATTED AGENCY REPORTS AND GENERIC GUIDELINES

Principal researcher(s): Mrs. Pat Rouse

Co-workers: none

Institution: Social Services, West Sussex County Council (WSSC)

Contact details: Pat Rouse, Research Unit, Social and Caring Services, West Sussex County Council, The Grange, Tower St., Chichester PO19 1QT

Dates: January 1996 – May 1997

Duration: 17 months

Funding body: WSSC

Funding amount: in-house time

Main subject area: impact of documentation on preparing professionals for case conferences

Keywords: preparing professionals; case conference; guidelines

Aims

To note number and types of conferences when written reports are submitted, and the profession of those supplying the information. To consider issues relating to the time scales in which reports are required and whether the agency formats provide sufficient relevant information for the conference members to reach an acceptable decision. To consider impact guidelines and agency formats have on the use of the professional slot at conferences. To note the views of professionals in relation to the impact of tabled reports at CP conferences.

Methodology

Creation of working party of agency representatives. Questionnaire completed by professionals prior to and at the end of conferences during May - July 1996.

Results

The survey mainly reflects the views of community nursing staff, since some other professionals were not regularly represented at conferences or did not return many questionnaires. The agency formats appeared to have ensured appropriate subject areas were covered in a clear and concise manner, giving the conference more structure and conference Chairs felt conference attendees were more willing to discuss their concerns. However, issues were raised in relation to the amount of notice given to professionals required to attend conference as the use of agency formats was considered more time-consuming during conference preparation. Overall, the availability of good quality, well-presented information was felt to give the opportunity for changing the shape of the conference to give a more balanced agenda, in terms of time spent on the various stages of reaching a decision.

Publications

Rouse, P. (1997). *Preparation of Professionals for Case Conferences: Assessing the Effectiveness of Formatted Agency Reports and Generic Guidelines*. West Sussex County Council: Research Unit, Social and Caring Services

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

47. ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF THE SENIOR NURSE/CHILD PROTECTION MANAGER AT CHILD PROTECTION CASE CONFERENCE

Principal researcher(s): Mrs. Beryl Ruscoe

Co-workers: none

Institution: NHS (National Health Service) Trust, Werrington Clinic

Contact details: Mrs F.E. Manning, Child Protection Manager, Combined Healthcare NHS Trust, Werrington Clinic, Salters Close, Werrington, Stoke-on-Trent ST9 ODB

Dates: 1996

Duration: not stated

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: case conference attendance

Keywords: support; standards; quality; dynamics

Aims

Analysis and evaluation of the attendance of the senior nurse/child protection manager at child protection case conferences.

Methodology

Questionnaire administered to all health visitors in Trust area. Semi-structured interviews with 10 health visitors.

Results

The research indicated that although the manager's presence was not always required, there are clear indications as to when a manager should be present. For example, health visitors felt that the child protection manager's presence assisted in ensuring that their reports and opinions were given due consideration. Health visitors' main concerns when attending case conferences are the effect of group dynamics on the decision-making process and also the involvement of parents at case conferences. The research highlighted the value of multi-agency training in preparing health visitors for their role in case conferences.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

48. GP (GENERAL PRACTITIONER) AND HEALTH VISITOR (HVs) PARTICIPATION IN CHILD PROTECTION CASE CONFERENCES

Principal researcher(s): Christine Simpson, Prof Richard Simpson, Dr Kevin Power

Co-workers: Anne Salter, Jane Williams

Institution: University of Stirling

Contact details: Christine Simpson, Institute of Anxiety and Panic Disorder, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA

Dates: not stated

Duration: not stated

Funding body: Mitchell Charitable Trust

Funding amount: £2,000

Main subject area: practitioner participation in case conferences

Keywords: case conference; child protection; GPs; health visitors

Aims

To examine health professional participation in child protection case conferences and reasons given by GPs for their failure to attend.

Methodology

Self-completing rating forms (social workers). Semi-structured interviews with GPs.

Results

Two hundred consecutive case conferences involving 83 GPs from 33 practices were independently reviewed and scored to assess the level of GP and HV participation. HVs showed a far higher level of participation than GPs and their attendance was more often rated essential by the social worker (SW) than that of the GP. GPs were equally unlikely to participate in initial, first review and subsequent review case conferences. Most importantly, GP participation/non-participation was not related to the length of notice given. No significant associations were discovered in relation to GP personal and practice characteristics and attitudes towards SWs and case conferences. However, a link was observed between previous training in child protection and a less negative attitude towards communication with SWs and the belief that the GP's participation in the case conference helps him/her in the subsequent management of the case. Personal contact between local SWs and the Primary Healthcare Team was seen as likely to be helpful in the establishment of a climate of trust which would facilitate the flow of sensitive information in both directions. HVs were often regarded by GPs as fulfilling the role of delegate to the case conference without having any formal remit to carry out this task.

Publications

Simpson, C. M., Simpson, R. J., Power, K. G., Salter, A., and Williams, G-J. (1994). GPs' and Health Visitors' participation in child protection case conferences. *Child Abuse Review*, 3, 211-230

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

2.7 Interventions

2.7.1 Interventions with families

49. BEHAVIOURAL INTERVENTION TO INCREASE PARENTING SKILLS AND REDUCE CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE	
Principal researcher(s): Ms. Diana Bourn	
Co-workers: none	
Institution: University of Leicester	
Contact details: Diana Bourn, School of Social Work, University of Leicester, 107 Princess Road, Leicester LE1 7LA E-mail: db33@le.ac.uk	
Dates: 1989 – 1990	Duration: 6 months
Funding body: not stated	Funding amount: not stated
Main subject area: intervention and prevention of child abuse	
Keywords: behavioural work; child abuse; single-subject experimental design; assessment and intervention	
Aims	
To evaluate a behavioural intervention following child physical abuse.	
Methodology	
Evaluation research. Single subject experimental design.	
Results	
not available	
Publications	
Bourn, D.F. (1993) Over-chastisement, child non-compliance and parenting skills: A behavioural intervention by a family centre social worker, British Journal of Social Work, 23, 5, 481-499	
Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)	

50. HELPING PREVENT ABUSE TO CHILDREN USING COGNITIVE BEHAVIOURAL THERAPY

Principal researcher(s): Dr Katy Cigno

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Hull

Contact details: Dr. K. Cigno, Former Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Social Work, University of Hull.
E-mail: katy@cigno.freeserve.co.uk

Dates: not stated

Duration: not stated

Funding body: unfunded

Funding amount: unfunded

Main subject area: cognitive-behavioural approaches to social work

Keywords: cognitive-behavioural practice; learning theory; children; families; parenting

Aims

Literature review of cognitive-behavioural approaches to social work. Evaluation of practice.

Methodology

Literature search. Single case intervention and evaluation.

Results

Cognitive-behavioural intervention works in relation to: behaviour problems – child-parent interaction; non-organic failure to thrive; and teaching parenting skills.

Publications

Cigno, K., and Wilson, K. (1993). Effective strategies for coping with child abuse in families: Issues in the provision of therapeutic help. *Conference Abstracts*, Padua: ISPCAN European Conference, June

Cigno, K., and Wilson, K. (1994). Effective strategies for working with families: Issues in the provision of therapeutic help. *Practice*, 6(4), 285-298

Cigno, K. (1995). Helping to prevent abuse: A behavioural approach with families. *Conference Abstracts*, Oslo: ISPCAN European Conference, June

Cigno, K. (1995). Helping to prevent abuse: A behavioural approach with families. In K. Wilson and A. L. James (Eds). *The Child Protection Handbook*. London: Balliere Tindall

Cigno, K., and Bourn, D. (1998). *Cognitive-Behavioural Social Work in Practice*. Aldershot: Ashgate

Cigno, K. (1998). Cognitive-behavioural practice. In R. Adams, L. Dominelli, and M. Payne (Eds). *Social Work: Themes, Issues and Critical Debates*. Basingstoke: Macmillan

Cigno, K. (2002). Helping to prevent abuse: A cognitive-behavioural approach with families. In K. Wilson and A. L. James (Eds) *The Child Protection Handbook*, 2nd edition. London: Bailliere Tindall/Harcourt Brace

Cigno, K. (2002). Cognitive-behavioural practice. In R. Adams et al (Eds) *Social Work: Themes, Issues and Critical Debates*, 2nd edition. London: Macmillan

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

51. THE ARCH FAMILY SERVICE EXPERIENCE: AN EVALUATION OF A SUPPORT SERVICE FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY PARENTAL SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Principal researcher(s): Anne-Marie Coufopoulos

Co-workers: none

Institution: Liverpool Hope University College

Contact details: Applied Research Centre, Liverpool Hope University College, Liverpool L16 9JD.

Dates: September 2000 – June 2002

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: Single Regeneration Budget and Health Service

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: parental substance misuse and family support services and child

Keywords: drugs; support; child

Aims

To measure the impact of ARCH Family Service upon the child registration process in families linked to substance misuse.

Methodology

Qualitative paradigm. In-depth semi-structured interviews with 12 drug using parents around their experience of working with ARCH Family Service and other statutory and voluntary services. In-depth semi-structured interviews with social workers (n=4), family support workers (n=2), community drug and alcohol workers (n=4) around their experience of working with ARCH Family Service. Action research approach, providing ongoing feedback to ARCH Family Service during the fieldwork.

Results

Parents indicated that since they had been working with ARCH it had a positive impact upon the child registration process. Advocacy, developing personal insight and raising confidence and self-esteem were key areas highlighted. Social workers and family support workers felt that ARCH had a positive impact upon the child registration process and highlighted that if parents were working with ARCH it would demonstrate that they had their child's best interest at heart and could provide an advocacy role for parents in relation to child protection case conferences. Interviews with community drug and alcohol workers highlighted the tension between statutory and voluntary organisations working in the area of parental substance misuse.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

52. 'UNTREATABLE FAMILIES': WORKING WITH DENIAL IN CASES OF SEVERE CHILD ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Mr. John Gumbleton

Co-workers: Andy Lusk, Deputy Director, NCH (National Children's Homes) Action for Children - Wales

Institution: Avon NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Mr. J. Gumbleton, Avon NSPCC, 83 North Street, Bedminster, Bristol BS3 1ES

Dates: November 1995 – September 1997

Duration: 22 months

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: £900

Main subject area: resolutions treatment programme at Avon NSPCC for families in denial

Keywords: re-abuse rates; consumer feedback

Aims

To discover re-abuse rates among children whose families had completed Resolutions Programme at Avon NSPCC. Qualitative feedback concerning families experience of undertaking Resolutions programme.

Methodology

Review of child protection register entries social services files. Interviewing carers from the families wherever possible – where not possible, asking carers to complete a questionnaire based upon the interview schedule.

Results

Only one child from a total of 38 was known to have been re-abused. Length of time elapsed since completing Resolutions Programme varied from 8 months to 45 months. Seventeen families were followed up in total, of which 23 carers interviewed and four completed questionnaires. Majority of families felt they had been able to develop co-operative relationship with NSPCC workers and that the work had been helpful to them in keeping their children safe.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

53. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DENIAL IN CHILD ABUSE WORK: THE PROFESSIONAL CONSTRUCTION OF RISK (PART 1); RESOLUTIONS AND CASE OUTCOMES (PART 2)

Principal researcher(s): Mr Andy Lusk (part 1), Mr John Gumbleton (part 2)

Co-workers: none

Institution: Cardiff University (part one), Bristol University (part 2)

Contact details: Mr A. Lusk, NCH (National Children's Homes) Action for Children, St. David's Court, 68a Cambridge Road, East, Cardiff CF1 9DN

Dates: 1993–1996 (pt 1), 1993-1997 (pt 2)

Duration: 4 years total

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: professionally constructed and empirical relationships between denial and re-abuse in cases of proven significant harm

Keywords: denial; risk; resolutions; treatment

Aims

To identify the beliefs of social workers and solicitors regarding the relationship between denial and risk. To identify what they say they do in case planning terms in such cases. To identify and describe outcomes from the "resolutions" project at NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children), Bristol (a treatment programme aimed at denial cases).

Methodology

Literature review and qualitative semi-structured interviews with 16 social workers from three agencies and fixed schedule questionnaires to 70 lawyers (Part 1). Qualitative depth interviews with 23 carers who have completed Resolution Programme and rehabilitation of their children, and document (case files, CP registers) survey (Part 2).

Results

Clear examples of the 'fixed' beliefs concerning the increased risk and enormity of the barrier of denial to rehabilitation emerged from the literature, the interviews and the questionnaires with the exception of the strongly contrasting views and beliefs of the 'Resolutions' team. Their claim of having successfully reduced risk and secured safe rehabilitation in cases of significant physical/sexual harm of children whose denying carers were deemed culpable, led directly to the outcomes study of the Resolution programme. The study demonstrated one case of re-abuse amongst 38 children and illuminated the connecting variable of co-operation as significant predictor of re-abuse between denial and re-injury.

Publications

Essex, S., Gumbleton, J., and Luger, C. (1996). Resolutions: Working with families where responsibility for abuse is denied. *Child Abuse Review*, 5, 191-201

Lusk, A. (1996). Rehabilitation without acknowledgement. *Family Law*, 26, 742-745

Essex, S., Gumbleton, J., Luger, C., and Lusk, A (1997). A suitable case for treatment. *Community Care*, 20-26th February, 1997

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

54. DECONSTRUCTED REASONS FOR ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR AND ITS INFLUENCE ON PROGNOSIS FOR CHILDREN RETURNED HOME

Principal researcher(s): Mr Kevin McCarthy

Co-workers: none

Institution: Birmingham City Council

Contact details: Mr K. McCarthy, Principal Officer – Child Protection Resources, Silvermere, Centre, Silvermere Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 3XA

Dates: September 1995 – September 1998

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: Birmingham City Council

Funding amount: Salary and Course Fees

Main subject area: children's outcomes following comprehensive assessment

Keywords: child abuse; reasons; outcomes

Aims

To examine cases dealt with by specialist child protection teams to establish whether lessons can be learnt from studying the identified reasons for the abusive behaviour. To examine whether certain causes of abusive behaviour are more, or less, amenable to social work intervention.

Methodology

Using secondary data with 1 year longitudinal follow-up.

Results

Birmingham Social Services department is the largest in England with approximately 1,000 children on the child protection register and roughly 2,000 child protection investigations every year. Due to the need to provide an efficient and effective response that is consistent across the city, it has been found necessary to develop a number of specialist teams to carry out some of the comprehensive assessments of families in those cases where there has been a more serious child protection issue or where the skills needed to provide an informed opinion are beyond those available from within the fieldwork team. This amounts to around 100 cases each year. The work of these units is to deconstruct the circumstances around the abuse and to identify areas of work with the parents. These areas of work vary according to the perceived circumstances around the abusive behaviour. The aim of all the work is to bring about changes that the workers and parents can identify as contributing to a reduction in the risk of abuse to the child. This process sometimes leads to the removal of the child if it becomes clear we cannot ensure that the child will not come to any further significant harm. The rest of the children return to the community with their parents. A large amount of information is generated from this process. Currently this source of research information is under used. The proposal is to use this information to establish whether lessons can be learnt from studying the identified reasons for the abusive behaviour. It may be possible to demonstrate that certain causes of abusive behaviour are more, or less, amenable to social work intervention.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

55. AN EVALUATION OF DE-REGISTRATION PRACTICE IN CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Janet Murray

Co-workers: none

Institution: Directorate of Social Services, Doncaster

Contact details: Janet Murray, Team Manager, Quality Assurance (Child Protection), Directorate of Social Services, PO Box 251, The Council House, College Road, Doncaster DN1 3DA

Dates: 2001-2002

Duration: 12-18 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: de-registration in child protection

Keywords: qualitative; multi-method; de-registration

Aims

To evaluate de-registration in child protection practice.

Methodology

Multi-method case study approach. Documentary analysis of records held by the organisation. Focus group of with conference chairs.

Results

The findings suggest that de-registration masks a growing number of cases moving 'up tariff' where registration is being overtaken by more interventionist actions by the agency i.e. legal proceedings. Other cases have been re-registered because it is thought to be the 'least detrimental alternative'. Those that have shown good progress have been assessed over more than one dimension.

Publications

MA Dissertation. (Copies available at Sheffield Hallam University)

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

56. RETROSPECTIVE FOLLOW-UP OF FAMILIES REFERRED TO THE MONROE YOUNG FAMILY CENTRE BETWEEN 1999-2000

Principal researcher(s): Jean Pigott, Linda Hammond, Holly Hassell

Co-workers: none

Institution: Monroe Young Family Centre

Contact details: Holly Hassell, Monroe Young Family Centre, 33a Daleham Gardens, London NW3 5BU

Dates: Mar 2001 - ongoing

Duration: not stated

Funding body: unfunded

Funding amount: unfunded

Main subject area: a follow-up study of children assessed at a multidisciplinary family centre

Keywords: retrospective follow-up; family centre

Aims

To follow-up the children and gain an understanding of their current situation in particular regard to the stability of their placement, their developmental progress and the impact of The Monroe Young Family Centre's recommendations on their care. To audit our service.

Methodology

Multidisciplinary baseline assessment of family at time of original assessment, including access to background papers. Semi-structured interviews with social worker and adoptive parent, birth parent or foster carer at follow-up. Child behaviour checklist, teachers report form, pre-school behaviour, checklist completed by teacher and/or parent/carer at follow-up. Service evaluation questionnaire for referrer at follow-up.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

57. IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF FAMILY LIFE: AN INTENSIVE INTERVENTION

Principal researcher(s): Ms Christine Puckering, Prof. A. D. Cox, Ms M. Mills

Co-workers: none

Institution: Glasgow University

Contact details: Ms. C Puckering, Psychologist, Dept. of Psychological Medicine, Glasgow University

Dates: 1992 - 1997

Duration: 4 - 5 years

Funding body: Department of Health

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: clinical child psychology and psychiatry

Keywords: parenting; intervention

Aims

Evaluation of the Mellow Parenting Intervention

Methodology

Interview. Observation of mother and child. Control Group

Results

not available

Publications

Puckering, C., Rogers, J., Mills, M. and Cox, A. D. (1994) Process and evaluation of a group intervention for mothers with parenting difficulties, *Child Abuse Review*, 3, 4, 299-310

Puckering, C., Evans, J., Maddox, H. and Mills, M. (1996) Taking control: A single case study of 'mellow parenting', *Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 1, 4, 539-550

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

58. EVALUATION OF THE PILOT FAMILY ALCOHOL SERVICE IN LONDON

Principal researcher(s): Miss Lorna Templeton, Professor Richard Velleman

Co-workers: Dr Willm Mistral, Mr Andy Taylor, Mr Paul Toner

Institution: Mental Health Research and Development (RD) Unit, University of Bath

Contact details: Lorna Templeton, Mental Health RandD Unit, Wessex House Level 7, University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY E-mail: L.Templeton@bath.ac.uk

Dates: March 2002 – June 2003

Duration: 15 months

Funding body: Camelot Foundation

Funding amount: £48,297

Main subject area: evaluation, children and families, service delivery, alcohol misuse

Keywords: evaluation

Aims

To evaluate the first year of the pilot Family Alcohol Service.

Methodology

Evaluation. Data by triangulation - interviews and focus groups, case note analysis, questionnaires. Analysis utilising SPSS and Grounded theory/Framework technique.

Results

Research Briefing and final report available via research unit website: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/mhrdu/substance.htm>

Publications

Templeton, L., Velleman, R., Taylor A., and Toner P. (2003). Final Report - Evaluation of the Pilot Family Alcohol Service. Bath: University of Bath

Templeton, L., Velleman, R., Taylor A., and Toner P. (2002). Interim Report - Evaluation of the Pilot Family Alcohol Service. Bath: University of Bath

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

59. EVALUATION OF YOUNG FAMILY CENTRE FOR SEVERELY ABUSING FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE

Principal researcher(s): Dr J Trowell, Ms S Hodges

Co-workers: M. Stephenson

Institution: Tavistock Clinic

Contact details: Dr J Trowell, Child and Family Department, Tavistock Clinic, London

Dates: not stated

Duration: not stated

Funding body: Tavistock and NCH (National Children's Homes)

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: work of a young family centre

Keywords: profoundly troubled abusing families

Aims

To examine the demographics of the referred population. To look at the effectiveness of the Centre. To explore users and referrers perceptions.

Methodology

Quantitative and qualitative data.

Results

The Centre works with severely disturbed and traumatised families. Two out of three of those attending keep or regain their children. Evidence of improvements in both children and parents, though noted that children improved slowly.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

60. PROFESSIONAL ADVOCACY FOR FAMILIES INVOLVED WITH CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

Principal researcher(s): Claire Fraser

Co-workers: Prof Brid Featherstone

Institution: Consult Research; University of Bradford; and the National University of Ireland (Galway)

Contact details: Claire Fraser, Consult Research, Bank Lane, Holmbridge, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire. HD9 2NG. Tel. 07940 587 434. Email: info@consultresearch.co.uk

Dates: 2009-2011

Duration: 24 months

Funding body: Big Lottery; City Parochial Fund; Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund; Hardship Fund

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: advocacy support for parents/carers involved in the child protection process

Keywords: child protection; parental advocacy

Aims

To independently evaluate the parental advocacy project, and the perspective of advocacy clients, advocates, social workers, conference chairs and partner local authority leads. To explore in more depth, a small number of 'entrenched' cases – defined as cases where 'the child has been subject to a child protection plan for over twelve months and non-engagement with the local authority is a matter of concern'. To review the literature on parental advocacy and working with entrenched cases. To explore the feasibility of a future randomised controlled trial (RCT) to objectively assess the impact of parental advocacy on outcomes.

Methodology

Postal questionnaires. Telephone Interviews. In-depth in-person interviews. Literature review.

Results

97% of parents and family members felt that independent advocacy had been helpful and 46% felt it had made a difference to the outcome of their case. Professionals interviewed (social workers, conference chairs and local authority senior managers) indicated that the advocacy service is highly valued, both by the clients who are supported, and by the local authorities who are involved with these families due to child protection concerns. One key recommendation from the study is that Government introduces a statutory right to independent professional family advocacy for parents whose children are subject to child protection enquiries, alongside funding for third sector organisations to provide this provision. Family Rights Group will continue to lobby for this and will also share the findings of this evaluation with the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) following their call for the potential benefits of providing support to vulnerable adults whose children are subject to child protection procedures to be investigated by research organisations in order to inform policymaking at a national and local level.

Publications

Fraser, C. and Featherstone, B. (2011) Evaluation of Family Rights Group Parent/Carer Advocacy Service 2009 - 2010. Final report prepared for Family Rights Group.

Featherstone, B., and Fraser, C. (2012). 'I'm just a mother. I'm nothing special, they're all professionals!': Parental advocacy as an aid to parental engagement. *Child & Family Social Work*, 17, 244-253

Featherstone, B., Fraser, C., Ashley, C. and Ledward, P. (2011) Advocacy for parents and carers involved with children's services: making a difference to working in partnership?, *Child and Family Social Work*, 16, 3, 266-275.

Data source: website entry (2011)

61. THERAPEUTIC PLAYWORK WITH ABANDONED CHILDREN

Principal researcher(s): Dr Fraser Brown, Ms Sophie Webb

Co-workers: none

Institution: Leeds Metropolitan University

Contact details: Fraser Brown, Leeds Metropolitan University, Calverley Street, Leeds LS1 3HE.
E-mail: F.Brown@leedsmet.ac.uk

Dates: February 2000 – August 2001

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: Leeds Metropolitan University

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: therapeutic playwork with abandoned children

Keywords: therapeutic play; abandoned children

Aims

To assess the impact of a therapeutic playwork project on the lives of a group of abandoned children in a Romanian paediatric hospital. The children, ranging in age from one to ten years, had spent most of their lives tied in the same cot in the same hospital ward. They displayed clear signs of neglect and undernourishment. Some may have been born with learning difficulties, but all of them showed limited intellectual capacity. They lacked social skills and engaged solely in solitary play.

Methodology

Participant observation. Rotated peer observation. Research diaries following the Tavistock Model.

Results

There was clear evidence of development in all areas of child development, especially in terms of: socialisation and social interaction skills, physical activity, flexibility and adaptability, creativity and problem solving, self-discovery and general enjoyment of life.

Publications

Webb, S., and Brown, F. (2003). Playwork in Adversity: working with Abandoned Children in Romania. In: Brown, F. (Ed.). *Playwork: theory and practice*. Buckingham: Open University Press

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

62. THE GROUPWORK SUPPORT OF SEXUALLY ABUSED BOYS

Principal researcher(s): Andrew Durham

Co-workers: none

Institution: The University of Warwick

Contact details: Dr Andrew Durham, SIBS (Sexually Inappropriate Behaviours) Consultancy Manager, SIBS, Social Services Department (SSD), The Grange, Coventry Road, Southam, Warwickshire. CV47 1QB

Dates: 1991 – 1993

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: Warwickshire SSD

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: group work intervention for sexually abused boys

Keywords: child sexual abuse; boys; group work

Aims

To explore the therapeutic support provided by group work for boys who had been sexually abused

Methodology

Practice research – therapeutic group work with 11 boys

Results

The experience of the boys supported by this project supported the view expressed in the literature that groupwork is an appropriate and desirable response to male-child sexual abuse, particularly in relation to organised abuse involved several children. The proposals for such work are likely to require strong negotiation for acceptance by members of the legal system. The project demonstrated that some of the problems identified in the literature in relation to male-child sexual abuse were experienced by the boys in the groups – most notably – fears, anxiety about sexuality, feeling responsible, anxiety over legal processes, difficulties in discussing the abuse, fear of others' reactions and distortion of trust.

Publications

Durham, A.W. (1997). The Group work Support of Sexually Abused Boys. In J. Bates, J., R. Pugh, and N. Thompson (Eds.), *Protecting Children: Challenges and Change*. UK: Arena (pages 171-185)

Durham, A.W. (2000). From Victim to Survivor: The Group work Support of Sexually Abused Boys. In N. Baldwin, *Protecting Children, Promoting Their Rights*. England: Whiting and Birch (pages 281-297)

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

63. ASSESSMENT OF A CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COUNSELLING PROJECT

Principal researcher(s): Dr Barbara Kelly, Professor Malcolm Hill

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Glasgow

Contact details: Prof. M. Hill, Glasgow Centre for the Child and Society, University of Glasgow, Lilybank House, Bute Gardens, Glasgow G12 8RT

Dates: April 1992 – December 1992

Duration: 8 months

Funding body: NCH (National Children's Homes) Action for Children

Funding amount: £12,000

Main subject area: child sexual abuse counselling

Keywords: sexual abuse; counselling

Aims

To obtain feedback about the operations of the project

Methodology

Interviews

Results

The project was regarded as successful by referral agencies. Users and collaborators valued the participative style of the workers. Users were perceived to gain in self-esteem and ability to trust. A small number of operational problems were identified.

Publications

Kelly, B., and Hill, M. (1994). Working together to help children and families. *Research, Policy and Planning*, 12(3), 1-5

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

64. AN EVALUATION OF TREATMENT PROCESS AND OUTCOME IN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Mr Michael Lenaghan

Co-workers: none

Institution: Child and Family Clinic, Bocombra Lodge

Contact details: Mr M. Lenaghan, Child and Family Clinic, Bocombra Lodge, 2 Old Lurgan Road, Portadown, N. Ireland

Dates: March 1995 – March 1997

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: Area Child Protection Committee

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: sexual abuse

Keywords: sexual abuse; impact; treatment (outcome)

Aims

not stated

Methodology

A retrospective process and outcome evaluation of treatment using file review and behavioural analysis. Short term prospective treatment outcome study with 16 children who had experienced extra familial sexual abuse.

Results

Broad general terms findings from the retrospective study are positive in relation to both the perceived status of children and families at the time of case closure and also from the process standpoint in terms of areas addressed in treatment. Areas targeted in terms of intervention in keeping with those which research and clinical experience have highlighted as core elements needing to be addressed in treatment. A number of areas requiring attention in terms of service delivery are identified: a) dealing with issues of self-blame in children, b) helping children with self-regulation of distressing emotion and c) work with parents of abused children in cases of extra-familial abuse. Although based on a small case sample and with a short initial follow-up, findings from the prospective study indicate that those children and families who availed of the opportunity of treatment fared relatively better than those who had not.

Publications

not stated

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

65. GROUPWORK WITH SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILDREN

Principal researcher(s): Ms Jillian Lindon, Ms Carol Nourse

Co-workers: none

Institution: Sevenoaks Hospital, Kent

Contact details: Ms. J. Lindon, Lower Stoneham House, Stoneham, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 5RJ

Dates: not stated

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: therapeutic approaches with sexually abused children

Keywords: sexual abuse; group work; therapy

Aims

Evaluation of group work with sexually abused children

Methodology

Questionnaires. Interviews

Results

Group work with sexually abused children is effective as a treatment model

Publications

Lindon, J., and Nourse, C. (1994). A multi-dimensional model of group work with adolescent girls who have been sexually abused. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 18(4), 341 – 348

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

66. CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE NATIONAL RESEARCH

Principal researcher(s): Dr. Cathy Roberts

Co-workers: none

Institution: Tavistock Clinic, London

Contact details: Dr. C. Roberts, Research Fellow, Child and family Department, Tavistock Clinic, 120 Belsize Lane, London NW3 5BA

Dates: January 1996 – December 1999

Duration: 4 years

Funding body: NCH AFC (National Children's Homes – Action for Children)

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child sexual abuse

Keywords: qualitative; evaluation child social abuse

Aims

To examine the methodology and the impact of child sexual abuse work on professionals and consumers.

Methodology

Primarily qualitative in focus but with quantitative components. Research is structured around four distinct but interacting studies: retrospective study of past practice - quantitative analysis of demographic information on 1500-2000 individuals seen up to end of 1995; in-depth qualitative analysis of three case studies; prospective study of current practice – pre- and post-therapeutic intervention interviews with 10 individual clients; and impact of child sexual abuse work on the professionals - interviews at baseline, throughout the therapeutic process and one-year follow-up with professionals working with individuals in the prospective study.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

67. NCH (NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOMES)/TAVISTOCK EVALUATION OF CSA (CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE) INITIATIVE

Principal researcher(s): Ms Cathy Roberts, Dr J Trowell, Ms S Miles, S Kelly

Co-workers: none

Institution: Tavistock Clinic

Contact details: Dr J Trowell, Child and Family Department, Tavistock Clinic, London

Dates: January 1996 - January 2000

Duration: 4 years

Funding body: DOH (Department of Health)/NCH
(National Children's Homes)

Funding amount: £100,000

Main subject area: working with sexual abuse evaluation

Keywords: effectiveness of the CSA initiative

Aims

A retrospective study of cases. A prospective study. Review of institutional and organisational context. Impact of the work on the staff.

Methodology

Demographics. Case studies. Mixed quantitative and qualitative interviews.

Results

Retrospective data on 1,400 cases and case studies showed regional variations and examples of good and bad practice and significance of referrer support.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

68. CLIENTS' AND THERAPISTS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE THERAPEUTIC PROCESS: A STUDY OF ADULTS ABUSED AS CHILDREN

Principal researcher(s): Dr Peter Sale

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Dr P. Sale, NSPCC East Sussex, 2 Sedlescombe Road South, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TN38 OTA

Dates: 1991 – 1996

Duration: 5 years

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: psychotherapy/counselling with adults who were abused as children

Keywords: adults abused as children; survivors; counselling; psychotherapy

Aims

Exploration of clients' and therapists' perceptions of helpful and unhelpful factors in counselling/therapy with adults who were abused as children.

Methodology

Predominantly qualitative in depth interviews with 53 respondents. Grounded Theory analysis of interview transcripts.

Results

Findings indicate that there are many similarities in helpful and unhelpful factors in therapy between the experiences of abused clients and a general client population. However, certain aspects of therapeutic contexts and relationships appear to have specific impact and meaning for an abused client group, especially when they have little prior knowledge or experience of therapy. In particular, the task of working therapeutically with the impact of memories of 'false memory' controversy is unrepresentative of the breadth of clients' experiencing in relation to memories of abuse. The study suggests that it is simplistic for adults who were abused as children to be categorised as a unitary group. Nevertheless, there are certain aspects of therapy with such clients which do merit particular attention to increase the prospect of perceived helpful outcome, and to minimise the possibility of therapy being ineffective, unhelpful, or at worst, re-traumatising.

Publications

Sale, P. (1997). Adults who were abused as children: Some counselling issues. In S. Palmer (Ed.) *Handbook of Counselling*, 2nd edition. London: Routledge

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

69. ADULTS WHO WERE ABUSED AS CHILDREN: A STUDY OF MEMORIES OF ABUSE AND EVALUATION OF COUNSELLING

Principal researcher(s): Dr Peter Sale

Co-workers: Ron Fellows

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Dr P. Sale, NSPCC East Sussex, 2 Sedlescombe Road South, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TN38 0TA

Dates: 1996 – 1999

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: £11,000

Main subject area: memories of childhood abuse and impact of counselling

Keywords: adults abused as children; abuse memories; counselling

Aims

To add to current scientific knowledge in relation to memories of childhood abuse. To evaluate the impact of counselling on adult consequences of childhood abuse.

Methodology

Detailed questionnaire of all traceable users of NSPCC East Sussex counselling services between 1987 and 1996. Also, all users of service during 1997 and 1998.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

70. PSYCHOTHERAPY OUTCOME WITH SEXUALLY ABUSED GIRLS

Principal researcher(s): Dr J. A. Trowell, Dr. H. Sadowski, Prof. I. Kolvin, Dr M. Berelowitz, Dr D Glasser, Mr A. Rushton, Ms S. Miles, Dr T. Weeramanthri

Co-workers: none

Institution: Tavistock Clinic

Contact details: Dr J. Trowell, Child and Family Department, Tavistock Clinic, London

Dates: 1993 – December 1997

Duration: 4 years +

Funding body: Department of Health; Mental Health Foundation

Funding amount: £200,000

Main subject area: psychotherapy outcome

Keywords: psychotherapy outcome; sexually abused girls

Aims

The effectiveness of group or individual psychotherapy after sexual abuse. The impact of the work with carers. The psychotherapy of sexually abused girls. To develop qualitative measures. To explore user perceptions.

Methodology

Random allocation. Comparative design. Multicentre study: Tavistock Clinic, Royal Free Hospital, Guys Hospital, Maudsley, Camberwell Child Guidance. Community clinic comparative groups. Two year follow-up.

Results

The extent of the psychopathology and the severity of the comorbidity of sexually abused girls is extreme. The work with the carers and the local authority social worker is the key to the therapy outcome. Attendance and support for the treatment are the main variables. Therapy leads to a reduction in impairment. 2 year follow-ups still in progress.

Publications

Trowell, J., Kolvin, I., Weeramanthri, T., Sadowski, H., Berelowitz, M., Glasser, D., and Leitch, I. (2002). Psychotherapy for sexually abused girls: Psychopathological outcome findings and patterns of change. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 180(3), 234-247

Trowell, J., and Kolvin, I. (1999). Lessons from a psychotherapy outcome study with sexually abused girls. *Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 4(1), 79-89

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

71. THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSULTATION IN WORK WITH AN ADULT SURVIVORS GROUP

Principal researcher(s): Ms Lindsay Hill, Mrs Nadine Casey, Mrs Maria Taylor

Co-workers: none

Institution: Thurrock Family Service Unit (Essex)

Contact details: Mrs N. Casey, Tilbury Family Service Unit, 20 St. Chad's Road, Tilbury, Essex

Dates: August 1996 – April 1997

Duration: 9 months

Funding body: Anglia University

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: importance and contribution of consultation in work with adult survivors groups

Keywords: practice; process; forms; facilitation; adult survivors

Aims

To review the various aspects of consultation during the running of a group for adult survivors of sexual abuse. To establish its main functions and its significance for good practice. To highlight the importance of consultation in developing an appropriate therapeutic model.

Methodology

All consultation sessions were tape recorded and transcribed. Group members completed evaluation forms. Themes and issues were highlighted from all five transcripts and examined as to relevance to practice.

Results

The research highlighted the importance of consultation to the group facilitators, for the importance of examining and evaluating practice, for focusing on group process, for raising the profile of the work by highlighting the protectionist framework of work with adult survivors. Consultation identified, over and over, parallel processes going on for group members within the group and outside, for facilitators within the group and without for facilitators within consultation and without. The research highlighted practical aspects of running groups, accessing information, what model to use, criteria for membership, setting realistic aims and objectives. The research also highlighted the benefits of continuity in using a consultant in helping workers to develop the best model for prospective member's needs. Support for this stressful work was also found to be crucial, workers needed to be held as much as members. The consultant was a person outside looking in and gave helpful perspective.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

2.8 Service provision

72. COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL ABUSE: A STUDY OF THE PROVISION IN ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

Principal researcher(s): Mary Baginsky (UK), M icaela Crisma (Italy), Willem Melief (The Netherlands)

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) (UK); Azienda per I Servizi Sanitari, Trieste (Italy); Verwey Jonker Institute, Utrecht (Netherlands)

Contact details: Mrs M Baginsky, Senior Research Officer, NSPCC, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH

Dates: January – December 1999

Duration: not stated

Funding body: Daphne Programme – European Union; participating institutions

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: support services for victims of sexual abuse

Keywords: sexual abuse; therapeutic interventions; provision of support

Aims

To explore the provision in UK, Italy and the Netherlands of therapeutic support available to young people who had been sexually abused. To explore the views of young people on the support received and reasons for not receiving support (and for not disclosing abuse). To explore the views of practitioners on the support available to this group.

Methodology

Interviews

Results

There were significant differences between the three countries in how the services were organised, which pointed to crucial differences in the approaches to child protection and the support given to those who have experienced sexual abuse. But once these structural differences were set to one side, striking similarities emerged. None of the countries had adopted a holistic approach to the welfare of children which meant that while they may experience quite severe abuse which was recognised they often failed to receive appropriate support. There was a widespread ignorance of the provision which existed in areas, even amongst professionals. There were few examples of different professions working together to devise joint treatment plans and there were reports of how professional jealousies/status obstructed closer co-operation. The reasons why young people failed to seek help were similar across the three countries.

Publications

Baginsky, M. (Ed.) (2001). *Counselling and Support Services for Young People Aged 12-16 who have Experienced Sexual Abuse: A Study of the Provision in Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom*. (Report on a European Commission Daphne Initiative Funded Project). London: NSPCC

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

73. DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK TO MAP SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED

Principal researcher(s): Mary Baginsky (UK), Micaela Crisma (Italy), Willem Melief (the Netherlands)

Co-workers: William Baginsky (UK), Meta Flitwick (the Netherlands)

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) (UK); Azienda per I Servizi Sanitari, Trieste (Italy); Verwey Jonker Institute, Utrecht (the Netherlands)

Contact details: Mrs M Baginsky, Senior Research Officer, NSPCC, 42 Curtain Road, London. EC2A 3NH

Dates: January - December 2001

Duration: not stated

Funding body: Daphne Programme – European Union; participating institutions
Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: support services for victims of sexual abuse

Keywords: sexual abuse; therapeutic interventions; mapping services

Aims

To develop an instrument which would allow the mapping of services for young people who had been sexually abused to be mapped.

Methodology

Questionnaires. Interviews. Piloting the instrument in the three countries.

Results

It proved very difficult to produce one instrument that could be used in the three countries. It was decided to adopt a core section, which was then expanded to meet the prevailing conditions.

Publications

Baginsky, M. and Baginsky, W. (2002) *Developing a framework to map services for young people who have been sexually abused*. (Report of work submitted to Daphne Programme under 2001 funding). London: NSPCC (includes the tool which was used and which it might be useful to continue to pilot.)

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

74. CSA (CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE) IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE – A REVIEW OF THE SCALE OF NEED, SERVICE PROVISION AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Principal researcher(s): Dr. Louise Earll, Mr Mark Giles, Mrs Sarah Wyer

Co-workers: Lyn Wilding

Institution: Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Contact details: Dr. L. Earll, Research Director, Health Research Unit, Health Psychology Dept., Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Gloucester. GL1 3NN

Dates: October 1996 – June 1997

Duration: 9 months

Funding body: Area Child Protection Committee

Funding amount: £4,530

Main subject area: service provision and gaps

Keywords: survey; service; primary resources

Aims

Identify available information on the incidence of child sexual abuse. Obtain information about local services and identify gaps in service provision. Obtain the views of services users (children who have been abused; non-abusing carers). Make recommendations for future service provision.

Methodology

Consultation with project team and key senior personnel to identify key concerns (content analysis). Review of existing information and literature. Questionnaire survey of service providers. Interviews with service users (case study presentation due to small numbers).

Results

Key problems were identified and recommendations made. The recommendations fell into broad areas relating to communication and inter-agency role, emphasising importance of multi-agency planning as well as operational working. Need for therapy was highlighted as extremely important and provision to clients represented the greatest gap in service provision. Greater emphasis in prevention of child sexual abuse is needed and suggested that raising awareness in community could help prevent further abuse. The question of reintegrating perpetrators back into families needs to be addressed. All staff working in the area of child sexual abuse to receive mandatory updated training based on agreed competencies.

Publications

Earll, L., Giles, U., Wyer, S., and Wilding, L. (1997). Child Sexual Abuse in Gloucestershire. A Survey of Available Information to Establish the Scale of Need and Identify Gaps in Existing Provision With a View to Informing the Allocation of Resources. Gloucestershire Social Services Department

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

75. REACHING OUT – WELCOMING IN: ACTION RESEARCH ON WAYS TO PROVIDE COUNSELLING SERVICES TO SOCIALLY EXCLUDED PEOPLE

Principal researcher(s): Imogen Howse, Dr. Willm Mistral

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Bath

Contact details: Imogen Howse, Mental Health Research and Develop Unit, Wessex House Level 7, University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY

Dates: March 2003 – March 2004

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: Princess of Wales Memorial Fund

Funding amount: £62,500

Main subject area: action research and counselling services for young people

Keywords: action research; social exclusion; counselling

Aims

To engage young people as co-researchers with professionals. To identify the barriers to young people accessing counselling services. To determine the best ways of promoting benefits of counselling to socially excluded groups of young people.

Methodology

Action Research. Evaluation

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

76. MATCHING NEEDS AND SERVICES IN CHILDREN AND FAMILY SOCIAL WORK

Principal researcher(s): Dr. Michael Little, Dr. Nick Axford, Ms. Louise Morpeth, Ms. Vashti Berry

Institution: Dartington Social Research Unit, part of the Warren House Group at Dartington, www.whg.org.uk

Contact details: Dartington Social Research Unit, Warren House, Warren Lane, Dartington, Devon. TQ9 6EG, Tel: +44 (0)1803 862231, unit@dartington.org.uk

Dates: June 1996 – ongoing

Duration: not stated

Funding body: Local authorities in the UK and agencies elsewhere in Europe and North America

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: children in need

Keywords: children's services; need; service; protection; family support; prevention; refocusing

Aims

To analyse referrals to children's services agencies in order to conduct a needs assessment to see how need categories relate to other taxonomies (for example, protection case, and child in need). To use this information to design, implement and evaluate needs-led, evidence-based services.

Methodology

Matching Needs and Services methodology – see Little, M., Madge, J., Mount, K., Ryan, M. and Tunnard, J. (1999) *Matching Needs and Services*, 2nd Edition, Dartington, Dartington Academic Press.

Results

The method has been used in various settings. Efforts are being made to increase the ratio of services implemented and evaluated to need audits conducted. However, for reports on some of the completed exercises please see www.dartington-i.org.uk.

Publications (To download working papers go to www.dartington.org.uk)

Little, M., Bullock, R., Madge, J., and Arruabarrena, I. (2002) '[How to Develop Needs-Led Evidence-Based Services](#)', *MCC Building Knowledge for Integrated Care* 10 (3), 28-32

Little, M., and Madge, J. (1998) '[Inter-agency Assessment of Need in Child Protection](#)', Dartington Social Research Unit, Working Paper #1

Axford, N., Madge, J., and Morpeth, L. (2004) Designing and Evaluating Services for Children using Matching Needs and Services: methods, findings and lessons, Dartington Social Research Unit, Working Paper #9

Melamid, E., and Brodbar, G. (2003) 'Matching Needs and Services: an assessment tool for community-based service systems', *Child Welfare* 82 (4), 397-412.

Data source: questionnaire surveys (1995-1997; 2002-2003)

77. MEDICAL ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN WHO MAY HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED

Principal researcher(s): Dr. Alison Maddocks, Dr. Lesley Griffiths, Mr. Mark Roszkowski

Co-workers: none

Institution: Glan-y-Mor NHS (National Health Service) Trust, Wales; Swansea ACPC (Area Child Protection Committee)

Contact details: Dr. A. Maddocks, Consultant Community Paediatrician, Trinity Buildings, 21 Orchard Street, Swansea SA1 5AT

Dates: not stated

Duration: not stated

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: medical assessment of sexually abused children

Keywords: medical assessment; information, sexual abuse

Aims

To evaluate the impact of a leaflet which seeks to provide better and accurate information about the medical examination for children who may have been sexually abused. To evaluate its perceived value by children, their families and professionals. To ascertain if the perceptions of other involved agencies have changed following the introduction of this leaflet.

Methodology

Evaluation form to the child and/or her/his carer. Evaluation form to social workers and police officers.

Results

not available

Publications

To improve children's perceptiveness of a potentially unpleasant experience. To help them and professionals.

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

78. MEDICAL INPUT TO CHILDREN ON THE CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER

Principal researcher(s): Dr. Alison Maddocks, Dr. Lorna Price, Dr. Amitz Mahajan

Co-workers: none

Institution: Glan-y-Mor NHS (National Health Service) Trust, Wales

Contact details: Dr. A. Maddocks, Consultant Community Paediatrician, Trinity Buildings, 21 Orchard Street, Swansea SA1 5AT

Dates: 1996 – 1997

Duration: 12 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: medical needs of children who have been abused

Keywords: child protection; medical assessment

Aims

To ascertain the points in the child protection process at which input from medical staff was made, to identify the form this input took and to determine by whom that input was provided.

Methodology

The case conference minutes of all new entries on the child protection registers of Neath, Port Talbot and Swansea were analysed for the period 01/09/1996 – 31/08/1997. The involvement of all health personnel was noted and also recommendations concerning medical follow-up. Data was analysed using Epi-info.

Results

(Swansea) – 67 children from 37 families were placed on the register in this period. 14 (20.9%) of the initial referrals were from health staff. 17 (25.4%) were seen by a doctor prior to the initial case conference. These 17 children were placed on the register for: neglect – 7, physical abuse – 6, sexual abuse – 4. Paediatricians examined 15 of these and two were seen by a police surgeon. Recommendations were made for 7 (10.4%) to be assessed by a paediatrician after the case conference. Paediatricians were able to attend eight (21.7%) conferences (these were for children they had seen) and two (5.4%) were attended by GP's (general practitioners). At five (13.5%) conferences there were no health staff present.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

79. EXCESS DEMAND ON CHILD MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND THE IMPACT OF TREATMENT DELAY

Principal researcher(s): Mr Steven Walker

Co-workers: none

Institution: Anglia Polytechnic University

Contact details: Mr S. Walker, Anglia Polytechnic University, School of Community Health and Social Studies, Victoria Road South, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1LL

Dates: June 1993 – June 1997

Duration: 4 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child and family mental health

Keywords: children; mental health; waiting list

Aims

To assess the methods employed for managing excess demand on the child and family consultation service (CFCS). To assess the impact on children of the waiting list for therapy. To devise a system for identifying children who could be prioritised on the waiting list.

Methodology

Quantitative analysis of results of methods to reduce waiting list. Follow-up analysis of re-referral numbers, rate of re-referral and clinical features. Comparative analysis of similar groups of children leaving or remaining on the waiting list. Outcome audit of children seen sooner or later.

Results

The attempts to reduce demand on the CFCS worked in the short-term to reduce the waiting time for assessment and treatment but research demonstrates that a significant number of children were re-referred within two years with more severe symptoms and causing greater concern to the primary health and social care system. The method used to reduce demand seems to have deterred a large number of re-referrals, which raises concerns about the welfare of these children and the increased stress in their families.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

80. A VIEW FROM INSIDE THE BOX: A SOCIAL RESEARCH PROJECT EXPLORING SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVISION IN THE BRADFORD AREA

Principal researcher(s): Claire Fraser

Co-workers: none

Institution: Consult Research

Contact details: Claire Fraser, Consult Research, Bank Lane, Holmbridge, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire. HD9 2NG.
Tel: 07940 587 434. Email: info@consultresearch.co.uk

Dates: 2006

Duration: 12 months

Funding body: Survivors West Yorkshire

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: service provision for survivors of sexual abuse

Keywords: service provision; survivors

Aims

To explore service provision for (adult) survivors of sexual abuse/violence in the Bradford area of West Yorkshire.

Methodology

Mapping exercise. Questionnaire for service providers in the district. Individual interviews with adult survivors of sexual abuse.

Results

62 questionnaires were completed and returned from the voluntary (33) and statutory (29) sectors. The key findings are detailed below: 64% noted they regularly came across service users whom they know are survivors of sexual abuse; 23% indicated they routinely ask service users about a possible history of sexual abuse, usually in the initial client assessment; 60% do not record disclosures and therefore hold no information on the numbers of survivors within their client group; 21% provide a specific service for survivors of sexual abuse such as counselling, telephone helplines/pathwaying and group work; and 63% work with abuse-related issues 'in-house' if they arise. The majority of inter-agency referrals for specific support for survivors of abuse are made to the voluntary sector (66%) although many are also made to the statutory sector (48%), particularly the statutory mental health and psychotherapy teams; 69% do not feel that current service provision meets the needs of survivors of child sexual abuse. The three most common presenting problems among survivor client groups are self-harming, relationship difficulties and low self-esteem. Preferred priorities for future service provision are increased provision for individual counselling and challenging the silencing of abuse in society; 85% would like to see future provision located jointly within the voluntary and statutory sectors, and the need for a multi-disciplinary support network and greater funding was highlighted. The service user interviews highlighted the potential life-long impact that abuse may have. More support is needed both within the education system, to support children at the time of abuse, and later in life for adult survivors who are trying to find and hold down jobs. When reflecting on issues in relation to health and social care many examples of less than adequate responses from the medical profession were noted perhaps due to the lack of training for medical staff and the lack of therapeutic provision. In addition, there appears to be an over-reliance on medication and the use of diagnostic systems due to the propensity to follow the medical model. A sense of isolation as opposed to community cohesion was also noted both in relation to wider society and within the survivor community. Such isolation and disengagement was widely believed to be underpinned by the stigma associated with abuse and more generally mental health and the need to 'challenge the silence' of abuse was highlighted. Although some good experience of service provision (largely in the voluntary sector) was noted, it was felt that service provision for survivors of abuse could benefit from additional funding and publicity. In addition, the need for choice and a range of accessible services which seek to empower service users was noted.

Publications

Fraser, C. L. (2006) A View from Inside the Box: A Social Research Project Exploring Service Provision for Survivors of Sexual Abuse/Violence in the Bradford District. Research report prepared for Survivors West

Yorkshire and CNET (Community Empowerment Network) Bradford District.
Fraser, C. L. (2006) A View from Inside the Box: Exploring Service Provision for Survivors of Sexual Abuse/Violence in the Bradford Area. Bradford Briefing, 221, September.

Data source: website entry (2011)

81. DEVELOPING STABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY AND CAPACITY FOR SPECIALIST THIRD SECTOR RAPE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE SERVICES

Principal researcher(s): Claire Fraser

Co-workers: The Survivors Trust

Institution: Consult Research

Contact details: Claire Fraser, Consult Research, Bank Lane, Holmbridge, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire. HD9 2NG.
Tel: 07940 587 434. Email: info@consultresearch.co.uk

Dates: 2009-2010

Duration: 12 months

Funding body: Government Equalities Office

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: specialist provision for victims of rape and sexual violence

Keywords: third sector; specialist provision; victims; survivors; stability; sustainability and capacity

Aims

To review the factors affecting the stability and sustainability of third sector specialist sexual violence and abuse services: what are the existing levels of resources and funding for specialist rape and sexual abuse crisis services? What are the different sources of funding or other resources? What is the operational impact of insecure funding? What are the barriers affecting stability and capacity across the sector? What do specialist services identify as crucial to supporting their stability and service development in the future?

Methodology

Online survey

Results

Over the past few years, central government has set out a framework for action designed to improve the experiences of victims of rape and sexual violence, increase protection and improve criminal justice responses to sexual violence, including a commitment to establish SARCs (Sexual Assault Referral Centres) in all police authorities, introducing Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and providing emergency funding for specialist rape and sexual abuse third sector services. However, as this study has revealed, many specialist third sector rape and sexual abuse support services continue to struggle to maintain financial and organisational stability and a significant number of specialist agencies remain concerned about their ability to maintain services, let alone build capacity. A review of recommendations made to the government Stakeholder Advisory Group on Sexual Violence and Abuse, in 2008, shows that in many areas of policy and practice there is still much to be done that can strengthen the position of specialist services, including increased involvement at local authority level, increased awareness of the prevalence and impact of sexual violence and abuse and recognition of the needs of victims and survivors. The results of this study provide invaluable evidence of the need for a coordinated and structured local, national and regional response to funding specialist sexual violence and abuse support services in order for them to maintain current service provision and to allow services to increase their capability and capacity to meet victims' needs.

Publications

Fraser, C. (2010) Developing Stability, Sustainability and Capacity for Specialist Third Sector Rape, Sexual Violence and Abuse Services. Research report prepared for The Survivors Trust and Government Equalities Office

Data source: website entry (2011)

2.9 Costs and effectiveness

82. COSTS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ADOLESCENT SUPPORT TEAMS

Principal researcher(s): Prof Nina Biehal

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of York

Contact details: Prof Nina Biehal, Social Work Research and Development Unit, University of York, IRISS (Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services), D Block , Heslington, York. YO10 5DD E-mail: nb6@york.ac.uk

Dates: 2000 – 2003

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: Department of Health

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: not stated

Keywords: not stated

Aims

Comparison of outcomes for young people receiving specialist family support services with those receiving mainstream social work services.

Methodology

Quasi-experimental: quantitative. Qualitative.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

**83. MEETING THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM:
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S COSTS AND OUTCOMES OF SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN NEED
INITIATIVE**

Principal researcher(s): Deborah Gbate, Sunita Bhabra

Co-workers: Amelia van der Merwe, Jeni Beecham, Richard Harrington, Susan Bailey

Institution: Policy Research Bureau, London

Contact details: Sunita Bhabra, Policy Research Bureau, 2A Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4LV.

Dates: January 2000 – March 2004

Duration: 50 months

Funding body: Department of Health

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: assessing mental health needs of children in child protection system

Keywords: child protection; mental health needs; children in need

Aims

To focus on the processes and outcomes for children with mental health needs entering the child protection system. To assess the costs of services and relate these to the benefits to the children and their families. To provide one of the first independent assessments of children in the child protection system. To explore how agencies work together in meeting needs.

Methodology

Selection of five local authorities with contrasting demographic characteristics. Selection of approximately 600 children aged between 5-16 years who have been subject to an initial child protection conference between 1/9/01-1/9/02. Quantitative methods include completing SDQ (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire) and a pro-forma on the needs of child protection. Qualitative methods include interviews with key personnel in SSD (social services departments) and CAMHS (child and adolescent mental health services) to map the needs and later to interview parents and children (n=30) on the service they received.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

84. PURCHASING OF COMMUNITY CHILD HEALTH SERVICES: HOW AND HOW MUCH – A FEASIBILITY STUDY

Principal researcher(s): Prof. David Hall, Mrs Linda Cotton

Co-workers: Mr P. Marsh, Dr L. Polnay, Prof. G. Lindsay, Mr J. Brazier

Institution: University of Sheffield Children's Hospital

Contact details: Mrs L. Cotton, Dept. Paediatrics, University of Sheffield Children's Hospital, Sheffield S10 2TH

Dates: December 1996 – December 1997

Duration: One year

Funding body: NHSE (National Health Service)
Executive

Funding amount: £57,284

Main subject area: purchasing of two components of community child health services, child protection and school health

Keywords: child protection; school health

Aims

To describe NHS resources committed to child protection, to quantify them and seek explanations for any differences between districts and determine what changes in data collection may be needed to facilitate resource allocation and programme budgeting in future. To do the same for school health services. The feasibility study aimed to demonstrate that a) the requisite number of districts could be re-routed to the study and b) sufficient co-operation could be elicited to obtain relevant data.

Methodology

Selection of four districts following agreed criteria. Reviewing data collection systems to determine feasibility of data collection. A trial period of data collection relating to child protection using a daily diary. Validation of data collected during trial.

Results

It was possible to demonstrate that the full study was feasible in that the number of districts required were recruited to the study; a pilot period of data collection for child protection was accomplished and the data could be, in part, validated.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

85. PURCHASING OF COMMUNITY CHILD HEALTH SERVICES – HOW, AND HOW MUCH?

Principal researcher(s): Prof David Hall, Mrs Linda Cotton

Co-workers: Mr P. Marsh, Dr L. Polnay, Prof G. Lindsay, Mr J. Brazier

Institution: University of Sheffield

Contact details: Prof David Hall, Storrs House Farm, Storrs Lane, Sheffield S6 6GY

Dates: 1997 – 1998

Duration: 15 months

Funding body: NHS (National Health Service) Executive **Funding amount:** £121,661

Main subject area: purchasing of two components of community child health services: child protection and school health

Keywords: child protection; school health

Aims

To describe NHS resources committed to child protection and school health. To quantify these resources and seek explanations for any differences between districts and determine what changes in data collection may be needed. To facilitate resource allocation and programme budgeting in future.

Methodology

Where possible official statistics and information in the public domain will be used. In the four areas for detailed study, key personnel will be interviewed to ascertain the nature and volume of the services and their support to social services and education. Diaries will be used to record time spent in providing a child protection service. An economic analysis of the services will be undertaken.

Results

The publications resulting from this study are listed below. The material on child protection was more difficult to evaluate than the work on school health and was not the subject of a formal publication other than the main report to the NHSE.

Publications

Cotton, L., Hall, D. M. B., Brazier, J., Marsh, P., Lindsay, G., and Polnay, L. (2000). School nursing: Costs and potential benefits. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 31, 1063-1071

Cotton, L., Hall, D. M. B., Brazier, J., Marsh, P., Lindsay, G., and Polnay, L. (1998). *Purchasing of Community Child Health Services: How and How Much?* Report submitted to NHSE

Hall, D. M. B., Stewart-Brown, S., Salt, A., and Hill, P. (2001). Community Child Health. In A. Stevens, and J. Raftery, *Health Care Needs Assessment*, Volume 2 (2nd edition). Oxford: Radcliffe Medical Press

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

3. Areas of practice

3.1 Health

3.1.1 Health visiting

86. STRESS, HEALTH VISITING AND CHILD PROTECTION: SUPPORT AND SUPERVISION	
Principal researcher(s): Mrs Frances E. Manning	
Co-workers: none	
Institution: NHS (National Health Service) Trust, Werrington Clinic	
Contact details: Mrs F. E. Manning, Child Protection Manager, Combined Healthcare NHS Trust, Werrington Clinic, Salters Close, Werrington, Stoke-on-Trent ST9 ODB	
Dates: 1996	Duration: not stated
Funding body: not stated	Funding amount: not stated
Main subject area: support and supervision in child protection	
Keywords: stress; support; supervision	
Aims	
To examine stress in the health visiting profession particularly in relation to their role as key workers with child protection issues. To discuss the value of support/supervision in child protection. To evaluate the support visits carried out by child protection managers in a combined healthcare NHS trust.	
Methodology	
Questionnaires sent to 100 health visitors working in the Primary Care Directorate of North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust. A further 10 health visitors selected at random to take part in structured interviews.	
Results	
56% of health visitors participated in the study. The available literature and the conclusions of this study show very clearly the necessity for support and supervision in clinical practice and particularly in child protection since health visitors do experience stress in relation to child protection issues. The individual nature of the current support visits appears to be welcomed and valued, the respondents being very specific about their expectations of the support visits and the child protection department as a whole. In particular, new members of staff and those with complex child protection caseloads may require more support visits and the emphasis of support visits needs to include 'cause for concern families' as well as those on the child protection register. The support visits will continue with changes informed by the results of the study.	
Publications	
not available	
Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)	

87. HOW HEALTH VISITORS WORK WITH CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND THEIR SUPPORT AND SUPERVISION SYSTEMS

Principal researcher(s): Mrs Linda Scott

Co-workers: Marian Brandon, Professor David Howe (Research Supervisors)

Institution: University of East Anglia Child Health Centre, Suffolk

Contact details: Mrs. L. Scott, Child Protection Advisor, Hospital Road, Bury St Edmonds, Suffolk PE12 7HJ

Dates: October 1992 – June 1995

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection and adult mental health for clients and practitioners

Keywords: sexual abuse; unseen loss; supervision

Aims

To explore how health visitors work with child sexual abuse. To explore support systems within this work. To explore supervision needs and provision. To consider the effectiveness of the practice.

Methodology

Qualitative method. Semi-structured taped interviews (lasting 60-80 minutes each). 16 practising health visitors, from new into practice to experienced practitioners.

Results

The findings identified needs and risks for child and adult victims, adult carers and practitioners associated with sexual abuse work. Linking child protection with mental health and depressive illness enabled an appreciation of the concept of unseen loss requiring an acknowledgement to grieve as part of the healing process in post abuse and later life. The unseen losses of sexual abuse relate to safety, esteem, independence, power, intimacy and trust. Some health visitors were inhibited from effective work through denial, taboo, rejection and distancing. Support was found to be ad hoc and unaccountable therefore risk management is not possible by the employing organisation. Supervision was provided with structure, a method of accountability and a system of quality, clinical governance and risk management.

Publications

not stated

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

88. AN EVALUATION OF HEALTH VISITORS' PERCEPTIONS OF AND THEIR REQUIREMENTS FOR CLINICAL SUPERVISION IN CHILD PROTECTION WORK AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SERVICE

Principal researcher(s): Ms Pauline Gaskell

Co-workers: none

Institution: Scunthorpe Community Health Care NHS (National Health Service) Trust

Contact details: Ms P. Gaskell, Senior Nurse Child Protection, Scunthorpe Community Health Care NHS Trust, Brumby Hospital, East Common Lane, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire. DN16 1QQ

Dates: January 1996 – May 1997

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: clinical supervision for health visitors in child protection work

Keywords: qualitative; exploratory; health visitor

Aims

To explore and evaluate health visitors' perceptions of, and their requirements for, clinical supervision in child protection work – and to identify their needs for on-going supervision.

Methodology

Qualitative – 10 in-depth interviews with health visitors. Purposive sample chosen.

Results

The findings reveal that the health visitors in the study have only a superficial understanding of what clinical supervision entails. Although the health visitors demonstrated a lack of knowledge of the underpinning theory upon which clinical supervision is based, they were able to articulate their expectations of, and requirements for, supervision in child protection work. The implications for the service are that if clinical supervision is to be implemented successfully, this needs to be facilitated by the appointment of supervisors. Both supervisors and supervisees should be involved in the process of planning the introduction of clinical supervision for health visitors working with child protection issues. A programme of training will be needed for both supervisors and supervisees, which would enable them to become familiar with the concept of clinical supervision and all aspects of the supervisory process.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

3.1.2 Midwifery

89. MIDWIFERY EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DEMANDS ON CHILD PROTECTION: THE WAY FORWARD

Principal researcher(s): Mrs Bridget Ifeyinwa Okereke

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Surrey

Contact details: Bridget Ifeyinwa Okereke, Middlesex University, 3-10 Highgate Hill, Furnival Building, London N19 5LW. E-mail: b.okereke@mdx.ac.uk

Dates: 1993 - 1994

Duration: One year

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection/abuse and midwifery perspectives

Keywords: midwifery; child protection

Aims

To explore midwives' personal and professional child educational needs and demands in relation to child protection.

Methodology

Semi-structured and structured questionnaire administered to a cross section of 68 practising midwives. Comparative analysis of personal construct interviews of three midwifery managers, a lecturer and the practitioners' survey responses.

Results

Most of the midwives have been involved with different types of child abuse during professional practice. Their feelings and thoughts ranged from strong negatives, such as ignorance and lack of support, to challenge and enthusiasm on the topic. They expressed the need for effective communication, sensitivity, better education, and increased parent and public awareness. They demanded open discussion and debate to generate and harness awareness knowledge from their experiences on the issues of child protection and abuse. Few felt well educated enough to cope effectively with abuse incidents but their long term professional experience was felt to enhance the quality of their care provision. 91% advocated enhanced child protection training as part of the midwifery curriculum and most were keen on greater involvement with the local authority child protection committee. Midwifery research must elicit the co-operation of all involved with child protection, including the obstetricians and paediatricians, in shared education and practices. There should be more open debates and discussions on the short and long-term implications of abuse on all concerned. This will enable midwives to recognise, intervene and care for the affected families. There is an urgent for staff education on the assessment of normal parenting skills to assist those in need, in order to restore and maintain the dignity of the children.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

3.1.3 School nursing

90. AN EXPLORATION INTO THE PERCEPTIONS THAT SCHOOL NURSES HAVE REGARDING THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Mrs Diane Hampshire

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Huddersfield; Dewsbury Health Care NHS (National Health Service) Trust

Contact details: Mrs D. Hampshire, Associate Director and Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children, St. Mary's House, St. Mary's Road, Leeds LD7 3JX

Dates: September – December 1998

Duration: 4 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: school nurse role in child protection

Keywords: exploratory; school nurse; child protection

Aims

To identify where school nurses believe they fit within a multi-disciplinary approach to child protection.

Methodology

Exploratory study, purposive sample of school nurses (N=6). Case study, semi-structured interviews.

Results

School nurses felt marginalised amongst professionals of a similar standing, but their morale was very high. Perceived marginalisation and lack of value was strong in relation to social services. The nurses felt that social workers did not understand their role and social workers expectations of school nurses were unrealistic. The school nurses showed a strong willingness to work together and be part of the child protection process. School nurses work at a preventative level with regard to child abuse, although they did not recognise this at the outset of the study, it lacked structure and the effectiveness and outcomes needed to be reviewed.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997; 2002-2003)

3.1.4 Primary care and general practice

91. CHILD PROTECTION IN WANDSWORTH: A STUDY WITHIN PRIMARY CARE

Principal researcher(s): Ms Janette Shaw

Co-workers: none

Institution: Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth (MSW) Health Authority

Contact details: Ms J. Shaw, Health Visiting Facilitator, Shotfield Health Centre, Wallington, Surrey SM6 0EH

Dates: March 1996 – August 1996

Duration: 6 months

Funding body: unfunded

Funding amount: unfunded

Main subject area: work of GPs (general practitioners), participation of GPs and level of GP' knowledge

Keywords: primary care; GPs

Aims

To ascertain current level of knowledge and involvement of GPs in child protection procedures. To establish the type of training available and levels of uptake by GPs and other members of the Primary Health Care team. To look at communication systems and their effectiveness in child protection work.

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews with a random selection of GPs in Wandsworth, with and without child protection registration in the practice.

Results

GP attendance at case conferences was low and case conference organisation regarding timing and venue were inappropriate for GP surgery hours. GPs continue to be isolated from co-operative ways of working and are reluctant to become involved in inter-agency approaches to child protection. During child health surveillance with children, GPs appear to focus on medical issues rather than the wider social context. GPs had difficulty sharing information with families as recommended in 'Medical Responsibilities – Child Protection' (Department of Health, 1994). The recommendations of the Warner/Clothier report are not being fulfilled in general practice when employing staff. There was poor access and uptake of training in child protection issues by GPs, practice nurses and employed staff. Sharing of data relating to attendance and value of training for GPs was poor. Marketing and co-ordination of training by MSW Health was inefficient. Uptake of training was constrained by lack of reimbursement for locum fees. Formal structures for discussing and relaying information about child protection issues within practices were not in place. There were few examples of child protection status identification systems within practices. The parent held record (red book) is rarely used to document and communicate child protection concerns/issues. Liaisons with external agencies involved in child protection by GPs are infrequent and communication with social services is constrained. GPs perceive the health visitor as the child protection specialist and their key contact person for child protection issues. Information to GPs about children in foster care is poorly disseminated. MSW Health's fast track system for retrieval of medical notes was working effectively but awareness of system could be improved. Wandsworth ACPC (Area Child Protection Committees) policies and procedures are poorly accessible to the GP and are not user friendly due to poor design.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

92. THE ROLE OF THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER (GP) IN CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Principal researcher(s): Amy B Weir, Elizabeth Lynch, Deborah T. Hodes, Clare L. Goodhart

Co-workers: none

Institution: not stated

Contact details: Dr. D. Hodes, Child Health, St. Leonards Primary Care, Nuttall St., London N1 5LZ

Dates: not stated

Duration: not stated

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: GP child protection training

Keywords: general practitioner; child protection; training

Aims

To provide information about the responsibilities of general practitioners (GPs) and the current legal requirements, with particular reference to 'Medical Responsibilities' (Department of Health, 1994). To advocate the importance of multi-professional collaboration as an essential prerequisite of ensuring that children are protected from abuse and to encourage them to work collaboratively with other agencies in the interests of children. To ensure GPs know about the support available to them, their patients and the referral pathways. To offer the opportunity for individual case discussion.

Methodology

Training sessions with GPs, primary care staff and practice staff run by a consultant community paediatrician and a senior social worker/independent trainer.

Results

More than 60% of GPs in the Primary Care area attended training. This figure included 71% of GPs who are approved for child health surveillance and 48% of GPs not on the child health surveillance list. Participants were asked to complete an evaluation form and 90% rated the information presented and case studies adopted as good or excellent. 94% of those completing the evaluation form wanted a further training session. 75% rated highly the opportunity to explore their own practice's experience and to increase their knowledge of child protection. Following training there has been a steady increase in the numbers of GPs using the consultancy service provided by the consultant community paediatrician – both patient referrals and telephone enquiries.

Publications

Weir, A. B., Lynch, E., Hodes, D. T., and Goodhart, C. L. (1997). The role of the general practitioner in child protection and family support: A collaborative training model. *Child Abuse Review*, 6(1), 65-69

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

3.1.5 Hospital

93. MEDICO LEGAL ASPECTS OF NON-ACCIDENTAL INJURY (NAI)

Principal researcher(s): Suzanne Heywood, Anne Marie Brown

Co-workers: none

Institution: South Bank University, London; City University, London

Contact details: Suzanne Heywood, Principal Lecturer, Faculty of Health, South Bank University, Erlang House, 103 Borough Road, London SE1 0AA

Dates: 1996 – 1997

Duration: One year

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: radiographers role in NAI

Keywords: radiographers, imaging, NAI

Aims

To establish radiographers' current role in imaging in NAI. To establish radiographer's awareness of the essential criteria for NAI radiographs.

Methodology

Experimental. Follow-up interviews.

Results

The results of this study suggest that current practice is unsatisfactory in a significant number of cases, with inadequate images being passed by radiographers. This would at the very least cause inconvenience to the child, requiring re-imaging - or worse, may make images inadmissible in court. Radiographers were not all aware of the essential criteria for checking and passing NAI images. Radiographers stated they were satisfied with the level of training they had acquired, but results suggest the level of training for NAI is inadequate and needs to be reviewed. There was no statistical difference between senior and junior radiographers but the small sample (n=30) makes any statistical study of dubious value. The majority of radiographers were unaware of the legal implications of their imaging role and had little practical experience of imaging NAI cases, suggesting a need for a specially trained radiographer to cover this role in each hospital. It was interesting to note that radiographers who scored more highly were more likely to see the need for paediatric training courses.

Publications

Heywood, S., and Brown, A. M. (1997). Good practice for radiographers in non-accidental injury. *Radiography*, 3, 201-8

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

94. CHILD PROTECTION IN A DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL

Principal researcher(s): Dr Alison Maddocks, Mrs Dilys Calden, Mrs Alison Kingdom

Co-workers: Dr Lesley Griffiths

Institution: Glan-y-Mor NHS (National Health Service) Trust, Wales

Contact details: Dr A. Maddocks, Consultant Community Paediatrician, Trinity Buildings, 21 Orchard Street, Swansea SA1 5AT

Dates: not stated

Duration: not stated

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: analysis of staff knowledge

Keywords: investigative; clinical effectiveness

Aims

To evaluate the knowledge of all staff in a district general hospital regarding child protection procedures. To develop a training programme to meet their needs. To evaluate this training programme.

Methodology

Questionnaire administered to all staff. Assessment questionnaire.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

95. EXPERTISE IN THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF SUSPECTED CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (CSA): DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOOD PRACTICE

Principal researcher(s): Jacqueline Mok, Anthony Busuttil

Co-workers: none

Institution: Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh

Contact details: Jacqueline Y Q Mok, Consultant Paediatrician, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, 10 Chalmers Crescent, Edinburgh. EH9 1TS.

Dates: 2001 - 2003

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: NHS Quality Improvement Scotland

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: medical examination in suspected child sexual abuse

Keywords: child sexual abuse; medical examination

Aims

To establish that Scottish Executive Health Department guidance was being followed by practitioners, NHS (National Health Service) Trusts and Health Boards. To identify practitioners involved in, and the range of current practice in CSA examinations. To seek the views and understanding of CSA examinations from legal practitioners and their satisfaction with medical expertise available to them.

Methodology

Questionnaire sent to practitioners throughout Scotland (paediatricians, forensic medical examiners (FMEs), procurators fiscal (PFs) and children's reporters) to examine experience and training in CSA examinations, work practices involved during and following the actual examination, method of inter-agency working, and participation in continuous professional development (CPD).

Results

Despite the promulgation of national guidance to doctors, PFs and children's reporters on the conduct and documentation of, and equipment required for sexual abuse examinations in children, the results of the survey show that throughout Scotland, the care provided to children and the service to the courts are sub-optimal. This audit has shown that there may be intrinsic, elementary problems with the structure and management of CSA examinations. Urgent direction is required from the Scottish Executive on the best way forward.

Publications

Scottish Executive (2000). Protecting Children: A Shared Responsibility. Guidance for Health Professionals in Scotland

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and The Association of Police Surgeons (2002). Guidance on Paediatric Forensic Examinations in Relation to Possible Child Sexual Abuse

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

96. AN AUDIT OF CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES IN THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Principal researcher(s): Dr Peter Sidebotham, Dr Alison Pearce

Co-workers: Emily Chiba

Institution: University of Southampton; University of Bath

Contact details: Dr Alison Pearce, Department of Child Health, University of Bath, Newbridge Hill, Bath

Dates: March 1995 – March 1996

Duration: one year

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection procedure in Accident and Emergency departments

Keywords: child protection; Accident and Emergency

Aims

To determine the extent to which child protection procedures are followed in an Accident and Emergency department.

Methodology

Standards set. Practice audited. Standards revisited. Repeat audit. Discussion of results of combined audits.

Results

Accident and Emergency Departments need to have recognised procedures for the identification and management of suspected child abuse. Using a list of risk indicators on a child casualty record card can heighten awareness of those children who may be at risk from child abuse. Children thus identified need to be discussed with experienced paediatric staff in order to fully assess the degree of risk and to decide whether further multi-disciplinary assessment is required. Completing an audit cycle has enabled demonstration of improved compliance with standards set for following child protection procedures.

Publications

Sidebotham, P. D., and Pearce, A V. (1997). Audit of child protection procedures in accident and emergency department to identify children at risk of abuse. *British Medical Journal*, 315, 855-856

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

97. THE INTERFACE BETWEEN CHILD PROTECTION AND MEDICAL IMAGING

Principal researcher(s): Mr John Sudbery, Mr Peter Hogg, Mrs Carena Eaton

Co-workers: Miss Victoria Hancock

Institution: University of Salford

Contact details: Mr John Sudbery, Department of Social Work and Department of Radiography, University of Salford, Frederick Road, Salford M6 6PU

Dates: September 1993 – February 1998

Duration: 54 months

Funding body: Salford University

Funding amount: £36,000

Main subject area: children who have been abused and issues in connection with medical imaging

Keywords: child abuse; medical imaging

Aims

To examine the use of diagnostic imaging in the process of child protection. To identify the implications for clinical procedures, for interdisciplinary child protection procedures and for professional education. To improve service to abused children and their families by improving the education, support and management of key staff working with them. To disseminate findings nationally and internationally so as to bring about improvements required

Methodology

Literature search. Survey of 1000 radiographers. Examination of a series of 50 diagnostic images taken in connection with child abuse. Critical Incident analysis.

Results

Clinical and technical findings: differential use of different imaging modalities, existing under-imaging and over-imaging of various parts of the body; use of skeletal surveys; protocols for the imaging of abused children. Social and emotional issues: radiographers have a high level of patient contact but are seldom considered for or included in child protection training. Only 17% knew there were procedures they should follow in respect of child abuse. The experience of the abused child whilst undergoing radiographic or other imaging has seldom been considered by Area Child Protection Committees and other organisations. There are issues of consent and restraint in this area. Training, education and development: various findings and various consultancy/development work carried out. Proposals and models published for education modules and protocols.

Publications

Sudbery, J., Hancock, V., Eaton, C., and Hogg, P. (1997). Child protection and radiography: Clinical and technical issues. *Child Abuse Review*, 6(3), 191-198

Hancock, V., Sudbery, J., Eaton, C., Hogg, P. (1997). Child protection and radiography: Social and emotional context. *Child Abuse Review*, 6(4), 283-290

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

3.1.6 Dentistry

98. GENERAL DENTAL PRACTITIONERS' PERCEPTION OF THEIR ROLE WITHIN CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Richard Welbury, Alison Cairns

Co-workers: none

Institution: Glasgow Dental Hospital and School

Contact details: Richard Welbury, Professor of Paediatric Dentistry, Glasgow Dental Hospital and School, 378, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, G2 3JZ

Dates: June 2002 – June 2004

Duration: Two years

Funding body: unfunded

Funding amount: unfunded

Main subject area: role of dental practitioner in child protection

Keywords: dentists: abuse: knowledge: referral

Aims

To identify undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in child protection for dentists. To identify the number of suspected cases of child abuse seen by dentists in last five years. To identify whether Area Child Protection Committee guidelines were available to the dentist. To identify what percentages of suspected cases were referred.

Methodology

Postal questionnaire to 500 general dental practitioners in Scotland (25% of dentist population)

Results

not available

Publications

Welbury, R., and Cairns, A. (2003). General Dental Practitioners' Perception of Their Role Within Child Protection. Poster presentation, British Society for Paediatric Dentistry, Annual Scientific Meeting, September 2003, Bristol, UK

Welbury, R., and Cairns, A. (2003). General Dental Practitioners' Perception of Their Role Within Child Protection. Paper presentation, International Association for Paediatric Dentistry, October 2003, New Orleans, USA

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

3.1.7 Health – general

99. AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ROLE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Dr Carol Lupton, Ms Parves Khan, Mr Darren Lacey

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Portsmouth

Contact details: Ms P. Khan, Research Fellow, University of Portsmouth, SSRIU (Social Services Research and Information Unit), Halpern House, 1 – 2 Hampshire Terrace, Portsmouth PO1 2QF

Dates: November 1996 – April 1999

Duration: 30 months

Funding body: National Health Service (South and West)

Funding amount: £118,000

Main subject area: health professionals in child protection case management at strategic and practice level

Keywords: health professionals; child protection

Aims

Inform development of more co-ordinated/coherent approach by health authorities at strategic level on child protection provisions/practice. Improve child protection practice among health in Hampshire. Make recommendations to assist health authorities in decisions about responsibilities under the Children Act 1989. Offer guidance on the potential of a range of mechanisms designed to develop a more proactive role for health. Contribute to a more rational use of available resources and better quality of service for children and families in Hampshire.

Methodology

National literature review/review of institutional data. Case study investigation of three sites. Region-wide survey. In-depth interviews/self-completion and research administered questionnaires.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

100. LOTHIAN INTER-AGENCY CHILD PROTECTION GUIDELINES: IMPACT ON A CHILDREN'S NHS (NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE) TRUST

Principal researcher(s): Dr Jacqueline Mok, F. Forbes, J. McBride

Co-workers: J. Phillips, T. Squires

Institution: Edinburgh Sick Children's NHS Trust

Contact details: Dr J. Mok, Consultant Paediatrician, Edinburgh Sick Children's NHS Trust, 10 Chalmers Crescent, Edinburgh EH9 1TS

Dates: October 1994 – October 1995

Duration: One year

Funding body: Lothian Clinical Audit Department

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: resource implications of child protection guidelines

Keywords: child protection guidelines

Aims

To evaluate the process involved in cases of suspected child abuse within a children's NHS Trust, six months after implementation of new inter-agency child protection guidelines

Methodology

Prospective evaluation of case records. Review of practice within four departments in Edinburgh, according to the inter-agency guidelines.

Results

No standard procedure existed for the child protection process prior to the guidelines. In the first six months following implementation of the guidelines, a substantial increase in workload was experienced by community paediatricians. Medical examinations were better co-ordinated, with fewer children receiving repeated, intrusive examinations. However, note-keeping was deficient, as 3% of referrals did not appear to be recorded in the case notes. Cross-referencing between departments was variable, with 81% of cases referred to community child health not recorded in hospital case notes.

Publications

Mok, J., Forbes, F., McBride, J., Phillips, J., and Squires, T. (1997). Lothian inter-agency child protection guidelines: Impact on a children's NHS Trust. *Health Bulletin*, 55(5), 326-330

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

101. IMPROVING DATA IN A CHILD HEALTH SYSTEM

Principal researcher(s): Ms Marjorie Talbot

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Wales Swansea (School of Health Sciences)

Contact details: Marjorie Talbot, St Clements Surgery, 39 Temple Street, Oxford OX4 1JS

Dates: 1998-2003

Duration: 5 years

Funding body: University of Wales Swansea

Funding amount: £15,000

Main subject area: record keeping and electronic documentation in child health

Keywords: child health protection data

Aims

To monitor the processes in record keeping and electronic documentation in child health for early identification of behaviour problems and significant conditions.

Methodology

Soft Systems Methodology

Results

Inconsistent capture of clinical information concerning early identification of risk for the protection of children prevents development of knowledge. Stand-alone automated repositories and child health data hinders quality data collection, exchange and comparative data analysis. Inconsistent access to equipment and training for whole system approach to automated record keeping keeps parents and health professionals blind to the potential for improved knowledge to support better informed services providing integrated pathways of care.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

102. ARGUING THE CASE: THE CONSTRUCTION OF 'CASENESS' IN A CHILD HEALTH SERVICE

Principal researcher(s): Professor Sue White

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Huddersfield

Contact details: Professor Sue White, Director of Health and Social Care Research, University of Huddersfield.
E-mail: s.white@hud.ac.uk

Dates: 2000-2001

Duration: 12 months

Funding body: Economic and Social Research Council

Funding amount: £29,000

Main subject area: inter-professional decision making in child health and child protection

Keywords: discourse analysis; judgement; inter-professional talk; morality; science

Aims

To remedy the neglect in current literature of collegial talk in paediatric settings and its contribution to the categorization, management and disposal of cases, by exploring the preferred models of causation and the interaction of formal knowledge, clinical experience and moral judgement in the construction of cases. To examine strategies for argumentation in use by various child health professionals in order to understand their impact on the complex processes of decision making. To inform current professional/policy debates and improve practice in the management of paediatric and child psychiatry cases, particularly at the interface between health and social care. To further methodological debates about appropriate concepts and tools for the analysis of institutional discourse.

Methodology

An intensive ethnographic case study design was used, with the award holder as sole researcher. Methods included non-participant observation of clinics, ward rounds and staff meetings, audio-recording of meetings and other talk and the documentary analysis of case files

Results

The study showed the impact of professional 'identity talk' on organizational change and multi-professional decision-making. It showed how science, moral judgement, emotion and interactional processes inform the process of case categorization, including the assessment of risk in child protection.

Publications

White, S. and Stancombe, J. (2003). *Clinical Judgement in the Health and Welfare Professions: Extending the Evidence Base*. Maidenhead: Open University Press

White, S. (2002). Accomplishing the case in paediatrics and child health: Medicine and morality in interprofessional talk, *Sociology of Health and Illness*, 24(4), 409-435

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

3.2 Criminal Justice System

3.2.1 Policing

103. SPECIALIST POLICE UNITS FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN	
Principal researcher(s): Ms Michele Burman, Ms Siobhan Lloyd	
Co-workers: none	
Institution: University of Glasgow; University of Aberdeen	
Contact details: Ms S. Lloyd, Dept. of Sociology, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB9 2TY	
Dates: 1990 – 1992	Duration: 2 years
Funding body: Scottish Office	Funding amount: £61,000
Main subject area: police, and violent crime against women and children	
Keywords: police; inter agency investigation; women; children	
Aims	
To examine motivation for changes in policing policy and practice regarding crimes of violence against women and children. To examine the organisational objectives and operation of specialist police units in Scotland. To determine the extent of liaison between police and other agencies in child protection and adult female violence investigations.	
Methodology	
Fieldwork in all eight Scottish police forces via field visits and observation. Documentary analysis of framework for investigations, policy and procedure documents. Interviews with policy makers, senior officers, investigating officers and social workers. Postal questionnaire to voluntary and other agencies offering support to women and children who had experienced violent sexual crime.	
Results	
Child abuse accounts for 80% of all investigations undertaken by units and joint work with social workers is now near universal, although there is widespread variation in how this is carried out. Increased level of reporting has led to a high volume of work and officers are stretched to capacity. Women and children now less likely to experience repeat interviews but the provision of information to victims remains patchy. Relationships with other agencies vary from one force to another. Most enjoyable aspects of the work: heightened responsibility, seeing an investigation through, teamwork and inter-agency liaison. Most difficult aspects: heavy workload, organisational issues, stress and low value placed on work by other police officers.	
Publications	
Burman, M., and Lloyd, S. (1993). <i>Police Specialist Units and the Investigation of Crimes of Violence Against Women and Children</i> . Edinburgh: Scottish Office Central Research Unit	
Lloyd, S., and Burman, M. (1996). Specialist police units and the joint investigation of child abuse. <i>Child Abuse Review</i> , 5, 4-17	
Burman, M., and Lloyd, S. (1993). Inter-Agency Responses to Childhood Adversity in Scotland in H. Ferguson, R. Gilligan and R. Torode (Eds.) <i>Surviving Childhood Adversity: Issues for Policy and Practice</i> Dublin: Social Studies Press	
Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)	

3.2.2 Interviewing children

104. DECEPTION AND ITS DETECTION IN CHILDREN and ADULTS VIA VERBAL AND NON VERBAL CUES

Principal researcher(s): Miss Lucy Akehurst

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Portsmouth

Contact details: Miss L. Akehurst, Senior Research Associate, Dept. of Psychology, University of Wales, Swansea SA2 8PP

Dates: October 1993 – June 1997

Duration: 42 months

Funding body: HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) Bursary

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: detecting deception

Keywords: detecting deception; verbal cues; content-based criteria analysis; children's statements

Aims

To investigate the beliefs of police officers and social workers regarding cues to deception. To scientifically test the usefulness of content-based criteria analysis as a means for judging the truthfulness of children's and adult' witness and victim' statements. To look at the effects of training police officers and social workers in content-based criteria analysis – does their ability to judge the truthfulness of statements improve?

Methodology

Questionnaire – subjective data. Empirical research – laboratory studies - objective data.

Results

One experiment lent evidence to support the use of content-based criteria analysis (CBCA) as a means of discriminating between truthful and fabricated statements of adults and children (although the technique was specifically pioneered for use with children's allegations of sexual abuse). Expert evaluators were able to discriminate between truthful and fabricated statements of adults, 10-11 year olds and 7-8 year olds at a level significantly better than chance. A second experiment meant that police officers, social workers and students were trained in the use of CBCA. There were disappointing findings: their performance at judging the truthfulness of the same statements as those from the previous study was no better than chance and did not improve after training. This may have been due to the limited training sessions and the complexity of the technique. On the whole, previous research has shown CBCA to be a promising tool when attempting to discriminate between truthful and fabricated statements of children.

Publications

Akehurst, L., Kohriken, G., Bull, R., and Vry, A. (1996) Lay Person's and Police Officer's Beliefs Regarding Deceptive Behaviour. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 10, 461-471

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

105. CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE BREAKDOWN IN THE INITIAL INTERVIEW OF CASES OF SUSPECTED ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Dr Michelle Aldridge

Co-workers: Ms Joanne Wood

Institution: Cardiff University

Contact details: Dr M. Aldridge, Centre for Language and Communication Research, Cardiff University, PO Box 94, Cardiff CF10 3XB E-mail: aldrigem@cf.ac.uk

Dates: 1994 - on-going

Duration: not stated

Funding body: Economic and Social Research Council; British Academy; The Leverhulme Trust

Funding amount: £27,400; £2,060, £9,000 (respectively)

Main subject area: children's language

Keywords: interviewing children; police guidelines

Aims

Highlight areas of language difficulty in police – child interviews. Provide language guidelines for professionals when speaking to young children.

Methodology

An analysis of professional – child video – interviews (ages 3 – 12 years). Language games with assumed non abused children. Analysis of court transcripts in children's cross examination.

Results

not stated

Publications

Aldridge, M., Timmins, K., and Wood, J. (1997). Children's understanding of legal terminology: Judges give prizes at Pet Shows don't they? *Child Abuse Review*, 6(2), 141-146

Aldridge, M., and Wood, J. (1998). *Interviewing Children: A Guide for Child Care and Forensic Practitioners*. London: Wiley and Son

Aldridge, M., and Wood, J. (1999). Interviewing child witnesses with disabilities: A survey of police officers in England and Wales. *Police Journal*, 72(1), 33-42

Aldridge, M., and Wood, J. (1999). Telling it how it was: A comparative analysis of children's evidential and non-evidential narrative accounts. *Narrative Inquiry*, 9(2), 257-277

Aldridge, M., and Wood, J. (2000). Interviewing child witnesses within memorandum guidelines: A survey of police officers in England and Wales. *Children and Society*, 14(3), 168-181

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

106. SUGGESTIBILITY EFFECTS IN CHILDREN: INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWS AND MEMORY PROCESSES

Principal researcher(s): Dr Robyn Holliday

Co-workers: Dr Amanda Albon

Institution: University of Kent at Canterbury (Department of Psychology, Keynes College)

Contact details: Robyn Holliday, Department of Psychology, Keynes College, University of Kent at Canterbury CT2 7NP Email: R.Holliday@ukc.ac.uk

Dates: September 2001 - February 2003

Duration: 17 months

Funding body: Economic and Social Research Council

Funding amount: £41,608

Main subject area: not stated

Keywords: suggestibility; misinformation; child witnesses; forensic interviews; false memories

Aims

To evaluate cognitive interview techniques in 4-5 and 8-9-year olds. To examine memory processes underlying children's suggestibility.

Methodology

Four studies with young children involving witnessed event; misinformation paradigm. Process dissociation paradigm.

Results

In the last decade it has become customary for children to testify in criminal matters involving abuse or domestic violence, and in family law disputes. Evidence from actual cases indicates that children can be exposed to repeated and often suggestive questioning on multiple occasions by a variety of law enforcement officials, therapists, and legal representatives. Also, many courts now use video-recorded interviews with children as evidence and allow children under 7-years to give evidence. It is essential, therefore, that interview techniques be developed which are suitable for young children and which encourage accurate and reliable testimony.

Publications

Holliday, R.E. (2003). The effect of a prior cognitive interview on children's acceptance of misinformation. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 17(4), 443-457

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

107. AN AUDIT OF THE QUALITY OF INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY POLICE OFFICERS INTO CHILD COMPLAINANTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): M Lamb, K Sternberg, G Davies, H Westcott

Co-workers: S Pearson

Institution: University of Leicester

Contact details: Professor G M Davies, Department of Psychology, University of Leicester, LE1 7RH

Dates: 1997 – 1998

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: NICHD (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: investigative interviews with sex abuse complainants

Keywords: sex abuse; investigation; interviewing

Aims

To collect a sample (N=100) of investigative interview transcripts conducted by police officers in 12 different forces and to evaluate these in relation to the 'Memorandum of Good Practice'. To compare the use of questioning styles to police officers in other countries.

Methodology

Coding of transcripts in terms of a validated typology of question types. To establish correlates regarding use of various interviewing practices (for example, nature of offence and age of child). To compare major findings with representative samples of other interviews using manova and correlational methodology.

Results

The sampled interviews differed from the requirements of the 'Memorandum of Good Practice' in that: a) they contained a disproportionate number of specific questions; b) a very low number of open-ended questions; and c) the open-ended questions were not concentrated at the beginning of the interview. They followed 'Memorandum' conditions in including a rapport stage at the beginning of the interview and in general, gave an opportunity for children to provide a free account (though such accounts were often curtailed). Relative to police officers in other countries, the profile of question types was surprisingly similar, except that English police officers used fewer leading or suggestive questions.

Publications

Sternberg, K., Lamb, M.E., Davies, G.M., and Westcott, H. (2001). The 'Memorandum of Good Practice': Theory versus practice. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 25, 669-81

Davies, G.M., Westcott, H., and Horan, N. (2001). The impact of questioning style on the content of investigative interviews with children. *Psychology, Crime and Law*, 6, 81-97

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

108. A PROPOSED ASSESSMENT METHOD FOR THE EVALUATION OF INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWS WITH CHILD WITNESSES

Principal researcher(s): Mr William McAuley

Co-workers: none

Institution: Police Service of Northern Ireland

Contact details: Mr William McAuley, Detective Chief Inspector, Police Lead Officer, Child Protection, CJ2(1) Criminal Justice Department, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Knocknagoney, House, 29, Knocknagoney Road, Belfast. BT4 2PP

Dates: June 1999 – July 2001

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: enhancement of the quality of evidence obtained in investigative interviews with child witnesses

Keywords: quality in investigative interviewing

Aims

To identify the methods used to assess interviews with child witnesses. To obtain the observations of child protection professionals on the present standard of investigative interviews with children in Northern Ireland. To propose a method for evaluating and assessing the quality of investigative interviews with children.

Methodology

Informal survey (by telephone interview) of the experience of police trainers and police practitioners in England and Wales. Face-to-face semi-structured interviews with key proposals for police (n=6), social work (n=6) and Director of Public Prosecutions (n=2). Development and production of a behaviourally anchored rating scale for the supervisions of investigative interviews. Study involving 25 children and six police interviewers using proforma rating scale (above).

Results

Best use is not being made of the Memorandum of Good Practice in interviewing child witnesses. Reasons for this include time restraints, limitations on training, workloads, level of opportunity to develop skills and fear of cross-examination in criminal courts. The study provided evidence to support the suggestions that performance can be enhanced and that the quality of interviewing can, therefore, be improved. Use of a method of self-assessment and supervisory evaluation produced even more evidence of improvement in performance and quality of interviews.

Publications

McAuley, W. J. (1999). The phased approach to the investigative interviewing of children. *Child Care in Practice*, 5(1), 39-44

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

109. CHILDREN'S 'DON'T KNOW' RESPONSES IN EYEWITNESS AND POLICE INTERVIEWS

Principal researcher(s): Dr Amanda Waterman, Dr Mark Blades

Co-workers: Ms Gillian Gowling

Institution: University of Durham

Contact details: Amanda Waterman, Department of Psychology, University of Durham, Queen's Campus, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 6BH. E-mail: amanda.waterman@dur.ac.uk

Dates: February 2003 – January 2005

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: Economic and Social Research Council

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: children's responses in eyewitness and police interviews

Keywords: eyewitness interview

Aims

To investigate how certain factors (for example, self-esteem and question format) affect children's tendency to indicate when they do not know the answer to a question in an eyewitness interview. To investigate what factors contribute to the effective and successful interviewing of child witnesses by police officers.

Methodology

Running staged events in schools and interviewing children about the events. Analysis of video-recorded interviews of children made by the police.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

3.2.3 Video and other communication technology

110. THE USE OF VIDEO TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILD WITNESSES

Principal researcher(s): Prof Michael Bohlander

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Durham

Contact details: Prof Michael Bohlander, University of Durham, Department of Law, 50 North Bailey, Durham. DH1 3ET. E-mail: Michael.bohlander@dur.ac.uk

Dates: 1994

Duration: 3 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: study of the implementation of video technology in German criminal trials

Keywords: child witness protection; video technology; German criminal procedure; comparative research

Aims

Comparison of the use of video technology in the UK, US and Australia. Description of legal basis in German criminal procedure for introduction. Reform of code of German criminal procedure.

Methodology

Literature and case law review

Results

The results of the study informed a meeting of the governmental working group in Berlin, where changes to German criminal procedure were prepared with the result that Germany has had a legal basis for introducing such evidence via video link for some years now.

Publications

Bohlander, M. (1995). Der Einsatz von Videotechnologie bei der Vernehmung kindlicher Zeugen im Strafverfahren. *Zeitschrift für die gesamte Strafrechtswissenschaft*, 107, 82-116

Bohlander, M. (2000). In Otto Lagodny (Ed.). *Der Strafprozess vor neuen Herausforderungen?*, Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden, (pages 253 – 284 – reprint of the 1995 article above)

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

111. VIDEOTAPING CHILDREN'S EVIDENCE: AN EVALUATION

Principal researcher(s): Professor Graham Davies, Dr Clare Wilson

Co-workers: Rebecca Mitchell, John Milsom, Glen Williams

Institution: Leicester University

Contact details: Prof G.M. Davies, Dept. of Psychology, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH

Dates: 1992 – 1995

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: Home Office

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: an evaluation of children's videotape evidence

Keywords: child abuse; videotape; interviews; criminal trials; evidence

Aims

To evaluate the implementation of the videotaping of children's evidence. To consider the implementation of video evidence relative to live testimony. To ascertain attitudes of stakeholders (police officers, social workers, judges and barristers).

Methodology

Rating scales and questionnaires to all stakeholders. Ratings and check lists of children's testimony in court and on video. Analysis of raw data supplied by Lord Chancellor's Department on convictions with/without video testimony.

Results

The implementation of videotape examination enjoyed the support of judges, court clerks, police and social workers who all saw the main benefit of tapes to be the reduction of stress for witnesses. Lawyers were strongly opposed. However, comparisons of testimony given in court with comparable witnesses shown on video, suggested that the children were less anxious and the interviewers more supportive and more accommodating to the child's linguistic style when interviewed on video. Examination of a sample of 40 interviews showed good adherence to the demands of the Memorandum, but one third were of no evidential value. There was no significant difference between the proportions of guilty verdicts delivered for videotaped evidence as opposed to the examination-in-chief, suggesting that videos had much the same impact as live testimony on juries.

Publications

Davies, G. M., Wilson, C., Mitchell, R., and Milsom, J. (1995). *Videotaping children's evidence: An evaluation*. London: Home Office

Davies, G. M., and Wilson, C. (1996). Child witnesses: Three years on. *Forensic Update*, 46, 20-22

Davies, G. M., and Wilson, C. (1997). Implementation on the Memorandum. In H. Westcott, and J. Jones, (Eds), *Perspectives on the Memorandum*. Aldershot, Hants: Arena

Wilson, J. C., and Davies, G. M. (1999). An evaluation of the use of videotaped evidence for juvenile witnesses in criminal courts in England and Wales. *European Journal of Criminal Policy and Research*, 7, 81-96

Wilson, J. C., and Davies, G. M. (2000). An evaluation of the use of evidential interviews in child abuse investigations. *International Journal of Police Science and Management*, 2, 324-326

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997; 2002-2003)

112. IMPACT OF COMMUNICATION MEDIA ON CHILDREN'S DIALOGUE

Principal researcher(s): Dr Gwyneth Doherty-Sneddon, Prof Anne Anderson, Prof Vicki Bruce

Co-workers: Sandra McAuley, Art Blokland

Institution: University of Stirling

Contact details: Gwyneth Doherty-Sneddon, Department of Psychology, University of Stirling FK7 4LA
E-mail: gds1@stir.ac.uk

Dates: April 1996 – September 1998

Duration: 30 months

Funding body: Economic and Social Research Council

Funding amount: £92,000

Main subject area: children's testimony via video link

Keywords: children's testimony; live video link

Aims

To investigate the impact of communication media on children's communicative performance. To investigate the impact of IQ and other cognitive measures on face-to-face effects. To measure communicative effectiveness of testimony given via video link.

Methodology

Quantitative analysis of children's dialogues face-to-face and unseen. Covariate analysis of IQ, face processing skills with communicative ability. Qualitative analysis of event recall and testimony style in face-to-face questioning and via video link.

Results

We carried out an experimental study on the use of the live-link for interviewing child witnesses. Findings indicated that that face-to-face and video link interviews did not differ in terms of: correct information given overall about the event; how much relevant information was given during narrative recall; or the level of specificity of questioning required to elicit the information. There was however significantly more incorrect information given during specific questioning in the face-to-face interviews than the video mediated ones. In addition, the younger children were significantly more resistant to leading questions in the video link condition than in face-to-face. We propose that, the video link provides an increase in social distance from the adult. We completed the first study of adaptation in intelligibility of speech by children. The results showed that young children do not adapt their speech intelligibility in response to different visibility conditions in the way that adults do. However, by 10 years of age children are beginning to make adult like adjustments in intelligibility in terms of discourse context with second mentions of words being articulated less clearly.

Publications

Doherty-Sneddon, G., and McAuley, S. (2000). Influence of video mediation on adult-child interviews: Implications for the use of the live link with child witnesses. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 14, 379-392

Doherty-Sneddon, G., and McAuley, S. (1999). Impact of the live video link on children's quality of testimony. *Practitioners Child Law Bulletin*, 12, 116-119

Doherty-Sneddon, G., Anderson, A.H., O'Malley, C., Langton, S., Garrod, S., and Bruce, V. (1997). Face-to-face and video mediated communication: A comparison of dialogue structure and task performance. *Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 3, 1-21

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

113. ANALYSIS OF CHILD VICTIMS OF SEXUAL AND PHYSICAL ASSAULTS SUBJECT TO VIDEO INTERVIEW

Principal researcher(s): Mr Nigel King

Co-workers: none

Institution: North Yorkshire Police Family Protection Unit (FPU)

Contact details: DS Nigel King, North Yorkshire Police, Family Protection Unit (South), York Police Office, Fulford Road, York YO1 4BY

Dates: 1993 – 2000

Duration: 7 years

Funding body: unstated

Funding amount: unstated

Main subject area: child victims of sexual abuse

Keywords: not stated

Aims

To establish how effective children's video evidence has been in those cases dealt with by the FPU at York. To establish the relevance and evidential importance of medical examinations of children. To monitor the length of time that cases take to reach court for trial. To monitor the use of the joint interviews under the Memorandum of Good Practice.

Methodology

Documentary analysis of all records of all cases dealt with by FPU at York.

Results

Videos used in criminal proceedings (including guilty pleas and cautions) following submission to the Crown Prosecution Service: 1993 = 57.1%; 1994 = 88.8%; 1995 = 79.3%; 1996 = 62.5%

Results of prosecutions up to 31.12.96 (conviction rate): 1993 = 80%; 1994 = 83.33%; 1995 = 72.72%. Number of children required to be cross examined by video link: 1993 = 38.1%; 1994 = 31.8%; 1995 = 63.6%. Average length of time from charge to court: 1993 = 38 weeks; 1994 = 26 weeks; 1995 = 36 weeks. Average length of time of video interview: 1993 = 30 minutes (mins); 1994 = 32 mins; 1995 = 28 mins; 1996 = 28 mins. Between 1.06.92 and 3.12.96; 65 children were dealt with as victims of sexual assault. Eight were medically examined and two examinations resulted in signs/evidence supportive of sexual assault.

Publications

Cherryman, J. and Bull, R. (2001) Police officers' perceptions of Specialist Investigative Interviewing Skills, International Journal of Police Science and Management, 3, 199

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

114. ANALYSIS OF VIDEO INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED WITH CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AREA

Principal researcher(s): Mr Nigel King

Co-workers: none

Institution: North Yorkshire Police – Family Protection Unit (FPU)

Contact details: Mr N. S. King, Detective Sergeant, North Yorkshire Police FPU (South), York Police Office, Fulford Road, York YO1 4BY

Dates: January 1996 – December 1998

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: children's video evidence and significance of medical examinations in child sexual abuse (CSA) cases

Keywords: video evidence; medical examinations; child abuse

Aims

To investigate to whom children first disclose abuse. To examine whether greater evidence is collected when video interviews are conducted by FPU officers as opposed to trained but divisionally-based officers who conduct such interviews infrequently. To ascertain how often child CSA victims are medically examined and whether the examination results in the finding of evidence to support the allegation. To investigate victim-offender relationships and gender and age characteristics of victims. Evaluation of procedures under the Memorandum of Good Practice.

Methodology

Pro-formas completed by interviewing officers. Search of crime reports.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

115. CHILDREN'S EVIDENCE AND LIVE TELEVISION LINKS

Principal researcher(s): Mrs Kathleen Murray

Co-workers: Ms Jane Brown, Mrs Brenda Renz, Ms Janine Robinson, Mrs Moira Sugden

Institution: University of Glasgow

Contact details: Mrs K. Murray, 7 The Birches, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire G84 8HN

Dates: February 1992 – July 1994

Duration: 30 months

Funding body: Scottish Office CRU (Central Research Unit)

Funding amount: £84,000

Main subject area: child witnesses

Keywords: children; witnesses; CCTV (Closed-Circuit Television)

Aims

To ascertain whether the use of the live television link reduces the ordeal of testifying for child witnesses and whether it improves the accuracy and completeness of children's testimony. To ascertain the impact of live television link on the legal process.

Methodology

Survey of records. Semi-structured interviews with parents, children, judges, lawyers, social workers and accused persons. In-court observation of children giving evidence via live television link (n=49) and in open court (n=17). Achenbach Child Behaviour Checklist; Harter Self-Esteem Questionnaire; Children's Manifest Anxiety Scale.

Results

10% of child prosecution witnesses in High Court proceedings applied for use of a live TV link. Factors associated with decision to apply for its use were child's age, witness type, charge nature, relationship between witness and accused and whether application was supported by an expert's report. Compared with children testifying in court, link users were less likely to cry during cross-examination, they felt less fear and were more likely to describe the process as fair. Few significant differences emerged in the quality of evidence except children testifying via live link were less likely to recount detailed evidence and were less resistant to leading questions than child witnesses in court. When Prosecutor questions focused on actions of the accused, children testifying via link were more likely to answer than children in court but no significant differences in rate of convictions emerged. The findings raise issues in relation to legal procedure, developments in professional practice and training, and the needs and rights of children in the legal process.

Publications

Murray, K. (1995). *Live Television Link: An Evaluation of its use by Child Witnesses in Scottish Criminal Trials*. Edinburgh: The Scottish Office (CRU)

Murray, K. (1995). *Live Link for Child Witnesses: The Scottish Experience*. In Children in the Crossfire, Conference Proceedings. The Michael Sieff Foundation, April, 1995

Murray, K. (1995). Closed-Circuit TV in Scottish Courts. *Journal of the Law Society of Scotland*, 40(8)

Flin, R.H, Kearney, B., and Murray, K. (1996). Children's Evidence: Scottish Research and Law. In B.L. Bottoms and G.S. Goodman (Eds) *International Perspectives on Child Abuse and Children's Testimony*. New York: Sage.

Murray, K. (1997). *Preparing Child Witnesses for Court*. Edinburgh: The Scottish Office (CRU)

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

3.2.4 Evidence

116. THE ADMISSIBILITY AND SUFFICIENCY OF THE EVIDENCE IN CHILD ABUSE PROSECUTIONS

Principal researcher(s): Prof Gwyn Davis, Dr Caroline Keenan, Ms Laura Hoyamo

Co-workers: Lee Maitland

Institution: University of Bristol

Contact details: Dr C Keenan, Department of Law, University of Bristol, Queens Rd., Bristol BS8 1RJ

Dates: November 1996 – April 1998

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: Home Office

Funding amount: £39,995

Main subject area: child abuse prosecutions

Keywords: child; witness; evidence; prosecution

Aims

To investigate the extent to which cases are not prosecuted because of the evidence gathered, rather than because of other concerns. To examine how the admissibility and weight of the evidence is evaluated in each of the three phases of a criminal prosecution (inter-agency investigation; Crown Prosecution Service assessment; trial). To examine whether, if the case is not prosecuted through a trial (or verdict) on evidential grounds, the perception of weakness in the case is well-grounded. To develop practical recommendations to improve investigations within the current legal framework and consider whether further legislative reform is warranted.

Methodology

Empirical examination of recent and on-going criminal investigations in the south of England. Analysis of paper files. Interviews with all key players. Attendance at trial. Comparative study of initiatives for evidential reform in other jurisdiction.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

3.2.5 Case Processing

117. THE ATTRITION OF CASES OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Principal researcher(s): Dr Bernard Gallagher and Prof Ken Pease

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Manchester

Contact details: Centre for Applied Childhood Studies, Human and Health Research Building, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield. HD1 3DH. Tel: 01484 473158 Email: b.gallagher@hud.ac.uk

Dates: 1997-1999

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council)

Funding amount: £100,000

Main subject area: criminal justice processing of cases of child abuse and neglect

Keywords: criminal justice; investigation; prosecution; child abuse; neglect; attrition

Aims

To measure the rate of attrition of police investigations of suspected child abuse and neglect at each stage of the criminal justice process. To identify the characteristics of cases subject to attrition at each stage of the criminal justice process. To ascertain the reasons why police investigations into child abuse and neglect are terminated at each stage of the criminal justice process. To determine the implications of the attrition of child abuse and neglect cases for the criminal justice and child protection systems.

Methodology

A search of police records relating to approximately 166 investigations into suspected child abuse and neglect in each of six police service areas in England and Wales (total sample: approximately 1000 investigations). Interviews with the lead officer in a random sample of 10% of the 166 investigations carried out in each police service area. Interviews with the CPS (Crown Prosecution Service) lawyer in a random sample of six of the above cases from each police service area. A search of the records relating to the above cases.

Results

not stated

Publications

Gallagher, B. and Pease, K. (2000) *Understanding the attrition of cases of child abuse and neglect in the criminal justice system*, pp.36, End-of-Award Report to the ESRC, Huddersfield: University of Huddersfield

Data source: study carried out by researchers responsible for this Register

3.3 Civil law

118. ANALYSIS OF 1980 HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

Principal researcher(s): Prof P.R. Beaumont, Dr P.E. McElevy

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Aberdeen

Contact details: Dr P.E. McElevy, Law Faculty, Taylor Building, University of Aberdeen,

Dates: October 1994 – September 1998

Duration: 47 months

Funding body: Aberdeen University

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: not stated

Keywords: international; child; abduction

Aims

Examination of the operation of the 1980 Hague Convention, how it has adhered to the intentions of the drafters, how it has evolved, how the problem of international child abduction has evolved since 1980. Prospects for the future.

Methodology

Analysis of all case law in Scotland, England, France, Germany and United States. Analysis of all literature in Scotland, England, France, Germany and United States.

Results

See publication.

Publications

Beaumont, P. and McElevy, P. (1999). *The Hague Convention on International Child Abduction*. Oxford Monographs in Private International Law. Oxford: OUP

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

119. PARENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, CHILD PROTECTION AND THE COURTS

Principal researcher(s): Prof Tim Booth, Wendy Booth

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Sheffield

Contact details: Professor Tim Booth, Department of Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TU

Dates: September 2001 – August 2003

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: The Nuffield Foundation

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: parents with learning difficulties

Keywords: learning difficulties; parents; child protection; court proceedings

Aims

To investigate how child protection cases involving parents with learning difficulties are handled by children's services and the courts. To identify the key influences on the decision to initiate care proceedings in cases involving parents with learning difficulties. To ascertain what factors are weighed in the balance when making decisions in care assessments and family proceedings about the risks to children of growing up in such a family.

Methodology

Document review. Systematic observation of court proceedings. Interviews with professionals, practitioners and parents.

Results

A copy of the final report to the Nuffield Foundation is available at: www.supportedparenting.com/projects/courts.html

Publications

Booth, T. (2000). Parents with learning difficulties, child protection and the courts. *Representing Children*, 13(3), 175-188

Booth, T., Booth, W. and McConnell, D. (2003/4). Family trials. *Disability, Pregnancy and Parenthood International*, 45, Winter, 12-13

Booth, W., and Booth, T. (2003). A family at risk: Multiple perspectives on parenting and child protection. *British Journal of Learning Disabilities*. 32(1), 9-15

Booth, T., Booth, W., and McConnell, D. (forthcoming) Parents with learning difficulties, care proceedings and the family courts. *Child and Family Law Quarterly*

Booth, T., Booth, W., and McConnell, D. (forthcoming) The prevalence and outcomes of care proceedings involving parents with learning difficulties in the Family Courts. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disability*

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

120. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICE EVALUATION

Principal researcher(s): Prof Michael King, Dr J. Trowell, Mrs M. Roberts

Co-workers: W. Simon, V. Reid

Institution: Tavistock Clinic

Contact details: Dr J. Trowell, Child and Family Department, Tavistock Clinic. London

Dates: May 1994 – December 1997

Duration: 3 years +

Funding body: Department of Health

Funding amount: £54,000

Main subject area: specialist child care mediation evaluation

Keywords: specialist child care mediation

Aims

To evaluate the effectiveness of a new intervention where there are disputes between the family, social services and foster carers in public law child protection cases.

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews before and after intervention with follow-up.

Results

Specialist child-care mediation involving mediators and child and family mental health workers has complex inter professional dynamics. Social services find any form of mediation as problematic despite prior clarification of what is non-negotiable.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

121. THE REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE IN PUBLIC LAW PROCEEDINGS

Principal researcher(s): Prof Judith Masson and Dr Maureen Winn Oakley

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Warwick (School of Law)

Contact details: School of Law, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL

Dates: 1995 – 1998

Duration: 30 months

Funding body: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Funding amount: £90,000

Main subject area: representation of children in public law

Keywords: care proceedings; representation; children; guardians ad litem

Aims

To explore children's experiences of representation in legal proceeding. To explore perceptions of guardians ad litem in representing children.

Methodology

Observation of meetings between children and their representatives (guardian ad litem/solicitor). Interviews with children, guardians ad litem and solicitors.

Results

Guardian ad litem were skilled at establishing rapport with children. Children's chief concerns during proceedings were the day-to-day arrangements for their care, particularly to know where they were to live and to have contact with relatives and friends. However, children's issues were frequently ignored in the legal process with representatives focussing on the issues which the court had to decide rather than on the children's concerns. Solicitors were reluctant to identify conflict between the child and the guardian ad litem and to accept the need to take instructions from children.

Publications

Winn Oakley, M. (1998). What do young people think of those who represent them in care proceedings? *Practitioners Child Law Bulletin*, 11(5), 56-60

Masson, J., and Winn Oakley, M. (1999). *Out of Hearing: Representing children in care proceedings*. New York: John Wiley and Sons Ltd.

Winn Oakley, M. (2000). Representing Children and Young People in Care Proceedings. In G. Lindsay and A. Lewis (Eds). *Researching Children's Perspectives*. Buckingham: Open University

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

122. THE USE OF POLICE PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Judith M Masson, Maureen Winn Oakley, Deborah McGovern

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Warwick

Contact details: Prof Judith Masson and Dr Maureen Winn Oakley, School of Law, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL

Dates: 1999 – 2001

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children); and The Nuffield Foundation

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: police protection of children under the Children Act 1989

Keywords: children; emergency/police protection; police; social services department (SSD)

Aims

To understand police force policy and procedure in the use of police protection. To collate statistics regarding the use of police protection. To analyse monitoring and recording in the use of police protection. To highlight good practice in the use of police protection.

Methodology

Telephone interviews with police personnel (16 forces) regarding recording and monitoring of police protection. Direct interviews with various members of the police force regarding the actual undertaking of police protection. Reading and analysis of police protection files. Interviews with some social services and EDT (emergency duty team) staff.

Results

There is a tremendous difference in the use of police protection between forces as there is no national policy for forces on the use of police protection. There is some misunderstanding about when police protection ends and whether the police continue to be responsible for a child once SSD become involved. The majority of police protection is undertaken out-of-hours by non-specialist police and most children are taken to the police station. Monitoring and recording of police protection is ad hoc amongst forces.

Publications

Masson, J., Winn Oakley, M., and McGovern, D. (2001). Working in the Dark: The Use of Police Protection. School of Law, University of Warwick
Masson, J. (2002). Police protection: Protecting whom? *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*, 24(2), 157-73
Winn Oakley, M. (2002). Protective force. *Community Care*, 23-29 May, 42-3
Masson, J., Winn Oakley, M., and McGovern, D. (2001). Providing shelter. *Police Review*, 109, 5611, 26-7

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

123. THE USE OF EMERGENCY PROTECTION ORDERS (EPOs)

Principal researcher(s): Prof Judith M Masson, Dr Maureen Winn Oakley, Kathryn Pick

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Warwick

Contact details: Prof J Masson, School of Law, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL.

Dates: 2000 – 2003

Duration: 30 months

Funding body: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children); and The Nuffield Foundation

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: use of applications for EPOs

Keywords: emergency intervention; decision-making; court proceedings; emergency removal from home

Aims

To look at the use of EPOs in a number of local authorities. To analyse the decision-making process in local authority applications. To analyse the decision-making process at court once an application is made. To look at what constitutes an emergency in using such applications.

Methodology

Telephone contact with justices' clerks nationwide to ascertain policy/protocol on use of EPOs. To read court and local authority files in respect of applications within a set period. Individual interviews with representatives from all professions.

Results

Research still on-going

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

3.4 Social work

124. ISSUES AND DILEMMAS ENCOUNTERED BY FRONT LINE STAFF WORKING IN CHILD AND FAMILY FIELDWORK

Principle researchers: Jan Horwath

Co-workers: Hilary Smith, Paul Whalley

Institution: University of Sheffield

Contact details: Jan Horwath, Senior Lecturer in Social Work Studies, Department of Sociological Studies, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TU

Dates: September 2001 – August 2002

Duration: 12 months

Funding body: Local authority

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: role of the front-line manager and decision-making in childcare cases

Keywords: supervision; decision-making; assessment; social work practice

Aims

To improve understanding of the activities of child care social workers and their managers. To identify factors which promote and hinder effective child protection practice.

Methodology

Direct observation of front-line managers of access teams. Anonymous postal questionnaires.

Results

The findings highlight the professional and personal cost to staff of delivering front-line children's services. The study has informed thinking about the factors that influence decision-making and the way in which decisions are made. For example, on average, managers spend between one-three minutes making discernible case decisions. The average time spent discussing a case in supervision varied between six-nine minutes. This results in both practitioners and managers being selective about the information used to make decisions. The study highlighted the pressures placed on front-line managers who are attempting to meet the needs of service users, their team members and the organisation.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

125. DIFFERING PERCEPTIONS OF LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CHANGE IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES: A VERTICAL ANALYSIS

Principal researcher(s): Dr Annie Huntington

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) (Department of Social Work and Social Policy)

Contact details: Annie Huntington, Directorate of Social Work, University of Salford, Allerton Building, Frederick Road, Salford M5 4WT E-mail: A.Huntington@salford.ac.uk

Dates: September 1995 – February 1999

Duration: 42 months

Funding body: UCLAN PhD funding

Funding amount: Annual bursary and fees

Main subject area: work with children and their families: the role of state sponsored social work

Keywords: children and families social work; professional practice dilemmas

Aims

To explore changing role and task for social workers and social work managers in local authority children and families service sector.

Methodology

Interpretivist paradigm. Critical and feminist theory informed study design and analysis of information collated. Qualitative study. Organisational case study using mixed methods: documentary analysis; interviews across the occupational hierarchy; focus groups.

Results

not available

Publications

Huntington, A. (2000). *Social Work with Children and their Families - Professional Dilemmas*. UAE Monograph: UAE
Huntington, A. (1999). Child Care Social Work and the Role of State Employees, *Child and Family Social Work*, 4(3), 241-248
Huntington, A. (2000). Children and Families Social Work - visions of the future. In J. Harris, L. Froggett, and I. Paylor (Eds.). *Reclaiming Social Work: The Southport Papers* (Volume Two). Birmingham: Venture Press

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

126. CHESHIRE CHILD PROTECTION SERVICE

Principal researcher(s): Carol Iddon

Co-workers: none

Institution: Cheshire County Council Social Services Department

Contact details: Tilly Heigh, Policy Officer, Halton Borough Council Social Services, Grosvenor House, Halton Lea, Runcorn, Halton, Cheshire

Dates: April – September 1997

Duration: 6 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection: views of professionals.

Keywords: survey; professionals; child protection; multi-agency

Aims

To examine the views of professionals involved in child protection services about child and family support/child protection services in Cheshire. To test anecdotal comments that unless children and families had a 'child protection' label attached to them they would not receive services from social services.

Methodology

Questionnaire: local authority practitioners and voluntary, statutory and community organisations (N=453)

Results

The study highlighted issues in respect of agency working, work with families, partnerships, the child protection system, services to families, and staff concerns and these findings will be used to consider what recommendations need to be made in developing the present system in line with the proposals contained in the original 'Change in Emphasis' paper. Further detail on the study findings can be obtained directly from the contact person listed above.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

127. 'I KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE': HOW CHILD PROTECTION SOCIAL WORKERS ARE AFFECTED BY THREATS AND AGGRESSION

Principal researcher(s): Mr Brian Littlechild, Ms Christine Jones

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Hertfordshire

Contact details: Brian Littlechild, Associate Head of Department of Social, Community and Health Studies/Centre for Community Research, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield, Hertfordshire. AL10 9AB

Dates: 1998 - 2003

Duration: 5 years

Funding body: University of Hertfordshire

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: violence against social workers

Keywords: violence; families; qualitative; social workers

Aims

To examine what types of aggression or violence staff had experienced, and the effects of this on them and their work. To examine what constructs workers formed in relation to why violence against them occurs. To determine what types of approaches might best deal with these issues for all concerned.

Methodology

Postal questionnaire to all 192 social services child protection staff in large local authority social services departments in England, which included open-ended and closed questions (25% response rate). Semi-structured interviews with seven social work staff determined through purposive sampling, following analysis of the postal questionnaire returns. Five interviews with social work staff in Finland.

Results

Physical violence is comparatively rare, and personalized and orchestrated threats over a period of time from service users had the greatest effects on staff. There were differences in the types of violence displayed by service users depending upon their gender. Issues of power, authority and control in the child protection role affected workers' decisions and actions in relation their work.

Publications

- Littlechild, B. (2000). *'I know where you live': How child protection social workers are affected by threats and aggression. A study into the stresses faced by child protection workers in Hertfordshire.* Hatfield: Centre for Community Research, University of Hertfordshire
- Littlechild, B. (2002). The effects of client violence on child protection networks. *Trauma, Violence and Abuse*, 3(2), 144-158
- Littlechild, B. (2003). Working with aggressive and violent parents in Child Protection social work. *Practice*, 15(1)
- Littlechild, B. (2002). Research into practice: Violence against child protection staff. *Community Care*, 19.12.2002

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

128. THE MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICT AND SERVICE USER VIOLENCE AGAINST STAFF IN CHILD PROTECTION WORK

Principal researcher(s): Mr Brian Littlechild, Ms Christine Jones

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Hertfordshire

Contact details: Brian Littlechild, Associate Head of Department of Social, Community and Health Studies/Centre for Community Research, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield, Hertfordshire. AL10 9AB

Dates: 1998 – 2003

Duration: 5 years

Funding body: University of Hertfordshire

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: violence against social workers

Keywords: violence; families; qualitative; social workers

Aims

To explore further the constructs workers and managers formed in relation to why, and in what circumstances, violence occurs in child protection work. To explore managers' responsibilities in relation to dealing with violence against staff in child protection work, the effects on themselves and their work, and the effects on the work of their supervisees. To examine what types of approaches might best deal with these issues for all concerned. To explore further to what extent child protection plans incorporate issues arising from clients' aggressive and violent behaviour.

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews with 20 of the 40 social services child protection managers in the same local authority social services department in England which participated in the first piece of child protection research.

Results

The ambiguous role of child protection as currently determined itself produced risks. Whilst mothers carried out most of the reported physical violence, it was the less obvious (to others than the social workers) threats and intimidating behaviour from males that had the greatest effects, and which were not adequately dealt with by the agency. Power and control dynamics were not sufficiently taken into account when formally planning and reviewing the work. A number of workers were judged by managers to require careful monitoring of their potential 'dangerousness' to themselves and the children involved.

Publications

Littlechild, B. (2002). *The Management of Conflict and Service User Violence against Staff in Child Protection work*. Hatfield: Centre for Community Research, University of Hertfordshire

Littlechild, B. (2003). *Managing Parental carer Violence against child protection social workers*. Care Knowledge Briefing, 5, April 2003

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

129. THE SOCIAL ORGANISATION OF SOCIAL WORK

Principal researcher(s): Dr Michael Roffe, Prof Jonathan Potter

Co-workers: none

Institution: Loughborough University

Contact details: Dr M. Roffe, 20 Blackdown Road, Knowle, Solihull. B93 9HP

Dates: December 1991 – December 1996

Duration: 5 years

Funding body: unfunded

Funding amount: unfunded

Main subject area: social work talk and child protection

Keywords: child protection; conversation

Aims

To describe and classify the patterns of talk between parents and social workers undertaking a child protection investigation.

Methodology

Discourse and conversation analysis of six extended transcripts of communication between parents and social workers.

Results

The study describes how 'co-operation' is pursued and achieved in some cases. A three-element sequence, which recurs across the corpus of data, is identified and explained. 'Collaboration' and 'collusion' are examined and the ways that workers emphasise the former and avoid the latter are analysed. Throughout the thesis, actual examples of professional conversational practice are used to support the arguments being made. In particular, the question of how workers can give effective warnings about keeping children safe to their clients are described; the way that a caring stance can still be maintained is considered. The thesis provides an instantiation of some of the concepts outlined in Dingwall's (1995) groundbreaking study 'The Protection of Children'.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

130. THE CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER IN CHILD PROTECTION WORK

Principal researcher(s): Dr Jonathan Scourfield

Co-workers: none

Institution: Cardiff University

Contact details: Dr Scourfield, Cardiff University School of Social Sciences, The Glamorgan Building, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff CF10 3WT

Dates: October 1996 – November 1999

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: unstated

Funding amount: unstated

Main subject area: gender in child protection practice

Keywords: gender; social work; occupational culture; masculinity; femininity

Aims

To explore how social workers construct parents as gendered in child protection practice.

Methodology

Participant observation in a social services area office. In-depth interviews (in the same setting). Documentary analysis (in the same setting).

Results

This study used ethnographic research in a child-care team in the UK to explore the construction of clients as gendered. It is argued that social workers' accounts of practice reveal tensions between an emphasis on clients as individuals and an emphasis on social collectivity. These tensions could be seen as inherent in social work knowledge and values. There are various implications of these tensions between the individual and the social, but there is a particular focus on the implications for questions of gender.

Publications

Scourfield, J., and Welsh, I. (2003). Risk, reflexivity and social control in child protection: New times or same old story? *Critical Social Policy*, 23, 398-420

Scourfield, J. (2003). *Gender and Child Protection*. London: Palgrave Macmillan

Scourfield, J., and Coffey, A. (2002). Understanding gendered practice in child protection. *Qualitative Social Work*, 1(3), 319-340

Scourfield, J., and Coffey, A. (2002). Reflections on gender, knowledge and values in social work. *British Journal of Social Work*, 32, 1-15

Scourfield, J. (2001). Constructing men in child protection work. *Men and Masculinities*, 4(1), 70-89

Scourfield, J. (2001). Constructing women in child protection work. *Child and Family Social Work*, 6(1), 77-87

Scourfield, J. (2001). Interviewing Interviewers and Knowing About Knowledge. In I. Shaw and N. Gould (Eds). *Qualitative Research in Social Work*. London: Sage (pages 60-72)

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

131. PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREENING OF SOCIAL WORKERS

Principal researcher(s): Ms Joanne M. Smith

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Manchester

Contact details: Ms J. M. Smith, School of Social Work, 4th floor, Williamson Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL

Dates: February 1995 – Autumn 1998

Duration: 3 – 4 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: implementation of Home Office circulars (HOC) relating to posts involving substantial access to children

Keywords: not stated

Aims

To investigate procedures currently employed by social services departments (SSDs) to implement HOC 47/93, focusing on procedures when applicants have a criminal record. To detect areas of inconsistencies between processes used by SSDs. To identify implications for children and ex-offenders. To make recommendations to increase the utility and effectiveness of pre-employment vetting.

Methodology

Adoption of decision board analysis to be used with every SSD in England and Wales. Tracing social worker candidates from advertisement to appointment within a random sample of staff.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

132. IN THE FIRING LINE

Principal researcher(s): Dr Janet Stanley, Associate Professor Chris Goddard

Co-workers: none

Institution: Monash University (Child Abuse and Family Violence Research Unit)

Contact details: Janet Stanley, National Child Protection Clearinghouse, Australian Institute of Family Studies, 300, Queen St, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3000 E-mail: janets@aifs.gov.au

Dates: 1993-2001

Duration: 8 years

Funding body: Victorian Health Promotion Foundation;
and Monash University

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: violence and power in child protection

Keywords: hostage theory; protection failure; violence to workers

Aims

To explore contributing factors to protection failure. To develop hostage and other social work theory.
To document violence towards child protection workers.

Methodology

Quantitative analysis based on a random sample. Qualitative analysis based on a random sample. Analysis of secondary data.

Results

not available

Publications

Stanley, J., and Goddard (2002). *In the Firing Line: Violence and Power in Child Protection Work*. Chichester: Wiley
Goddard, C., and Stanley, J. (2002). Chain of Violence. *Community Care*, 4-10 April, 32-33

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

3.5 Education

133. SCHOOLS' RESPONSE TO CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Mrs Mary Baginsky

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Mrs M Baginsky, Senior Research Officer, NSPCC, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH

Dates: November 1997- June 1998

Duration: 7 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: school reactions to their responsibilities in relation to child protection

Keywords: schools; child protection

Aims

To examine school reactions to their responsibilities in relation to child protection

Methodology

Survey of 385 schools who had previously completed an earlier questionnaire (86% response rate)

Results

All but one of the responding schools (N=327) had a designated teacher for child protection. The one exception was a state primary school. In 50% of schools the designated teacher was the Head teacher, although this was more likely in primary schools. 94% of responding schools had a child protection policy in place and 99% had established procedures. 93% of schools would usually be represented at case conferences but practical concerns were raised. Most respondents were confident of recognising signs of abuse in children in their care but most (88%) had some concerns this would not be the case for all teachers. 87% had concerns about teachers' own vulnerability when they report abuse. There was uncertainty regarding when to contact social services and concerns over inter-agency communication and how best to support children following a disclosure. In addition, concerns were expressed about support for teachers who are faced with dealing with children who may have experienced abuse. Further concerns were also raised about handling accusations by pupils against teachers; maintaining relationships with parents when the school was involved in a child protection case, and time pressures. The majority of designated teachers for child protection had received appropriate training and two-thirds of schools had also provided training for other staff but calls were made for structured induction for newly qualified teachers and practice placement students. Finally, although 90% of respondents claimed to have at least one person with whom they could discuss a possible referral (for example, social worker, other colleague or local education authority (LEA) staff), 65% of responding schools would welcome more help and information on child protection issues, especially from LEAs, social services, Area Child Protection Committees and the NSPCC.

Publications

Baginsky, M. (2000). *Child Protection and Education*. London: NSPCC

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

134. THE ROLE OF LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES (LEAs) IN CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Mrs Mary Baginsky

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Mrs M. Baginsky, Senior Research Officer, NSPCC, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH

Dates: September 1997 – September 1998

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: LEAs and child protection

Keywords: LEAs; child protection; schools

Aims

To examine the role of LEAs in relation to child protection policies and procedures in schools

Methodology

Questionnaire sent to all LEAs

Results

98% of respondents indicated they did provide written child protection guidance to schools, although only 56% of LEAs had drawn up a specific document for education with most others distributing Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures or school information circulars. All LEAs were represented on their ACPCs. LEAs took differing approaches with the then grant maintained schools and independent schools, for example, 15% offered training to independent schools on behalf of ACPCs but it had been declined and in some cases LEAs were paying for training in grant-maintained schools. Responsibility within the LEA for child protection training and consultation with schools varied amongst authorities, for example, sometimes child protection co-ordinators or education social work. 90% of LEAs included child protection training as standard in their training programmes but many indicated they would not be able to continue with current level of training now that GEST (Grants for Education Support and Training) funded had ceased. 95% provided training for designated teachers; 70% for pastoral staff; 65% for all teaching staff; 64% for all school staff, usually where requested; 58% for peripatetic staff and 45% extended training to youth workers, home tutors and others having direct contact with children. Over 90% of LEAs have a procedure in place which requires designated teachers to make referrals direct to social services, although in most cases they are then required to notify the responsible officer in the LEA. In 19% of LEAs 50% of secondary schools had not attended and in 13% of LEAs this was the case in relation to special schools. Overall 10% of LEAs had had fewer than 25% of their schools represented on child protection training during the past three years.

Publications

Baginsky, M. (2000). *Child Protection and Education*. London: NSPCC

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

135. THE INTERFACE BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND SOCIAL SERVICES IN RELATION TO CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Mary Baginsky

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Mrs M Baginsky, Senior Research Officer, NSPCC, 42 Curtain Road, London. EC2A 3NH

Dates: 2000-2002

Duration: not stated

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection and schools

Keywords: child protection; schools

Aims

To examine the decision making in schools in relation to child protection concerns and referrals and the progress of referrals made by schools to social services.

Methodology

Contact with 12 randomly sampled schools in three local authorities in England (N = 36 schools) over one school year (pre- study visit, visits every half-term and a follow-up visit after one year). Contact interviews with the relevant social service teams in these areas. A survey of all schools in the authorities was conducted.

Results

not stated

Publications

Baginsky, M. (2003). Improving the effectiveness of schools within a multi-agency strategy for protecting children. *Paper presented at American Educational Research Association Conference, Chicago, 2003*

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

136. A SURVEY OF NEWLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND THEIR EXPERIENCES IN RELATION TO CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Mary Baginsky

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Mrs M Baginsky, Senior Research Officer, NSPCC, 42 Curtain Road, London. EC2A 3NH

Dates: March – October 2002

Duration: 8 months

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection and schools

Keywords: child protection; newly qualified teachers

Aims

To examine the views, training and experiences of newly qualified teachers in relation to child protection.

Methodology

Survey to newly qualified teachers

Results

There was very little difference between those who had attended a course during their training and those who had done so subsequently (through their school and / or LEA – local education authority) in relation to their confidence to respond to child protection concerns and react to suspicions and disclosures; the latter group, in fact, had a higher level of understanding of their role and responsibilities. However, those who had only had post-qualification training had a significantly lower level of confidence in their ability to deal with an allegation against a colleague or react to a third-party disclosure. Not surprisingly, those who had received no training on child protection, either pre- or post-qualification were less confident about their ability to deal with all aspects of child protection. It was interesting to note that 52% of respondents (N=1119) had been involved with at least one child protection case since qualification; 50% of those who had received some training had such involvement but so had 54% of those who had received no training.

Publications

Baginsky, M. (2003) Newly Qualified Teachers and Child Protection: A survey of their views, training and experiences. *Child Abuse Review*, 12, 119-127

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

137. THE ROLE OF LEAs (LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES) IN CHILD PROTECTION REVISITED

Principal researcher(s): Mary Baginsky

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Mrs M Baginsky, Senior Research Officer, NSPCC, 42 Curtain Road, London. EC2A 3NH

Dates: June – December 2002

Duration: 7 months

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: LEAs and child protection

Keywords: child protection; LEA

Aims

To examine the views of LEA designated officers for child protection in England, Wales and Northern Ireland on their responsibilities in relation to child protection and the challenges they faced in meeting them. To compare these with the results of a similar survey conducted five years before. To examine Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) reports on LEAs in relation to child protection.

Methodology

Survey and examination of all Ofsted reports on LEAs which have been conducted.

Results

114 designated LEA child protection officers responded to a questionnaire that asked how LEAs viewed their role in child protection. A proportion of respondents were followed up to collect their views on section 175 of the Act which requires LEAs to make arrangements to ensure that functions conferred on them are exercised with the view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the current issues and conflicts facing all those who have child protection responsibilities within schools, LEAs and on a regional basis the Investigation Referral and Support Service.

Publications

Baginsky, M. (2003). *Responsibility Without Power? LEAs and Child Protection*. London: NSPCC

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

138. EVALUATING THE REFERRAL PROCESS: AN EVALUATION OF CHILD PROTECTION REFERRALS FROM SOUTHERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD (SELB) SCHOOLS DURING 1999/2000

Principal researcher(s): Carol Burrows, Elsie Gillanders

Co-workers: none

Institution: Southern Education and Library Board

Contact details: Carol Burrows, Adviser/Elsie Gillanders, Project Officer – Children Order Team, SELB, 3, Charlemont Place, The Mall, Armagh, Northern Ireland BT61 9AX

Dates: May – Aug 2001

Duration: 3 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection referral process

Keywords: referral process

Aims

The project set out to evaluate the experiences of staff in schools within the SELB when making referrals to social services about child protection concerns during 1999/2001.

Methodology

Follow-up 31 referrals to social services made by education staff. Questionnaire circulated to referrers. Individual interviews (telephone and face to face)

Results

The pre-referral consultation process with the senior social worker was seen as a necessary and important provision in supporting education staff when considering a referral. The report concluded that staff believed the process mostly protected the children and young people about whom they had concerns. However, some stated that they did not receive sufficient information and feedback from social services about the investigation and ongoing with which was necessary in helping them to support these young people appropriately through this disruptive and traumatic time.

Publications

Burrows, C., and Gillanders, E. (2002). Evaluating child protection referrals from Southern Education and Library Board schools. *Childcare in Practice*, 8(2), 95-110
Burrows, C., and Gillanders, E. (2001). *Evaluating the Referral Process: An Evaluation of Child Protection Referrals from Southern Education and Library Board Schools made during 1999/2000*. Southern Education and Library Board, September 2001

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

139. EVALUATING THE CHILD PROTECTION REFERRAL PROCESS IN 2000/2001: EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES' PERSPECTIVES

Principal researcher(s): Carol Burrows, Elsie Gillanders

Co-workers: none

Institution: Southern Education and Library Board (SELB)

Contact details: Carol Burrows, Adviser/Elsie Gillanders, Project Officer – Children Order Team, SELB, 3, Charlemont Place, The Mall, Armagh, Northern Ireland BT61 9AX

Dates: May – July 2002

Duration: 2-3 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection referral process

Keywords: referral process

Aims

To explore experiences of the referral process and key issues arising. To discuss findings with Trust and education personnel where difficulties arise, in order to promote better communication and practice. To use the feedback to inform the planning of training for designated teachers.

Methodology

Selecting the target referrals (and referrers) – 10 referrals (three from each Trust and one additional). Semi-structured interviews with education and social services staff.

Results

The pre-referral consultation process with support staff including the senior social worker and designated/deputy-designated officers of the Education and Library Board continued to be a highly valued resource in supporting staff when deciding the appropriateness of a referral. Some education respondents stated that they did not receive sufficient information and feedback from social services about the investigation and ongoing progress in the case, which they believe is essential in helping them to support young people appropriately during this traumatic and disruptive time. However, most acknowledge that communication and working in partnership with social workers have improved greatly with social services commenting favourably on the case with which they can access further information from education staff when necessary. Most social workers felt that the time limit for feedback was unrealistic except in high-risk cases.

Publications

Burrows, C., and Gillanders, E. (2002). *Evaluating the Child Protection Referral Process in 2000/2001: Education and Social Services' Perspectives*. Southern Education and Library Board, September 2002

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

3.6 Inter-agency work

140. CONFLICT OF INTEREST: ADULT MENTAL HEALTH VERSUS CHILD PROTECTION – BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

Principal researcher(s): Ms Lorraine Davison

Co-workers: none

Institution: Central Clinic, Carlisle

Contact details: Ms L. Davison, Senior Nurse Child Protection, Central Clinic, 50 Victoria Place, Carlisle, Cumbria

Dates: October 1998 – May 1999

Duration: 7 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: adult mental health and child protection

Keywords: adult mental health; child protection; professional collaboration

Aims

To identify why professional co-operation between adult mental health workers and child protection workers is perceived as problematic. To examine thresholds of concern and relationships between adult/child workers in health and social services. To identify strategies to improve collaboration between professionals.

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

141. ROLE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF AREA CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES (ACPCs)

Principal researcher(s): Prof Sonia Jackson, Mr Robert Sanders, Mr Nigel Thomas

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Wales, Swansea

Contact details: Mr R. Sanders, Dept. of Social Policy and Applied Social Studies, University of Wales Swansea, Swansea SA2 8PP

Dates: October 1993 - June 1994

Duration: 6 months

Funding body: Welsh Office

Funding amount: £15,000

Main subject area: inter-agency management of child protection services

Keywords: management; ACPC; inter-agency

Aims

To report on how the department's child protection policy is understood and interpreted by ACPCs. To assess the contribution of Welsh ACPCs towards the implementation of Welsh Office policy and contribution to the development of child care policies in its geographical area of responsibility. To examine level and source of resources made available to ACPCs and implications of resource constraints. To identify aspects of ACPC arrangements/practice in Wales that contribute most to ACPC effectiveness and those issues presenting most difficulty, particularly in relation to inter-agency collaboration.

Methodology

Analysis of written material (for example, procedural handbooks, reports and minutes of meetings). Interviews with members of ACPCs and ACPC chairs. Survey/questionnaire.

Results

ACPCs do an excellent job in the face of considerable problems and inter-agency relationships have improved greatly as a result of their work. However, ACPCs continue to focus largely on investigative work and child protection operates separately from the rest of children's services and family support. Unclear funding arrangements are also a source of problems and tensions. ACPC members are well informed about Welsh Office policy and ACPCs work well as a forum for inter-agency discussion and collaboration, which is reflected at field level. There is an obvious desire to widen the scope of child protection work and the absence of any clear policies for follow-up and treatment needs to be urgently addressed. Child protection interventions should be properly monitored and evaluated.

Publications

Sanders R., Jackson, S., and Thomas, N. (1996). The Balance of prevention, investigation, and treatment in the management of child protection services, *Child Abuse and Neglect* 20(10), 899-906

Sanders, B., Jackson, S., and Thomas, N. (1996). A comparison of child protection local procedures handbooks. *Practice*, 8(3), 31-44

Sanders, B., Jackson, S., and Thomas, N. (1995). The potential impact of local Government reorganisation on child protection services in Wales. *Child Abuse Review*, 4, 221-226

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

142. THE LOWESMOOR PROJECT: AN EVALUATION OF A SOCIAL WORKER ATTACHMENT TO A GP [GENERAL PRACTITIONER] PRACTICE

Principal researcher(s): Mr Nick Le Mesurier, Dr Stuart Cumella

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Birmingham

Contact details: Nick Le Mesurier, University of Birmingham, Queen Elizabeth Psychiatric Hospital, Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2QZ E-mail: n.j.lemesurier@bham.ac.uk

Dates: April 1996 – March 1997

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: Worcestershire Social Services Department (SSD)

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: improvements in Practice

Keywords: evaluation; liaison; primary-care; social-work

Aims

To evaluate the effectiveness of a placement of a children and families (CF) social worker (SW) to a medical centre in Worcester City. To identify improvements in the quality of referral and exchange of information between the practice and the SSD. To identify the learning needs of PCT (primary care team) staff in child protection. issues.

Methodology

Comparative audit of referrals to the SW and the CF team (workload, interventions, and outcomes). Assessment of the organisational impact of the placement, based on interviews with staff.

Results

Practice based social work for children and families is an effective mechanism for improving liaison. Between Primary Health Care Teams (PHCT) and the SSD, and improving services to children who are vulnerable/at risk. The project SW successfully maintained her role as a full member of the Duty and Assessment Team (DAT) while operating effectively within the working structures of the PHCT. Members of the PHCT appreciated the more effective and rapid service they have received from the project. The number of referrals from the PHCT consequently increased. Two thirds of referrals were dealt with immediately after referral, the remaining third requiring further interventions. Collaboration with members of the PHCT formed part of the intervention programme in half of those cases. The project identified and addressed problems in recording and disseminating information in child protection between PHCT and SSD. A number of strategies are under discussion or have been implemented to improve this form of liaison throughout South Worcestershire, including a copy of the SW's report on each case conference to be sent to each child's GP; a summary of case conference decisions to be provided for attachment to the child's patient (or 'Lloyd George') notes; each invitation from the ACPC (Area Child Protection Committee) to a GP to attend a case conference to include a form for medical information; the formation of a working party of relevant professionals to consider and implement further changes to the child protection procedures in South Worcestershire.

Publications

Not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

143. AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF THE SOCIAL WORKER'S PERCEPTION OF THE HEALTH VISITOR'S ROLE IN CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Mrs Susan West

Co-workers: none

Institution: Shawcross Health Centre, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire

Contact details: Mrs Susan West, Shawcross Health Centre, Leeds Road, Dewsbury WF12 7SQ

Dates: September 1998 – March 1999

Duration: 30 weeks

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: social worker perceptions of health visitor role

Keywords: social worker; health visitor; child protection; role

Aims

To explore how social workers perceive the role, function and responsibilities of the health visitor in the area of child protection.

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

3.7 Training

144. CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING IN INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING

Principal researcher(s): Mrs Mary Baginsky, Mr Keith Hodgkinson

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Mrs M. Baginsky, Senior Research Officer, NSPCC, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH

Dates: October 1997 – June 1998

Duration: 9 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: not stated

Keywords: child protection; teacher training

Aims

To determine the extent and nature of child protection input on initial teacher training (ITT) courses following DFEE (Department for Education and Employment) Circular 4/98

Methodology

Questionnaire to all higher education institutions providing ITT and all school-centred ITT training courses. Interviews with school-centred ITT training course managers.

Results

92 % (n=118) of responding higher education courses claimed to have an element dedicated to child protection issues, with 115 noting it was a compulsory part of training. Most (66%) cover child protection after the first assessed school placement, with others covering it after the final placement. Most courses offer more than one hour of child protection training, but it was just one hour or less on 17% of courses. There were no significant differences between length of input on PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate of Education) courses and longer degree courses. 80% of child protection training offered was provided by outside speakers, for example, social workers, local education authority, police, NSPCC and Probation Service, but this raised cost issues for the training establishments. Responses from school-centred ITT training courses (SCITTs) were similar in some respects. Only 10 of 14 respondents provided a child protection element with most covering this early in the autumn term. Time spent teaching child protection ranged from four hours to less than one hour and teaching styles adopted were similar to those in higher education institutions. Overall, child protection training was extremely patchy with SCITTs placing considerable responsibility with the schools for preparing students, although no SCITT used a designated teacher from their consortia for this input.

Publications

Baginsky, M. (2000). *Child Protection and Education*. London: NSPCC

Baginsky, M. (2000). Training teachers in child protection. *Child Abuse Review*, 9, 74-81

Baginsky, M., and Hodgkinson, K. (1999). Child protection training in initial training: A survey of provision in institutions of higher education. *Educational Research*, 41(2), 173-181

Hodgkinson, K., and Baginsky, M. (2000). Child protection training in school based initial teacher training: A survey of school-centred initial teacher training courses and their trainees. *Educational Studies*, 26(3), 269-279

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

145. MULTI-AGENCY ASPECTS OF TRAINING IN CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Ms Jane McKears

Co-workers: none

Institution: Solihull Healthcare

Contact details: Ms J. McKears, Child Protection Advisor, Solihull Healthcare, 20 Union Road, Solihull,
West Midlands B91 3EF

Dates: October 1992 - October 1994

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection training

Keywords: child protection training

Aims

To explore child protection training in Solihull.

Methodology

Direct observation of training. Individual interviews of tutors. Anonymous questionnaires from students.

Results

Multi-agency training is recommended so that participants can understand one another's role. The research showed that staff had generally poor understanding of the roles of other agencies and that multi-agency training did not often improve this understanding. It also highlighted that some agencies were greatly under-represented in multi-agency training such as Police, Midwives and Child Psychologists. Also, that most trainers had had little or no training to prepare them for the job of trainer.

Publications

not stated

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

146. EVALUATION OF A COURSE ON CHILD PROTECTION FOR INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING COURSES

Principal researcher(s): Mary Baginsky

Co-workers: Sorcha Davies

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Mrs M Baginsky, Senior Research Officer, NSPCC, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH

Dates: September 1999 – October 2000

Duration: 14 months

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection and schools

Keywords: child protection; initial teacher training; child protection materials

Aims

To evaluate effectiveness of a course on child protection designed for initial teacher training courses.

Methodology

Observations. Questionnaires to students before and after input. Discussion groups with students after final placement. Interviews with tutors and trainers. Collection of written and verbal feedback on course from national/international child protection experts.

Results

Although students reported in the questionnaires that they felt more confident to deal with child protection concerns after the course and this was sustained through a period of time, this confidence was not reflected in the experiences they related in discussion groups. It was also evident that experts believed that the materials required some revision and the observations of courses raised the issue of how best to engage students in the subject without inducing the shock and introversion reactions which impede learning.

Publications

Baginsky, M., and Davies, S. *Report on the Evaluation of the Piloting of 'Child Protection in Initial Teacher Training 1999–2000'* (Unpublished report to NSPCC)

McCallum, F. and Baginsky, M. (2001) A Comparison of Pre-Service Training to Identify and Report Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect in Australia and the United Kingdom. *Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference, Seattle 2001*. ERIC Document Reproduction Service (ED 452 198)

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

147. SURVEY OF INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING COURSES: THE VIEWS OF TUTORS ON THE NEED FOR CHILD PROTECTION INPUT AND MATERIALS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT ANY INPUT

Principal researcher(s): Mary Baginsky

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Mrs M Baginsky, Senior Research Officer, NSPCC, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH

Dates: May – October 2002

Duration: 6 months

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child protection and teacher training

Keywords: child protection; initial teacher training

Aims

To determine the views of tutors on the need for child protection input and materials required to support any input.

Methodology

Survey

Results

There was a high commitment to the inclusion of a specific input on child protection, but as was found in the earlier survey (1997) finding time to do so on these courses is very difficult. While the majority of respondents were providing training, one of the clearest messages was that, even though child protection is considered to be a very important topic, there will be no more time available for it. Most respondents would welcome a specific training programme which could be delivered in the time available.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

148. EVALUATION OF TRAINING NEEDS FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN UK SPORT

Principal researcher(s): Kris Malkin

Co-workers: Lynne Johnston, Celia Brackenridge

Institution: University of Gloucestershire (formerly Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education)

Contact details: Celia Brackenridge, Coalheughhead Cottage, Harburn, By West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland EH55 8RT

Dates: 1999

Duration: 6 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child abuse in sport

Keywords: child protection; training; sport

Aims

To evaluate the knowledge of delegates attending a Child Protection in Sport workshop run by the National Coaching Foundation.

Methodology

Survey analysis of attendees at National Coaching Foundation workshops.

Results

A serious training gap was identified. Whilst sports personnel were committed to improving child protection policy and practice, they lacked confidence, knowledge and organisational systems for doing this effectively.

Publications

Malkin, K., Johnston, L.H., and Brackenridge, C.H. (2000). A critical evaluation of training needs for child protection in UK sport. *Managing Leisure*, 5, 151-160

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

149. CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING IN SPORT

Principal researcher(s): Celia Brackenridge

Co-workers: Alison Woodward

Institution: University of Gloucestershire (formerly Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education)

Contact details: Celia Brackenridge, Coalheughhead Cottage, Harburn, By West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland EH55 8RT

Dates: 1999 – 2001

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: Youth Sport Trust

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child abuse in sport

Keywords: child protection; sport, training

Aims

To research the efficacy of child protection training amongst staff and volunteers.

Methodology

Interviews, participant observation and focus groups at selected training events in Higher Education institutions.

Results

Strengths and weaknesses of the training were reported. Recommendations for future training programmes were made.

Publications

Private report for funding body

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

150. CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING IMPACT STUDY

Principal researcher(s): Kate Russell

Co-workers: Celia Brackenridge

Institution: University of Gloucestershire (formerly Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education)

Contact details: Celia Brackenridge, Coalheughhead Cottage, Harburn, By West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland EH55 8RT

Dates: 2001

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: Youth Sport Trust

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child abuse in sport

Keywords: child protection; training, sport

Aims

To examine the impact of child protection training with key workers and Millennium volunteers (young people).

Methodology

Surveys. Interviews. Focus groups.

Results

Positive benefits of training were found together with some ambiguities. Recommendations for change were made to inform future training programmes.

Publications

Private report for funding body

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

151. AN AUDIT OF TRAINING FOR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (CSA) INVESTIGATORS

Principal researcher(s): Prof Graham Davies, Ms Noelle Robertson, Ms Emma Marshall

Co-workers: none

Institution: Leicester University

Contact details: Prof G. Davies, Prof Of Psychology, Astley Clarke Building, University of Leicester, Leicester.

Dates: July 1996 – 8 September 1997

Duration: 14 months

Funding body: Police Research Group, Home Office

Funding amount: £36,483

Main subject area: police training for CSA investigations

Keywords: child abuse; Memorandum of Good Practice (MOGP); police training

Aims

Establish coverage and any variability within existing training courses. Produce a national curriculum for training and specify its main features. Identify aspects of the 'MOGP' which are in need of revision or amendment.

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews with police officers. Focus groups with police officers. Qualitative analysis of transcripts using computer software package 'NUDIST'.

Results

Senior officers involved in child protection in 12 forces agreed to be interviewed and to provide copies of their training materials. This confirmed that there were widespread differences in the length, structure and content of training between different forces. In addition, there were also major differences in the organisation of teams, tenure rules and policy on CID (Criminal Investigation Department) status. Subsequent focus group discussions suggested that while there remained general support for joint investigation (police and social services) and the principles of the MOGP, there were considerable concerns over the content and structure of existing training. With regards content of training, more attention needs to be paid to relevant aspects of child development, interviewing suspects, and tactics and behaviour of sex offenders. With regards structure of training, there were calls for trainers to have operational experience, for a greater emphasis on interviewing practice, and for more opportunities to learn from viewing actual interviews.

Publications

Davies, G. M., Marshall, E., and Robertson, N. (1998). The training needs of officers investigating child sexual abuse. *Police Research Series (94)*. London: The Home Office

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

152. AN AUDIT OF TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS INVESTIGATING CHILD ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Prof G M Davies

Co-workers: E Marshall, N Robertson

Institution: University of Leicester

Contact details: Prof G M Davies, Department of Psychology, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH

Dates: 1996 – 1997

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: Home Office

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: training needs of officers investigating child and sexual abuse

Keywords: sexual abuse; training; needs analysis

Aims

To establish training needs of investigating interviewers in child sex abuse cases. To ascertain existing levels of training in a sample of forces. To explore the concept of a core curriculum for such officers, based on research evidence and good practice.

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews with key officers in different forces. Focus groups with stakeholders. National seminar and questionnaire to participants on proposals.

Results

Surveys established a wide disparity in length and depth of training, requisite qualifications and poor training monitoring. Field groups provided information on training needs sufficient to enable training needs analysis to be undertaken. The final report included an outline curriculum reflecting those needs and the findings of research on investigative interviews. This was refined on the basis of a national seminar where representatives of all participating forces attended.

Publications

Davies, G.M., Marshall, E. and Robertson, N. (1998). *The Training Needs of Officers Investigating Child Sexual Abuse*. London: Home Office

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

153. CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING FOR GPs (GENERAL PRACTITIONER) – A MODEL PROGRAMME FOR BUSY LEARNERS

Principal researcher(s): Dr Janet Polnay, Dr Mitch Blair

Co-workers: none

Institution: Nottingham City Hospital

Contact details: Dr J. Polnay, Papplewick Ward, Nottingham City Hospital, Hucknall Road, Nottingham NG5 1PB

Dates: May 1995 – June 1996

Duration: 13 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: raising awareness of child protection issues with GPs and successful implementation of a teaching programme

Keywords: GPs; training; child protection

Aims

To develop a practice based training programme designed to increase awareness of child protection issues in general practice and increase confidence in taking appropriate action following identification.

Methodology

General Practitioners within Nottingham Health Authority were telephoned personally and invited to a practice based training session delivered by a GP and community paediatrician in their locality, focusing on recognition of child abuse, knowledge of Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures and effective communication and record keeping. Analysis of questionnaire survey was carried out after training session.

Results

From May 1995 to June 1996, 13 sessions were arranged in separate venues. Of 81 practices approached, 65 had one or more GPs attend. 119 practitioners and seven nurses attended with an average group size of 10 (range 6-16). 38% of all eligible general practitioners in Nottingham had attended within the time period. 122 (99%) of 123 respondents stated that the session was highly relevant and the teaching of high quality. Ninety-five (88%) of 119 respondents stated that the approach by telephone was excellent or very good. 125 (99%) and 124 (98%) of 126 respondents stated that they were more aware of child protection problems and more confident in taking appropriate action respectively.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

154. FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED MSc IN CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Dr Katy Cigno

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Hull

Contact details: Dr K. Cigno, Former Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Social Work, University of Hull.
E-mail: katy@cigno.freeserve.co.uk

Dates: 1996 – 1998

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: unfunded

Funding amount: unfunded

Main subject area: use of post-qualifying courses in child protection for improving practice

Keywords: post-qualifying training

Aims

To examine whether dissertation topic reflected child protection concerns at the time. To examine whether MSc in Child Protection informed practice and if so, how. To examine whether MSc furthered careers and to identify what successful candidates are now doing.

Methodology

Literature review of topics/legislation etc current at time of MSc. Trace and write to MSc graduates. Design and administer short questionnaire.

Results

Dissertation topics did reflect current child protection concerns at the time of writing. Information so far suggests that MSc is useful for promotion purposes and informs practice.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

4. Aspects of abuse and neglect

4.1 History

155. HISTORY OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN ENGLAND 1900-1992

Principal researcher(s): Dr Deborah Thom

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Cambridge

Contact details: Deborah Thom, Robinson College, Grange Road, Cambridge, CB3 9AN
E-mail: dt111@cam.ac.uk

Dates: 2001

Duration: not stated

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: history of corporal punishment in England

Keywords: history; corporal punishment; England

Aims

To investigate the extent of corporal punishment in the home, school and magistrate's court. To explain the persistence of corporal punishment. To analyse the causes of change.

Methodology

Historical enquiry

Results

not available

Publications

Thom, D. (2003). A Citizen of Empire or a Juvenile Delinquent. In H. Marland and M. Gijswijt-Hofstra (Eds), Cultures of Child Health in Britain and the Twentieth Century. New York: Rodopi

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

156. AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE NATURE OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN BRITAIN

Principal researcher(s): Ms Mitzi Wakefield

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) Hull Family Centre

Contact details: Ms M. Wakefield, NSPCC Hull Family Centre, Barnstaple Road, Bransholme, Hull

Dates: October 1996 – October 2002

Duration: 6 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child sexual abuse

Keywords: history: child; sexual abuse

Aims

Gather data and case notes referring to child sexual abuse in Britain from 1880's. Analyse data with reference to context and contemporary knowledge. Critically examine differences or similarities in the data of known child sexual abuse. Analysis also of secondary sources and statistical data in respect of child abuse.

Methodology

Investigate/identify known cases of child sexual abuse in 19th century using NSPCC archives, court records etc. Analyse historical context and development of awareness and intervention in child abuse. Collate data and qualitatively analyse case records in respect of significant feature. Analysis also of secondary sources and statistical data in respect of child abuse

Results

To date, some primary and secondary sources of evidence have been identified. Statistics from NSPCC archives are available and case study material from early twentieth century has been located and research into the relevant context is developing. This research is being pursued on a part-time basis and began 6 months ago. The preliminary work has not yet been rigorously analysed.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

4.2 Prevalence

157. PREVALENCE OF CHILD MALTREATMENT IN THE UK

Principal researcher(s): Pat Cawson and Corinne May-Chahal

Co-workers: Graham Kelly, Susan Brooker

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention on Cruelty to Children); and University of Lancaster

Contact details: Pat Cawson, NSPCC, National Centre, 42 Curtain Road, London

Dates: 1998 – 1999

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: prevalence of child maltreatment

Keywords: prevalence; attitudes; bullying and discrimination

Aims

To find the prevalence of all forms of child maltreatment in the UK. To probe attitudes on acceptable and unacceptable methods of childrearing in the UK.

Methodology

Randomised probability sample, 2,869 18-24 year olds. CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) questionnaire incorporating conflict tactics scale with additional measures for sexual, emotional abuse and neglect trained interviews.

Results

Prevalence rates were categorised as serious intermediate or cause for concern for physical abuse (7%, 14%, 3%), absence of care (6%, 9%, 2%) and absence of supervision (5%, 12%, 3%). Emotional abuse was measured using seven dimensions: psychological control and domination, psycho-physical control, humiliation, degradation, withdrawal antipathy, terrorising and proxy attacks. 6% were rated as emotional maltreated. Sexual abuse was defined according to person believed responsible (parent/carer, relative, known person, stranger) and whether contact or non-contact 11% had been involved in sexual contact either against their will or with a person five or more years older when they were 12 years of age or younger. 6% had been involved in no-contact abuse. Self-assessed abuse was recorded for the total sample. 5% agreed they had been physically abused, 2% neglected, 3% emotionally and 6% sexually abused. 43% of the sample had been bullied or discriminated against.

Publications

Cawson, P., Wattam, C., Brooker, S., and Kelly, G. (2000). *Child Maltreatment in the United Kingdom*. London: NSPCC

Brooker, S., Kelly, G., Cawson, P., and Wattam, C. (2001). The prevalence of child abuse and neglect: A survey of young people. *International Journal of Market Research*, 43(3), 249-289

Cawson, P. (2002) *Child Maltreatment in the Family*. London: NSPCC

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

158. A SURVEY OF CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES AND ATTITUDES TO CHILD REARING AMONG ADULTS IN THE UK

Principal researcher(s): Miss Susan Creighton, Mr Neil Russell

Co-workers: none

Institution: RSGB (Research Surveys of Great Britain), London

Contact details: Miss S. Creighton, Senior Research Officer, NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) R.S.G.B., AGB House, Westgate, London. W5 1UA

Dates: 1994 – 1995

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: prevalence of physical and sexual abuse

Keywords: physical abuse prevalence; sexual abuse prevalence; parent-child relationships

Aims

To provide a normative survey of adult's childhood relationships with their own parents. To assess prevalence of some experiences of physical punishment and sexual abuse. To find out what adults abused as children had sought, and obtained, in the way of help. To find out how their childhood experiences had affected them long term.

Methodology

A nationally representative quota sample of 1032 adults aged between 18 and 45 years. A general interview conducted by RSGB interviewers plus a self-completion questionnaire for sensitive topics.

Results

In a national survey, 1032 adults aged 18-45 years were interviewed about their own childhood experiences and their opinions of children today. The adults described their family life and relationships, the discipline and punishments they experienced, and completed a confidential questionnaire on whether they had experienced sexual abuse. Results showed the ways in which the adults' childhood experience was linked to their attitudes, to the upbringing and discipline of their own children and their opinions on children's behaviour and child rearing. A substantial minority reported sexual abuse in their own childhood about which they had told nobody at the time.

Publications

Creighton, S. J., and Russell, N. (1995). *Voices from childhood. A survey of childhood experiences and attitudes to child rearing among adults in the U.K.* London: NSPCC

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

159. NATIONAL STUDY OF PARENTAL PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Principal researcher(s): Miss Susan Creighton, Dr Deborah Ghatge, Mrs Julia Field

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) National Centre, London

Contact details: Miss S. Creighton, Senior Research Officer, NSPCC National Centre, 42 Curtain Road, London. EC2A 3NH

Dates: June 1998 – August 2000

Duration: 27 months

Funding body: Economic and Social Research Council

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: national incidence study

Keywords: incidence; parent-child violence; children's perspectives

Aims

To conduct the first nationally representative survey of parents in Britain to provide normative data on the extent and frequency of parental violence to children aged 0 – 12 years. To discover the types of conflicts which arise between parents and children and background contexts for family violence. To obtain data on children's perspectives on the effectiveness, acceptability and appropriateness of a range of violent and non-violent disciplinary tactics.

Methodology

Survey - national probability sample of 1,200 parents of children aged 0 – 12 across Britain. Depth interviews with 25 parents interviewed in survey. Depth interviews with children of these parents. Ten group discussions with children aged 7 – 12 years.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

4.3 Family characteristics

160. THE FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES OF CHILDREN IN CASES OF ALLEGED ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Principal researcher(s): Dr Elaine-Egan Sage, Prof John Carpenter

Co-workers: none

Institution: Tizard Centre, University of Kent

Contact details: Prof J. Carpenter, Centre for Applied Social Studies, University of Durham, 15 Old Elvet, Durham.
DH1 3HL

Dates: June 1995 – November 1996

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: The Nuffield Foundation

Funding amount: £5000

Main subject area: family circumstances

Keywords: family composition; family structure registration

Aims

To describe aspects of the family relationships of children referred to social services for suspected abuse and neglect. To explore whether there were differences between referrals and registrations in those terms.

Methodology

Secondary analysis of data collected by social services (2,069 referrals, 373 registrations).

Results

Information is presented about the family composition, structure and significant relationships of 2,069 children, of whom 373 (18%) were subsequently placed on the child abuse register. Very few members of extended families were recorded as being significant. In contrast to earlier research, less than one third of children lived with a lone or unmarried mother. However, children whose parents were married and living together were less likely to be registered. Nearly half of mothers and one fifth of fathers of registered children were aged 21 years or less at their child's birth. Compared to all those referred, a significantly larger number of children were conceived by younger or older men. Two in five of the siblings of registered children were under 6 years and the younger the siblings the more likely was the child to be registered. Children with two or more siblings were also more likely to be registered. There is some indication that family circumstances contribute to the decision to register a child.

Publications

Egan-Sage, E. and Carpenter, J. (1999). Family characteristics of children in cases of alleged abuse and neglect. *Child Abuse Review*, 8, 301-313

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

161. CHILD ABUSE IN NORTHERN IRELAND 2001 ONWARDS

Principal researcher(s): Dr C W Shepherd, Dr A Armstrong

Co-workers: none

Institution: Craigavon Hospital (Department of Paediatrics)

Contact details: Dr C W Shepherd, Consultant Paediatrician, Craigavon Area Hospital, Portadown, Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland. BT63 5QQ

Dates: January 2001 (on-going)

Duration: not stated

Funding body: unfunded

Funding amount: unfunded

Main subject area: child abuse in Northern Ireland – demographics

Keywords: data; medical; child abuse.

Aims

To examine the numbers of children seen medically with suspected NAI (non-accidental injury). To examine Workloads. To determine ages of children seen and different types of abuse. To examine social patterns.

Methodology

Cases collected by coordinator in each of four Area Health Boards. Anonymous data sent to central point and analysed using access.

Results

not available

Publications

Not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

4.4 Detection

162. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO A MOTHER'S ABILITY TO RECOGNISE THE INCESTUOUS ABUSE OF HER CHILD

Principal researcher(s): Dr Patricia Bell

Co-workers: none

Institution: PhD for University of Tuebingen, Germany

Contact details: Patricia Bell, Research Associate, Department of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Newcastle, Newcastle Upon Tyne. E-mail: pat.bell@ncl.ac.uk

Dates: 1995 - 1996

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: mothers knowing about incest

Keywords: mothers; incest; disclosure

Aims

To examine if it is possible for incest to take place within a family without the mother knowing. To look at what factors contribute to a mother's ability to believe her child and take steps to protect that child.

Methodology

Group work with mothers of sexually abused children. In depth interviews with mothers of children sexually abused by the mother's partner. Follow-up interview with same respondents.

Results

Sexual abuse of a child by someone occupying the position of father (including step father and live in boyfriend of mother) has far reaching consequences for the child, the entire family and the child's mother.

Publications

Bell, P. (2002). Factors contributing to a mother's ability to recognise incestuous abuse of her child. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 25(3), 347 – 357

Bell, P. (2003). "I'm a good mother really" Gendered parenting roles and responses to the disclosure of incest. *Children and Society*, 17(2), 126-136

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

4.5 Risk factors and causes

163. IS MATERNAL SUBSTANCE MISUSE IN PREGNANCY A RISK FACTOR FOR CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN SHEFFIELD?

Principal researcher(s): Dr L. Alison

Co-workers: none

Institution: Northern General Hospital, Sheffield

Contact details: Dr L. Alison, Consultant Community Paediatrician, Northern General Hospital, Sheffield

Dates: 1997 – October 1998

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: not stated

Keywords: incidence and prevalence; substance misuse in pregnancy; child abuse and neglect

Aims

Identification of children who have been exposed to substance misuse in pregnancy in Sheffield from January 1993 to December 1996. Comparison between a drug exposed group and a matched control group to identify if there is a difference in developmental surveillance, immunisation, minor illness, accidents, admissions and abuse and neglect. To identify if there is a sub-group associated with higher risk of child abuse and neglect.

Methodology

Retrospective survey of neo-natal, paediatric hospital and Accident and Emergency (hospital) notes and community health notes and investigation of social service involvement using the computerised child protection register.

Results

Highly significant differences found between the control group and cases with respect to social services involvement, registration, fostering, and child subject to legal status. Qualitative differences in hospital attendance with more severe injuries being seen in the drug-exposed group. Reduced rate of immunisation and developmental surveillance in the drug-exposed group. Preliminary data suggests that greatest risk to the children in terms of child protection outcomes is if the mother has had a previous child removed and if the mother is using cocaine in pregnancy and if the baby has had features of withdrawal in the neo-natal unit. Methadone use does not predict future safe outcomes.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

164. PROBLEM DRINKING AS A FACTOR IN CASES OF CHILD MISTREATMENT

Principal researcher(s): Mr Gerry Davidson, Mr Harry Townsend

Co-workers: none

Institution: Department of Social Services, Llandrindod Wells, Powys

Contact details: Mr G. Davidson, Complaints Officer, Dept. of Social Services, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys. LD1 SLG

Dates: 1992

Duration: not stated

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: problem drinking as a factor in cases of child mistreatment

Keywords: alcohol; drinking; child abuse

Aims

To measure the extent to which alcohol consumption is a contributory factor in cases of child mistreatment. To assess the drinking patterns of family members involved with cases of child mistreatment. To assess the way in which alcohol consumption adversely affects the quality of child care. To gain an indication of the types of responses and interventions that are currently being employed where problematic drinking is a significant factor in child mistreatment.

Methodology

Questionnaire detailing drinking pattern, presenting problem, estimated factor effect, registration, responses offered and other agencies involved completed by child protection co-ordinator at 31 Case Conferences.

Results

Whilst alcohol consumption has some kind of influence on nearly three quarters of the sample of the Department's childcare caseload, no response was offered in nearly half of these cases. Where some kind of intervention was made, this most frequently took the form of 'counselling' by the key workers. Specialist services were rarely utilised including the Department's own specialist resource. Consistent or dependent drinking is not the significant form of alcohol consumption that childcare teams are concerned with. Instead, regular or occasional periods of intoxication represent many more problems. Additionally the link between alcohol and family relationships was also shown to be significant. Drunkenness and moderate drinking are both commonly found forms of social alcohol consumption. The influence of these 'normal' drinking patterns on childcare has been shown to be more significant than patterns, which are more commonly understood to be problematic.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

165. PARENTAL SUBSTANCE MISUSE – THE IMPACT ON CHILD CARE SOCIAL WORK CASELOADS

Principal researcher(s): Carol Haden, Sandra Jerrim, Sue Pike

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Portsmouth (SSRIU - Social Services Research and Information Unit)

Contact details: SSRIU, University of Portsmouth, 141 High Street, Portsmouth. PO1 2HY

Dates: June 2001 – March 2002

Duration: 9 months

Funding body: Portsmouth Social Services Department

Funding amount: £10,000

Main subject area: parental substance misuse

Keywords: parental substance misuse; caseloads, social work

Aims

To inform policy and practice with respect to social work with families where substance misuse affects parenting. To assess the extent to which substance misuse impacts on the ability of social workers to support families. To provide descriptive data on the nature and volume of the work of a pilot project working with these families. To consult service users in recovery. Action research strategy - formative evaluation of pilot project

Methodology

Case audit. Questionnaire and interviews – all child care staff in one local authority. Evaluation of a pilot project. Group interview with parents in recovery.

Results

The research provides evidence of parental substance misuse as a key factor that needs greater consideration within child care social work assessments and as an issue to target in developing preventative responses to child welfare concerns. Childcare social workers are shown to need specialist support in undertaking this task to best effect. Three in ten cases involved parental substance in childcare social work teams and substance misuse was a major factor for concern in half the cases.

Publications

Harden, C., Jerrim, S., and Pike, S. (2002). Parental Substance Misuse: The Impact on Childcare Social Work Caseloads. Report no. 47, SSRIU, University of Portsmouth

Hayden, C. (2004). Parental substance misuse and childcare social work: Research in a city social work department in England. *Child Abuse Review*, 13(1), 18-30

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

166. PARENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AND THE SOCIAL WORK TASK

Principal researcher(s): Carol Hayden, Jo Goodship

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Portsmouth (SSRIU - Social Services Research and Information Unit)

Contact details: SSRIU University of Portsmouth, 141 High Street, Portsmouth. PO1 2HY

Dates: June 2002 – Mar 2003

Duration: 9 months

Funding body: Portsmouth Social Services Department

Funding amount: £10,000

Main subject area: parents with learning disabilities (LD)

Keywords: parental learning disability; child welfare

Aims

To identify the scale and impact of parental LD in childcare social work caseloads. To investigate current sources of support for parents with LD and their social workers and to identify developments needed.

Methodology

Interviews with staff in key services providers for parents with LD. Group interviews and case audit for five child care social work teams. Case studies of individual families where parents have a LD.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

167. CHILD PROTECTION AND PARENTAL MENTAL HEALTH

Principal researcher(s): Ms Vanessa Lewis, Miss Susan Creighton

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) National Centre, London

Contact details: Miss S Creighton, NSPCC National Centre, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH

Dates: October 1996 – March 1997

Duration: 6 months

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child abuse referrals

Keywords: child protection; parental mental health

Aims

To examine what proportion of calls to the National Child Protection Helpline (NCPH) involved a parent with a mental health problem. How did these calls differ/compare with other calls?

Methodology

Analysis of a representative selection of calls to the NCPH over a one-year period

Results

Analysis of a sample of 2084 child abuse referrals to the NSPCC Child Protection Helpline showed that in 11% a parent or carer was reported as having a mental health problem. Mothers were the parent affected in the majority of these cases. The mental health sample differed from the other referrals in an increased concern about emotional abuse and less about sexual abuse; greater levels of violence and discord between parents and more agency involvement. Issues of potential labelling and therapeutic needs are discussed.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

168. TEENAGE PARENTS AND CHILD PROTECTION

Principal researcher(s): Vivien Lines

Co-workers: none

Institution: Nottingham City (ACPC – Area Child Protection Committee)

Contact details: Vivien Lines, ACPC Policy Officer, 14 Houndsgate, Nottingham, NG1 7BE

Dates: October 2000 – May 2001

Duration: 6 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: children of teenage parents

Keywords: teenage parents; child protection

Aims

To establish whether the children of teenage parents are over-represented on Nottingham city's child protection register. To make recommendations to service providers as to how to prevent the children of teenage parents from being at risk of significant harm.

Methodology

Questionnaire and literature review

Results

Children of teenage parents are over-represented on the child protection register and there is a range of ways this could be better prevented.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

4.6 Effects and outcomes

169. RISK FACTORS FOR CHILD ABUSE IN A PRESCHOOL POPULATION

Principal researcher(s): Dr Peter Sidebotham, Prof Jean Golding

Co-workers: none

Institution: Institute of Child Health, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Bristol

Contact details: Dr P. Sidebotham, University Child Health, Level G (803), Southampton General Hospital, Tremonan Road, Southampton SO16 1AH

Dates: September 1995

Duration: not stated

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: risk factors for child abuse

Keywords: abuse; risk factors

Aims

To assess the validity of quoted risk factors in predicting child abuse. To identify factors that may protect children from abuse.

Methodology

A prospective longitudinal cohort study. Identification of children within the cohort referred to or registered by social services. Analysis of risk and protective factors from prospectively collected data.

Results

The Avon longitudinal study of pregnancy and childhood is a geographically based cohort study investigating factors influencing the health and development of children. From a total of 15,876 children born in Avon between 1.4.91 and 31.12.92, 239 have been referred to social services on suspicion of abuse and 73 have been placed on the child protection register up to 31.12.95. 59% of referrals and 44% of registrations are for physical abuse; 11% and 5% respectively for sexual abuse; 2% and 22% emotional abuse and 21% and 24% neglect. Data is being analysed to compare referred/registered children with the overall cohort within the following categories: the child, the parents or caretaker, family relationships and structure and socio-demographic factors.

Publications

not stated

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

170. LINKS BETWEEN SOCIAL DEPRIVATION AND HARM TO CHILDREN: A STUDY OF PARENTING IN SOCIAL DISADVANTAGE

Principal researcher(s): Dr Vic Tuck

Co-workers: none

Institution: Open University

Contact details: Vic Tuck, Children's Planning Section, 152 The Parade, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. CV32 5BQ E-mail: vicktuck@warwickshire.gov.uk

Dates: 1990 – 1995

Duration: 5 years

Funding body: unfunded

Funding amount: unfunded

Main subject area: social deprivation and harm to children

Keywords: poverty; child abuse; deprivation; disadvantage; parenting; harm

Aims

To explore the nature of possible links between social deprivation and harm to children. To identify causal pathways by which some parents experiencing chronic psychosocial stress may come to harm their children. To construct an Integrative Model of Harm to Children where impact of social deprivation is recognised.

Methodology

Geographical mapping exercise to establish if correlation exists between child protection and social deprivation. Review of 150 case files of children on child protection register to establish socioeconomic circumstances. Group interview with mothers living in a neighbourhood characterised by high scores on indices of social deprivation and high rates of child protection referrals.

Results

Social deprivation constitutes both a *primary and secondary* source of harm to children. As a *primary* source, it presents parents with a range of adversities/hindrances to good parenting, which can have serious consequences for child health, safety and development. This suggests, therefore, that given the significant number of socially disadvantaged families in the UK, a *general prevalence of harm* exists. For some parents, the chronic/cumulative experience of social deprivation may be so physically and psychologically depleting that they become locked into a downward spiral of stress, inability to cope, helplessness/despair. This may manifest itself in harmful, destructive and punitive behaviours directed at children. In these ways, social deprivation may come to constitute a *secondary* form of harm to children. However, in reality, most parents living in poverty manage to care adequately for their children, despite the odds and harm to children is also present in more affluent homes. Therefore, outcomes for children and families, and the causal pathways that may lead to harm, are influenced by a range of complex, interacting factors.

Publications

Tuck, V. (2000). Socioeconomic Factors: A Neglected Dimension in Harm to Children. In J. Batsleer, and B. Humphries, Eds.) *Welfare, Exclusion and Political Agency*. London: Routledge

Tuck, V. (2000). Links Between Social Deprivation and Harm to Children. In N. Baldwin, (Ed.) *Protecting Children: Promoting Their Rights*. London: Whiting and Birch

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

171. SOCIAL FACTORS IN THE AETIOLOGY AND COURSE OF PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER: INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION FROM MOTHER TO DAUGHTER

Principal researcher(s): Dr Antonia Bifulco, Prof George Brown

Co-workers: P Moran, C Ball, C Jacobs, R Baines, J Cavagin, L Reader, L Steinberg, K Benaim

Institution: University of London

Contact details: Antonia Bifulco, Lifespan Research Group, Royal Holloway, University of London, 11, Bedford Square, London WC1B 3RA E-mail: A.Bifulco@rhul.ac.uk

Dates: 1995 - 1999

Duration: 5 years

Funding body: Medical Research Council

Funding amount: £2,000,000

Main subject area: long-term and intergenerational psychiatric effects of childhood neglect and abuse

Keywords: neglect; abuse; depression; intergenerational

Aims

Investigating long-term psychiatric effects of neglect and abuse in childhood among mid-life women. Investigating the intergenerational transmission of risk from mother to daughter. Examining mediating adult vulnerability factors.

Methodology

Intensive interviews used to establish lifespan psycho-social risk factors. Training packages developed for such interview techniques. Questionnaires designed to mirror interview measures.

Results

Characteristics of mothers and daughters were examined in terms of neglect/abuse and disorder in daughters. Mothers' vulnerability at first interview three years earlier (comprising negative interaction with partner or child, lack of support or low self-esteem) was highly related to clinical disorder in her daughter. There was no relationship between mothers' depression, fathers' disorder, and daughters' disorder. Mother's own neglect or abuse in childhood was unrelated to her daughter's neglect/abuse. Mothers, but not fathers, lifetime chronic or recurrent disorder was significantly associated with the daughters' experience of neglect/abuse. Logistic regression showed that neglect/abuse and mother's vulnerability were required to model the daughter's disorder in 12-months. Parental disorder did not add to the model.

Publications

Bifulco A., Moran P. M, Ball C., Jacobs C., Baines R., Bunn A., and Cavagin J. (2002). Childhood adversity, parental vulnerability and disorder: Examining intergenerational transmission of risk. *Journal Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 43, 1075-1086

Moran, P.M, Bifulco A., Ball C., Jacobs C., and Benaim K. (2002). Exploring psychological abuse in childhood: Developing a new interview scale. *Bulletin of Menninger Institute*, 66, 213-240

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

172. PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER IN YOUNG ADULT MALES: ITS ASSOCIATION WITH MOTHERS' DEPRESSIVE VULNERABILITY

Principal researcher(s): Dr Antonia Bifulco, Dr Patricia Moran

Co-workers: Caroline Ball, Catherine Jacobs, Helen Rickard

Institution: University of London

Contact details: Antonia Bifulco, Lifespan Research Group, Royal Holloway, University of London, 11, Bedford Square, London WC1B 3RA E-mail: A.Bifulco@rhul.ac.uk

Dates: 1996 – 2000

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: Medical Research Council

Funding amount: £213,000

Main subject area: causal association of neglect/abuse in childhood and adult psychiatric disorder in males: the intergenerational transmission of risk for disorder

Keywords: neglect; abuse; psychiatric disorder; males

Aims

To examine whether mothers' depressive vulnerability increases sons' risk for psychiatric disorder. To examine whether neglect/abuse in boys raises risk of psychiatric disorder in late adolescence.

Methodology

Intensive interviews of mother and sons for lifetime psychosocial risk. Selection of community-based mothers for psycho-social vulnerability and comparison. Prospective investigation of mothers from prior study five years earlier.

Results

Substantial intergenerational transmission was found with inadequate parenting in terms of neglect and abuse shown to be central. Specifically, maternal depressive vulnerability (poor relationships and low self-esteem) modelled externalising disorder in sons; low self-esteem in sons related to disorder; maternal physical abuse (violence) but not maternal antipathy (hostility) was more common among vulnerable mothers than comparison mothers.

Publications

Bifulco A., Moran P.M., Ball C., Jacobs C., Baines R., Bunn A., and Cavagin J. (2002). Childhood adversity, parental vulnerability and disorder: Examining intergenerational transmission of risk. *Journal Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 43, 1075-1086

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

173. SOCIAL FACTORS IN THE AETIOLOGY AND COURSE OF PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS: INVESTIGATING SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

Principal researcher(s): Prof George Brown , Dr Antonia Bifulco

Co-workers: P Moran, C Ball, C Campbell, H Wax, A Brackenbridge

Institution: University of London

Contact details: Antonia Bifulco, Lifespan Research Group, Royal Holloway, University of London, 11, Bedford Square, London WC1B 3RA E-mail: A.Bifulco@rhul.ac.uk

Dates: 1990 – 1995

Duration: 5 years

Funding body: Medical Research Council

Funding amount: £1,800,000

Main subject area: causal relationship between neglect/abuse in childhood and adult vulnerability for depression in women

Keywords: neglect/abuse; vulnerability; depression; women

Aims

To examine childhood neglect/abuse in relation to adult depression in women. To validate childhood interview accounts with sisters' experiences. To examine concordance of childhood neglect/abuse in sisters raised together.

Methodology

Intensive interviews of lifetime psychosocial risk. Community based high-risk series of women. Prospective examination of 100 women over 12 month period. Paired analysis of sisters for concordance of experience

Results

Vulnerability in terms of negative interaction with partner or child, lack of close confidante and negative evaluation of self-predicted new onset of depression to replicate previous findings. Such vulnerability was significantly associated with childhood neglect or abuse. There was high concordance and high corroboration between sisters for neglect or abuse in childhood. Neglect or abuse in childhood tripled the likelihood of experiencing depression in adult life. Adult attachment style mediated between childhood neglect/abuse and adult depression and formed an additional vulnerability factor.

Publications

Bifulco A., and Moran P. (1998). *Wednesday's Child: Research into Women's Experience of Neglect and Abuse in Childhood and Adult Depression*. London: Routledge

Bifulco A., Moran P., Ball C., and Lillie A. (2002). Adult Attachment Style II. Relationship to psychosocial depressive-vulnerability. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, 37, 60-67

Bifulco, A., Brown G. W., Moran P., Ball C., and Campbell C. (1998). Predicting depression in women: The role of past and present vulnerability. *Psychological Medicine*, 28, 39-50

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

174. CASE CONTROLLED STUDY OF SOMATIC BEHAVIOURAL SYMPTOMS IN SEXUALLY ABUSED BOYS

Principal researcher(s): Prof Sonia Jackson, Dr Alison Maddocks, Prof John Williams

Co-workers: Dr Alix Love, Vera Antao, Eddy Street, J. R. Sibert

Institution: Swansea University; West Glamorgan Health Authority; and University of Wales

Contact details: Dr A. Maddocks, Glan-y-Mor NHS Trust, Central Clinic, 21 Orchard St., Swansea

Dates: April 1997

Duration: not funded

Funding body: Research and Development Wales

Funding amount: £95,000

Main subject area: not stated

Keywords: sexual abuse; somatic symptoms; behavioural symptoms

Aims

To ascertain how often sexually abused boys present with somatic and behavioural symptoms.

Methodology

Case control study of 107 abused boys and 107 age-matched controls. Review of GP (general practitioners) records, school health records, hospital records and the records of consultant child psychiatrists to identify any somatic or behavioural symptoms.

Results

Somatic and behavioural complaints were uncommon in both cases and controls. There was no significant difference between the numbers of cases and controls who had presented with somatic and behavioural complaints (18 cases versus 25 controls). However, the difference between the cases and controls with symptoms lasting over a year was significant ($p < 0.05$). There were no differences in the nature of reported symptoms between the control and abused groups.

Publications

Antao, V., Maddocks, A., Street, E., and Sibert, J. R. (1996). A case-control study of somatic and behavioural symptoms in sexually abused boys. *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 75, 237-238

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

175. THE IMPACT OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

Principal researcher(s): Mr Michael Lenaghan

Co-workers: none

Institution: Child and Family Clinic, Bocombra Lodge

Contact details: Mr Lenaghan, Child and Family Clinic, Bocombra Lodge, 2 Old Lurgan Road, Portadown, Northern Ireland

Dates: October 1992 – November 1994

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: Area Child Protection Committee

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: sexual abuse

Keywords: sexual abuse; impact; treatment (outcome)

Aims

To retrospectively explore the impact of child sexual abuse

Methodology

Retrospective study using a conceptual model of process following abuse with outcome measured using a number of psychometric measures of behavioural, emotional functioning and self-concept.

Results

Compared to a group of matched, non-sexually abused children, those who had experienced child sexual abuse were assessed as having higher levels of perceived behavioural and emotional problems and reported lower levels of self-esteem. Within the sample of abused children, however, a wide variation in symptoms was observed. Factors associated with heightened levels of behavioural and emotional difficulties were: a) maternal history of sexual abuse, b) parental reaction to disclosure, c) nature of abuse and d) family functioning. Findings highlight in particular the need for family support and intervention to increase positive coping and recovery in child victims.

Publications

not stated

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

176. PARENTAL ALCOHOL ABUSE: ITS IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Principal researcher(s): Dr John G. Love

Co-workers: none

Institution: The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen

Contact details: Dr John Love, School of Applied Social Studies, Faculty of Health and Social Care, The Robert Gordon University, Garthdee, Aberdeen AB10 7QG E-mail: j.g.love@rgu.ac.uk

Dates: August 1998 – December 2001

Duration: 41 months

Funding body: Alcohol Advisory and Counselling Service

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: impact of parental alcohol abuse on children and young people

Keywords: parental alcohol abuse

Aims

In what ways does parental problem drinking impact upon the family life of children and young people? To what extent do responses to parental problem drinking by children and young people result in more or less successful techniques of coping?

Methodology

Interview study of eleven children and young people using a semi-structured interview schedule.

Results

not stated

Publications

Love, J G (2002). *Parental Alcohol Abuse: Its Impact on Children and Young People*. A report prepared for the Alcohol Advisory and Counselling Service. Aberdeen, The Robert Gordon University

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

177. SOMATIC AND BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS IN A COHORT OF SEXUALLY ABUSED BOYS – A FIVE YEAR FOLLOW-UP STUDY

Principal researcher(s): Dr Alison Maddocks, Dr Allan Wardhaugh, Dr Lesley Griffiths, Dr Annie Dellahunty

Co-workers: Dr Dawn Edwards

Institution: Glan-y-Mor NHS (National Health Service) Trust, Wales

Contact details: Dr A. Maddocks, Consultant Paediatrician, Trinity Buildings, 21 Orchard Street, Swansea.
SA1 5AT

Dates: October 1998 – March 1999

Duration: 6 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: somatic and behavioural problems among sexually abused boys

Keywords: somatic; behavioural; effects; sexual abuse; boys

Aims

To examine the health records of a cohort of boys who had been subject to sexual abuse and compare their health status with a age-matched group of controls.

Methodology

Case-control study of 107 sexually-abused boys and 107 non-abused boys – both cohorts previously identified and reported on in a previous study after the initial investigation. Review of GP (general practitioner) records, community child health worker notes and hospital notes (where applicable) of cases and controls. Particular attention will be paid to the duration of any somatic or behavioural problems.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

178. EFFECTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ON THE PROTECTING, NON-ABUSING PARENT

Principal researcher(s): Mr John McCourt

Co-workers: Dr Jennifer C.F. Peel

Institution: Liverpool John Moores University

Contact details: John McCourt, 96 Kingfisher Way, Upton, Wirral, Merseyside. CH49 4PS

Dates: November 1995 – May 1996

Duration: 6 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: effects of child sexual abuse on the non-abusive/protecting parent. Identifying a counselling response for 'secondary victims'.

Keywords: child sexual abuse; protecting/non-abusive parent; counselling

Aims

To identify effects on the non-abusing parent(s) in intra-familial child sexual abuse. To provide guidance for counsellors working with this client group. To relate the experiences of non-abusing parents to an appropriate theoretical base. To make known the particular issues arising for this under-researched client group, on whom continuing care of the abused child depends.

Methodology

Participants: adult non-offending carers from 13 families. 26 item questionnaire followed by semi-structured audio-taped interview. Involvement of a co-operative enquiry group (independent of the participants).

Results

The study confirmed the general parallel between the effects of bereavement and the effects of child sexual abuse on the non-abusing parent. There are, however, major differences in the intensity of some grief reactions and the research pointed to the parallels with the effects of victimisation. There are separate issues for non-abusing male and female carers, and individual therapeutic input needs to be complemented by peer-group and community supports. The research detailed the critical issues for therapeutic input for this client group when providing counselling for individuals. Continuing protection of sexually abused children often relies primarily on the non-abusing/protecting parent; support to this group is essential to promoting the child's welfare after abuse.

Publications

McCourt, J. (1998). Effects of child sexual abuse on the protecting, non-abusing parent. *Counselling Psychology Quarterly*, 11(3), 283-299

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

179. WHAT HAPPENS TO SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILDREN?

Principal researcher(s): Dr Joe McDonald, Dr Gerry Doyle, Dr Lynn Barrett

Co-workers: none

Institution: Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead

Contact details: Dr J. McDonald, Child and Family Psychiatry Unit, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear

Dates: July 1996 - January 1997

Duration: 6 months (first phase)

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: outcome of child sexual abuse survivors

Keywords: long-term; prospective study

Aims

To follow-up the medical histories of children sexually abused in 1980's.

Methodology

A research project started in 1985 which involved putting a red spot on the notes of children identified as sexually abused at that time. The research never happened but the current project looked at the subsequent history of children who were 'red-spotted'. Effectively a 10 year prospective study.

Results

Ten children picked at random, examination of their notes subsequent to identification of sexual abuse revealed common features: poor health outcome; three out of the ten had somatising disorders; and the majority were rejected by their families. The authors will now follow up a further 120 'red spot' children.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

180. SEXUAL ABUSE IN CHILDREN AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Principal researcher(s): Dr Jane Watkeys, Dr Angela Robinson

Co-workers: none

Institution: Camden and Islington Community Health Services

Contact details: Dr Jane Watkeys, Crowndale Health Centre, Crowndale Road, London NW1 1BD

Dates: January 1996 – June 1996

Duration: 6 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: children's research

Keywords: sexual health; sexually transmitted diseases; child health, social care

Aims

Incidence of infection and type of abuse associated with infection

Methodology

not stated

Results

not stated

Publications

Watkeys, J., and Robinson, A. (1998). Sexually transmitted disease in sexually abused children. *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 79(4), 366-8

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

181. 'RECOVERY' FROM EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS

Principal researcher(s): Dr Ann Buchanan, Dr JoAnn Ten Brinke

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Oxford

Contact details: Dr A. Buchanan, Department of Applied Social Studies and Research, University of Oxford, Barnett House, 32 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2ER

Dates: September 1997 – August 1998

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: National Health Service Executive, Oxford and Anglia

Funding amount: £33,000

Main subject area: emotional and behavioural disorders

Keywords: emotional and behavioural disorders in children

Aims

What are the person/family/school/community factors associated with emotional and behavioural disorders at 7, 11 and 16 years of age. What factors are associated with 'recovery' from emotional and behavioural disorders?

Methodology

Data from National Child Development Study – 17,000 children born in 1958 and followed up over five sweeps at ages 7, 11, 16, 23 and 33 years. Emotional/behavioural measures developed from those available at ages 7, 11 and 16 years. Bivariate and multivariate analysis with possible person/family/school/community risk and protective factors.

Results

Emotional and behavioural disorders are often associated with child maltreatment. Many of the factors associated with such disorders have already been well documented and this study supports these findings. For example, boys are more at risk of disruptive disorders than girls, whereas girls are more at risk of emotional disorders than boys. This study has, however, produced some surprises, especially in examining family and school factors. For example, father involvement is a key protective mechanism against later disruptive behaviours, and how children are taught to read and how classes are organised in school is also associated with the presence of absence of emotional and behavioural disorders. The research is ongoing.

Publications

Flouri, E., Buchanan, A., and Bream, V. (2000). In and out of emotional and behavioural problems. In A. Buchanan, and B. Hudson (Eds.). *Promoting Children's Emotional Well-Being*. London: Oxford University Press

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

182. COPING WITH SURVIVORS

Principal researcher(s): Dr Julie Skinner

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of York (Department of Educational Studies)

Contact details: Dr Julie Skinner, University of Hull, Scarborough Campus, Filey Road, Scarborough. YO11 3AZ

Dates: November 1992 – July 1997

Duration: 4 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child sexual abuse, aftermath, coping, support

Keywords: survivors; parents; child sexual abuse

Aims

To ascertain how survivors of child sexual abuse cope in the aftermath of abuse. To ascertain how mothers and fathers cope and engage with and support child survivors.

Methodology

In-depth qualitative interviews

Results

The study, as detailed in 'Coping with Survivors and Surviving' considers reactions of child sexual abuse survivors and their parents, and how these different groups relate to, and are affected by, each other. In particular, the results focus on the family life of the survivors and the process of disclosure; how all those involved with the child coped at the time of the disclosure and during its aftermath; and the issues and tensions which were resolved and those which have remained unresolved. These different and often conflicting perspectives are analysed, placing them in the context of the literature on coping with trauma, and psychoanalytic and sociological theories on the mother-child relationship. A model is presented for exploring the ways in which interaction may affect perceptions and outcomes, suggesting that mothers and teachers may be seen as secondary victims of child sexual abuse. Emphasising the necessity of support for all those involved in such cases, the results of the study conclude with the implications for welfare services and makes recommendations for how they can be improved.

Publications

Skinner, Julie (2000). *Coping With Survivors and Surviving*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

183. RISK AND RESILIENCE - ADULTS WHO WERE THE CHILDREN OF PROBLEM DRINKERS

Principal researcher(s): Prof Richard Velleman, Miss Lorna Templeton

Co-workers: none

Institution: Mental Health Research and Development (RD) Unit, University of Bath

Contact details: Lorna Templeton, Mental Health R and D Unit, Wessex House Level 7, University of Bath, Bath. BA2 7AY E-mail: L.Templeton@bath.ac.uk

Dates: early 1980's - ongoing

Duration: approximately 20 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: adults who were the children of problem drinkers

Keywords: parental problem drinking; impact on children; risk and resilience

Aims

To explore the impact of growing up with a parent with a drinking problem on adults aged 16-35 years, and again nearly 20 years later. To explore the concept of resilience and how it may exist in this group.

Methodology

Longitudinal comparative in-depth interview study.

Results

On-going study

Publications

Velleman R, and Orford, J. (1999). *Risk and Resilience: Adults who were the Children of Problem Drinkers*. London: Harwood

Velleman R, and Orford J. (1993). The adulthood adjustment of offspring of parents with drinking problems. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 162, 503-516

Velleman R, and Orford J. (1993). The importance of family discord in explaining childhood problems in the children of problem drinkers. *Addiction Research*, 1, 39-57

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

5. Groups of abused and neglected children

5.1 Children living away from home

5.1.1 Looked after children

184. AN EVALUATION OF CONNECT - A WEST BERKSHIRE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND THOSE TRAUMATISED BY ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Miss Siobhan Floyd, Dr Willm Mistral

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Bath

Contact details: Siobhan Floyd, Mental Health Research and Development Unit, Wessex House Level 7, University of Bath, Bath. BA2 7AY E-mail: pssswf@bath.ac.uk

Dates: April 2001 – April 2002

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: West Berkshire Council

Funding amount: £25,000

Main subject area: evaluation of a CAMHS (child and adolescent mental health service)

Keywords: evaluation; CAMHS; looked after children; children traumatised by abuse

Aims

To evaluate the expectations of service users and their level of satisfaction with Connect . To evaluate whether Connect aims had been accomplished to a satisfactory degree. To evaluate process issues producing intended/unintended outcomes.

Methodology

Qualitative design using semi-structured in-depth interviews, questionnaires and focus groups with young people, carers and referrers.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

185. PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS (PEPs) AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC)

Principal researcher(s): Dr Carol Hayden

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Portsmouth (SSRIU - Social Services Research and Information Unit)

Contact details: Carol Hayden, SSRIU, University of Portsmouth, 141, High Street, Portsmouth. PO1 2HY

Dates: October 2002 – March 2003

Duration: 6 months

Funding body: Hampshire Social Services

Funding amount: £10,000

Main subject area: education of looked after children, specifically PEPs

Keywords: PEPs; education; looked after children

Aims

To investigate perceptions from key actors of the quality of PEPs for looked after children and young people. To assess the content and quality of PEPs, where they exist, in a sample of young people.

Methodology

Questionnaires: designated teachers, social workers, reviewing managers, children's unit managers, education support service teachers and secure unit teaching staff. Group interviews: staff within the above groups, plus CAT (Care Action Team), LAC, young people in the social services department.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

186. VALUING ATTACHMENT: AN EVALUATION OF KEYS ATTACHMENT CENTRE

Principal researcher(s): Dr Annie Huntington, Mr John Sudbery, Prof Steven Shardlow

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Salford (The Salford Centre for Social Work Research)

Contact details: Annie Huntington, Directorate of Social Work, University of Salford, Allerton Building, Frederick Road, Salford M5 4WT. E-mail: A.Huntington@salford.ac.uk

Dates: not stated

Duration: 12 months (phase 1)

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: description and evaluation of the work of Keys Attachment Centre

Keywords: attachment; young people; Keys Centre

Aims

Description and evaluation of an innovative project that seeks to provide attachment therapy to children and young people cared for by the local authority who have a 'diagnosis' of reactive attachment disorder.

Methodology

Focus groups and individual interviews with staff/ current and past service users and carers. Questionnaire and follow-up interviews with purchasers. Exploration of organisational documents.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

187. THE HEALTH NEEDS OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Principal researcher(s): Prof Sonia Jackson, Dr Alison Maddocks, Prof John Williams

Co-workers: Dr Alix Love

Institution: University of Wales, Swansea

Contact details: Dr A. Maddocks, Glan-y-Mor NHS Trust, Central Clinic, 21 Orchard St., Swansea

Dates: 1997 – 1999

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: health needs and care of school-age children looked after by local authorities

Keywords: looked-after children; health needs

Aims

To examine how the health care provided by local authorities via social workers, residential and foster carers, and community health facilities, compares with the care and monitoring provided by parents in the community for children living in their own homes. To examine how effectively looked after children are able to access appropriate services.

Methodology

A case-control study of 250 5-16 year old looked after children, and age matched control group of children not in contact with social services. Looking After Children Assessment and Action Records.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

188. PARTNERSHIP WITH 'LOST' PARENTS

Principal researcher(s): Prof Judith Masson, Ms Chris Harrison, Dr Anita Pavlovic

Co-workers: none

Institution: Warwick University

Contact details: Prof J Masson, School of Law, Warwick University CU4 7AL

Dates: October 1993 – August 1996

Duration: 2yrs 11mths

Funding body: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Funding amount: £115,000

Main subject area: social work practice

Keywords: children; parents; partnership; social work

Aims

To establish whether and how working partnerships could be established between social workers and parents not in contact with their 'looked after' children. To establish barriers to such partnerships. To identify models for good practice in re-establishing partnership with parents.

Methodology

Action research study of practice following a cohort of children. Social work interviews. File reading. Interviews with children and parents.

Results

Parents who were not previously in contact with social services and their children who were being looked after could be traced and most welcomed the possibility of finding out how their children were fairing. Social workers frequently had only limited knowledge of children's parents and this was a barrier to contacting parents. Information and contact with fathers was particularly limited. Mothers had frequently carried the main responsibility and blame for their children's entry to care but the severely adverse circumstances of mothers had insufficient recognition. Attempts to re-establish contact with lost parents were viewed by the children's social workers as positive in almost every case; even where children had not renewed lasting relationships with family members they had learnt information about themselves and their families which would not have been available otherwise.

Publications

Harrison, C., and Pavlovic, A. (1995). Working in Partnership with 'Lost' Parents. In H. Argent (Ed.) *See You Soon: Contact with Children Looked After by Local Authorities*. London: British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering

Masson, J., and Harrison, C. (1996). Identity – Mapping the Frontiers. In N. Lowe, and G. Douglas (Eds.). *Families Across Frontiers*. London: Martinus Nijhoff

Masson, J., Harrison, C., and Pavlovic, A. (Eds.). (1999). *Lost and Found. Making and Remaking Working Partnerships with Parents of Children in the Care System*. Aldershot: Ashgate

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

189. DARE TO BE DIFFERENT - EVALUATION OF THE CONNECTIONS PROJECT IN DORSET

Principal researcher(s): Dr Willm Mistral, Miss Imogen Howse

Co-workers: Mr Simon Evans

Institution: University of Bath

Contact details: Imogen Howse, Mental Health Research and Development Unit, Wessex House Level 7,
University of Bath, Bath. BA2 7AY

Dates: March 1999 - March 2002

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: Dorset County Council

Funding amount: £67,365

Main subject area: interventions for improving the mental health of looked after children

Keywords: looked after children; mental health; behavioural change; service delivery

Aims

To evaluate an innovative project providing services for looked after young people with mental health needs. To assess impact of project on reducing absconding, criminal activity, risk taking and truanting. To assess impact of project on increasing the number of young people receiving a mental health service.

Methodology

Longitudinal, comparative design utilising case histories, questionnaires, interviews and focus group. Analysis using statistical, content and thematic analysis.

Results

not available

Publications

Final Report - 'Dare to be Different' Evaluation of the Connections Project in Dorset. Mistral, Howse and Evans
March 2002

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

190. RESEARCHING SUPPORT, ADVICE AND ADVOCACY FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INDEPENDENT VISITORS

Principal researcher(s): Dr Maureen Winn Oakley, Prof Judith M Masson

Co-workers: Ms Leonie Howe

Institution: University of Warwick (School of Law)

Contact details: Maureen Winn Oakley, School of Law, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL
E-mail: M.Winn-Oakley@warwick.ac.uk

Dates: 1998 - 1999

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: Independent Visitors; advocacy and support for looked after children

Keywords: Independent Visitors; befrienders; advocates; children's perceptions

Aims

Collating data about the existence of independent visitors (IV) schemes for looked after children in England. Analysis of the actual provision of independent visitors to eligible children. Children's perceptions of independent visitors and others who may officially befriend/support them.

Methodology

Telephone and written contact with co-ordinators of IV schemes about their schemes. Individual interviews with co-ordinators and independent visitors. Face to face interviews with young people who have or want independent visitors.

Results

not available

Publications

Winn Oakley, M., and Masson, J. (2000). *Official Friends and Friendly Officials: Support, Advice and Advocacy for Children and Young People in Public care*. London: NSPCC

Winn Oakley, M. (1999). Official Friends? *childRIGHT*, 159, 16-18

Winn Oakley, M. (1998). Representing Children: The Law, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Children's Rights and Research. *Turning Points Foundation Section*. London: NSPCC

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

191. GOING MISSING: YOUNG PEOPLE ABSENT FROM CARE

Principal researcher(s): Mr Jim Wade, Prof Nina Biehal

Co-workers: Jasmine Clayden, Prof Mike Stein

Institution: University of York

Contact details: Jim Wade, Social Work Research and Development Unit, IRISS (Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services), D Block, University of York, Heslington, York.
E-mail: jw35@york.ac.uk

Dates: 1995-1998

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: Department of Health

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: young people who go missing from residential and foster care

Keywords: runaways; substitute care; risk; social work services

Aims

To explore the scale of going missing amongst looked after young people. To identify patterns of going missing and understand young people's motivations and experiences. To consider the immediate and long term risks of being away.

Methodology

A survey of social workers and carers for 210 young people who had recently gone missing from three local authorities. A survey of all unauthorised absences from all 32 mainstream children's homes in these local authorities in a period of 12 months. Depth interviews with 36 young people and the professionals working with them.

Results

The study found going missing to be a widespread phenomenon (especially although by no means exclusively in residential care). Going missing exposed many young people to considerable risk: including offending, substance misuse, rough sleeping and sexual exploitation. Different sub-groups amongst those who went missing were identified - in particular those who went missing to be with family/friends and those who ran away. These were associated with different patterns of absence and associated levels of risk. Going missing frequently was associated with an increased longer-term risk of detachment - including placement changes, school non-attendance, involvement in offending and substance misuse. Longer-term risks differed for those who had first gone missing from home when compared to those who had first gone missing from care.

Publications

Wade, J., and Biehal, N. with Clayden, J., and Stein, M. (1998) *Going Missing: Young People Absent from Care*. Chichester: Wiley

Biehal, N., and Wade, J. (1999). Taking a chance? The risks associated with going missing from substitute care. *Child Abuse Review*, 8, 366-376

Biehal, N., and Wade, J. (2000). Going missing from care: Linking biographies and contexts. *British Journal of Social Work*, 30, 211-225

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

5.1.2 Foster care

192. THE FOSTER CARERS' TRAINING

Principal researcher(s): Helen Minnis

Co-workers: Claire Devine, Kim Everett

Institution: University of Glasgow (Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry)

Contact details: Helen Minnis, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Glasgow, Caledonia House, Yorkhill NHS (National Health Service) Trust, Glasgow G3 8SJ

Dates: October 1996 – May 1999

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: Wellcome Trust

Funding amount: £134,000

Main subject area: foster carer training

Keywords: foster care; training; randomised controlled trial

Aims

To examine whether a training programme for foster carers based on principles of attachment theory, would improve the emotional and behavioural functioning of looked after children

Methodology

Randomised controlled trial

Results

A non-significant but clinically meaningful improvement in mental health, attachment disorder symptoms and self-esteem was found in the group randomised to training compared to the control group. Participants found the training beneficial.

Publications

Minnis, H., and Devine, C. (2001). The effect of foster carer training on the emotional and behavioural functioning of looked after children. *Adoption and Fostering*, 25(1), 44-54

Minnis, H., Devine, C., and Pelosi, A. (1999). Foster carers speak about training. *Adoption and Fostering*, 23(2), 42-47

Minnis, H., Pelosi, A., Knapp, M., and Dunn, J. (2001). Mental health and foster carer training. *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 84, 302-306

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

193. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST FOSTER FAMILIES

Principal researcher(s): Mr Stephen Nixon, Mrs Pat Verity

Co-workers: none

Institution: National Foster Care Association (NFCA), London

Contact details: Mrs P. Verity, NFCA, Leonard House, 5-7 Marshalsea Road, London SE1 1EP

Dates: January 1995 – March 1995

Duration: 3 months

Funding body: NFCA

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: allegations of abuse against foster carers

Keywords: allegations; abuse; foster carers

Aims

To identify the perceptions of carers about allegations of abuse. To identify carer's experiences when an allegation was made. To identify agency practice. To make recommendations.

Methodology

Questionnaires to foster carers. Questionnaires to agency staff.

Results

305 cases were considered to be abusive out of 13,333 placements. Foster carers are likely to find themselves being investigated under exactly the same child protection procedures as birth parents - to have the foster children removed and occasionally their own child(ren) and to experience an investigation over several weeks and further uncertainty before the outcome is known. The study revealed that work is needed before agency procedures and practices begin to meet the standards which can ensure that fostered children and carers receive the best possible service which ensures that all reports of abuse are sensitively investigated and managed.

Publications

Nixon, S., and Verity, P. (1996). Allegations against foster families: Agency procedures and practices. *Foster Care*, January 1996, 11-14

Verity, P., and Nixon, S. (1995). Allegations against foster families: Survey Results. *Foster Care*, October 1995, 13-16

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

194. WHAT HAPPENS TO FOSTER CHILDREN

Principal researcher(s): Prof Ian Sinclair, Ms Claire Baker, Prof Kate Wilson

Co-workers: Dr Ian Gibbs

Institution: University of York (Social Work Research and Development Unit)

Contact details: Ian Sinclair, Social Work Research and Development Unit, University of York, Heslington, York. YO10 5DD E-mail: acs5@york.ac.uk

Dates: October 1999 – October 1992

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: Department of Health

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: foster care

Keywords: foster care

Aims

To describe the placements and associated outcomes of 596 foster children first contacted three years earlier in foster care. To explain differences in the routes taken and the outcomes achieved.

Methodology

The samples were traced through foster carers, social workers and local authority information systems. Depending on the destination outcome data were obtained from adoptive parents, birth parents, the children and young people themselves, or foster carers. Case studies were used to complement multivariate analysis in order to develop explanations for outcomes.

Results

Findings relevant to child protection included the following: with the exception of adoption, all the children's destinations were seen by social workers and foster carers as less safe than foster care itself; in just under a quarter of the cases there was said to be some evidence of re-abuse; in a third of these cases the evidence was said to be strong; birth families seemed to be involved in this abuse in about six out of ten cases, sometimes on contact but more commonly on the child's return home; foster carers were involved in around a fifth of the cases of suspected abuse, although the threshold for considering them abusive was possibly lower than was the case for birth families.

Publications

not stated

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

195. SUPPORTING FOSTER PLACEMENTS

Principal researcher(s): Prof Ian Sinclair, Dr Ian Gibbs

Co-workers: Prof Kate Wilson, Ms Claire Baker

Institution: University of York (Social Work Research and Development Unit)

Contact details: Ian Sinclair, Social Work Research and Development Unit, University of York, Heslington, York. YO10 5DD E-mail: acs5@york.ac.uk

Dates: October 1996 – October 2003

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: Department of Health

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: foster care

Keywords: foster care

Aims

To describe a large sample of foster carers and foster placements in terms of support wanted/received. To identify the impact of support on carer retention and satisfaction and the outcomes of placement. To describe and explain outcomes for foster children over three years.

Methodology

Census of carers in seven local authorities using a questionnaire with follow-up 18 months later. 596 foster children were followed-up over 14 months with information mainly collected from social workers and foster carers but also from supervising social workers and foster children. The foster children were followed-up again three years after the first contact with them with information from the same sources and from adoptive parents.

Results

Foster carers stay because of their commitment to foster children and the satisfaction fostering gives. They leave because of: a) lack of fit between fostering and their family life, b) lack of adequate support and c) 'events' particularly placement breakdowns. Breakdowns occur because of: a) difficult behaviour of the child, b) less than excellent 'parenting' by carers, c) negative 'spirals' of interaction between carer and child, d) the effects of contact and e) children's experience at school. Long-term outcomes depend on: a) certain characteristics of child, b) current situation of child and c) whether or not child is adopted, fostered or 'tried at home'. Children tried at home are more likely to be re-abused and appear to do 'worse' than might have been the case if they had continued in foster care. Most, however, want more contact with their families than they currently receive.

Publications

Sinclair, I., Gibbs, I., and Wilson, K. (2004). *Foster Carers: Why they stay and why they leave*. Jessica Kingsley

Sinclair, I., Wilson, K., and Gibbs, I. (2004). *Foster Placements: Why they succeed and why they fail*. London: Jessica Kingsley

Sinclair, I., Baker, C., Wilson, K., and Gibbs, I. (Forthcoming) *Foster Children: Where they go and how they do*. London: Jessica Kingsley

Sinclair, I., and Wilson, K. (2003). Matches and mismatches: The contribution of carers and children to the success of foster placements. *British Journal of Social Work*, 33(7), 871-884

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

5.1.3 Residential care

196. PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AMONGST CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS: EXPLORING EXPERIENCES AND PERSPECTIVES

Principal researcher(s): Ms Christine Barter, Dr Pat Cawson, Prof David Berridge

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Ms C. Barter, NSPCC, National Centre, Child Protection Research Dept., 42 Curtain Road,
London EC2A 3NH

Dates: April 1998 – July 2000

Duration: 28 months

Funding body: ESRC (Economic and Social Research
Council)

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: exploring and evaluating children's experience of violence by other residents within residential homes

Keywords: residential care; violence between children; child protection; definitions of abuse

Aims

To explore children's experiences of resident violence, including its nature, dynamics and its meaning to them as well as their coping strategies. To investigate children's own definitions and evaluations regarding resident violence compared to those employed by residential workers and residential managers. To examine the extent to which children's workers and managers evaluations represent a shared or differing reference system. To explore the policy and practice responses employed by the 15 residential homes in the study.

Methodology

Children, residential workers and managers asked to rate a number of vignettes depicting different forms and varying degrees of violence by residents. Semi-structured interviews with children, workers and managers to explore the nature and dynamics of resident violence. Significant documents relating to resident violence within the residential homes will be examined.

Results

not stated

Publications

not stated

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

197. CASE STUDY OF A RESIDENTIAL EBD (EDUCATIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISTURBANCES) SCHOOL

Principal researcher(s): Dr Grainne Evans, Dr Victoria Ayetai, Dr Clare Martins

Co-workers: Judith Rookledge

Institution: Livingstone Hospital, Dartford

Contact details: Dr G. Evans, Consultant Community Paediatrician, Community Child Health Services, Livingstone Hospital, Dartford Kent DA1 1SA

Dates: May 1997 – September 1997

Duration: 5 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: avoidable physical and mental health problems

Keywords: unidentified abuse; educational neglect; social services failure

Aims

Could admission of children to a residential EBD (Educational and Behavioural Disturbances) school have been avoided if their behaviour problems have been identified and dealt with effectively at an earlier age?

Methodology

Case study in North Kent focusing on family background and the effect on outcome of early knowledge of the child by the social, health or educational service.

Results

Most of the children were disadvantageded and this was recognised pre-school. 39% had abuse identified, but in the opinion of the consultant to the unit not all of the abuse had been recognised. Social services had inconsistent input and although involved with 63% 0 – 5 year old children pre-school, the outcome remained in placement in a unit for boys with EBD, a small number of whom were looked after children. There was a significant failure by the LEA (local education authority) to respond in a timely/appropriate manner to the children presenting with EBD. Too few were seen by the educational psychologist when a realistic preventative programme could have been put in place. 50% of the children were placed in this unit for vulnerable children without a new Statement [of Special Educational Need] and 17% had not had a re-assessment of their educational needs for more than three years. The health care of these children was found to be fragmented. The physical health problems had fallen down between primary and secondary care due to frequent changes of family and school. Many mental health needs were unaddressed due to lack of insight into the emotional trauma suffered by these children by the professionals who had initially seen the children, but to a much greater degree by the paucity of services available. The future of children who are abused and traumatised in their early years is bleak if there is not more effective early intervention by social services, education and health. There was opportunity to observe limited social support to disadvantaged families and evidence to suggest that some families are irredeemably damaged and cannot be supported in this way. Of further concern were the looked after children placed in a boarding school and not in the daily care of substitute parents. Hence, all children being seen as Children In Need and not as children in need of protection, may well fail children further with a downward spiral leaving residential EBD school and many of the children with conduct disorders entering the criminal justice system.

Publications

not stated

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

198. PHYSICAL RESTRAINT IN CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE

Principal researcher(s): Carol Hayden

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Portsmouth (SSRIU - Social Services Research and Information Unit)

Contact details: SSRIU, University of Portsmouth, 141 High Street, Portsmouth. PO1 2HY.

Dates: March 1996 – June 1997

Duration: 16 months

Funding body: Hampshire Social Services Department

Funding amount: £20,000

Main subject area: behaviour and restraint of children in residential care.

Keywords: behaviour; looked after; restraint

Aims

To inform training and policy development in social services departments in the residential child sector, in respect of the appropriate use and recording of physical restraint procedures.

Methodology

Participant observation of recommended training. Documentary analysis of Violent Incident Records (VIRs) (N=456). Postal questionnaire – unit managers and staff (25 residential units). In-depth investigation of staff culture in eight units to represent different levels of VIRs. Case studies of children (n=11) with the highest number of VIRs across residential units.

Results

The study cautions that adults who wish to abuse children are likely to be attracted to occupations where they have access to children. The research developed out of the concern of a social services department about the number of recorded violent incidents involving staff in children's residential care. The project sought to inform training and policy development in the residential childcare sector of a social services department, in respect of the appropriate use and recording of physical restraint procedures. The data were extensive in breadth and depth. Central to many situations were issues to do with care planning and appropriate placement of individuals, as well as realistic training and support for residential staff.

Publications

Hayden, C. (1997). *Physical Restraint in Children's Residential Care*. SSRIU, University of Portsmouth

Hayden, C. et al (1999). *State Child Care. Looking After Children*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers

Hayden, C., and Gorin, S. (1998). Care and control of 'looked after' children in England. *International Journal of Child and Family Welfare*, 3, 242-258

Hayden, C. (1998). The use of physical restraint in children's residential care. *Social Services Research*, 3, 36-46

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

199. SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE CONTEXT OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE

Principal researcher(s): Mrs Meg Lindsay

Co-workers: Wendy Anderson

Institution: The Centre for Residential Child Care, Jordanhill, Scotland

Contact details: Mrs M. Lindsay, Director, The Centre for Residential Child Care, 74 Southbrae Drive, Jordanhill, Scotland G13 1SU

Dates: January 1995 – October 1996

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: University of Strathclyde

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: residential workers' views of their role in working with children with experience of abuse.

Keywords: residential child care; abused; abusing; training

Aims

To study residential childcare services throughout Scotland in order to access staff's views on key issues, including sexual abuse.

Methodology

Questionnaire sent to 244 services/residential schools, children's homes, disability services – 229 returned.

Results

The research provides the views of unit managers of 94% of Scottish residential child care services. It shows that: 65% believed they were caring for young people who had been abused sexually; 33% believed they were caring for young people who had abused others sexually; and 91% of the latter group were also caring for young people who had been abused. These results were consistent across service type, age and gender, with the exception of services specifically for children with disabilities where the frequency was significantly less. Staff put in strong pleas for additional support and training, feeling that they were poorly equipped to carry out a difficult task and that their managers were unaware or unconcerned about this. They also recognised the need for counselling to be available for these children. Such counselling was not available, however, nor did they feel equipped to carry it out. Staff and resources were poured into prevention and detection with little being spent on providing good therapeutic residential care thereafter. Staff also reported anxiety and stress in caring for these young people, which they felt, went unrecognised. The report ends with recommendations on further research, training, policy and management requirements.

Publications

Lindsay, M., and Anderson, W. (1997). *Tip of the Iceberg: Sexual Abuse in the Context of Residential Child Care*. The Centre for Residential Child Care, Scotland

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

200. QUALITY OF CARE IN CHILDREN'S HOMES

Principal researcher(s): Prof Ian Sinclair, Dr Ian Gibbs

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of York (Social Work Research and Development Unit)

Contact details: Ian Sinclair, Social Work Research and Development Unit, University of York, Heslington, York.
YO10 5DD E-mail: acs5@york.ac.uk

Dates: 1993 - 1996

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: Department of Health

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: children's Homes

Keywords: residential regime; outcome evaluation

Aims

To describe the characteristics of young people placed in children's homes. To describe the characteristics of the homes and the way they were run. To relate the outcomes achieved to the regimes and characteristics of homes after allowing for differences in their residents.

Methodology

The research focused on a sample of 48 homes in five authorities and on a sample of 223 residents who were surveyed at two points in time. The residents, their parents and the heads of home were all interviewed and further information collected from the staff and social workers. Qualitative material was combined with a cross-institutional design to tease out the relationship between regime and outcome.

Results

Findings relevant to child protection included the following: four out of ten of those interviewed said that they had thought of killing themselves in the previous month; misery as we measured it was more common among those who said that they had previously been bullied or sexually harassed; it was particularly common among those (50%) of the sample who reported that these things had happened to them since arrival at the home; there was a great variation between homes in the degree to which they could be seen as benign environments or the reverse; and one regime could be fairly described as abusive with younger residents routinely.

Publications

Sinclair, I., and Gibbs, I. (1998). *Children's Homes: A Study in Diversity*. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons Ltd.
Sinclair, I., and Gibbs, I. (2000). Residential care for social reasons, In M. G. Gelder, J. Lopez-Ibor, and N. Andreasen, (Eds.) *New Oxford Textbook of Psychiatry*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
Sinclair, I. (2000). Residential care, In M. Davies, (Ed) *Encyclopaedia of Social Work*. Oxford: Blackwell

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

201. EVALUATION OF THERAPEUTIC RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE PROVISION

Principal researcher(s): Dr Bernard Gallagher

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Manchester

Contact details: Centre for Applied Childhood Studies, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield. HD1 3DH
Tel. 01484 473158 Email: b.gallagher@hud.ac.uk

Dates: 1997-1999

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: New Horizons Child Care Ltd

Funding amount: £15,000

Main subject area: looked after children

Keywords: looked after children; children's homes; residential treatment centre; therapy; evaluation

Aims

The primary aim of the research was to ascertain the quality of care provided to children in three geographically and operationally distinct therapeutic children's homes operated by a single private sector organisation. A second aim of the research was to establish how well run the organisation was more generally.

Methodology

Interviews with residents (n=14), staff (n=17), managers (n=2), directors (n=3), social workers (n=13) and other external agency workers (for example, teachers and an independent visitor) (n=8). Questionnaires administered to children's keyworkers (n=12). Record searches (for example, incidents files and children's personal files). Observation.

Results

The home provided the children with a high quality of care in all areas of their lives both within the home and when they were in the community. This included their physical and emotional care, therapy, leisure, education, community involvement and family contact. The success of the home was largely down to the endeavours of the directors, managers and staff who, between them, represented a skilled, competent and caring body of workers. A good deal of effort had gone into the planning, setting up and running of the home, with the result that it was a secure organisation, and one that functioned on an effective and efficient basis. Some issues were identified in the operation of the home. These included the need to replace unsuitable managers, an excessive staff workload, the violent behaviour of one child, tensions between staff and lapses in specific areas of practice.

Publications

Gallagher, B., Brannan, C., Jones, R. and Westwood, S. (2004) Good practice in the education of children in residential care, *British Journal of Social Work*, 34, 8, 1133-1160

Data source: study carried out by researchers responsible for this Register

202. AN EVALUATION OF A THERAPEUTIC RESIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENT FOR CHILDREN WHO HAD EXPERIENCED SEXUAL ABUSE AND OTHER MALTREATMENT

Principal researcher(s): Dr Bernard Gallagher and Adam Green

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Huddersfield

Contact details: Centre for Applied Childhood Studies, Human and Health Research Building, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield. HD1 3DH Tel: 01484 473158 Email b.gallagher@hud.ac.uk

Dates: January 2007 – April 2008

Duration: 16 months

Funding body: 'The Orchards' (pseudonym)

Funding amount: £1,500

Main subject area: evaluation of a specialist children's home providing therapy to children who had experienced sexual abuse and other maltreatment

Keywords: evaluation; child sexual abuse; therapy; children's homes; residential treatment centre; process; outcomes

Aims

To assess process and outcomes in a therapeutic residential establishment for children who had experienced sexual abuse and other maltreatment.

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews with 16 young adults (mean age 18.8 years) who had spent a number of years (mean 4.2 years) as children in a specialist therapeutic establishment. The young adults were asked about their lives in and outside the home, and after leaving the home (process). They were also asked about their lives currently (outcomes).

Results

Most of the young adults from the home reported that they had had good relationships with staff; had benefited from LSW (life story work); took pleasure in their leisure activities; and valued the fact that they were still in contact with members of staff. Some of the young adults appreciated the therapy they had taken part in; enjoyed school; were able to form friendships; and valued the preparation they had received for moving on to their next placement. Other of the interviewees found therapy challenging; had problems at school; had difficulties making friends; or were dissatisfied with the preparation work that had been undertaken with them in relation to leaving the home. The young adults were, overall, quite positive about the care they had received in the home. Process within the home was as good as, if not better than, that in many other more general purpose children's (or group) homes in England. This was especially true in terms of the proportion of, and extent to which, former residents had positive experiences regarding the relationships they formed; LSW; leisure activities; and contact with staff after leaving the home. The young adults' mixed experiences in respect of therapy, school, friendships and preparation for moving were similar to those of residents in many other children's homes.

Publications

Gallagher, B. and Green, A. (forthcoming) Outcomes among young adults placed in therapeutic residential care as children, *Journal of Children's Services*

Gallagher, B. and green, A. (2012) In, out and after care: Young adults' views on their lives, as children, in a therapeutic residential establishment, *Children and Youth Services Review*, 34, 2, 437-450

Data source: study carried out by researchers responsible for this Register

5.1.4 Incarcerated children

203. VULNERABLE INSIDE: CHILDREN IN SECURE AND PENAL SETTINGS

Principal researcher(s): Mr Barry Goldson

Co-workers: none

Institution: The University of Liverpool

Contact details: Barry Goldson, Dept. of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work Studies, University of Liverpool, Eleanor Rathbone Building, Bedford Street South, Liverpool, L69 7ZA E-mail: b.goldson@liv.ac.uk

Dates: 2000-2004

Duration: 24 months

Funding body: The Children's Society; and the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: the complex and intersecting vulnerabilities of children in secure and penal settings

Keywords: children; vulnerability; secure accommodation; prisons

Aims

To explore the processes employed for assessing and addressing children's vulnerabilities in secure and penal settings.

Methodology

Primarily qualitative methods

Results

not available

Publications

Goldson, B. (2002). *Vulnerable Inside: Children in Secure and Penal Settings*. London: The Children's Society

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

5.2 Children with disabilities

204. PATTERNS OF SEXUAL ABUSE IN A POPULATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Principal researcher(s): Dr Ruth Balogh, Dr Hugh Firth, Dr Tom Berney

Co-workers: Karen Bretherton, Simon Whibley, Pam Richold, Catherine Worsley, Susan Graham

Institution: McCoull Clinic, Northgate and Prudhoe NHS (National Health Service) Trust

Contact details: Dr Ruth Balogh, Centre for Health Research and Practice Development, St Martin's College, Fusehill Street, Carlisle. CA1 2HH

Dates: 1996 – 1998

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: NHS Trust

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: adolescents, learning disability, perpetrators, victims, sexual abuse

Keywords: adolescents; learning disability; sexual abuse

Aims

To explore the prevalence and nature of sexual abuse among a population of children and adolescents admitted to a psychiatric in-patient department over a 5 year period. To explore: a) the extent of post-traumatic stress disorder in the above sample and b) the possible distinction between perpetrators whose motives were sexually impulsive, and those who were controlling and abuse-reactive.

Methodology

Retrospective case note review

Results

The prevalence of abuse/abusive behaviour (14% of 300 admissions) did not change over time. In 13 of 43 cases, sexual abuse was identified after admission. Victimization alone occurred in 21 cases, perpetration alone in six cases and both 16 cases. 50% of victims had been abused by a member of their close/extended family. Most cases (62%) were adolescents and there was only one case of a victim being abused by a female. However, there were five girls who were perpetrators, all of whom had previously been victims. By contrast, 11 of the 17 male perpetrators had been victims. Despite difficulties of disclosure, it was possible to establish that severely disabled patients had suffered sexual abuse. The present data supports theories which recognise gender differences and have a developmental perspective (incorporating the influence of adolescence). With regard symptomatology, only one case of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) was found. Perpetrators could be distinguished by whether they had suffered sexual abuse alone; sexual and physical abuse; or neither. The proposed distinction between perpetrators received support. Sexual abuse directed at younger victims was associated with earlier experience of multiple forms of abuse. The present data does not support the view that post-traumatic symptoms following victimisation are a mediator of sexual abuse perpetration.

Publications

Balogh, R. et al (2001). Sexual abuse in children and adolescents with intellectual disability. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, 45(3), 194-201

Firth, H. et al (2001). Psychopathology of sexual abuse among young people with intellectual disability. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, 45(3), 244-52

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

205. EVALUATING A CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRE

Principal researcher(s): Dr Katy Cigno

Co-workers: Justin Gore

Institution: University of Hull

Contact details: Dr K. Cigno, Former Senior Lecturer, Social Work Dept., University of Hull.
E-mail: katy@cigno.freeserve.co.uk

Dates: June 1997 – December 1997

Duration: 6 months

Funding body: SSD (Social Services Department); and Health

Funding amount: £7,000

Main subject area: children with disabilities

Keywords: children; disabilities; services; family satisfaction

Aims

To evaluate the work of the Children's Resource Centre, Hull

Methodology

Questionnaire. Interviews. Document search. Non-participant observation

Results

The Children's Resource Centre is highly valued by its users. It is a welcoming place, where children, siblings and parents feel at ease. Most professionals working at the Centre and those referring children to it are satisfied with its provision, though not complacent about what else needs to be done.

Publications

Cigno, K., and Gore, J. (1998). *An Evaluation of the Multi-agency Children's Resource Centre*. Hull: University of Hull

Cigno, K., and Gore, J. (1999). A seamless service: Meeting the needs of children with disabilities through a multi-agency approach. *Child and Family Social Work*, 4, 325-335

Cigno, K., and Gore, J. (2001). Eearly years: Helping families and children through a multi-agency centre approach. What do the families think? *Conference Abstracts*, York: British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

206. THE ABUSE OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Principal researcher(s): Ms Pamela Cooke

Co-workers: none

Institution: Nottingham University

Contact details: Ms D. Kitson, The Ann Craft Trust (ACT) (formerly NAPSAC - National Association for the Protection from Sexual Abuse of Adults and Children with Learning Disabilities), Centre for Social Work, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD

Dates: October 1996 – December 1998

Duration: 2 years, 3 months

Funding body: Children in Need

Funding amount: £37,959

Main subject area: abuse of children with disabilities

Keywords: abuse; children; disabilities

Aims

To study current practices in recording the abuse of children with (physical and learning) disabilities. To study the incidence and prevalence of the abuse of children with disabilities. To evaluate outcomes for children with disabilities who have been identified as having been abused. To examine whether the Children Act 1989 offers protection to children with disabilities. To increase the competence of authorities in terms of recording, prevention and protection.

Methodology

Questionnaire – social services child protection teams. Examination of social services records for a one-year period. Study of outcomes (for example, legal and therapeutic) via analysis of case records. Comparison of outcomes for the identified cases with outcomes of children without disabilities.

Results

Please see report for full details - the report looks at current practices in recording the abuse of disabled children, attempts to estimate the incidence of abuse and to identify the outcomes for those children.

Publications

Cooke, P. (2000). *Final Report on Disabled Children and Abuse*. Nottingham: ACT

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

207. THE PROTECTION OF DISABLED PEOPLE FROM SEXUAL ABUSE IN SPORT: A CRITIQUE OF POLICY AND PRACTICE

Principal researcher(s): Annie Kerr

Co-workers: Cara Aitchison, Celia Brackenridge

Institution: University of Gloucestershire

Contact details: Celia Brackenridge, Coalheughhead Cottage, Harburn, By West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland. EH55 8RT

Dates: 1999 - 2003

Duration: 4 years

Funding body: unfunded

Funding amount: unfunded

Main subject area: child abuse in sport

Keywords: child abuse; sport; disability; protection

Aims

An examination of policy and practice in respect of the protection of disabled people in sport.

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders in sport, disability sport and non-sport disability agencies. Content analysis of policy documents.

Results

The approach of some agencies to protection is still driven by a 'medical model' of disability rather than a 'social model'.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

208. PROTECTION OF DISABLED CHILDREN

Principal researcher(s): Dr Laura Middleton

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Central Lancashire

Contact details: Dr L. Middleton, Head of Social Work, Social Work Dept., University of Central Lancashire, Preston. PR1 2HE

Dates: 1994 - 1995

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: unfunded

Funding amount: unfunded

Main subject area: child protection services for disabled children

Keywords: disabled children; protection services

Aims

Explore how the Children Act [1989] has affected services for disabled children

Methodology

Interviews with parents (taped and thematically analysed). Results of above fed to social workers seminar. Questionnaire survey social workers (ex-disability and ex-childcare). Professional network – six seminars.

Results

The Children Act resulted in many local authorities incorporating services for disabled children within mainstream childcare/child protection but there were various models of practice. By and large, parents continued to have the same views of good and bad service as before the Act. Child protection workers were afraid of work with disabled children and felt ill-equipped to take it on. Disability specialists viewed child protection as macho and unhelpful. Neither were particularly child-centred.

Publications

Incorporated in "Making a Difference: Social Work with Disabled children" – Venture Press 1996 (chapter 4 mainly) Venture Press, British Association, Social Workers, 16 Kent St., Birmingham B5 6RD

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

209. THE INVESTIGATION BY POLICE AND SOCIAL SERVICES OF SEXUAL OFFENCES COMMITTED AGAINST ADULTS WHO HAVE A LEARNING DISABILITY

Principal researcher(s): Chief Inspector Andrew Bailey

Co-workers: Research Supervisor - Prof D. Scues, University of Ulster

Institution: Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC); University of Ulster

Contact details: Andrew Bailey, Chief Inspector, G. Dept., Royal Ulster Constabulary, Limavady RUC Station, Limavady BT49 0EA

Dates: 1996

Duration: not stated

Funding body: RUC and Bramshill Police Staff College (Research Fellowship)

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: sexual abuse of adults who have a learning disability

Keywords: sexual abuse; learning disability

Aims

To identify good practice in the investigation by police and social workers of sexual crimes committed against adults who have a learning disability. To examine what factors such as attitudes and perceptions of officers, effect the officers evaluation of a case study describing a sexual assault incident.

Methodology

Postal questionnaire to police forces in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Canada. Multi-factorial analysis of quasi-experimental design in which officers make an assessment of the evidence in a case study using a Likert type scale. Subsequently their perceptions concerning 'mental retardation and Eugenics' are measured. Backward elimination for interaction effects will be done using SPSS.

Results

Initial findings of the policy analysis side of the research are that many forces do not have firm policies and procedures for the investigation by police and social services of sexual offences committed against adults who have a learning disability.

Publications

Bailey, A. (1997). Incidence of sexual crime committed against learning disabled adults: A review of two key studies and discussion of implications for practitioners and managers of services. *Journal of Learning Disabilities for Nursing, Health and Social Care*, 1(2), 1-6

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

5.3 Child carers

210. CHILDREN CARING FOR PARENTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Principal researcher(s): Ms Jo Aldridge, Prof Saul Becker

Co-workers: none

Institution: Loughborough University (Young Carers Research Group)

Contact details: Jo Aldridge, Young Carers Research Group, CCFR (Centre for Child and Family Research), Department of Social Sciences, Loughborough University, Leicestershire LE11 3TU
E-mail: J.Aldridge@lboro.ac.uk

Dates: January 2000 - June 2003

Duration: 29 months

Funding body: Community Fund; and Rethink Mental Illness

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: young carers and parents with mental illness

Keywords: young carers; parental mental illness

Aims

To examine the experiences and needs of children who provide care for parents with severe and enduring mental health problems.

Methodology

Qualitative - semi structured interviews - two phases.

Results

The findings are published in The Policy Press publication, listed below and are available as a summary evidence paper (Evidence 5; for free copy contact Administrator, CCFR, Department of Social Sciences, Loughborough University, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3TU; Tel: 01509 228355) on the YCRG website: www.ycrg.org.uk

Publications

Aldridge, J., and Becker, S. (2003). *Children Caring For Parents With Mental Illness: Perspectives Of Young Carers, Parents And Professionals*. Bristol: The Policy Press

Aldridge, J. (2003). Children Caring for Parents with Severe and Enduring Mental Illness. *Evidence*, Issue 5, Centre for Child and Family Research, Loughborough University

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

5.4 Children who self-harm

211. ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AND SELF-HARM (SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN)

Principal researcher(s): Khatidja Chantler, Erica Burman

Co-workers: Janet Batsleer, Colsom Bashir

Institution: independent researcher (Khatidja Chantler); and Manchester Metropolitan University (Erica Burman)

Contact details: Khatidja Chantler, Independent Researcher, Egerton Road South, Heaton Chapel, Stockport. SK4 4LS

Dates: June 2000 – March 2001

Duration: 10 months

Funding body: Manchester, Salford and Trafford Health Action Zone

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: attempted suicide and self-harm (south Asian women)

Keywords: racism; gender; state-family relations; mental health

Aims

To compile a service map of potential sources of help and to identify examples of good practice as well as gaps in service provision. To identify level and appropriateness of services being offered to south Asian women who self-harm/are suicidal and to increase understanding of specific factors contributing to the distress of south Asian women.

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews with senior managers in health, social services and the voluntary sector (n=8). Interviews/focus groups with mental health practitioners (statutory and non-statutory) (n=18). In-depth individual interviews with survivors of attempted suicide and/or self-harm (n=7). Group discussion with south Asian women (n=4).

Results

Major gaps in service provision exist and a key precursor to women's distress was domestic violence. Other factors included sexual and physical abuse, immigration issues, forced marriage, racism and issues of loss. State practices such as immigration intersected with domestic violence to exclude south Asian women and their children from sources of help. The tendency to universalise services (i.e. not attending to differences, privileging 'culture' over gender, or 'cultural' matching, also worked to exclude south Asian women from services. In relation to child protection, the study indicated that agencies such as social services and education did not appear to respond sensitively to south Asian women, particularly over forced marriages. Three of the seven survivors interviewed reported that they had either attempted suicide or self-harm in their early teens. Agencies that appeared to best support south Asian women adopted an under-sensitive and anti-racist perspective.

Publications

Chantler, K., Burman, E., Batsleer, J., and Bashir, C. (2001). *Attempted Suicide and Self-harm (south Asian Women)*. Women's Studies Research Centre, Manchester: MMU.

Burman, E., Chantler, K., and Batsleer, J. (2002). Service responses to south Asian women who attempt suicide or self-harm. *Critical Social Policy*, 22(4), 641-68

Chantler, K., Burman, E., Batsleer, J., and Bashir, C. (2002). Inside you're almost dead. *Mental Health Today*, October, 21-24

Batsleer, J., Chantler, K., and Burman, E. (2003). Responses of health and social care staff to south Asian women who attempt suicide or self-harm. *Journal of Social Work Practice*, 17(1), 103-114

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

5.5 Missing children

212. STILL RUNNING: CHILDREN ON THE STREETS IN THE UK

Principal researcher(s): Prof Mike Stein, Mr Gwyther Rees, Mr Jim Wade

Co-workers: Safe on the Streets Research Team

Institution: University of York

Contact details: Mike Stein, Social Work Research and Development Unit, University of York, Heslington, York. YO10 5DD E-mail: ms34@york.ac.uk

Dates: January 1998 – June 1999

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: The Children's Society

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: young runaways in the UK

Aims

To estimate the prevalence and characteristics of young people (<18 years of age) running away, being forced to leave home, and/or being on the streets. To learn more about patterns of running away and/or being on the streets including reasons, circumstances, events whilst away/on the streets, and returning home. To identify the potential needs of the young people in the target group and to explore appropriate responses to these needs.

Methodology

Survey to quantify the extent of being away from home, to identify characteristics of young people who run away, and to learn more about their reasons for running away and experiences whilst away. Interviews to explore the meaning and nature of being 'on the streets', gathering the experiences and views of young people and professionals who work with them.

Results

One in nine (11%) young people run away from home/are forced to leave/stay away overnight before the age of 16 years. This amounts to around 77,000 young people under 16 years of age running away for the first time each year. Over half of young runaways only run away once, but around one in eight (12%) run away more than three times. We estimate that there are around 129,000 incidents of young people running away overnight each year in the UK, a fifth of which are forced to leave home rather than choosing to run away. More females run away than males and rates for different ethnic groups are more similar than previous research suggests. Young people who start running away before 11 years of age are more likely to go on to run away repeatedly. Reasons for running away include problems at home, physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect, problems with peers, problems at school, family disruption and living in substitute care. Young people who run away are more likely than average to have other problems in their lives, including depression, alcohol, drugs and offending. The survey found little evidence of a direct link between economic factors and running away.

Publications

Safe on the Streets Research Team. (1999). Still Running: Children on the Streets of the UK. London: The Children's Society

Wade, J. (2002). Missing Out: Young Runaways in Scotland. Stirling: Aberlour Child Care Trust

Raws, P. (2001). Lost Youth: Young Runaways in Northern Ireland. Belfast: Extern/The Children's Society

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

5.6 Adolescents

213. THE ABUSE OF ADOLESCENTS WITHIN THE FAMILY

Principal researcher(s): Prof Mike Stein, Mr Gwyther Rees

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of York

Contact details: Mike Stein, Social Work Research and Development Unit, University of York, Heslington, York. YO10 5DD E-mail: ms34@york.ac.uk

Dates: January – December 1998

Duration: 12 months

Funding body: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) **Funding amount:** not stated

Main subject area: abuse of adolescents within families

Keywords: not stated

Aims

To carry out a literature review of abuse of adolescents within the family.

Methodology

Literature search of UK and US literature.

Results

In relation to the UK literature, very little has been written on adolescent abuse in the UK. Three major sources of relevant information were identified: official statistics indicate that there are almost as many new child protection registrations of young people aged 10 to 15 years as for the other age groups from one year old upwards; and the recent Department of Health studies in child protection suggest that outcomes of child protection interventions are poorer for adolescents than for younger children, and that there is very little participation of adolescents in the child protection process.

Publications

Rees, G., and Stein, M. (1999). *The Abuse of Adolescents Within the Family*. NSPCC: London

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

6. Types of abuse and neglect

6.1 Fatal abuse

214. VICTORIA CLIMBIE DATA CORPUS PROJECT

Principal researcher(s): Rachel Balen, Graham Gibbs, Christopher Hall, Helen Masson

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Huddersfield

Contact details: Centre for Applied Childhood Studies, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate, Huddersfield.
HD1 3DH

Dates: 2003 - 2005

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: University of Huddersfield

Funding amount: £30,000

Main subject area: Victoria Climbie inquiry

Keywords: Victoria Climbie; public inquiry; examination of witnesses; data corpus

Aims

To establish a data corpus of the examination of witnesses in the Victoria Climbie inquiry. This involves: identifying themes and topics with the help of an expert panel; cataloguing and coding the data and establishing a data management and retrieval system; and establishing a data corpus for research and training purposes.

Methodology

The transcriptions of the examination of witnesses were publicly available on the Inquiry website and have been made available to the project by the DfES (Department for Education and Skills). The themes and topics have been identified using the Delphi method. The data is being coded using Atlas ti.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

215. A STUDY OF CHILD DEATHS REFERRED TO CORONERS

Principal researcher(s): Miss Susan Creighton

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) National Centre, London

Contact details: Miss S Creighton, NSPCC National Centre, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH

Dates: 1996 - 1998

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: dubious child deaths

Keywords: child deaths; prevention

Aims

To examine the number of deaths where abuse or neglect may have contributed. To establish the feasibility of setting up a national database of child deaths. To assess how 'dubious deaths' are recorded in official statistics.

Methodology

Analysis of a sample of coroner's records of under five year olds' deaths. Pro forma based on child abuse characteristics plus main items of coroner's reports used to extract data.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

216. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILD DEATH AND CHILD MALTREATMENT

Principal researcher(s): Corinne May-Chahal

Co-workers: Steven Hicks, Jo Tomlinson

Institution: University of Central Lancashire (Department of Social Work)

Contact details: Corinne May-Chahal, Department of Applied Social Science, Cartmel College, University of Lancaster, Lancaster, LA1 4YL

Dates: 1999 – 2001

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child death and its relationship with child maltreatment

Keywords: child death; paediatrics; accident and emergency

Aims

To identify how a cause of death is arrived at when a child dies. To identify information processes where child maltreatment is a consideration.

Methodology

Non-participant observation (three months). Document analysis (child deaths from one Accident and Emergency [hospital] department over three years). Interviews (in-depth, 30 health professionals across two sites). National questionnaire to 420 paediatricians, 140 returned – 33% response rate.

Results

Suspicion of child maltreatment is only arrived at when the cause of death is uncertain. Uncertainty itself is arrived at when parents/carers' accounts do not match the presenting condition of the child. A cause of death can remain uncertain in cases of SID (Sudden Infant Death), where a child is disabled, or where the coroner agrees. In all three cases child maltreatment can remain a possibility and in some cases (when a parent/carer admits harming the child) maltreatment is an outcome. However, whilst health professionals are aware of child protection procedures, they may be reluctant to diagnose maltreatment. Awareness levels vary, and generally paediatricians and nurses do not consider arriving at child maltreatment as a cause of death, as part of their occupational role, rather it is viewed as the role of police, social services and the coroner. However, communication between professionals varies and these factors influence the ultimate diagnosis.

Publications:

May-Chahal, C., Hicks, S., and Tomlinson, J. (2002). *The Relationship Between Child Death and Child Maltreatment: Final Report*. University of Central Lancashire/NSPCC

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

217. SEXUALLY MOTIVATED CHILD HOMICIDE

Principal researcher(s): Catherine Nicol, Nikola Tracey

Co-workers: Samantha Leahy, Andy Feist

Institution: Home Office

Contact details: Nikola Tracey, Crime and Policing Group, Home Office, SR3 Foxley Hall, Bramshill, Hampshire. RG27 OSW. E-mail: nikola.tracey@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Dates: September 2003-July 2004 (part 1)

Duration: 10 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: sexually motivated child homicide committed by strangers and identifying criminal histories of offenders

Keywords: sexually motivated child homicide

Aims

To undertake exploratory analysis of the characteristics and criminal histories of both fatal and non-fatal child abduction offenders, as a mechanism for improving risk assessment in this group of offenders. Part 1 is centred around an examination of the characteristics of (predominantly) solved cases of fatal, sexually motivated, stranger, child abductions.

Methodology

Data will consist of child (<16 years of age) homicide cases with sexual motivation that began as abductions carried out by strangers. An exploratory analysis will be undertaken of offence and offender characteristics, with a focus upon the criminal careers or criminal histories of such offenders (The outcome of this analysis will influence the extent of further work in part 2).

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

218. A STUDY OF FATAL CHILD ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Dr Peter Reder, Ms Sylvia Duncan

Co-workers: none

Institution: Centre for Relationship Studies, London

Contact details: Dr P. Reder, Centre for Relationship Studies, 1 Wolverton Gardens, London. W6 7DY

Dates: November 1995 – May 1997

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: Department of Health

Funding amount: £26,000

Main subject area: fatal child abuse

Keywords: Part 8; fatal, abuse

Aims

To collate data from Part 8 case reviews submitted to Department of Health during one year. To identify common themes in the management of the cases. To identify implications for practice. To advise on the review process.

Methodology

Study of case files. Comparison with the literature.

Results

Significant problems were identified in the assessment process, including risk assessment and thresholds of concern. Evidence of association with mental health problems of caretakers and of young infants at significant risk.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

219. A FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF FATAL CHILD ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Dr. Peter Reder, Ms Sylvia Duncan

Co-workers: none

Institution: Centre for Relationship Studies, Riverside Mental Health Trust

Contact details: Dr P. Reder, Consultant Child Psychiatrist, Riverside Mental Health Trust, Centre for Relationship Studies, 1 Wolverton Gardens, London. W6 7DY

Dates: May 1995 – October 1998

Duration: 3½ years

Funding body: Department of Health

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: fatal child abuse and neglect

Keywords: abuse; deaths; cases, review

Aims

To elicit practice implications from a review of 'Part 8' Review cases

Methodology

Case file reviews. Compilation of family genogram, case chronology and professional eco-map. Drawing inferences about interactional processes in each case. Comparing patterns across cases submitted over one year to Department of Health.

Results

Links with parental mental health problems. Very young children, so cases might have been identified in peri-natal period. Numerous assessment deficiencies.

Publications

Reder, P., and Duncan, S. (1999). *Lost Innocents: A Follow-Up Study of Fatal Child Abuse*. London: Routledge

Reder, P., and Duncan, S. (1999). Child abuse and parental mental health. In: P. Reder (ed) *Family Matters: Interfaces Between Child and Adult Mental Health*. London: Gaskell

Reder, P., and Duncan, S. (1998). A proposed system for reviewing child abuse deaths. *Child Abuse Review*, 7, 280-286

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

220. A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE DIFFICULTIES AND PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY MEMBERS OF TEAMS CONDUCTING CONFIDENTIAL ENQUIRIES FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF A CHILD THROUGH ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Mrs Anne Williams, Dr Alison Maddocks, Dr Lesley Griffiths

Co-workers: none

Institution: South Wales Child Protection Forum, Glan-y-Mor NHS (National Health Service) Trust, Wales; and University of Wales

Contact details: Dr A. Maddocks, Consultant Community Paediatrician, Central Clinic, 21 Orchard Street, Swansea. SA1 5AT

Dates: not stated

Duration: not stated

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: not stated

Keywords: child death; Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC); multi-agency working; Part 8 reports

Aims

To identify difficulties experienced by multi-agency staff participating in 'Part 8' reports for ACPCs. To determine whether these difficulties can be overcome and how the current service for staff of all agencies involved can be improved to prevent future possible conflict.

Methodology

In depth interviews (N=50) with key professionals representing all the agencies involved in Part 8 Reviews throughout Wales.

Results

not stated

Publications

not stated

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

6.2 Neglect

221. AN ASSESSMENT OF A SCORING SYSTEM TO DETECT NEGLECT

Principal researcher(s): Dr Roger Harris, Dr Alyson Hall

Co-workers: none

Institution: The Royal London Hospital

Contact details: Dr R.J. Harris, Honorary Consultant Paediatrician and Senior Lecturer in Child Health, The Children's Department, The Royal London Hospital, London. E1 1BB

Dates: April 1998 – September 1999

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: detection of neglect

Keywords: detection; neglect

Aims

To identify children in need. To assess the value of a scoring system to detect neglect.

Methodology

Review of children on the child protection register. Prospective review in child health clinics – not yet completed.

Results

Children who were placed on the child protection register for neglect had higher scores than all other forms of child abuse. Interestingly, other forms of child abuse had slightly elevated scores, whereas children in the child health clinic who were not on the child protection register were mostly low.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

222. MULTI-DISCIPLINARY STUDY OF CHILD NEGLECT IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Principal researcher(s): Jan Horwath

Co-workers: Teela Sanders

Institution: The University of Sheffield

Contact details: Jan Horwath, Senior Lecturer in Social Work Studies, Department of Sociological Studies, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TU

Dates: January 2000 – September 2003

Duration: 32 months

Funding body: North East Area Health Board

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child neglect

Keywords: child neglect; assessment; multidisciplinary

Aims

To explore ways in which cases of child neglect are managed by social workers. To identify ways in which other professionals who come into contact with children and families perceive child neglect. To gain an understanding of professionals interpretation of their role in terms of assessing and working with cases of child neglect.

Methodology

Case audit of 60 cases. Anonymous postal questionnaire sent to 800 professionals. 20 focus groups.

Results

The findings to date indicate that social workers' perceptions of child neglect are influenced by personal, professional and organisational factors, for example, fear of aggressive clients, workload demands and the right to intervene in family life. Practitioners believe that practice can be standardised by the introduction of an assessment framework, and improved supervision and training. One of the key findings from the study to date has been the difference in perception between social workers and other professionals. These differences focus on the interpretation of good enough parenting and what constitutes child neglect.

Publications

Horwath, J. (2001). Child Neglect is My View Your View? *Reconciling Differences in Perception to Promote Better Outcomes for Children and their Families*. European Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, 23-29 August, Turkey: Istanbul

Doherty, N., and Horwath, J. (2002). *Standardising Practice in Cases of Child Neglect: Using Action Research to Develop an Assessment Framework*. International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, 13th International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect, 8-10 July, USA: Denver

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

223. STUDY OF CHILD NEGLECT

Principal researcher(s): Mr Brian Minty, Mr Graham Pattinson

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Manchester

Contact details: Mr B Minty, University of Manchester, Dept. of Psychiatry, Maths Tower, Oxford Road, Manchester. M13 9PL

Dates: 1988 – 1992

Duration: 4 years

Funding body: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) **Funding amount:** £6,000

Main subject area: child neglect

Keywords: emotional neglect; physical neglect

Aims

To establish if there is a relationship between physical and emotional neglect. To produce a questionnaire in relation to child neglect. To challenge prevalent view of child neglect (in 1980s) that it was simply due to poverty.

Methodology

Review of 42 cases, over half of which were regarded by NSPCC as neglectful

Results

Over 80% of physical neglect cases also involved emotional neglect. There was a significant correlation between high scores in questionnaire and proof assessment by social worker that there was neglect.

Publications

Minty, B., and Pattinson, G. (1994). The nature of child neglect. *British Journal of Social Work*, 24, 733-747

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

224. CHILD NEGLECT: PRACTITIONERS' PERSPECTIVES

Principal researcher(s): Mr Bill Stone

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Mr B. Stone, NSPCC, Barnsley CPT, 9 Churchfield Court, Barnsley STD 2JT

Dates: 1993 – 1995

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: NSPCC

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child neglect

Keywords: identification; assessment; child neglect; practitioners

Aims

To examine how neglect is defined in child protection practice. To examine working definitions used by professionals. To undertake an exploratory and practice-based study of child neglect.

Methodology

Qualitative, practice-based and participatory approach. Inter-agency focus groups of practitioners. Sample survey of 20 cases registered for neglect. Semi-structured interviews with key workers for 20 cases.

Results

Neglect is multi-factorial and long-term in nature. Factors relating to caregivers/parents emerge as being integral to the way in which practitioners define neglect. Emotional/relationship factors are seen to be central to practitioners' understanding of how children come to be neglected. The association between deprivation and neglect is underlined.

Publications

Stone, W. P. (1995). Child Neglect: Practitioners' Perspectives. MPHIL thesis. University of Sheffield

Stone, W. P. (1997). Child Neglect: Practitioners' Perspectives. London: NSPCC (Policy, Practice and Research Series)

Stone, B. (1998). Child neglect: Practitioners' perspectives, Child Abuse Review, 7, 2, 87-96

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

225. CHILDREN ON THE SOUTHWARK CPR (CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER) UNDER THE CATEGORY OF NEGLECT: VIEWS OF PROFESSIONALS AND PARENTS AND A REVIEW OF SOCIAL WORK CASE FILES

Principal researcher(s): Mr Mark Taylor, Ms R. Khanam

Co-workers: none

Institution: Social Services, Southwark Council

Contact details: Mark Taylor, Social Services, Southwark Council, 49 Grange Walk, London. SE1 3DY

Dates: July 1997 – December 1997

Duration: 5-6 months

Funding body: Southwark Area Child Protection Committee **Funding amount:** not stated

Main subject area: child protection – neglect

Keywords: child protection; neglect

Aims

To understand more about CPR classifications under the neglect category. To understand inter-agency work under the neglect category. To understand parental perspectives.

Methodology

Qualitative interviewing and analysis – parents/professionals. Literature review.

Results

The research found that a sub-categorising of what a neglect registration actually means would be a good idea. This is particularly the case since the vast majority of child protection registrations come under this category. Professionals from different agencies sometimes have different understandings about what neglect means in practice particularly in terms of evidence and 'benchmarking'. Both practitioners and parents recognised the need for preventative services especially those that address parent-child intentions. In terms of participation the research concluded that the experiences of parents and children need to be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis particularly in the light of any changes in practice, procedures and policies. Moreover, it was felt that staff from all agencies need to be continually reminded of the purpose and processes involved in the child protection system.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

6.3 Bullying

226. ANTI-BULLYING

Principal researcher(s): Ms Gill Jones, Dr Maureen Winn Oakley

Co-workers: Adrian Compton, Sue Mackay, Amanda Walsh

Institution: Rights of Children (ROC), Birmingham

Contact details: Maureen Winn Oakley, Rights of Children, 150 Church Lane, Handsworth, Birmingham. B20 2RT

Dates: October 2002 – March 2003

Duration: 6 months

Funding body: Birmingham Children's Fund

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: anti-bullying

Keywords: looked after children; bullying; children's perceptions of bullying; child protection and bullying

Aims

To research bullying in looked after under 13 year olds in Birmingham. To consult with young people about an anti-bullying strategy. To produce booklets and information on anti-bullying for young people and professionals.

Methodology

Design questionnaires and send out to 1000 looked after young people under 13 years of age. Analyse returned questionnaires qualitatively, quantitatively and in respect of art work. Consult directly face to face with a core group of looked after young people.

Results

Further funding was received from the Children's Fund (one year) and, as a result, the above research was completed and a free-phone anti-bullying helpline launched. This continues to date but is now for children up to the age of 18 years also. Two hand-outs on anti-bullying have been published, one for children and one for adults. An overall report is also underway and the research team organised a launch of the anti-bullying service that included anti-bullying training for adult carers and looked after children and young people. The Children's Rights service continues work on anti-bullying with funding from Children's Rights.

Publications

Handbooks are free to all carers and looked after children (contact details as above). There is also an anti-bullying website for under 13 year olds – see www.bullybuster.net

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

227. A FOLLOW-UP OF AN ANTI-BULLYING PACK FOR SCHOOLS

Principal researcher(s): Prof Peter Smith, Dr Kirsten Madsen

Co-workers: none

Institution: Goldsmiths College (University of London)

Contact details: Prof P. Smith, Department of Psychology, Goldsmiths College, New Cross, London. SE14 6NW

Dates: January 1996 – September 1996

Duration: 9 months

Funding body: DfEE (Department For Education and Employment)

Funding amount: £13,000

Main subject area: school bullying prevention

Keywords: bullying; school; intervention

Aims

To evaluate the use and success of an anti-bullying pack for schools

Methodology

Questionnaire sent to 140 primary and secondary schools in England

Results

During 1991-94 the Sheffield Anti-Bullying project worked with 23 schools to help devise anti-bullying policies and suitable curriculum work, playground interventions, and ways of working with bullies and victims. The results were published in the DFE (Department for Education) pack 'Don't suffer in silence, an anti-bullying pack for schools' in late 1994 and requested by 19,000 schools. The current project evaluated the use of the pack in a random sample of 140 schools, which had requested it. The pack was generally seen as useful and most schools felt that the procedures advocated did help to reduce bullying in school.

Publications

Smith, P. K., and Sharp, S. (1994). *School Bullying: Insights and Perspectives*. London: Routledge
Sharp, S., and Smith, P. K. (1994). *Tackling Bullying In Your School: A Practical Handbook for Teachers*. London: Routledge

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

**228. FEEDBACK ON DFES (DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS) ANTI-BULLYING PACK
(SECOND EDITION)**

Principal researcher(s): Professor Peter K Smith, Mr Muthanna Samara

Co-workers: none

Institution: Goldsmiths College, University of London (Department of Psychology)

Contact details: Peter K Smith, Dept. of Psychology, Goldsmiths College, New Cross, London. SE14 6NW
E-mail: p.smith@gold.ac.uk

Dates: April 2002 - March 2003

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: DfES

Funding amount: £20,000

Main subject area: bullying in schools

Keywords: bully; victim; school policy

Aims

To get feedback on the use of the Anti-Bullying Pack. To examine the nature of anti-bullying work in schools. To examine the content of school policies on bullying.

Methodology

Questionnaire to schools. Content analysis of school policies.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

6.4 Fabricated and induced illness

229. MUNCHAUSEN SYNDROME BY PROXY (MSBP): PETS, STRESS AND PROFESSIONALS

Principal researcher(s): Dr David Anthony Holmes, Dr Dawn Gross

Co-workers: Julia Bee, Dawn Brannigan

Institution: Manchester Metropolitan University

Contact details: David Anthony Holmes, Department of Psychology, Manchester Metropolitan University, Gaskell Campus, Hathersage Rd, M13 0JA Tel: 0161 247 2547 E-mail: d.a.holmes@mmu.ac.uk

Dates: 1999

Duration: not stated

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: MSBP

Keywords: MSBP; professionals; proxy stress; Munchausen Syndrome Pet Proxy

Aims

Establish the effects of MSBP on professionals involved. Health and stress effects of working with MSBP. Links between MSBP involving children and that involving pets.

Methodology

Interviews and survey. Survey of vets.

Results

not available

Publications

Holmes, D., Bee, J., and Brannigan, D. (2000). Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy: Child Professional and Animal Abuse. Paper presented at the Forensic Research Group and BPS (British Psychological Society) North West Conference, 11 November 2000, Manchester Metropolitan University. BPS Proceedings, Volume 9(2), 128

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

230. HEALTH VISITORS EXPERIENCES OF MUNCHAUSEN'S SYNDROME BY PROXY (MSBP)

Principal researcher(s): Mrs Lindy Mirabatur

Co-workers: none

Institution: Rochdale Healthcare Trust

Contact details: Mrs L. Mirabatur, Child Protection Co-ordinator, Rochdale Healthcare Trust, Ings Lane Clinic, Phoenix St., Rochdale, Lancs. OL12 7DW

Dates: July 1997 – June 1998

Duration: 11 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: MSBP in pre-school children

Keywords: MSBP

Aims

To look at the incidence of MSBP throughout the North West of England in pre-school children. To examine whether health visitors recognise MSBP. To examine multi-agency assessment. To see if induction of illness is preceded by fabrication of illness.

Methodology

Survey of 517 health visitors in North West England providing a sample of 94,348 children born between 1st January 1993 and 31st December 1995.

Results

Examination of whether health visitors are well placed to suspect MSBP, revealed that they were amongst the first to suspect in 71% of reported cases, sharing those early concerns with GPs (general practitioners), social workers, hospital doctors and clinical medical officers. Unfortunately, good multi-agency assessment did not follow early suspicion by the health visitors in 11 of the 20 suspected cases, although it was better when the initial suspicion was raised by a hospital doctor with five of seven cases reported to be assessed well within the multi-agency arena. Nine of the children continued to be the subject of health visitor concern at the time of reporting, an average 25 months after the suspicion of MSBP had arisen. There was little evidence within this research for progression in the severity of abuse from fabricating illness to inducing illness with only one such case being identified. Of the 517 health visitors that completed the questionnaire, only one reported that she did not know what MSBP is, though only 41 reported that they had experienced any formal training.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

231. STUDY OF FABRICATED AND INDUCED ILLNESS (FII)

Principal researcher(s): Professor David Southall, Dr Martin Samuels

Co-workers: none

Institution: North Staffordshire Hospital (Academic Department of Paediatrics)

Contact details: Martin Samuels, Academic Department of Paediatrics, North Staffordshire Hospital, Stoke on Trent. ST4 6QG. E-mail: samuels@doctors.org.uk

Dates: 1987 - on-going

Duration: not stated

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: FII

Keywords: FII; Munchausen syndrome by proxy; covert video surveillance; life-threatening child abuse

Aims

To develop methods for recognition of life-threatening child abuse due to induced illness. To identify features of maternal and family history in cases where illness has been induced. To examine maternal behaviour during episodes of attempted suffocation.

Methodology

Clinical case review, case note review and video observation.

Results

not stated

Publications

Samuels, M. P., McClaughlin, W., Jacobson, R. R., Poets, C. F., and Southall D. P. (1992). Fourteen cases of imposed upper airway obstruction. *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 67, 162-170

Samuels, M. P., Poets, C. F., Noyes, J. P., Hartmann, H., Hewertson, J., and Southall D. P. (1993). Diagnosis and management after life-threatening events in infants and young children who received cardiopulmonary resuscitation. *British Medical Journal*, 306, 489-492

Poets, C. F., Samuels, M. P., Noyes, J. P., Hewertson, J., Hartmann, H., Holder, A., and Southall, D. P. (1993). Home event recordings of oxygenation, breathing movements and heart rate and rhythm in infants with recurrent life-threatening events. *Journal of Pediatrics*, 123, 693-701

Southall, D. P., Plunkett, M. C. B., Banks, M.W., Falkov, A.F., and Samuels, M.P. (1997). Covert video recordings of life-threatening child abuse: Lessons for child protection. *Pediatrics*, 100, 735-760

Adshead, G., Brooke, D., Samuels, M., Jenner, S., and Southall, D. (2000). Maternal behaviours associated with smothering: A preliminary descriptive study. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 24, 1175-83

Southall, D. P., Samuels, M. P., and Golden, M. H. (2003). Classification of child abuse by motive and degree rather than type of injury. *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 88, 101-104

Golden, M. H., Samuels, M. P., Southall, D. P. (2003). How to distinguish between neglect and deprivational abuse. *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 88, 105-107

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

6.5 Head injury

232. SUBDURAL HAEMATOMA AND EFFUSION (SDH/E) IN INFANCY

Principal researcher(s): Dr Chris Hobbs, Dr Anne Marie Child

Co-workers: Dr Arnold Sen, Dr Jane Wynne, Dr John Livingstone

Institution: St. James's University Hospital, Leeds

Contact details: Dr C. Hobbs, Consultant Paediatrician, St. James's University Hospital, Leeds. LS9 7TF

Dates: April 1998 – April 2000

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: shaken-impact syndrome in infancy – relationship to subdural haematoma

Keywords: subdural haematoma; effusion; shaking impact

Aims

Examine epidemiology of SDH/E incidence. To investigate the aetiology of SDH/E. To evaluate the outcome of children diagnosed with the condition. To review management and practice regarding SDH/E.

Methodology

BPSV (British Paediatric Surveillance Unit study) – cases identified via royal College of Paediatrics – Child Health reporting system via BPSV. Retrospective questionnaires soon after diagnosis and six months later. Review of deaths notified by pathologists - Office of National Statistics.

Results

186 infants (121 boys, 65 girls) aged 0-2 years were identified with SDH/E giving an annual incidence for the UK and Republic of Ireland of 12.54/100,000 aged 0-2 years (C.I. [confidence interval] 9.5% 10.3 – 14.62) and 24.1/100,000 aged 0-1 years (C.I. 95% 20.89 – 28.18). 106 infants suffered non-accidental head injury (NAHI), seven accidental head injury, 26 a perinatal cause, seven a non-traumatic medical condition, 23 meningitis and in 17 the cause was undetermined. 35 infants died. Of 106 infants with NAHI, 55 had retinal haemorrhages, 56 bruises, 51 fractures and 53 brain parenchymal injuries. There were fewer diagnostic investigations in non NAHI cases. Delay in diagnosis of greater than a week occurred in 48/181. Significant differences between 'NAHI' and 'non-abuse related causes' were found in mean weight SD [standard deviation] score at presentation and postcode derived Townsend deprivation scores consistent with an increased risk with social deprivation. Neurodevelopmental outcome at six months for 117/152 survivors was normal in 43 (37%) and impaired in 74 (63%). Poor prognostic factors were: total number of fractures, presence of parenchymal brain injury and illness severity at presentation. SDH/E is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in infancy. NAHI is the predominant cause of SDH/E. SDH/E can present in a non-specific and varied way and must be considered in any unwell infant. Determining the cause of the SDH/E in some cases continues to present a diagnostic challenge.

Publications

Not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

233. NON-ACCIDENTAL HEAD INJURIES (NAHI) IN YOUNG CHILDREN: THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EVIDENCE-BASED PROTOCOL FOR PRACTICE

Principal researcher(s): Dr Catherine Powell

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Southampton

Contact details: Dr Catherine Powell, Lecturer in Child Health Nursing, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton. SO17 1BJ E-mail: cp6@soton.ac.uk

Dates: 2002-2003

Duration: not stated

Funding body: HOPE (Wessex Medical Trust)

Funding amount: £4,500

Main subject area: NAHI

Keywords: NAHI; recognition; diagnosis

Aims

To support best practice in the identification and management of young children presenting with suspected NAHI.

Methodology

Literature Review

Results

The review found that whilst NAHI is relatively common, there may be some reluctance and uncertainty in relation to its identification. Importantly, it may not be widely appreciated that young children suffering from NAHI can present with a very broad range of signs and symptoms and as a result cases may be missed or misdiagnosed. A number of factors that may help 'frontline' practitioners to identify children who have been maltreated in this way have been summarised in the form of guidelines for clinical practice. However, each case must be considered on its merits.

Publications

not stated

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

6.6 Emotional abuse

234. THE PROFESSIONAL RESPONSE TO CASES OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Ms Sheila Brougham

Co-workers: none

Institution: Leicester University

Contact details: Ms S Brougham, 4 Poulton Close, Moseley, Birmingham. B13 9SD

Dates: September 1995 – October 1996

Duration: 13 months

Funding body: CCETSW (Central Council for the Training and Education of Social Workers) (MA fees)

Funding amount: £500

Main subject area: professional response to cases of emotional abuse

Keywords: emotional abuse; child protection register; child abuse

Aims

Exploratory study of children registered because of emotional abuse. What triggered the holding of the case conference which registered the child? The factors which led professionals to decide it was a case of emotional abuse. The intervention recommended in the child protection plans.

Methodology

Documentary analysis of social services department's files.

Results

The event, which precipitated the calling of the conference, tended not to involve emotional abuse; typically it involved physical abuse, often to a sibling of the index child. The decision that the case involved emotional abuse was more influenced by the behaviour of the parent than the presentation of the child. Some children did not show any obvious adverse effects. Domestic violence was a very common feature. Concerns about children included physical, emotional, cognitive and behavioural problems. There was a high level of co-occurrence with other forms of abuse. The child protection plans seldom tackled domestic violence or substance abuse where either of these was a problem. Men were the main perpetrators of the domestic violence and of the emotional abuse but interventions tended to focus on the women. Case conference minutes seldom made reference to the child's wishes and feelings or emotional wellbeing. Therapeutic help was seldom offered to the children.

Publications

Brougham, S. *The Professional Response to Cases of Emotional Abuse*. Social Work Monographs, 159, University of East Anglia

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

6.7 Failure to Thrive

235. FAILURE TO THRIVE

Principal researcher(s): Dr Hampton, Barbara King

Co-workers: none

Institution: Children's Society, Swindon; Bath University; and Wiltshire Health Care NHS (National Health Service) Trust

Contact details: Barbara King, Senior Nurse, Children's Services, Wiltshire Health Care NHS Trust, St. John's Hospital, Trowbridge, Wilts. DA14 OQL

Dates: not stated

Duration: not stated

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: failure to thrive

Keywords: failure to thrive

Aims

To identify children who fail to thrive for non-organic reasons.

Methodology

Taking records of weights and centile charts.

Results

Children who had either fallen through the centiles or below the lowest centile for a sustained period of three months or more and who were subsequently offered specific intervention by appropriately trained people were found to not only regain their growth pattern, but to thrive. Other positive outcomes were demonstrably improved relationships between the child and his/her main carer (usually the mother).

Publications

not stated

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

7. Specific contexts of abuse and neglect

7.1 Sport

236. EXPERIENCES OF SEXUALLY ABUSED ATHLETES

Principal researcher(s): Celia Brackenridge

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Gloucestershire (formerly Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education)

Contact details: Celia Brackenridge, Coalheughead Cottage, Harburn, By West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland.
EH55 8RT

Dates: 1994 – 1997

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child abuse in sport

Keywords: sexual abuse; sport; victim perspective

Aims

To explore the experiences of former athletes who had suffered sexual abuse or sexual harassment.

Methodology

Unstructured interviews with abused former athletes from a range of sports, identified via the snowball method.

Results

Risk factors were extrapolated and used to build theoretical models of abuse in sport.

Publications

Brackenridge, C.H., Bringer, J.D., and Bishopp, D. (2003). *Researching and Managing Abuse in Sport*. Paper presented to a symposium on Sexual Abuse in Sport, Conference of the European Federation of Sport Psychology, Copenhagen, July 2003

Brackenridge, C.H., and Fasting, K. (2002). Sexual harassment and abuse in the sport: The research context. In C. H. Brackenridge, and K. Fasting, (Eds) *Sexual Harassment and Abuse in Sport: International Research and Policy Perspectives*, special issue of the *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 8(2), 3-15

Brackenridge, C.H. (2001). *Spoilsports: Understanding and Preventing Sexual Exploitation in Sport*. London: Routledge.

Bringer, J., Brackenridge, C.H., and Johnston, L.H. (2001). The name of the game: a review of sexual exploitation of girls and women in sport. *Current Women's Health Reports*, 1(3), 225-231

Brackenridge, C.H. (2000). Harassment, sexual abuse and safety of the female athlete. *Clinics in Sports Medicine*, 19(2), 187-198

Brackenridge, C.H. (1999). Managing myself: Investigator survival in sensitive research. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 34(4), 399-410

Brackenridge, C.H. (1997). "He owned me basically": Women's experience of sexual abuse in sport. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 32(2), 115-130

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

237. NSPCC (NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN) CHILD PROTECTION IN SPORT UNIT

Principal researcher(s): Celia Brackenridge

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Gloucestershire (formerly Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education)

Contact details: Celia Brackenridge, Coalheughhead Cottage, Harburn, By West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland. EH55 8RT

Dates: 2001

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) Child Protection in Sport Unit

Funding amount: £1000

Main subject area: child abuse in sport

Keywords: child protection; sport; welfare planning

Aims

To evaluate welfare planning for the 2000 Millennium Youth Games Grand Final.

Methodology

Questionnaire survey to 51 team Welfare Officers.

Results

High levels of satisfaction with welfare planning for the event. Low levels of incidents or referrals.

Publications

Private report for funding body.

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

238. CHILD PROTECTION IN FOOTBALL

Principal researcher(s): Celia Brackenridge

Co-workers: Claudi Cockburn, Jacqueline Allen Collinson, Adrian Ibbetson, Annie Kerr, Liz Kinder, Gareth Nutt, Zofia Pawlaczek, Andy Pitchford, Kate Russell

Institution: Celia Brackenridge Ltd.

Contact details: Celia Brackenridge, Coalheughhead Cottage, Harburn, By West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland. EH55 8RT

Dates: 2002 – 2006

Duration: not stated

Funding body: Football Association

Funding amount: £400,000

Main subject area: child protection in football

Keywords: child protection; sport; football

Aims

To measure the impact of child protection on football.

Methodology

Multiple national surveys of 12 stakeholders groups. Repeat qualitative measures with a sample of 36 clubs throughout England. Analysis of abuse case management in football.

Results

Indicative results suggest poor parent behaviour constitutes a problem for the sport. Young people are not consulted or given a voice. Referees require child protection training and support. Coach/teacher awareness has grown significantly since the inception of the Football Association's Child Protection Programme.

Publications

Pitchford, A., Nutt, G., Brackenridge, C., Bringer, J., Cockburn, C., Pawlaczek, Z., and Russell, K. (2004). Children in football: Seen but not heard. *Soccer in Society*, 5(1), 43-60

Brackenridge, C., Bringer, J., Cockburn, C., Nutt, G., Pawlaczek, Z., Pitchford, A., and Russell, K. (2004). The Football Association's Child Protection in Football Research Project 2002-2006: Rationale, design and first year results. *Managing Leisure: An International Journal*, 9, 30-46

Brackenridge, C., Pawlaczek, Z., Bringer, J., Cockburn, C., Nutt, G., Pitchford, A., and Russell, K. (accepted). Measuring the impact of child protection through Activation States. *Sport, Education and Society*.

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

239. REVIEW OF KNOWLEDGE ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN SPORT

Principal researcher(s): Celia Brackenridge

Co-workers: Kari Fasting

Institution: University of Gloucestershire (formerly Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education)

Contact details: Celia Brackenridge, Coalheughhead Cottage, Harburn, By West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland. EH55 8RT

Dates: 1998

Duration: 3 months

Funding body: Council of Europe (Sports Development Committee)

Funding amount: £800

Main subject area: sexual harassment against women and children in sport.

Keywords: sexual harassment; sport; women; children

Aims

To prepare a state of the art review of knowledge on sexual harassment against women and children in sport.

Methodology

Literature review

Results

Key themes, knowledge and gaps in knowledge were presented.

Publications

Brackenridge, C.H., and Fasting, K. (1998). *The Problems Women and Children Face in Sport*. Strasbourg: Council of Europe/Committee for the Development of Sport (CDDS)

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

240. ANALYSIS OF CODES OF PRACTICE ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN SPORT

Principal researcher(s): Celia Brackenridge

Co-workers: Kari Fasting

Institution: University of Gloucestershire (formerly Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education)

Contact details: Celia Brackenridge, Coalheughhead Cottage, Harburn, By West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland. EH55 8RT

Dates: 1999

Duration: 3 months

Funding body: Council of Europe (Sports Development Committee)

Funding amount: £800

Main subject area: sexual harassment in sport.

Keywords: sexual harassment; sport; code of practice

Aims

To conduct a content analysis of codes of practice on sexual harassment in sport.

Methodology

Hierarchical context analysis of codes of practice covering sexual harassment and coaching conduct in sport.

Results

Key policy themes were identified and proposals for the promotion of good practice were offered.

Publications

Brackenridge, C.H., and Fasting, K. (1999). *An Analysis of Codes of Practice for Preventing Sexual Harassment for Women and Children*. Strasbourg: Council of Europe/Committee for the Development of Sport (CDDS)

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

241. CHILD PROTECTION IN VOLUNTARY SPORTS CLUBS

Principal researcher(s): Celia Brackenridge

Co-workers: Lynne Johnson, Alison Woodward, Kath Browne

Institution: University of Gloucestershire (formerly Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education)

Contact details: Celia Brackenridge, Coalheughhead Cottage, Harburn, By West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland. EH55 8RT

Dates: 1998 – 1999

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: Nottinghamshire County Council

Funding amount: £5,000

Main subject area: child abuse in sport

Keywords: child protection; voluntary sports clubs

Aims

To conduct research into child protection in 400 voluntary sports clubs.

Methodology

Postal survey to voluntary sector junior sports clubs (N=396). Focus groups with junior sport personnel (N=19) and interviews with county officers and staff.

Results

There was a clear misapprehension that children safest among those they know well and most at risk from those outside their sports clubs. A culture of complacency was revealed about child protection in voluntary sport.

Publications

Brackenridge, C.H. (2002). 'So what?' Attitudes of the voluntary sector towards child protection in sports clubs. *Managing Leisure – An International Journal*, 7(2), 103-124

Brackenridge, C.H., Johnston, L., Woodward, A., and Browne, K. (2000). 'Outside the Comfort Zone'. *Child Protection in Voluntary Sport in the County of Nottinghamshire*. Confidential report to Nottinghamshire County Council Leisure Services

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

242. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: SWIMMING COACHES' PERCEPTIONS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ROLE CONFLICT AND ROLE AMBIGUITY

Principal researcher(s): Joy D Bringer

Co-workers: Celia Brackenridge, Lynne H Johnston

Institution: University of Gloucestershire

Contact details: Celia Brackenridge, Coalheughhead Cottage, Harburn, By West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland. EH55 8RT

Dates: 1999 – 2002

Duration: 3 years

Funding body: Institute of Swimming Teachers and Coaches; Amateur Swimming Association; and GMB (General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trade Union)

Funding amount: £15,000

Main subject area: child abuse in sport

Keywords: sexual exploitation, swimming, coach role

Aims

To explore coaches' perceptions of interpersonal relations with swimmers in relation to coaching responsibilities and prevention of sexual exploitation.

Methodology

Focus groups with working coaches at club and national level. Interviews with convicted former swimming coaches.

Results

Coaches were clear about their own responsibilities and boundaries but were unwilling to criticise or sanction different behaviour by fellow coaches.

Publications

Bringer, J.D., Brackenridge, C.H., and Johnston, L.H. (2004) Maximising transparency in a doctoral thesis: The complexities of writing about the use of QSR*NVIVO within a grounded theory study. *Qualitative Research Journal*, 4(2), 247-265

Bringer, J.D., Brackenridge, C.H., and Johnston, L.H. (2002). *Role Ambiguity Among Swimming Coaches: The Impact of Child Protection Policies on Coaching Practice*. Proceedings of the 2002 Annual Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Applied Sport Psychology. Oct-Nov, Tucson, Arizona.

Bringer, J.D., Brackenridge, C.H., and Johnston, L.H. (2002). A qualitative study of swimming coaches' attitudes towards sexual relationships in sport. In C. H. Brackenridge, and K. Fasting, (Eds), *Sexual Harassment and Abuse in Sport: International Research and Policy Perspectives*, Special Issue of the *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 8(2), 83-98

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

243. SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND COACH-ATHLETE RELATIONSHIPS

Principal researcher(s): Clare Hassall

Co-workers: Lynne Johnston, Celia Brackenridge

Institution: University of Gloucestershire (formerly Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education)

Contact details: Celia Brackenridge, Coalheughhead Cottage, Harburn, By West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland. EH55 8RT

Dates: 2000

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: The Nuffield Foundation

Funding amount: £5000

Main subject area: sexual harassment in sport, coach - athlete relationships

Keywords: harassment; sport

Aims

To examine perceptions of appropriateness in coach-athlete relationships with respect to sexual harassment.

Methodology

Surveys of male and female athletes and coaches – extended and adapted replication of a study in the USA by Volkwein et al (1997).

Results

Male coaches adopted more reserved and conservative attitudes towards ambiguous interpersonal behaviours than female athletes.

Publications

Hassall, C., Johnston, L., Bringer, J., and Brackenridge, C.H. (2002). Attitudes towards sexual harassment: Coach and athlete perceptions of ambiguous behaviours. *Journal of Sport Pedagogy*, 8(2), 1-21

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

244. 'IN AT THE DEEP END'. AN ANALYSIS OF CHILD ABUSE WITHIN SWIMMING

Principal researcher(s): Jenny Myers, Barbara Barrett

Co-workers: none

Institution: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

Contact details: Jenny Myers, Senior Consultant, NSPCC, National Training Centre, 3 Gilmour Close, Beaumont Leys, Leicester. LE4 1EZ

Dates: 2000 – 2002

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: case analysis of abuse in swimming

Keywords: child abuse; swimming, sport

Aims

To provide sporting and welfare workers with practical information on how to ensure the future protection of children involved in sport. To look at real case material and make judgements as to why, how and where children were able to be abused in a sporting environment and learn lessons. To consider how by having a comprehensive child protection policy and procedure, a national governing body or sport can use the process to better protect children.

Methodology

Case analysis of 78 reported cases of abuse within swimming.

Results

Child abuse in sport can and does happen but the management of cases is complex, and external support and collaborative practice from child protection agencies is essential. Agency staff need to ensure that sports staff are aware of child protection issues and have sufficient information to protect children from those who are known to pose a risk, including the appropriate use of the Protection of Children Act [1999] register and legal advice by national governing bodies in sport. Clear codes of practice should be enforced to protect children away from home, particularly elite athletes who may be closely involved with coaches. In addition, parents/carers have a responsibility to ensure sleeping/travelling arrangements are appropriate in such circumstances. National governing bodies have a responsibility to confront poor practice and ensure good record keeping and coach licencing schemes should be introduced in all sports. In addition, access to support for those making a disclosure is essential.

Publications

Myers, J., and Barrett, B. (2002). *In at the Deep End: A New Insight for all Sports from Analysis of Child Abuse within Swimming*. London: NSPCC

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

245. ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD PROTECTION IN VOLUNTARY SECTOR SPORT

Principal researcher(s): Diana Summers

Co-workers: Celia Brackenridge, Diana Woodward, Cara Aitchison

Institution: University of Bristol

Contact details: Celia Brackenridge, Coalheughhead Cottage, Harburn, By West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland. EH55 8RT

Dates: 1994 – 2000

Duration: 6 years

Funding body: Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education

Funding amount: PhD studentship

Main subject area: child abuse in sport

Keywords: child protection; sport; voluntary sector

Aims

To examine differences between national governing body of sport and club level responses to child protection.

Methodology

Interview with key stakeholders at national and club level. Case studies of six selected sports. Discourse analysis of data.

Results

As with several other policy areas in sport, a policy 'vacuum' was found between national and club level with the discourse of child protection at national level not matched by operational practice at club level.

Publications

Brackenridge, C.H., Summers, D., and Woodward, D. (1995). Educating for child protection in sport. In L. Lawrence, E. Murdoch, and S. Parker, *Professional and Development Issues in Leisure, Sport and Education*, Vol. 56, Brighton: Leisure Studies Association

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

7.2 Domestic violence

246. IS THERE AN INCREASED RISK OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DELAY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN WHO WITNESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Principal researcher(s): Mrs Sue Bailey

Co-workers: none

Institution: East Hertfordshire NHS (National Health Service) Trust

Contact details: Mrs S. Bailey, Parkway Health Clinic, Birdcroft Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire. AL8 6JE

Dates: September 1996 – August 1997

Duration: 11 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: emotional effect of living with domestic violence

Keywords: speech; domestic violence; emotional

Aims

To establish whether there is a correlation between young children witnessing domestic violence and subsequently suffering speech and language delay. To raise awareness amongst health visitors of the potential effects on children who witness domestic violence. To gain an understanding of the local incidence of domestic violence and the potential impact on health resources. To develop a protocol for the local health trusts in conjunction with the health authority to initiate an improved and co-ordinated response by health professionals to victims of domestic violence.

Methodology

1000 questionnaires for health visitors to use with families of three year old children. Interviews with ten mothers and children in refuges.

Results

There is a correlation between children witnessing domestic violence and suffering speech and language delay. The dilemma and unknown element is the possibility that children with speech and language delay are actually being individually abused themselves. Statistics indicate that 50% of children who live with domestic violence are actually being physically and/or sexually abused. Further research is indicated.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

247. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND MINORITISATION: SUPPORTING WOMEN TO INDEPENDENCE

Principal researcher(s): Erica Burman, Khatidja Chantler

Co-workers: Janet Batsleer, Shirley McIntosh, Kamal Pantling, Sophie Smailes, Sam Warner

Institution: Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) (Dept. of Psychology and Speech Pathology); and Khatidja Chantler (Independent Researcher)

Contact details: Erica Burman, Dept. of Psychology and Speech Pathology, MMU, Elizabeth Gaskell Campus, Hathersage Road, Manchester. M13 0JA

Dates: September 2001 – July 2002

Duration: 11 months

Funding body: European Science Foundation; and MMU

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: intersections between domestic violence and minoritisation, and the impact this has for a) women and children fleeing domestic violence and b) support services.

Keywords: domestic violence; minoritisation; state-family relations; helping agencies

Aims

To evaluate current service provision for minoritised women and children facing domestic violence, and to identify barriers to accessing services. To highlight implications for service development and provision – both around domestic violence and cultural specificity.

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews with social services, police, housing, culturally specific organisations, refugees and survivors of domestic violence.

Results

The lack of adequate housing, sufficient benefits, employment opportunities and affordable child care are major obstacles to women leaving violent relationships and institutionalised racism makes access to services particularly problematic for minoritised women and their children. State practices such as immigration intersect with domestic violence to trap women and children in abusive relationships - women who are subject to the 'one year rule' or who have uncertain immigration status have no recourse to public funds, and so are denied access to refuge space, housing and other state benefits. Children can be used by perpetrators as tools to regulate the mother and this may be intensified for minoritised women. Issues around contact as an arena for perpetrators to trace women to continue the abuse was particularly highlighted.

Publications

Pratt, R., Burman, E., and Chantler, K. (2004). Towards understanding domestic violence: Reflections on research and the 'Domestic Violence and Minoritisation' project. *Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology*, 14(1), 33-43

Batsleer, J. et al. (2002). *Domestic Violence and Minoritisation: Supporting Women to Independence*. Women's Studies Research Centre, Manchester: MMU

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

248. CHILDREN'S NEEDS, COPING STRATEGIES AND UNDERSTANDING OF WOMAN ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Prof Audrey Mullender, Ms Gill Hague, Ms Ellen Malos, Dr Liz Kelly, Ms Umme Farvah Imam

Co-workers: Parveen Akhtar

Institution: University of Warwick

Contact details: Prof A. Mullender, Dept. of Applied Social Studies, University of Warwick, Coventry. CV4 7AL

Dates: February 1997 - October 1998

Duration: 21 months

Funding body: Economic and Social Research Council

Funding amount: £163,762

Main subject area: what children know about domestic violence, how it affects those children who live with it and what they find most helpful

Keywords: children; domestic violence; children's perspectives in research

Aims

To learn how children make sense of domestic violence. To find out what coping strategies children use when living with, and after leaving domestic violence. To study the help children get when they live with domestic violence, and their views of that help and how it could be improved. To supplement the above with the views of non-abusing carers and involved professionals.

Methodology

Questionnaires to up to 1,500 children in schools. Qualitative interviews with two mixed samples of 30 children and one sample of 30 black children, each with approximately half who have experience of refugees and half who have not. Literature review.

Results

Group and individual interviews with children, women and workers covered the needs (and also the strengths) presented by a wide range of children, and the scope of work undertaken with them and their mothers. A child-centred and non-violent ethos was found to be offering high levels of support to children and young people, despite low levels of resourcing. Certain groups were identified as still requiring developments in particular responses to their needs. Greater recognition of refugee child work is called for from statutory agencies, including those with access to funding.

Publications

Mullender, A., Debonnaire, T., Hague, G., Kelly, L., and Malos, E. (1998). Working with children in women's refuges. *Child and Family Social Work*, 3(2), 87-98

Mullender, A., Hague, G., Imam, U., Kelly, L., Malos, E., and Regan, L. (2003) *Children's Perspectives on Domestic Violence*. London: Sage

Mullender, A. (2000). Fear and loving. *Community Care*, 9-15 March, 22-23

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

249. AN EVALUATION OF SERVICE PROVISION FOR CHILDREN WHO EXPERIENCE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN RURAL AREAS

Principal researcher(s): Dr Helen Stafford, Ms Helen Baker, Ms Fiona Beveridge

Co-workers: none

Institution: Save the Children

Contact details: Save the Children England Programme, Midlands Development Team, Hawthorns House, Halfords Lane, Smethwick, West Midlands. B66 1BB

Dates: March 2002 – March 2003

Duration: 12 months

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: not stated

Keywords: not stated

Aims

To identify and evaluate nature and extent of service provision specifically targeting children and young people who experience domestic violence in rural areas. To apply a grounded, empirical approach which involves children and young people in the research process as policy evaluators. To make concrete recommendations for policy improvement at local regional and national level.

Methodology

Extensive review of research, policy and legal framework underpinning domestic violence in rural areas and the impact of domestic violence on children. Distribution of postal/email questionnaire to service providers nationwide. Consultation with key informants from various service sectors (including education, health, social services, refuge, NGO (non-governmental organisations), police, legal and housing).

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

250. SIX YEARS ON

Principal researcher(s): DCI (Detective Chief Inspector) Timothy Yeoman

Co-workers: none

Institution: Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

Contact details: DCI Timothy Yeoman, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, Headquarters, Middlemoor, Exeter.
EX2 7HQ

Dates: December 1995 – June 1996

Duration: 6 months

Funding body: unfunded

Funding amount: unfunded

Main subject area: development of domestic violence policies

Keywords: domestic violence; police policy

Aims

To look at the development of child protection teams and domestic violence policies of UK police forces since HO (Home Office) Circ (circular) 60/1990.

Methodology

Review of policies of all UK police forces.

Results

Considerable progress has been achieved by police forces throughout the U.K. in developing their policies and domestic violence units since the issuing of HO Circ 60/1990. Some police forces, however, have not been able to develop in the way the HO circular advises chief constables. This appears to be for a number of reasons, which include resourcing in respect of both finance and manpower. Some officers put emphasis on other aspects of policing, leaving domestic violence to liaison officers who are not dedicated to the issue.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

7.3 International and internet

251. IMPROVING PRACTICE AND POLICY IN RESPECT OF INTERNATIONAL CASES OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION (WHICH HAVE A LINK TO THE UK)

Principal researcher(s): Dr Bernard Gallagher

Co-workers: Claire Fraser, Kris Christmann, Beth Hodgson

Institution: University of Huddersfield

Contact details: Centre for Applied Childhood Studies, Human and Health Research Building, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield. HD1 3DH Tel: 01484 473158 Email: b.gallagher@hud.ac.uk

Dates: 2002-2004

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: The Nuffield Foundation

Funding amount: £43, 000

Main subject area: international child sexual abuse (CSA) and internet child sexual abuse

Keywords: child trafficking; child sex tourism; smuggling; internet-initiated grooming; child abusive images; child pornography; internet-initiated incitement and conspiracy

Aims

To establish the extent of known cases of international and internet CSA. To ascertain the nature of known cases of international and internet cases of CSA. To identify the ways in which the policy and practice response to international and internet CSA can be improved.

Methodology

Police national postal questionnaire survey (NPQS). HMRC NPQS. Case studies (interviews with police officers and searches of police files in relation to specific cases of international and internet CSA). HMRC practitioner interviews. Policy-focused interviews with police, specialist organisations (NGOs (non-governmental organisation), academia, Government and industry) and HMRC. Search of (police) *recorded* CSA offences (international) and offences *reported* to police high tech crime units (internet).

Results

The research identified six major *categories* of international and internet CSA. The number of known cases, in most categories of international and internet CSA was relatively small. Most police services investigated only a few (less than five) of these cases per annum. These cases comprised less than 1% of *all* known CSA cases. International and internet CSA cases were, in terms of victim and offender characteristics, similar to, and as diverse as, known CSA cases in general. Where they were distinct was in respect of the offenders' *modi operandi*, with the international and Internet elements of these cases often being central to how the sexual abuse of a child was brought about. Governments, statutory agencies, NGOs and industry have done a considerable amount to combat international and internet CSA. However, there is much more that all of these organisations can, and should, be doing in response to these cases. This includes prevention, detection, reporting, investigation, the care of victims and the management of offenders.

Publications

- Gallagher, B. (2008) Dangerous worlds? The problems of international and internet child sexual abuse, *Community Safety Journal*, 7, 2, pp.8-11
- Gallagher, B. (2007) Internet-initiated incitement and conspiracy to commit child sexual abuse: The typology, extent and nature of known cases, *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 13, 2, 101-119
- Gallagher, B. (2007) International and internet child sexual abuse: The typology, extent and nature of know cases, and their implications for policy and practice, *childRIGHT*, October, pp.14-17
- Gallagher, B. (2007) Criminal contacts, *Police Review*, Mar. 16th, pp.24-25
- Gallagher, B. (2007) Dangerous liaisons, *Community Care*, Feb, 1-7th, pp.34-35
- Gallagher, B., Fraser, C., Christmann, K. and Hodgson, B. (2006) *International and Internet Child Sexual Abuse and*

Exploitation. pp 171, Huddersfield, University of Huddersfield

Gallagher, B., Christmann, K., Fraser, C. and Hodgson, B. (2003) International and internet child sexual abuse and exploitation - issues emerging from research, *Child and Family Law Quarterly*, 15, 4, 353-370

Data source: study carried out by researchers responsible for this Register

252. THE ONCE PROJECT

Principal researcher(s): Dr Rachel O'Connell, Ms Charlotte Barrow

Co-workers: Shama Sange

Institution: University of Central Lancashire (Cyberspace Research Unit)

Contact details: Charlotte Barrow, Cyberspace Research Unit, University of Central Lancashire, Chandler Building, Preston PR1 2HE E-mail: cljbarrow@uclan.ac.uk

Dates: January 2001 – July 2002

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: European Commission

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child internet safety

Keywords: internet safety; online abuse

Aims

To conduct systematic data analysis and interpretation in order to elucidate a number of key interrelated issues surrounding child safety on the internet. To utilize research materials to evaluate the rate of learning and assimilation of online safety messages by the target audience. To explore the psychological factors that underpin children's use of the internet.

Methodology

Questionnaires to nearly 1400 children aged 8-16 years in UK schools. (Age appropriate versions of questionnaires: How I Use the Internet, O'Connell, 2001; modified versions of Junior Eysenck revised; abbreviated personality questionnaire; modified version of Zuckerman's Sensation Seeking questionnaire). Post-completion children were taught about internet safety.

Results

One in five children use chat rooms. One in eight children use instant messenger programs. One in ten chat users reported that they had attended a face to face meeting with another chat user. Five in seven chat users who attended face to- face meetings were unaware of the guideline 'Never arrange to meet anyone in the real world whom you have only ever met online'. Chat users who attended face to face meetings are 2.25 times more likely to report engaging in conversations of a sexual nature. One in five chat users were unaware of the guideline 'People online may not be who they say they are'. Three in four children who attend face to face meetings either go on their own or with a same age friend. One in two children reported that their parents never supervise their online activities.

Publications

O'Connell R., Sange, S., and Barrow, C. (2002). Young people's use of Chat Rooms: Implications for Policy Strategies and Programs of Education. Available on www.fkbko.net

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

253. LEGAL CONTROL OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY ON THE INTERNET

Principal researcher(s): Katherine S Williams

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Wales, Aberystwyth (Department of Law)

Contact details: Katherine Williams, Department of Law, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Hugh Owen Building, Penglais, Aberystwyth. SY23 3DY E-mail: khw@aber.ac.uk

Dates: April 2002 - 2004

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: child pornography on the internet

Keywords: child pornography; internet regulation

Aims

To study present legal controls of child pornography on the internet and their enforcement in the UK. To consider international and other national legal controls. To consider criminological, human rights and other relevant disciplines and to use these tools to assess the validity and utility of the legal approaches.

Methodology

not stated

Results

not stated

Publications

Williams, K. S. (2003). Controlling Internet child pornography and protecting the child. *Information and Communication Technology Law*, 12(1), 3-24

Williams, K. S. (2003). Child pornography and regulation of the Internet in the United Kingdom: The impact on fundamental rights and international relations. *Brandeis Law Journal*, 41(3) 463-505

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

7.4 Stranger abuse

254. THE NATURE, PREVALENCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF SEXUAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN BY STRANGERS

Principal researcher(s): Dr Bernard Gallagher

Co-workers: Prof Michael Bradford, Prof Ken Pease

Institution: University of Manchester

Contact details: Centre for Applied Childhood Studies, Human and Health Research Building, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield. HD1 3DH. Tel. 01484 473158 Email: b.gallagher@hud.ac.uk

Dates: 1995-97

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: Economic and Social Research Council

Funding amount: £100,000

Main subject area: stranger abuse

Keywords: stranger abuse; strange danger; victimisation; assault; child sexual abuse

Aims

To establish the prevalence, distribution and nature of the sexual and physical abuse of children by strangers. To develop theory on the causes, effects and treatment of stranger abuse. To identify and evaluate the ways in which stranger abuse can be prevented through special programmes with children, official advice to parents/carers, and modifications in the built environment. To determine the extent and nature of children's criminal victimisation, more generally, outside the home.

Methodology

A school-based questionnaire survey administered to 2,420 children aged 9-16 years in 26 primary and secondary schools drawn from three local authorities in northwest England. Interviews with a random sample of approximately 50 children (and their parents/carers) who had been identified on the above survey as having experienced a stranger-perpetrated physical or sexual abuse incident. Interviews were also carried out with a comparison group of 50 matched children (and their parents/carers) who had not reported a stranger-perpetrated physical or sexual abuse incident on the survey. A search of records - relating to the physical and sexual assault of children by strangers - held by the two police services which covered the three local authorities featuring in the school survey.

Results

It was found that of the children taking part in the school survey, at least 11% had been the victim of a stranger-perpetrated physical incident. 54% of these victims said they had been 'very' or 'quite frightened' by the incident. The most common type of physical assault was being punched, which occurred in 38% of incidents. 9% of children reported being the victim of a stranger-perpetrated sexual incident. 73% of victims said they had been 'very' or 'quite frightened' by the incident. The most common type of sexual act carried out by the perpetrator was indecent exposure, reported in 44% of incidents. The interview stage of the research indicated, for example, that victims of physical abuse were less likely, than their comparison group, to be living with both parents. Differences in home background were less marked between the sexual abuse victims and their comparison group. Physical abuse victims appeared to have a better relationship with their parents/carers, than did the comparison group, and were given more freedom regarding time outside home. By contrast, victims of sexual abuse had a worse relationship with their parents/carers than did the comparison group. Although many parents/carers expressed a good deal of concern over the welfare of their children when they were away from home, this was not as exaggerated or misplaced as is often claimed. Police records indicated that most physical abuse cases involved one victim, and perpetrators who were male, aged 10-19 years, and - among those of working age - unemployed or in non-professional or manual occupations. There was more diversity among the sexual incidents recorded by the police.

Publications

Gallagher, B., Bradford, M. and Pease, K. (2008) Attempted and completed incidents of stranger-perpetrated child

sexual abuse and abduction, *Child Abuse and Neglect: The International Journal*, 32, 5, 517-528.
Gallagher, B. (2008) Fear of the unknown, *Safer Communities*, 7, 3, 22-25.
Gallagher, B. (2007) Stranger danger, *Police Review*, Oct. 5th, 24-25.
Gallagher, B., Bradford, M. and Pease, K. (2002) The sexual abuse of children by strangers: its extent, nature and victim characteristics, *Children and Society*, 16, 5, 346-359.
Gallagher, B., Bradford, M. and Pease, K. (1997) The Nature and Distribution of Physical and Sexual Assaults on Children and Young People by Strangers, End-of-Award Report to the ESRC, Manchester: University of Manchester

Data source: study carried out by researcher responsible for this Register

255. STRANGER-DANGER: WHAT DO CHILDREN KNOW?

Principal researcher(s): Gillian Mayes, John Gillies, David Warden

Co-workers: Lindsey MacLeod, Ellen Moran

Institution: Glasgow Caledonian University; Strathclyde University; and Glasgow University

Contact details: Dr L. MacLeod, Clinical Psychologist, Child and Family Clinic, 49 Airbles Road, Motherwell.
ML1 2TJ

Dates: not stated

Duration: not stated

Funding body: Economic and Social Research Council

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: educating children

Keywords: stranger-danger; child education; prevention programme

Aims

To examine primary school children's appreciation and interpretation of stranger-danger. To discover what discriminations children can make in deciding how to respond to or interact with adults.

Methodology

Children aged 6, 8 and 10 years individually viewed a series of videotaped scenarios, in which a child is approached by a man with whom the child is familiar or unfamiliar and who makes a request or an offer or a demand.

Results

The current practice in many schools of educating children on how to keep themselves safe from abuse and abduction tends to concentrate on teaching them about stranger-danger and how to avoid it. However, recent research suggests that children may have difficulty in understanding the stranger-danger message (Mayes, Gillies and Warden, 1990). The present study examines 6, 8 and 10 year old children's understanding of the concepts of 'stranger' and 'danger' by analysing their verbal responses to videotaped sequences depicting child encounters with a variety of known and unknown male adults. Results indicate that, although there is some evidence of developing wariness, children at ages 8 and even 10 years appear still to be vulnerable to approaches made by strangers.

Publications

Moran, E., Warden, D., MacLeod, L., Mayes, G., and Gillies, J. (1997). Stranger-danger: What do children know? *Child Abuse Review*, 6, 11-23

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

7.5 Children abused through prostitution

256. ONE WAY STREET – RETROSPECTIVES ON CHILDHOOD PROSTITUTION

Principal researcher(s): Margaret Melrose

Co-workers: David Barrett, Isabelle Brodie

Institution: University of Luton (Department of Applied Social Studies)

Contact details: Margaret Melrose, Department of Applied Social Studies, St. Nicholas House, University of Luton, Luton LU1 3JU

Dates: August 1998 – February 1999

Duration: 7 months

Funding body: The Children's Society

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: young people and commercial sexual exploitation

Keywords: young people; prostitution

Aims

To explore how and why young people become involved in commercial sexual exploitation. To explore what keeps young people involved and factors that make it difficult to exit. To explore with young people the sort of support they would require to exit.

Methodology

Retrospective qualitative interviews with a small sample of 50 respondents

Results

Approximately two-thirds became involved at 16 years of age or younger – of these, three-quarters (24) became involved at 14 years of age or younger. Three-quarters (36) said they became involved as a result of lacking money – of these, one-half said they adopted prostitution as a survival strategy (often in the context of going missing). The other half said it was to provide money for things they could not afford. 27 said they became involved as a result of poor group associations. 13 said they became involved on a 'freelance' basis. Just 10 said they had become involved as a result of coercion by another. Many had substance misuse problems (particularly those under 25 years of age). 36 said they experienced conflict/abuse in their families. 21 said their first sexual experience had taken place in the context of abuse. 24 had previously been looked after. 14 had a history of going missing from care. 26 had a history of going missing from home. 10 had a history of going missing from both.

Publications

Melrose, M., Barrett, D., and Brodie, I. (1999). *One Way Street: Retrospectives on Childhood Prostitution*. London: The Children's Society

Melrose, M. (2002). Labour pains: Some considerations on the difficulties of researching juvenile prostitution. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology: Theory and Practice*, 5(4), 333-351

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

7.6 Organised (including ritual) abuse

257. INVESTIGATING AND MANAGING ORGANISED (INCLUDING RITUAL) CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Dr Bernard Gallagher

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Manchester

Contact details: Centre for Applied Childhood Studies, Human and Health Research Building, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield. HD1 3DH Tel: 01484 473158 Email: b.gallagher@hud.ac.uk

Dates: 1995-1997

Duration: 18 months

Funding body: NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) **Funding amount:** £16,000

Main subject area: organised child sexual abuse (CSA)

Keywords: child sexual abuse; organised abuse; network abuse; multiple perpetrator abuse; child sex rings; investigation

Aims

To highlight the differences, in terms of their characteristics, between organised CSA and other cases of CSA. To identify what constitutes good practice in the investigation and management of organised CSA cases.

Methodology

A postal questionnaire survey among police child protection teams, social services departments and NSPCC projects, in London, between March and April 1996. Interviews with police officers (n=12), social workers (n=14) and staff from voluntary agencies (n=4), concerning the investigation and management of specific cases of organized CSA in the London area. Interviews with agency workers, relating to broader practice issues raised by organized CSA. Interviewees (n=13) were drawn from police and social services, and voluntary organisations working with people who were homeless, runaways, sex workers or who had learning disabilities.

Results

Organised CSA cases were marked out by the extent to which offenders targeted vulnerable children. These cases occurred in three major settings: families, communities and institutions. Some offenders specialised in the setting in which they abused children, while others moved between different settings. Organised CSA raises a whole series of issues in relation to the investigation and management of cases. These cover the following areas: detection, assessment, victims, abusers, protective parents/carers, case management, joint working, individual staff and closing cases. In addition to the above, more generic issues, organized CSA cases also raise questions for given agencies and systems. These comprise: police, social services, the NSPCC, the criminal justice system, the Prison Service, health, education, probation and voluntary organisations.

Publications

Gallagher, B. (1998) *Grappling with Smoke. Investigating and Managing Organised Child Sexual Abuse - A Good Practice Guide*. London, NSPCC.

Data source: study carried out by researchers responsible for this Register

258. THE EXTENT AND NATURE OF ORGANISED (INCLUDING RITUAL) CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Dr Bernard Gallagher,

Co-workers: Prof Howard Parker, Ms Beverley Hughes

Institution: University of Manchester

Contact details: Centre for Applied Childhood Studies, Human and Health Research Building, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield. HD1 3DH Tel: 01484 473158 Email: b.gallagher@hud.ac.uk

Dates: 1992-1994

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: Economic and Social Research Council

Funding amount: £90,000

Main subject area: organised child sexual abuse (CSA)

Keywords: organised child sexual abuse; ritual CSA; institutional CSA; child sex rings; network abuse; satanic CSA

Aims

To establish the extent of known cases of organised CSA (i.e. those comprising multiple child sex offenders, institutional child sex abusers, child sex offenders with multiple victims, serial child sex offenders and alleged ritual child sex offenders). To determine the nature of known cases organised CSA (for example, victim and offender characteristics, and the relationships between them).

Methodology

A national postal questionnaire survey among all police services (n=43), social services departments (n=116) and NSPCC teams in England and Wales. A search of police child protection team and social service department child protection coordinator records covering eight local authority areas in England and Wales.

Results

The record searches, in the eight local authority areas, identified 78 cases of CSA involving multiple offenders that had first been reported in the survey period 1988-1991. Most cases (65%) involved family members or other relatives. Of the institutional CSA cases, the largest number of these were community-based (52%), situated in schools (44%) and involved teachers/headteachers (29%) and a single victim (54%). There was evidence of targeting of particular children and of grooming in a number of these cases. Analysis of alleged ritual CSA cases indicated that agency workers generally dealt with these cases in an appropriate manner and certainly much more 'professionally' than had often been claimed in the media.

Publications

Gallagher, B. (2001) Assessment and intervention in cases of suspected ritual child sexual abuse, *Child Abuse Review*, 10, 4, 227-242

Gallagher, B. (2001) Ritual abuse: a response to Coleman, *Child Abuse Review*, 10, 2, 83-84

Gallagher, B. (2000) Ritual, and child sexual abuse, but not ritual child sexual abuse, *Child Abuse Review*, 9, 321-327

Gallagher, B. (2000) The extent and nature of known cases of institutional child sexual abuse, *British Journal of Social Work*, 30, 795-817

Gallagher, B. Hughes, B. and Parker, H. (1996) The Nature and Extent of Organised Child Sexual Abuse in England and Wales. In Bibby, P., (ed.) *Organised Abuse - The Current Debate*, pp.215-230, Aldershot, Arena.

Data source: study carried out by researchers responsible for this Register

8. Perpetrators

8.1 Young abusers

259. UNDERSTANDING AND ASSESSMENT OF MALE ADOLESCENTS KNOWN TO HAVE SEXUALLY ABUSED

Principal researcher(s): Peter Clarke

Co-workers: none

Institution: Friends Therapeutic Community Trust, Glebe House,

Contact details: Peter Clarke, Clinical Director, Glebe House, Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire, CB1 6RB.

Dates: 1997 – 1998

Duration: 1 year

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: 'social workers' and other professionals understanding and assessment of male adolescents known to have sexually abused

Keywords: interagency; abusers; adolescence

Aims

To understand how a range of professionals working with teenagers who have sexually abused understood this behaviour.

Methodology

Qualitative research following four cases with multi-agency input. Using semi-structured interviews and a grounded theory model of analysis.

Results

There is a separation between 'specialists' and day-to-day decision makers that makes risk assessment problematic. The hypothesis is that this separation is anxiety driven and therefore addressing anxiety is essential in improving inter-agency communication.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

260. A PRACTICE FRAMEWORK FOR HOLISTIC INTERVENTIONS WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR DIFFICULTIES

Principal researcher(s): Dr Andrew Durham

Co-workers: none

Institution: SIBS (Sexually Inappropriate Behaviours), Social Services Department, Warwickshire

Contact details: Dr Andrew Durham, SIBS Consultancy Manager, Social Services Department, The Grange, Coventry Road, Southam, Warwickshire. CV47 1QB

Dates: October 2002 – March 2003

Duration: 6 months

Funding body: Social Services Warwickshire

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: children and young people with sexual behaviour difficulties

Keywords: young people; sexual; behaviour; difficulties

Aims

To apply a practice framework which was originally developed for working with victims of sexual abuse to young people with sexual behaviour difficulties. To examine the nature of referrals to SIBS over a five year period 1997–2001 (N=248).

Methodology

Examination of case files. Collation of referral statistics 1997-2001. Drawing composite case studies from case files.

Results

This study has explored an application of the framework to the process of engaging a young person in the work, and to the provision of sex and sexuality education. The framework allows the practitioner to address his/her power relationship with the child/young person, and emphasises the importance of a transparent approach to the work, which explains the process from the outset, and maintains a high level of respect towards him/her, whilst acknowledging that some of his/her behaviours are problematic. In working through issues directly related to the young person's sexual behaviours, the framework adequately conceptualises the social context of sexual behaviour. Its anti-oppressive approach allows a full exploration of abusive power relationships and circumstances of compulsory heterosexuality, homophobia and peer pressure, and how they may have influenced a young person's decision to behave in a sexually inappropriate/abusive manner. The framework provides a theoretical underpinning for the practitioner, and provides helpful ideas for working directly with children and young people.

Publications

Durham, A. (2004). A Practice Framework for Holistic Interventions with Children and Young People with Sexual Behaviour Difficulties. In V. White and J. Harris (Eds.), *Developing Good Practice in Children's Services*. London: Jessica Kingsley

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

261. EARLY INTERVENTION AND YOUTH JUSTICE

Principal researcher(s): Dr Stewart Field

Co-workers: Prof David Nelken, Dr Mark Drakeford, Mrs Ruth Holgate

Institution: Cardiff University (School of Law)

Contact details: Mrs Ruth Holgate, Cardiff University, Law Building, Museum Avenue, PO Box 427, Cardiff. CF10 3XJ. E-mail: holgateR@cardiff.ac.uk

Dates: 2002 - 2004

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: Economic and Social Research Council

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: effects of early intervention in youth justice systems

Keywords: early intervention; youth justice

Aims

Comparative study of early intervention/ disposals in youth justice systems between UK and Italy.

Methodology

Study of approximately 240 closed case files from youth offending team and police files. Interviews (approximately 70) with range of agencies involved in youth justice (including police, magistrates and youth offending teams). Comparison of data with Italian case files and interviews.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

262. MAPPING AND EXPLORING SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE SEXUALLY ABUSED

Principal researcher(s): Mr Simon Hackett, Dr Helen Masson, Ms Sarah Phillips

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Durham (Centre for Applied Social Studies)

Contact details: Simon Hackett, Centre for Applied Social Studies, University of Durham, Elvet Riverside 2, Durham. DH1 3JT E-mail: simon.hackett@dur.ac.uk

Dates: September 2001– September 2003

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC); National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers (NOTA); and Youth Justice Board (YJB)

Funding amount: £60,000

Main subject area: young people who sexually abuse others

Keywords: mapping children and young people; sexual abuse; sexual aggression

Aims

To investigate current developments in the UK and Republic of Ireland (ROI) in services for young people who sexually abuse, including their organisational, theoretical and policy bases. To explore the experiences of young people and their families receiving such services.

Methodology

A comprehensive mapping exercise relating to services to young people and their families across the UK and ROI, including practices, policies and procedures. Two Delphi exercises, collecting views and opinions of key experts in the field (practitioners and managers) in order to identify need, standards and principles of practice. A qualitative study of service user perspectives from a variety of sites across the UK and ROI to collect users' views, opinions and experiences of the services offered to them.

Results

Acrobat Reader version of final report available from Simon Hackett

Publications

Masson, H., and Hackett, S. A. (2003). A Decade on from the NCH Report (1992): Adolescent sexual aggression policy, practice and service delivery across the UK and the Republic of Ireland. *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 9(2), 109-124

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

8.2 Adults who sexually abuse children

263. STEP 3: AN EVALUATION OF THE PRISON SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT PROGRAMME

Principal researcher(s): Dr Anthony Beech, Dr Dawn Fisher, Mr Richard Beckett

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Birmingham

Contact details: Dr Anthony Beech, School of Psychology, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham. B15 2TT

Dates: 1994-1998

Duration: not stated

Funding body: Home Office (Research Development and Statistics Directorate); and The Prison Service

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: sex offender treatment

Keywords: therapy; sexual offenders; typology; treatment; treatment efficacy

Aims

To examine the efficacy of treatment for sex offenders in Category C prisons.

Methodology

Psychometric tests. Interviews. Observation

Results

Treatment was generally successful in increasing level of child abusers' admittance of offending behaviours and in reducing pro-offending attitudes such as thoughts about sexual contact with children (cognitive distortions) and level of denial of the impact of sexual abuse upon victims (victim distortions). The SOTP (Sex Offender Treatment Programme) was generally successful at increasing levels of social competence (for example, self esteem) and increased accountability for actions. Groups of child molesters could be distinguished in terms of the extent to which they were prepared to admit to their offending behaviour (their level of 'denial') and the extent of their pro-offending attitudes and predisposing personality (their level of 'deviance') prior to treatment. The 'deviance' characteristic was found to be linked to previous offending - highly deviant offenders had more victims and were more likely to have been convicted of a previous sexual offence. They were also much more likely to have committed offences against boys (or boys and girls) and to have offended outside (or both inside and outside) of the family. Low deviance men were much more likely to show patterns of intra-familial (incest) abuse. 'Deviance' was also found to be linked to the effectiveness of treatment.

Publications

Beech, A.R. (1998). A psychometric typology of child abusers. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 42, 319-339

Beech, A.R., Fisher, D., and Beckett, R.C. (1999). *An Evaluation of The Prison Sex Offender Treatment Programme*. London: Home Office

Beech, A.R., and Fisher, D.D. (2002). The rehabilitation of child sex offenders. *Australian Psychologist*, 37(3), 206-214

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

264. CHILD SEXUAL ABUSERS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Principal researcher(s): Ms Julia Davidson

Co-workers: Rachael Lippett, Tracey Matthews

Institution: University of Westminster

Contact details: Ms Julia Davidson, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Westminster

Dates: August 1993 – August 1998

Duration: 5 years

Funding body: North East London Probation Service; and University of Westminster

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: not stated

Keywords: perpetrators; treatment programmes (context of sexual abuse against children)

Aims

To explore the manner in which a London probation service conducts its work with offenders convicted of one or more sexual offences against children, within the context of the sentencing of such offenders and criminal justice policy during the 1990's.

Methodology

Secondary analysis of existing sentencing data (1990 – 1996). Large scale survey of convicted offenders. Semi-structured interviews with offenders attending treatment programme and psychometric testing of offenders attending treatment programme.

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

265. SEX OFFENDERS: MULTI-AGENCY DECISION-MAKING AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Principal researcher(s): Christine (Ena) Hoctor

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Glamorgan

Contact details: Christine (Ena) Hoctor, Law School, University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd, Wales CF37 1DL.
E-mail: ehoctor@glam.ac.uk

Dates: October 1999 – November 2003

Duration: 4 years

Funding body: University of Glamorgan

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: sex offender management

Keywords: sex offenders; multi-agency decision making; risk; government policy; legislation

Aims

To look at multi-agency decision making in relation to sex offenders. To assess risk and link with government policy and legislation.

Methodology

Non-participant observation for several months in 2 police/probation areas in Wales. Interviews . Literature search.

Results

not stated

Publications

Hoctor, E. (2002). Managing sex offenders in the community: An observational perspective. *Communique - An Garda Siochana Management Journal*, Dublin

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

266. PARTNERSHIP IN THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSERS

Principal researcher(s): Prof Colin Pritchard, Mr Malcolm Cox

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Southampton; and Dorset Probation Service

Contact details: Mr M. Cox, Principle Research Officer, Wadham House, 50 High West St., Dorchester. DT1 1UT

Dates: March 1994 – August 1996

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: Dorset Probation Service; NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children); and Dorset Social Services

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: control and management of child sexual abusers

Keywords: control; management; abusers

Aims

Retrospective and prospective evaluation of outcome and matters relating to identifying risk in child sexual abusers: analysis of matched offenders from NSPCC caseload to examine progress following two years of standard service compared with two year outcomes i.e. pre- and post-Dorset NSPCC/probation partnership; and analysis of risk by undertaking in-depth examination of abuser's previous convictions obtained from Criminal Record Office.

Methodology

Eddie Proctor's CSA scale. Kelly's Repertory Grid. Case files. Criminal records

Results

48 offenders had previous convictions. Half the 58 offenders studied did not appear to want to change their behaviour – this group contained the 19% of whom the service felt were unsuitable for treatment. This highlights the difficulty of reaching, engaging, and influencing people and issues for the Service management of risk.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

267. ATTITUDES, PERCEPTIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN NURSES AND SEXUAL OFFENDERS WITH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

Principal researcher(s): Sally Scattergood

Co-workers: none

Institution: Staffordshire University

Contact details: School of Health, Staffordshire University, Bank Heath Lane, Stafford. ST18 0AD

Dates: 2000 – 2005

Duration: 5 – 6 years

Funding body: not stated

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: researching how nurses form relationships and effectively work with sexual offenders with mental health needs

Keywords: sexual offenders; nurses; mental health

Aims

not stated

Methodology

Questionnaire. Structured interviews. Discourse analysis

Results

not available

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (2002-2003)

268. THE PROBATION SERVICE RESPONSE TO, AND MANAGEMENT OF, CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Principal researcher(s): Mr David R. Skyner

Co-workers: none

Institution: University of Lancaster

Contact details: Mr D.R. Skyner, Cheshire Probation Service, Norton House, Crown Gate, Runcorn, Cheshire.
WA7 2UR

Dates: October 1990 – November 1996

Duration: 6 years

Funding body: Lancashire Probation Service (50%)

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: probation service and perpetrators of child sexual abuse

Keywords: probation; perpetrators; offenders, abuse

Aims

To identify how the probation service nationally has responded to the issue of child sexual abuse. To examine what work was undertaken with the perpetrators by the probation service. To examine the effects upon staff of this work.

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews with probation staff. Administration of a series of questionnaires locally and nationally. Examination of case files. Examination of Home Office and local probation service documents.

Results

This research found that probation services were just beginning to develop policies in relation to child sexual abuse and these were often incorporated into wider guidance on child protection. Service responses were largely uncoordinated and the advice given to staff within guidelines often conflicted. Although the basic skills used to work with offenders appeared to be transferable from one offender group to another, probation staff often felt ill equipped to work with sex offenders. They lacked the knowledge base of underpinning theories, and of applicable knowledge of the resources upon which they could draw. They often found this work difficult, demanding and emotionally draining, but rarely sought support from their line managers, preferring to rely on peers. Local authority social workers were more likely to be involved than workers from other agencies. Despite a number of criticisms, those workers who had worked together co-operatively tended to hold a more informed and more favourable view. The research concluded that probation services should form stronger links with local social services departments and consider joint working arrangements, arguing that, providing probation services prioritise this area, then probation staff can work effectively with child sex offenders.

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

269. THE LIFETIME CONVICTIONS OF CHILD SEX ABUSERS: PRACTICE AND POLICY DILEMMAS

Principal researcher(s): Prof Colin Pritchard, Mr Malcolm Cox

Co-workers: none

Institution: Dorset Probation Service; and University of Southampton

Contact details: Mr M. Cox, Wadham House, 50 High West Street, Dorchester DT1 1UT

Dates: March 1994 – August 1996

Duration: 2 years

Funding body: Dorset Probation Service

Funding amount: not stated

Main subject area: previous criminal records and child abuse

Keywords: previous criminal records; child abuse; practice

Aims

To explore the life-time criminal convictions of child molesters, paying particular attention to violence offences. To contribute to the debate about assessment and management of risk.

Methodology

Analysis of criminal records of 118 men with at least one conviction for child abuse taken from a two year cohort referred to two Dorset projects (run by National Health Service /voluntary agency).

Results

There are two distinct patterns of child sexual abusers: the majority (64%) with a record of other indictable offences as well as child sexual abuse (CSA) offences (the 'Indictable and Sex - IS - group'); and the 'CSA only' group (36%). The IS group were more disturbed, starting their sexual and non-sexual criminal careers earlier, having a majority of extra-familial targets, and 47% having convictions for violence. 15% of the IS group had firearms/offensive weapons convictions and the worst sex, violence and indictable profile. There were statistically more 'not guilty/case withdrawn' outcomes for sexual than non-sexual charges (23% to 15%).

Publications

not available

Data source: questionnaire survey (1995-1997)

9. Research on child protection research

9.1 Audit of child protection research

270. THE UK REGISTER OF CHILD PROTECTION RESEARCH

Principal researcher(s): Dr Bernard Gallagher

Co-workers: Claire Fraser

Institution: University of Huddersfield

Contact details: Centre for Applied Childhood Studies, Human and Health Research Building, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate, Huddersfield. HD1 3DH. Tel. 01484 473158.
Email: b.gallagher@hud.ac.uk

Dates: 1995 – on-going

Duration: on-going

Funding body: University of Huddersfield; and the University of Manchester

Funding amount: £7,000

Main subject area: audit of child protection research

Keywords: child protection; safeguarding; child abuse neglect

Aims

To compile a register of all child protection research carried out in the UK.

Methodology

Phase 1 (1997): postal questionnaire survey among heads of relevant departments (including medicine, nursing, psychology, social policy/administration, social work and sociology) in every university in the UK; chief officers of all relevant statutory agencies (education, health, police, probation and social services/children's services) and major voluntary organisations in the UK; and members of BASPCAN (British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect).

Phase 2 (2002-2003): questionnaire survey among individual academics in relevant departments in every university in the UK (by email); the chief officers of all statutory agencies and major voluntary organisations in the UK; and all members of BASPCAN. Participants were asked to provide the following: principal researchers' names, institution and contact details; co-worker names; start and end dates; duration; funding body; funding amount; main subject area; keywords; aims; methodology; results; and publications.

Phase 3 (2011): Current authors' (Gallagher and Fraser) own online submissions to prototype website

Results

The project has identified 270 projects to date.

Publications

A paper detailing the purpose and history of this project, and summarising its results, is being prepared.

Data source: study carried out by researchers responsible for this Register