



# RESEARCH NEWS 2

Autumn  
2008

## Recent publications, reports and on-going research in the Making Research Count Universities

**Making Research Count** is a collaborative national research dissemination network based regionally in the social work departments of the Universities of Bedfordshire, Brighton, Central Lancashire (UCLAN), East Anglia (UEA), Keele, King's College London, Salford, York and The Open University.

All nine social work departments are actively engaged in research activity, generating research publications, reports and journal articles, as well as in the education of social work professionals, both at qualifying and post-qualifying level. This **RESEARCH NEWS** highlights some recent or current research undertaken in the departments in our network. There are electronic links to the published reports or departmental resources.

### Gathering Evidence of the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Young People: A Scoping Exercise

Sue Jago and Professor Jenny Pearce from the **University of Bedfordshire** have recently completed a scoping exercise funded by the Home Office and supported by a multi agency advisory group. The advisory group comprises of representation from the Crown Prosecution Service, Government departments, CEOP, UKHTC and ACPO.

The work, currently being launched through conferences and seminars, gives examples of good practice in the identification of sexually exploited children and young people, in the engagement with the young person concerned, the disruption of the activities of the alleged offender, and legislation that can be used to prosecute.

Following this process (identification, engagement, disruption and prosecution), the scoping exercise calls for dedicated resources and coordinated multi agency work to protect sexually exploited young people.

Details of the report can be found at [www.beds.ac.uk/iasr](http://www.beds.ac.uk/iasr) or contact: [jenny.pearce@beds.ac.uk](mailto:jenny.pearce@beds.ac.uk) or [sue.jago@beds.ac.uk](mailto:sue.jago@beds.ac.uk)

### “So what do human rights mean to you?” - A study of how older people think and talk about human rights

This small **University of Brighton** pilot study used a discussion group methodology and made comparisons between two groups of older people who self defined either as activist or non activist. Each group met three times over a period of two months and covered the same subjects. The groups were encouraged to discuss what they would define as human rights and what they thought about human rights in the context of issues like pensions, care, technology, empowerment and discrimination.

The study provided evidence and prompted thinking about the role for deliberative open ended forums in enabling older people to find their own voice, the focus of the active aging agenda around medical and bio mechanical processes of aging, the adoption of human rights language within society and the importance of not losing the voice of the current older generation.

Contacts; Marian Barnes [marian.barnes@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:marian.barnes@brighton.ac.uk)  
Naomi Smith [nms4@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:nms4@brighton.ac.uk)

Download the research findings as a PDF document from: [www.brighton.ac.uk/sass/research/publications](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/sass/research/publications)

### Evaluating the Practices of Barnardo's the Junction Children's Service

This is a 3 year project at the **University of Salford** to evaluate the effectiveness of solution focused approaches in practice with children who have sexually harmful or concerning behaviours. Quantitative and qualitative methods are being used to determine how these practices may work with children, young people and their families in enabling children and young people to have a problem-free future. It is a partnership with Barnardo's Yorkshire Region, with financial support from the European Brief Therapy Association. [www.ebta.nu](http://www.ebta.nu)

Contact: Steve Myers, Salford Centre for Social Work Research [j.s.myers@salford.ac.uk](mailto:j.s.myers@salford.ac.uk)

For details on all current Social Work Research projects: [www.ihscr.salford.ac.uk/SCSWR/projects.php](http://www.ihscr.salford.ac.uk/SCSWR/projects.php)

### Common Assessment Framework and Lead Professional Working

Marian Brandon at the **University of East Anglia** led a multi-disciplinary research team in an evaluation, for the Department for Education and Skills (now DCSF), of the introduction of the Common Assessment Framework in twelve pilot authorities across England.

The study sought to find out whether the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Lead Professional (LP) working were fulfilling the government's aim of reducing the duplication of services, and providing services at a preventative level to children with additional needs. The training and support needs of a variety of practitioners engaged in implementing the CAF/LP were discussed.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR740.pdf>

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### **Young People's Transitions from Care to Adulthood:** International Research and Practice

Edited by Mike Stein (**University of York**) and Emily R. Munro

The transition from care into adulthood is a difficult step for any young person, but young people leaving care have a high risk of social exclusion, both in terms of material disadvantage and marginalisation.

In *Young People's Transitions from Care to Adulthood* leading academics gather together the latest inter-national research relating to the transition of young people leaving care, outlining and comparing the range of legal and policy frameworks, welfare regimes and innovative practice across 16 countries. The book also highlights the variations that exist between different groups leaving care.

Featuring key messages for policy and practice, this book will give academics, practitioners and policymakers valuable insights into how to encourage resilience and improve outcomes for care leavers.

Child Welfare Outcomes Series

April 2008 304pp ISBN 978 1 84310 610 4 £39.99

[www.jkp.com/catalogue/book.php/isbn/9781843106104](http://www.jkp.com/catalogue/book.php/isbn/9781843106104)

### **Mental health, Social Inclusion and Arts: developing the evidence base**

A national study was carried by a research team from the **University of Central Lancashire** and Anglia Ruskin University to examine the mental health benefits of participatory arts projects. The study was jointly funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department of Health. The study included a survey of arts and mental health projects in England; a retrospective data analysis of two projects in relation to their health and social benefits; an outcomes study (at 6 month follow up); and a series of qualitative case studies with 6 diverse arts and mental health projects. This multi-method research study has contributed to the 'evidence base' for arts projects in mental health by demonstrating a range of benefits to participants and identifying some of the mechanisms involved in achieving such benefits.

Contact: Dr. Helen Spandler, School of Social Work, UCLan. [hspandler@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:hspandler@uclan.ac.uk)

The final report can be downloaded from the National Social Inclusion Programme website:

<http://www.socialinclusion.org.uk/publications/MHSIArts.pdf>

### **Personal Budgets in Rural Areas** Jill Manthorpe and Martin Stevens (King's College London)

The transformation of social care is steaming ahead under the banner of personalisation. What does this mean for rural areas? And for their oldest inhabitants? *The personalisation of social care in rural areas* is the title of a recent report, funded by the Commission for Rural Communities. It is based on interviews with a variety of people with experiences of individual budgets (now commonly referred to as personal budgets) and those with in depth knowledge of social care in rural communities. The report was launched in August 2008 by the Rural Advocate and is being used to hold councils to account to ensure that rural older people are not overlooked in the changes to personal budgets. Implications for practice are explored, such as the possible need for more contingency planning in rural and remote areas.

The national evaluation of Individual Budgets (IBSEN study), undertaken by the DH funded policy research units, will be published shortly in autumn 2008. **Kings College London** with the other units will be holding a series of events around this dissemination. Please contact MRC if you wish to participate in these events as demand is likely to be high. A first one is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>, so please make early enquiries about availability.

The CRC report is available online at: [www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/files/CRC%2078%20Adult%20Social%20Care.pdf](http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/files/CRC%2078%20Adult%20Social%20Care.pdf)

**Making Research Count** has been commissioned by the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) to provide research support for the 2008-2009 CWDC programme of practitioner-led research projects.

The CWDC is commissioning up to 100 such projects throughout England, and each successful practitioner is being linked to an academic or researcher based in, or associated with, one of the universities in the Making Research Count network. The programme is currently underway and will end with a series of dissemination events in Spring 2009.

For details of the projects funded during the first two years of the practitioner research programme – 46 projects in 2006-7 and 81 in 2007-8 – visit: [www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/plr-projects-2008-09](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/plr-projects-2008-09)