

ESRC What Works for Children?



'Reducing offending amongst children and young people: What works?'

On the 5th December 2002 the What Works for Children? initiative arranged a one-day conference in Halifax for Practitioners. Researchers

from 'What Works for Children?' and Barnardo's gave presentations on research findings on effective and less effective interventions for reducing offending amongst young people. Deirdre Quill, Regional Manager for the CYPUC, provided an overview of new policy directions in the field.

The afternoon workshops provided practitioners with an opportunity to identify their current use of research evidence and to begin to identify those factors needed to successfully implement research evidence into practice within their organisations. The course was well received, with 70% of practitioners who gave feedback saying that they would attend a similar event in the future:



"Thanks for a nice day."

"Thanks Sarah + Patricia for facilitating our action plan! You were marvellous!"

Evidence log

In response to practitioners' requests for evidence to inform their service planning and delivery 'What Works for Children?' provides quick searches and briefings on available evidence alongside our evidence nuggets. The practitioners' requests and researchers' responses are stored in our 'evidence log'.

NEW STAFF ADDITIONS

Madeleine Stevens joined the research team in September 2002 having previously worked at the Family & Child Psychology Research Centre at City University. Madeleine has particularly worked on the development of the Evidence Guide and the Evidence Log. **Carol Joughin** joined us in October 2002 as a senior research fellow. Carol has extensive experience in the evidence-based research and practice field having managed the FOCUS project at the Royal College of Psychiatrists for a number of years. At the end of November **Greg Khine** and **Alison Moore** joined us as Research Support Interns working on a range of the project's initiatives. Greg is currently finishing his Masters course at the LSE and Alison just completed an MA in Social Research.

Research use: Self Assessment tool

Our direct work with service deliverers has highlighted that many practitioners would like to make better use of research evidence in the design and delivery of projects and services, but some of them may not be sure where to start. In an attempt to address this we have developed a Self-assessment Tool for practitioners.

The tool, adapted from an original pilot version produced by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation, aims to help Children's Fund Programmes evaluate their capacity to use research evidence in the design and delivery of services. More specifically, the tool will enable Children's Fund Programmes to assess their ability to: **acquire** research - find and access useful research evidence; **assess** research - establish its quality; **adapt** its format - to meet local needs and requirements; **apply** it in decisions - in service planning and development

It is hoped that the tool will help Children's Fund Programmes identify specific areas of improvement, which will enhance their overall capacity to use research in practice. The tool is currently being piloted with Children's Fund Programmes in Yorkshire.

Coming up...

In 2003 the node will continue to respond to practitioners' requests for research, provide seminars and other resources, closely follow up the use of the audit tool and focus on including children and young people in our work.

Recent publications

Petticrew M. and Roberts H. (in press) Evidence, hierarchies and typologies: Horses for Courses, *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*

Lucas, P., Liabo, K. and Roberts, H. (2002) Do Behavioural Treatments for Sleep Disorders in Children with Down Syndrome work?, *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, Vol.87 No 5, 413-4

Liabo K. and Roberts H. (in press) Does traffic calming work? *Archives of Disease in Childhood*

Contact

Kristin Liabo, What Works for Children? Child Health Research and Policy Unit, Institute of Health Sciences, City University, Bartholomew Close, London EC1A 7QN 020 7040 5970
k.liabo@city.ac.uk

Events

Three of our new staff attended a useful one-day course at the British Library provided by Alan Gomersall and colleagues in November. Following on from that, in December, they undertook a comprehensive course at the Institute of Child Health on evidence-based care for children. Topics included critical appraisal of systematic reviews and randomised controlled trials. Helen Roberts spoke at several events, among these; the Campbell Collaboration Methods Group in Baltimore in September. In November Sarah Frost and Patricia Lucas presented at a Network seminar on continuing professional development. Also in November Sarah spoke about her work both at RRU's seminar in St Andrew's on increasing research impact and at a Research in Practice seminar. Sarah presented to a Leeds Children's Fund workshop in December and attended a SCIE conference on EBP in the same month. Carol Joughin was a rapporteur at the international conference on 'Reducing Social Inequalities in Health Among Children and Young People' in Copenhagen, Denmark, where Patricia Lucas and Kristin Liabo also presented on the work of the Children's node.