

Received: 30/04/2024

Accepted: 30/04/2024

**DOI:**

<https://doi.org/10.17868/strath.00088887>

## Editorial

**Graham Connelly & Sarah Deeley**

Editors

### Welcome to the Spring 2024 issue of the Scottish Journal of Residential Care.

Welcome to the spring 2024 issue of the *Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care* (SJRCC). It is a very full issue, with the usual mix of long-form original research papers, short articles, and book reviews. We also publish the text of the 21<sup>st</sup> Kilbrandon Lecture and a response to the lecture.

As editors, we are delighted to announce that the SJRCC has been admitted to the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) (DOAJ). The Directory lists journals which meet the DOAJ quality assurance requirements and give access to trusted research without barriers. The project to prepare the web pages and to add Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to all articles in the back catalogue has been a considerable undertaking, and we are grateful to our publisher, CELCIS, and our communications team, to our colleagues at the Andersonian Library in the University of Strathclyde, and to DOAJ assessors, for their advice and support.

### New legislation to protect children's rights in Scotland

Last month the Scottish Parliament passed the [Children \(Care and Justice\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) which, following Royal Assent, will become the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2023. In the context of the criminal justice system in Scotland, the Act will change the legal meaning of the term 'child' to encompass all under 18s in both the care and criminal justice systems. In practice, this means that the Kilbrandon principle whereby children in conflict with the law should have the care and protection of the Children's Hearings System is extended to 16- and 17-year-olds and brings to an end the practice of using young offenders' institutions and adult prisons, even temporarily, as a placement for children. Our colleague Debbie Nolan has written a blog in which she summarises the main changes resulting from the Act. [Scotland's on the cusp of something very special \(Part 1: what the Bill will bring\) - Children and Young People's Centre for Justice \(cycj.org.uk\)](#)

### Long form articles

This issue includes six full-length peer-reviewed papers, from authors in Sweden, England, India, USA, and Scotland.



Peter Andersson and Marie Sallnas from Stockholm University offer an account of research exploring how staff working in secure institutional care for young people in Sweden understand and describe their relationships with young people using the family metaphor. Based on a study of 53 staff interviews, the authors conclude that while there was an overall shift away from using the family metaphor towards a framing of residential child care in professional terms, it nevertheless continues to have positive connotations and remains well placed in the residential child care environment.

We also feature new research by Katrin Georgieva, Beatriz Nena, Sarah Elgie and Rebecca Dunbar from the Keys Group, providers of residential care based in England, exploring the views and experiences of residential care workers in supporting gender diverse children. The authors highlight existing research showing increasing numbers of children with gender diversity, particularly among the looked after children population. Through thematic analysis the authors have identified five themes and offer a number of recommendations in relation to supports and training that residential workers would benefit from in order to best meet the holistic needs of growing numbers of gender diverse, 'looked after' children.

Kiran Modi and Gurneet Kaur Kalra from Udayan Care, a non-profit organisation in India, provide an analysis of Families Together (FIT), a family strengthening project by Udayan Care which aims to ensure the effective post-restoration reintegration of children who were living in child care institutions and returned to their families during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The project involved 54 children and their families in New Delhi. The authors make key recommendations that focus on preventive measures for child separation, facilitating effective reintegration and policy reform, that have been shared with the Delhi Government and the national government social welfare department with the aim of providing a model to prevent unnecessary separation of children from their families.

Lio Moscardini and Jesse Paul of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland discuss an evaluative case study of four care experienced young people who participated in a community arts project in Aberdeenshire. The project was funded by Creative Scotland through the Youth Music Initiative, which aimed to support the development of positive relationships, build confidence and a sense of empowerment among a group of care experienced young people. They describe the project as highlighting 'transformative potential' and suggest the findings of this paper might support pedagogical approaches that are respectful of the needs of care experienced learners participating in the arts.

Muhammad Hassan Raza of Missouri State University in USA discusses how the application of the five functions of 'Multilevel Engagement Theory' offers a theoretical lens with which to conduct research, develop understanding and explanation. The author argues that the value of such a culturally responsive theoretical approach lies in its capacity to help practitioners and policy makers understand 'the unique needs and experiences of diverse individuals and families'.



Abbi Jackson, an interim CEO in the third sector, practice educator and lecturer, discusses the use of Reiki as a treatment support for trauma recovery for young people in residential child care in Scotland. The study involved 19 young people who self-selected to participate and found that after doing so they were more relaxed overall with a positive effect to wellbeing. Abbi makes a number of recommendations relating to the use of Reiki in residential child care settings.

## Short articles

Varda Mann Feder of Concordia University and Laura Steckley of the University of Strathclyde present a reflexive and relational model for ethical decision making in child and youth care. They recognise the regularity with which child and youth care workers face ethical questions and dilemmas, describing situations that 'are complex, demand considerations at multiple levels and ultimately involve tough choices about how to respond'. They propose that working through the model outlined, workers will over time, develop their ability to problem solve and identify the best, core value based, course of action.

Monika Lengauer and Christian Posch from FICE Austria discuss the need for the development of a curriculum of continuing professional development for child and youth care professionals working in professional alternative child and youth care settings in Austria. The curriculum encompasses different teaching and learning methods with an additional recommendation for voluntary one-to-one supervision. Twenty thematic subject areas are identified with a caution that these should be considered in a context of cross cutting issues and theoretical approaches.

Olivia Roles from Rossie Young People's Trust and Lorraine Johnstone, a consultant clinical forensic psychologist, discuss how the implementation of Johnstone's ABC Formulation Framework and the 6D model in a secure care setting, has supported both staff and young people to achieve positive outcomes.

Jim Goddard of The Care Leavers' Association outlines some of the main developments during the 1950s and 1960s in relation to the state care of children in England and Wales, a period of time described as 'an important bridge between the era of institutional care and the modern world of social service departments'. Jim highlights the value of these reports as primary sources regarding the history of residential child care in the UK.

Kelly MacKenzie of South Lanarkshire College in Scotland explores the current outcomes and statistics for care experienced students in the context of 'a significant education attainment gap for the care experienced population'. Kelly identifies a range of services that could support and respond to existing gaps in provision, and a range of suggested methods staff members could use to gain better understanding and awareness of how best to support care experienced learners.

Seonaid Graham, Marie Duncan, Jenni Kerr, Imogen Wootton, Katie Quinn, and Jess Corbett of Glasgow City Council in Scotland discuss how Implementation



Science supported the application of the 'How Nurturing is our Children's House (HNIOCH)?' programme, which has contributed to a 'reduction in distressed behaviour for children and young people, and a reduction in carer absence'.

Yvonne Hughes, research associate at the University of Sydney, has contributed a detailed report about the NSW DICE Forums and Training 2023 conference held at various sites in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, Australia in August 2023.

The final short article in this collection, by Eona Craig, CEO of the Articulate Cultural Trust, an art charity based in Glasgow, Scotland, dedicated to involving care experienced young people in creative activities. The article, which includes several striking images, describes the #startwitharts campaign that used 44 billboard sites in Glasgow to display a poem about the importance of creativity in the young people's lives – the stanzas of the poem can be pieced together by walking between the sites.

## The Kilbrandon Lecture

This issue includes the text of the 21<sup>st</sup> Kilbrandon Lecture, 'Resisting the Marginalisation, Regulation and Criminalisation of Children and Young People' given by Professor Emeritus Phil Scraton of Queen's University Belfast at the University of Strathclyde in February, as well as a response given by Shumela Ahmed, care experienced activist, community educator and co-founder and managing director of the Resilience Learning Partnership. A film of the lecture is available on the University of Strathclyde [YouTube](#) channel and it, and previous lectures, can be accessed at the Kilbrandon Lectures' [archive](#).

## Book reviews

'Insiders Outsiders: Hidden narratives of Care Experienced Social Workers', edited by Mary Carter and Siobhan Maclean (Kirwin Maclean Associates, 2022), is reviewed by Professor Ruth Emond of the University of Stirling.

'Development of Children's Care Services in Scotland: Report for the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry', by Andrew Kendrick, Erin Lux, Sharon McGregor, and Richard Withington (University of Strathclyde, 2021), is reviewed by Kirstie Maclean, a retired social work consultant.

'Revitalizing Residential Care for Children and Youth: Cross-National Trends and Challenges', edited by James Whittaker, Lisa Holmes, Jorge Carlos Fernandez del Valle, and Sigrid James (Oxford University Press, 2022), is reviewed by Leon Fulcher, retired professor of social work.

## Next issue

We will be back with the autumn 2024 issue which will be published in November. If you are engaged in research which would be of interest to our



readership, please consider submitting a paper. If you have an idea for a short article, we will also be delighted to hear from you at [sjrcc@strath.ac.uk](mailto:sjrcc@strath.ac.uk).

## About the authors

Dr Graham Connelly is editor-in chief of SJRCC, and an honorary senior research fellow at CELCIS and in the department of social work and social policy at the University of Strathclyde.

Sarah Deeley is editor of SJRCC and improving care experiences consultant in CELCIS at the University of Strathclyde.

