



Making Research Count

at the Universities of
Bedfordshire and King's College London



February 2023

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Serious Case Reviews:
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Practice Development Webinar

Wednesday 29 March 2023
11.00am - 12.30pm

Domestic Violence Disclosure Schemes: Power, and Responsibility

Dr Katerina Hadjimatheou

University of Essex



The aim of Domestic Violence Disclosure Schemes (DVDS) is to empower victim-survivors of domestic abuse by giving them access to information about their partner's criminal history.

In this webinar, Dr [Katerina Hadjimatheou](#) will present findings from the largest study of the police implementation of the first such scheme, introduced in the United Kingdom in 2014, and discuss the implications for social work and social care practice.

For more information, please click [here](#).

To book your place, please email: mrc@beds.ac.uk

Dementia Research

at the
NIHR Health & Social Care Workforce
Research Unit (HSCWRU),
King's College London



Developing the Role of Dementia Champions in the Homecare Sector

The overall aim of this 18-month project (July 2022 - December 2023) is to define, refine and evolve the role of Dementia Champions in the homecare sector. The study's objectives are: to conceptualise what a 'Dementia Champion' is and how the role is implemented in practice across health and social care settings; to identify what components of the DC role already exist in homecare; to co-produce a model of the DC role within the homecare sector; to understand how the DC role might be implemented in the homecare sector; and to understand the strengths and limitations of the DC role in the homecare sector.

Forward with Dementia

People living with dementia and their carers often have negative experiences of NHS and social care services around diagnosis. This study aims to support people living with dementia and carers to live well after a dementia diagnosis and to help people in social care who are working with them.

Many people living with dementia use homecare services to support them living at home. For people living with dementia without family or friends, homecare and other community services provide vital regular support and social contact. Most social care workers, especially homecare workers, often work alone, lack specific dementia training and are not confident in their roles.

Continence Self-Management Guidance for Those Living With Dementia

Many people living with dementia and their carers find dealing with incontinence hugely distressing. Research by team members has found that many carers want proactive support from the professionals they see (either healthcare or homecare workers), but healthcare professionals often feel ill-equipped to help carers or advise homecare workers.

This research builds on previous studies by the research team which asked people living with dementia, carers and nurses to tell us what information and support they would find useful. The outcome of that research was a detailed, practical handbook specifically for carers.

The aim of this study is to build on this handbook to develop a new scalable, low-cost and sustainable intervention to be used by healthcare professionals to equip them to: start conversations about continence with people living with dementia, their carers and homecare workers; discuss continence problems and help people choose goals; and deliver practical advice to carers and homecare workers.

For further information on these, and other HSCWRU projects, please click [here](#)

Practice Development Events

For those working in, and with, children's services

Thursday 9 February 2023, 11am - 12.30pm
Outcomes for Mother-Child Relationships After Coercive Control

Dr Emma Katz
Liverpool Hope University

Thursday 16 February 2023, 9.30 - 11.00am
Building Professional and Organisational Resilience: A Systemic Approach

Thursday 16 February 2023, 11.30am - 1.00pm
Intrafamilial Sexual Abuse

Thursday 2 March 2023, 11.00am - 12.30pm
Forced Marriage: Enhancing Protection and Prevention Responses
Prof Sundari Anitha, University of Lincoln, and
Prof Aisha K Gill, CBE, University of Bristol

Thursday 16 March 2023, 10.00am - 1.00pm
Sexual Abuse Involving Child Siblings: Scale, Impact, and Professional Responses
Dr Peter Yates
University of Edinburgh

Thursday 23 March 2023, 1.30 - 3.00pm
Emotional Abuse

Wednesday 29 March 2023, 11.00am - 12.30pm
Domestic Violence Disclosure Schemes: Issues of Power, and Responsibility
Dr Katerina Hadjimatheou
University of Essex

Tuesday 25 April 2023, 11.00am - 12.30pm
Deconstructing the Relationship Between Us and The State: State-Sanctioned Violence Against Women and Girls
Simon Kerss
Anglia Ruskin University

Tuesday 9 May 2023, 11.00am - 12.30pm

Understanding, Safeguarding and Supporting Young Carers
Hannah Thompson

Signpost Stockport for Young Carers

Wednesday 24 May 2023, 11.00am - 12.30pm
Child Sex Trafficking in England and Wales: Child Protection Responses

Dr Paul Nelson
Anglia Ruskin University

Tuesday 20 June 2023, 10.30am - 12.30pm
Emerging Forms of Coercive Control

Dr Nadia Aghtaie, University of Bristol
Prof Marianne Hester, University of Bristol
Dr Natasha Mulvihill, University of Bristol
Dr Mary Wakeham, Refuge4Pets
Sarah-Jane Walker, University of Bristol

Critical and Reflective Practice Forum: A 'Book Group' for Children's Social Care Managers and Experienced Practitioners

- Meets: Last Friday of Every Month
- Time: 10.00 - 11.00am
- Held Online

The MRC Critical and Reflective Practice group, at King's College London, is a well-established forum that provides an opportunity to:

- Identify and discuss key areas of emerging social work research
- Explore the implications of major policy documents for practice
- Debate and discuss key areas in contemporary social work with colleagues from across London

The Forum has run for more than 15 years and brings together practitioners and managers from across the UK. This unique forum works as a 'book group', looking at articles, research papers and policy documents, which are circulated beforehand to members, and considers their implications for practice.

Topics are selected by the group, but have included: contextual safeguarding; supervision and the meaning of professional leadership; anti-oppressive practice; professional resilience; the nature of reflective practice; the impact of austerity and poverty; the efficacy of the safeguarding and care systems; and implications for social work of new ways of working.

To book places, and for further information, please email Janet Noble at janet.noble@kcl.ac.uk.

The next meetings of the Forum are:

Friday 24 February 2023, 10.00 - 11.00am

Friday 31 March 2023, 10.00 - 11.00am

Making Research Count at the Universities of Bedfordshire and King's College London

For further details of these, and other, events visit:

www.beds.ac.uk/mrc

www.kcl.ac.uk/hscwru/research/mrc

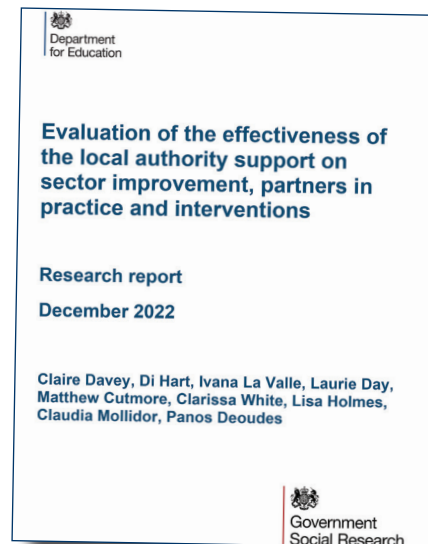


Evaluation of Local Authority Support on Children's Social Care Services

The Department for Education has recently published (December 2022) a study on the effectiveness of local authority support on sector improvement, partners in practice and interventions in children's social care services.

In July 2018, the Department for Education (DfE) appointed Ecorys UK with the Rees Centre at the University of Oxford, Ipsos MORI and sector-expert researchers to undertake an evaluation of DfE's interventions and improvement support for local authority (LA) children's social care services. The evaluation aimed to assess:

- the impact of the intervention and improvement support offer
- which activities, approaches and models were most effective
- how local context determined success, or otherwise, of the improvement activities and approaches.



A mixed methods design was used, comprising of 4 strands of qualitative research: a quantitative research strand including an impact assessment adopting a quasiexperimental design (QED) and an economic analysis¹ and 2 surveys of Directors of Children's Services (DCSs) or Children's Trust's Chief Executives.

Key findings:

On the strength of the overall evidence, the evaluation concludes that the DfE's suite of interventions and improvement support has contributed toward improvements in performance within the sector since 2017. Overall, the analysis indicates that the success of any given approach is as much down to how the LA is supported as to the mechanics of what is done. While suggestions for improvement were made, the evaluation also highlighted the contribution of regional networks and the interactions between LAs, the DfE and other key stakeholders within the regions. The key findings for the different strands of the evaluation are presented.

For further information, and related content, please click [here](#)

Bright Spots Programme

The Bright Spots Programme is a partnership between Coram Voice and the University of Oxford, funded by the Hadley Trust. It supports local authorities to systematically listen to their children in care and care leavers, about the things that are important to them.

Bright Spots has three underlying principles:

- Focus on what children and young people say about their lives and what is important to them
- Ensure the views and experiences of children influence service development and strategic thinking
- Share good practice between local authorities by encouraging opportunities for learning and development.

By working with over 60 local authorities and gathering over 20,000 responses from children and care leavers, they have gained insight into the key question, "What makes life good for children in care and care leavers?"

The Your Life, Your Care and Your Life Beyond Care surveys are the largest surveys of their kind, giving more children in care and care leavers the chance to share their experiences. The survey compares local findings with those of other local authorities, as well as with peers in the general population.

Both surveys were co-produced with young people and the questions are based on what 170 young people in care and care leavers said was important to them.

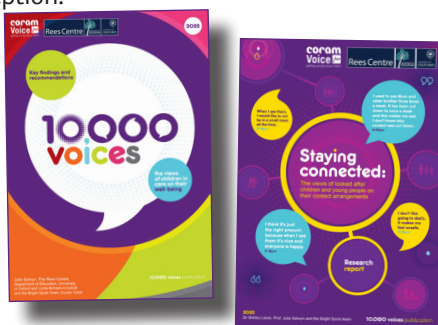
The [Bright Spots](#) website contains a range of resources and publications for download. For example:

[10,000 Voices: Children in Care's Views on their Well-Being](#)

(November 2022)

Julie Selwyn and Linda Briheim-Crookall

For almost a decade the Bright Spots Programme has worked with children and young people to explore what they feel makes their lives good through the Your Life, Your Care survey. The 10,000 Voices report summarises what they have learned from these children and young people since the Programme's inception.



[Staying Connected: The Views of Looked After Young People on their Contact Arrangements](#)

(May 2022)

Shirley Lewis, Julie Selwyn and Linda Briheim-Crookall

Staying connected explores the views and experiences of children in care shared through the Your Life, Your Care surveys. It analyses over 7,500 responses and 3,000 comments to questions about spending time with their birth parents, brothers and sisters.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is an independent social change organisation working to solve UK poverty

The JRF website contains a wide range of publications. For example:

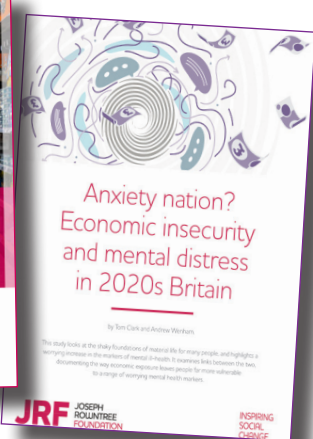
Going Under and Without: JRF's Cost of Living Tracker Winter 2022/23

This new research highlights that low-income households' finances continue to buckle under the pressure of the cost of living crisis, as 7.2 million are going without the basics, and 4.7 million are behind on their bills.

The study finds that it is households on the very lowest incomes who are struggling the most, with three quarters of those in the bottom 20% of incomes going without food or other basic essentials like clothing or toiletries. People on Universal Credit (UC), private renters and young adults are all seeing rising and worrying levels of hardship.

JRF is calling on the Government to do the right thing and fill the gaps left by the Autumn Statement so that people across the UK aren't building up debt and going without the basics.

To download the report, please click [here](#)



Anxiety Nation? Economic Insecurity and Mental Distress in 2020s Britain

This study looks at the shaky foundations of material life for many people, and highlights a worrying increase in the markers of mental ill-health. It examines links between the two, documenting the way economic exposure leaves people far more vulnerable to a range of worrying mental health markers.

Key Findings:

- On 12 different markers of mental health problems – from sleep loss to impeded social life – renters raised the flag for distress much more often than homeowners, and on 10 of the 12, more than twice as often.
- Those with minimal savings reliably reported far more distress than substantial savers, with twice as many admitting to taking less care at work, and three times as many reporting feeling worthless.
- All sorts of reforms, from those relating to the rental market to workplace changes, could bolster economic security – and, on the face of our findings, bring serious benefits for mental health too.

To download the report, please click [here](#)

women's aid

until women & children are safe

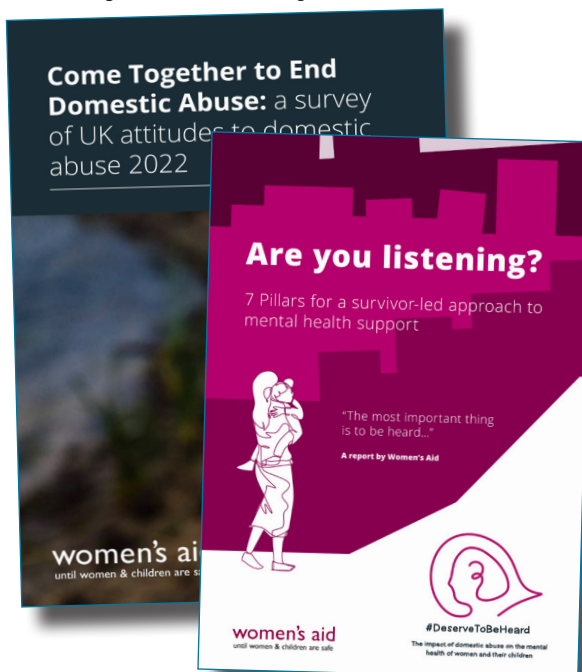
Recently Published Research

Are You Listening?

7 Pillars for a Survivor-Led Approach to Mental Health Support

This research was conducted with a view to understanding what domestic abuse survivors want from mental health support, and what an effective response looks like. The findings will inform Women's Aid's work to ensure that mental health support commissioned for survivors of domestic abuse meets the needs survivors and is informed by their voices. The research will also inform future iterations of the Women's Aid Deserve To Be Heard campaign.

The campaign is calling for greater recognition of the impact that domestic abuse has on the mental health of women and their children, and the importance of providing support that meets their needs. Women's Aid's training – rooted in the real-life experiences of survivors – will equip you with the knowledge you need to confidently provide meaningful mental health support.



Come Together to End Domestic Abuse: A Survey of UK Attitudes to Domestic Abuse 2022

As part of Women's Aid's Come Together to End Domestic Abuse campaign we have developed a unique survey into UK adults' attitudes to domestic abuse. The aim was to design a piece of formative research to gather insight on attitudes towards domestic abuse in order to better understand where and why domestic abuse is 'tolerated' in our society. They set out to discover:

- How well the UK public understand the scope and nature of domestic abuse.
- What factors or attitudes make domestic abuse more or less tolerable.

This report sets out the key findings from the research and will inform Women's Aid's work, and further research, going forward.

Click [here](#) to view all Women's Aid's publications.

Practice Development Events

For those working in, and with, adult's services

Adult Services CPD Programme

A Critical and Reflective Practice Forum for Managers and Experienced Practitioners in Adult Services

Meets: Last Friday of Every Month

Time: 11.30am - 1pm, online

Making Research Count is a university based research dissemination network that seeks to build the links between research, policy and practice. The MRC Adult Services CPD Programme, King's College London, is a well-established group that provides an opportunity to:

- Identify and discuss key areas of emerging social work research
- Explore the implications of major policy documents for practice
- Debate and discuss key areas in contemporary social work with colleagues from across London.

The Group brings together practitioners and managers from across London. It looks at articles, research papers and policy documents, which are circulated beforehand to members, and considers their implications for practice. Topics are selected by the Group, but have included: end of life care for people with dementia; implications of the 2014 Care Act; and the reablement of people with mental health difficulties.

Signing up to the Group does not commit participants to attending every session. Indeed, several people only attend occasionally - but appreciate getting the papers.

The next meetings of this Forum will be:

Friday 24 February 2023, 11am - 12pm

Friday 31 March 2023, 11am - 12pm

To book places, and for further information, please email Janet Noble at janet.noble@kcl.ac.uk

Friday 3 February 2023, 10.00 - 11.00am

[Risk, Empowerment and Dementia](#)

Monday 13 February 2023, 1.30 - 3pm

[Strengths Based Approaches to Adult Social Care in 2023](#)

Tuesday 21 February 2023, 10 - 11.30am

[Cultural Approaches to Death and Dying](#)

Thursday 2 March 2023, 11.00am - 12.30pm

[Forced Marriage: Enhancing Protection and Prevention Responses](#)

Tuesday 20 June 2023, 10.30am - 12.30pm

[Emerging Forms of Coercive Control](#)

Speakers:

Dr Nadia Aghaie, University of Bristol

Prof Marianne Hester, University of Bristol

Dr Natasha Mulvihill, University of Bristol

Dr Mary Wakeham, Refuge4Pets

Sarah-Jane Walker, University of Bristol



Webinar Series:

[Adult Safeguarding and Homelessness](#)

This series of webinars will be of interest to all those working with individuals experiencing multiple exclusion homelessness, and will highlight evidence-informed practice in adult safeguarding.

Each webinar is presented by the editors and chapter authors of a (2022) [book](#) on the same theme.

1. [Learning About Best Practice from People with Lived Experience of Homelessness](#)

Gill Taylor and Carl Price

The recording of this webinar is available [here](#)

2. [Working with People Experiencing Homelessness](#)

Karl Mason, Fiona Bateman, Imogen Blood, Henry St Clair Miller, and Sione Marshall and Nathan Servini

The recording of this webinar is available [here](#)

3. [Commissioning, Governance, and Organisational Support for Practitioners Working with People Experiencing Homelessness](#)

Susan Harrison, Barney Wells, Rebecca Pritchard and Katy Shorten.

Tuesday 21 February 2023, 2.00 - 4.00pm

Recordings of Recent MRC Webinars

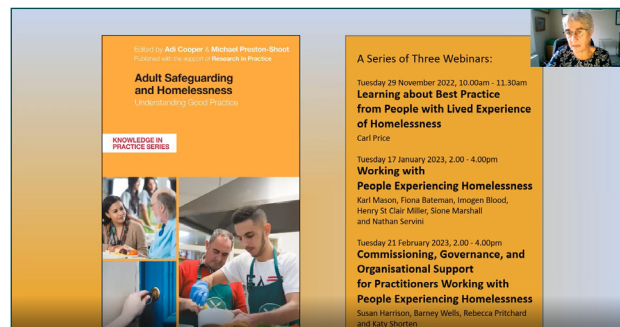
Video recordings of Making Research Count (MRC) webinars

The full library of recordings is available to subscribing MRC members, but the following selection is free to access (click on the title, or image, to view the video):



[Why People Die By Suicide and What We Can Do To Prevent It](#)

Prof Rory O'Connor, University of Glasgow
January 2023



Webinar series: [Adult Safeguarding and Homelessness: Understanding Good Practice](#)

[Working with People Experiencing Homelessness](#)

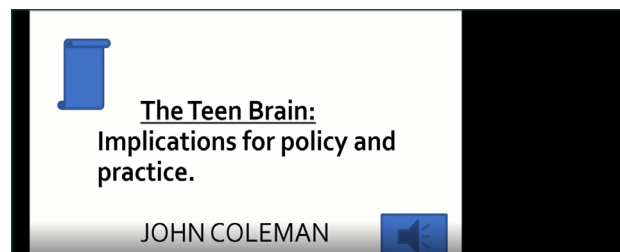
Karl Mason, Fiona Bateman, Henry St Clair Miller, Sione Marshall and Nathan Servini
January 2023

[Learning about Best Practice from People with Lived Experience of Homelessness](#)

Carl Price, Change Grow Live
Dr Adi Cooper, University of Bedfordshire
November 2022

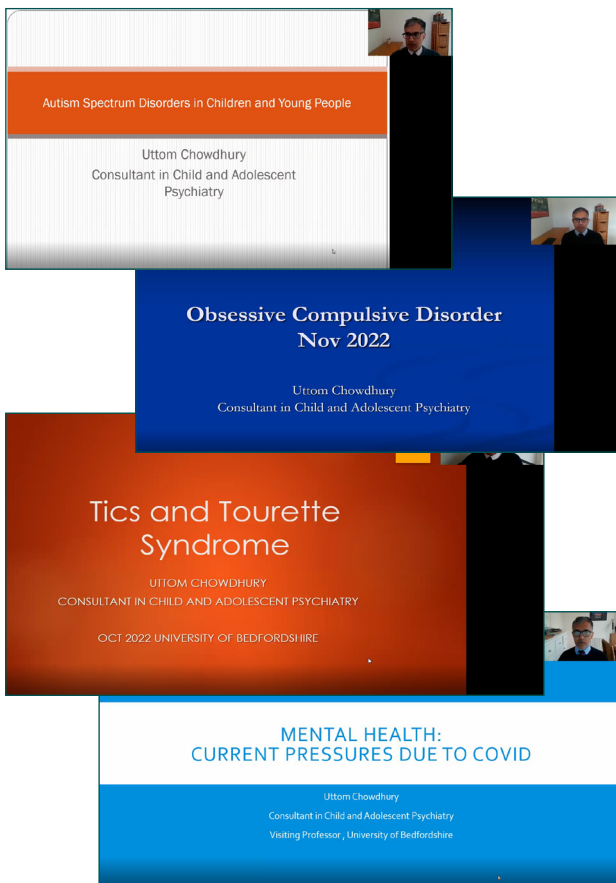
This is a selection of the Making Research Count (MRC) webinar recordings available on our website.

To enquire about membership of MRC and, with it, our full range of resources, please contact: mrc@beds.ac.uk



[Understanding the Teenage Brain - Why This Matters For Social Care](#)

Prof John Coleman, University of Bedfordshire
November 2022



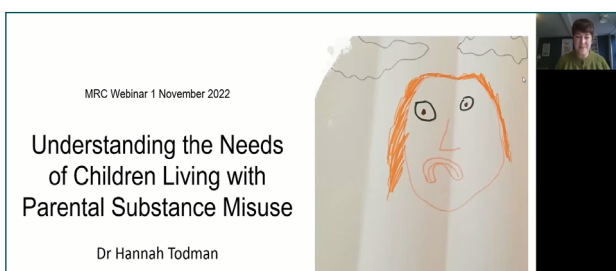
Webinar Series:
Children and Young People's Mental Health
Prof Uttom Chowdhury, University of Bedfordshire

[Understanding Children and Young People With Autistic Spectrum Disorders](#)
 December 2022

[Obsessive Compulsive Disorder in Children and Young People](#)
 November 2022

[Understanding Tics and Tourette Syndrome](#)
 October 2022

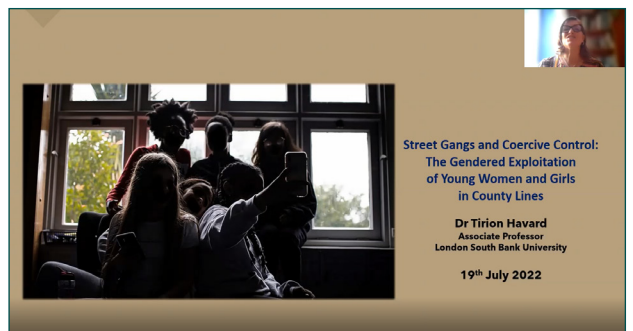
[Covid and Mental Health in Young People](#)
 September 2022



[Understanding the Needs of Children Living with Parental Substance Misuse](#)
 Dr Hannah Todman, Stockport Council
 November 2022



[Trauma-Informed Practice](#)
 Simon Kerss, Anglia Ruskin University
 October 2022



[Gangs and Coercive Control: The Gendered Exploitation of Young Women and Girls in County Lines](#)
 Dr Tirion Havard, London South Bank University
 July 2022

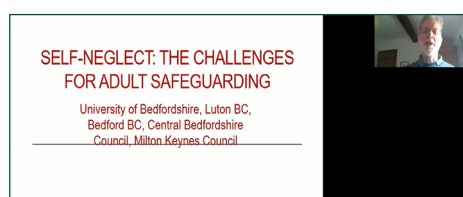


[My Nest is Full: Multigenerational Households of Families Living With Addiction](#)
 Monica Whyte, European Family Therapy Association
 July 2022



[Understanding, Identifying and Disrupting Oppression in Social Care Encounters](#)
 Delivered to University of Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough, Central Beds, Luton Borough and Milton Keynes Councils
 Dr Prospera Tadam, United Arab Emirates University
 September 2022

[Anti-Opressive Social Care Practice](#)
[Identifying, Understanding and Disrupting Oppression in Social Care Encounters](#)



[Self-Neglect: The Challenges for Adult Safeguarding](#)
 Prof Michael Preston-Shoot, University of Bedfordshire
 July 2022



Department for Education

Research and Analysis

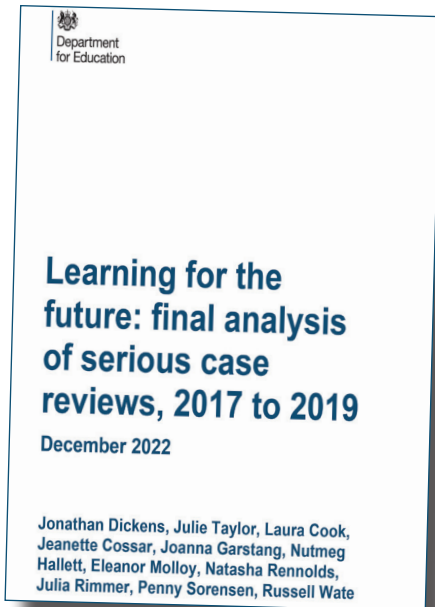
Serious Case Reviews: Analysis, Lessons and Challenges

The Department for Education has published research reports analysing serious case reviews (SCRs), with findings for professionals working with children and families.

'Learning for the future' is an overview and analysis of 235 cases which led to serious case reviews (SCRs) between April 2017 and September 2019.

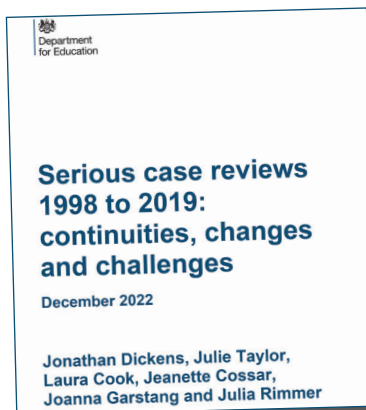
The report gives an overview of the key characteristics of the cases, and addresses:

- the problem of neglect
- the challenges of practice
- the task of listening to the child's voice



'Serious case reviews 1998 to 2019' considers government-commissioned periodic overviews of SCRs, from 1998 until the dissolution of SCRs in 2019.

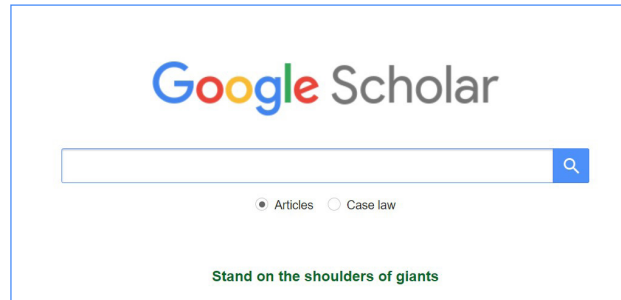
This report aims to give a final overview of practice during that period and the major continuities, changes and challenges for SCRs.



For further information, and related content, please click [here](#)

Google Scholar

Google Scholar is an academic search engine that allows you to focus only on material deemed to be scholarly (research publications, for example).

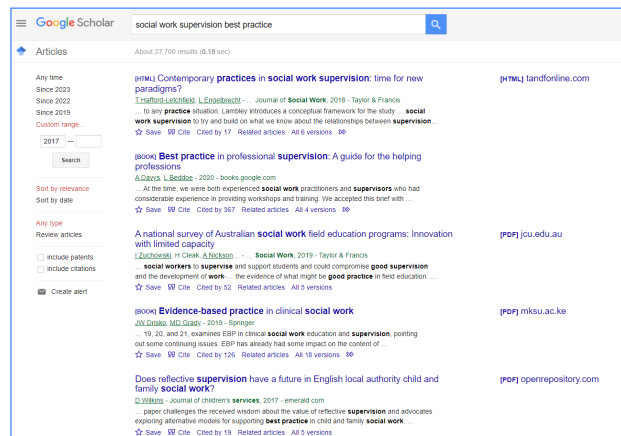


While Google searches the entire Web, Google Scholar limits its searches to only academic journal articles produced by commercial publishers or scholarly societies.

Google Scholar eliminates material from corporations, non-scholarly organizations, and from individuals. Google Scholar is an easy and quick way to find academic/scholarly articles on just about any subject

From one place, you can search across many disciplines and sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites. Google Scholar helps you find relevant work across the world of scholarly research.

For example, the screenshot below shows a Google Scholar search for 'Social Work Supervision Best Practice', from 2017 onwards, and sorted by relevance.



Google Scholar aims to rank documents the way researchers do, weighing the full text of each document, where it was published, who it was written by, as well as how often and how recently it has been cited in other scholarly literature.

Features of Google Scholar:

- Search all scholarly literature from one convenient place
- Explore related works, citations, authors, and publications
- Locate the complete document through your library or on the web
- Keep up with recent developments in any area of research
- Check who's citing your publications, create a public author profile

scholar.google.co.uk/