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CONTACT THE REES CENTRE

Phone: +44 (0)1865 274050

Email: rees.centre@education.ox.ac.uk

Website: <http://reescentre.education.ox.ac.uk>

Blog: <http://reescentre.education.ox.ac.uk/blog/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ReesCentre>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook/ReesCentreOxford>

We welcome your feedback and suggestions on our work. To unsubscribe from the Rees Centre mailing list, please email rees.centre@education.ox.ac.uk

RESEARCH UPDATES

Analysis of care and education pathways of refugee and asylum-seeking children in care in England: Implications for social work

Researcher: Aoife O'Higgins

Aoife has recently completed a study using secondary data analysis to examine how UASC get on in school and in care. The first part of the study compares UASC outcomes to those of other looked after children and children in the general population. The second part analyses key predictors for exam scores at age 16.

Key Messages for Policy and Practice

- Issue all unaccompanied refugee and asylum-seeking children in England with a Unique Pupil Number so their educational pathways and outcomes can be tracked by DfE and analysed by researchers
- Capitalise on young people's motivation for education, remove barriers to learning and provide adequate support

- Work more closely together with other professionals supporting unaccompanied refugee and asylum-seeking children to minimise placement changes and, where these are inevitable, their impact
- Support young people's attendance and transition into mainstream schools

Key Messages for Research

- Examine care and educational pathways for all unaccompanied refugee and asylum-seeking children in care using existing datasets in England
- Design more longitudinal research which provides greater detail on the unique experiences of unaccompanied refugee and asylum-seeking children

Reference

The full journal article will be available shortly online:

O'Higgins, A. (2018 online). Analysis of care and education pathways of refugee and asylum-seeking children in care in England: implications for social work. *International Journal of Social Welfare*.

For further information about this work, please contact [Aoife](#) and see the [Rees Centre website](#).

Education of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

Dr Ellie Ott has recently presented at several workshops and practitioner conferences about Rees Centre research into the educational provision for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in England. This has included an invited workshop with policy officials and other key personnel at the DfE in April, a presentation at the Practice Development Week in Coventry in June and the West Midlands Virtual School UASC Conference in July.

The Alex Timpson Attachment and Trauma Programme In Schools



The Alex Timpson Trust is funding the Rees Centre to develop a national evidence base on the effects of attachment and trauma training in schools. With 22 local authorities currently signed up to the programme, we are working with more than 100 schools across the country. [More information](#)

REES CENTRE EVENTS

The Rees Centre organises a range of free [seminars, events and webinars](#). Most are open to the public and aim to cover both research findings and implications for policy and practice. We have recently welcomed a number of visitors to the Centre to speak about issues related to children in care and care leavers.

Further information below.

Ian Wren and Nikki Foy (LOOKOUT): ***Past Legacy, Present Tense, 4 July 2018***



The [LOOKOUT organisation](#) in Victoria, Australia (based on the UK virtual school model) works with children in care, particularly Aboriginal children, to change the poor educational and life outcomes that these children have historically faced. Ian and Nikki gave a fascinating presentation on their work at an informal lunchtime talk arranged by the Rees Centre.

Dr Lisa Holmes (Rees Centre Director): *Exploring needs, costs and outcomes of services provided to vulnerable children and their families, 14 May 2018*

[Presentation available now as a podcast](#)

Professor Shalhevet Attar-Schwartz: *Child-Parent Contact: The Reports of Youth in Residential Care Settings, 9 May 2018*



Shalhevet Attar-Schwartz from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem presented findings from a study that gathered the views of young people in residential care in Israel on the frequency of contact and support from their mothers and fathers.

Professor Robbie Gilligan: *The Untapped Potential of 'Work' for Looked After Young People – Challenges and Opportunities, 23 April 2018*

Robbie Gilligan from Trinity College Dublin explored the transformative potential of 'work' (ranging from paid employment to internships to volunteering) for marginalised young people.

[Presentation available now as a podcast](#)

[Related blog post](#)

REES CENTRE NEWS



Welcome to Professor Harriet Ward, Honorary Research Fellow

Harriet will act as a consultant to the Rees Centre as well as participating in our research programme. She joined the Department of Education at the University of Oxford in 2018. Harriet has over 30 years of experience both as a research director and field researcher, as an adviser to policymakers and service providers, and as a social work practitioner. She was academic adviser to the joint DH/DfE research initiative on safeguarding children and chaired the DfE working party on neglect. She has given invited expert evidence to parliamentary committees and inquiries on looked after children, child and family social work, child protection and foster care. She represents England on the Board of EUSARF

(European Scientific Association on Residential and Family Care for Children and Adolescents), and is a founder member of the international network of research on transitions to adulthood from care (INTRAC). She has a EUSARF lifetime achievement award, and was awarded a CBE for services to children and families in 2012. Harriet is Emeritus Professor of Child and Family Research at Loughborough University, having founded and previously directed Loughborough's Centre for Child and Family Research (CCFR).

International Conferences

Lisa gave an invited keynote speech 'The prospect of diverse placement services for sexually exploited children' at the **International Conference on the Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation in Taipei**, 28 June 2018.



Lisa was also invited to meet with legislators, policy officials and academics while in Taipei to present an overview of the English children's social care system, with a particular emphasis on the role of residential care and the Ofsted inspection framework.

Members of the Rees Centre team will present work across a number of projects at IPSCAN (Sept 2018) and EUSARF (Oct 2018). More information in the September newsletter.

Rees Centre Blog

We welcome your comments on the following posts:

[Why understanding trauma and attachment is so important](#) Summary of webinar led by Sir John Timpson, 27 June 2018. Includes his five principles for schools working on attachment and trauma.

[Barriers to implementing national guidance on fostering unaccompanied asylum seeking children](#) Guest blog post by Abigail Sidery.