



TRINITY TERM NEWSLETTER

July 2023

Summer is here, so it's time to share a few updates from our community at the Rees Centre.

Assessing the feasibility of a supplementary health assessment measure for young people in residential and foster care



We're extremely pleased to announce a new research project launching at the Centre, led by [Dr Áine Kelly](#), and supported by [Dr Nikki Luke](#). The project, funded by [Foundations](#), aims to assess the feasibility of a supplementary health assessment measure for young people in residential and foster care.

Currently, as Áine highlights, "the information collected for the SSDA903 return only looks at whether young people have had their health assessment that year and does not capture the young people's health needs, the support they may need, or whether their health needs are being met. We also know that young people are at risk of disengaging with health assessments as they get older". Therefore, the project aims to co-produce a questionnaire that can be used in health assessments to support the information collected by nurses.

This feasibility study provides the basis for future work in which Áine hopes to conduct a larger trial to explore how the questionnaire could support local authorities and clinical commissioning groups to make sure there are enough support services available, while also identifying training needs for caregivers, social care, and healthcare staff. Young people from residential and foster care and their caregivers will support in the design of the questionnaire, focusing on issues that are important to them, whilst also exploring the best way of collecting this information from young people in the future. Health and social care professionals are also being enlisted to advise on how the questionnaire might promote positive outcomes for young people in care, what outcomes these might be, and how these outcomes might be measured to assess the impact of the questionnaire in the future.

The project will run until Spring 2024.

Evaluation of the Pupil Premium Plus Post-16 Programme



**Department
for Education**

We are delighted to announce that the Rees Centre and Cordis Bright are working together on an evaluation for the Department for Education of its Pupil Premium Plus Post-16 Programme.

The Pupil Premium Plus Post-16 programme aims to improve outcomes for looked after children and care leavers in post-16 education, with a particular focus on improving attendance, retention and attainment. The Rees Centre previously completed a six-month pilot evaluation of the programme in 30 local authorities between September 2021 and March 2022. (see: [Evaluation of the virtual school heads extension and the pupil premium plus post-16 pilot - GOV.UK](#)). The Programme was subsequently extended to a further 28 local authority areas in September 2022 and is being rolled out across all local authorities in England from September 2023.

The current evaluation will initially run until March 2025, and the team is led by Cordis Bright. At the Centre, work will be led by [Prof Leon Feinstein](#), with Centre researchers [Dr Georgina Hyde-Dryden](#) leading case study analysis, and statistical analysis from [Dr Nikki Luke](#). Work on cost benefit will be led by Cordis Bright and [Prof Steve McIntosh](#) at the University of Sheffield.



Information Sharing in Children's Social Care

A new report '[Overcoming Behavioural & Cultural Barriers to Multi-agency Information Sharing in Children's Social Care](#)' has now been published, which informs the Newham-led project for the DfE



Bright Spots: Learning from Research

Last month, as part of the ongoing [Bright Spots Programme](#) (a partnership between Coram Voice and the Centre), [Prof Julie Selwyn](#) presented at the [Coram BAAF](#) webinar "Learning from Research: The wellbeing of children in care - comparing those in

Data and Digital Fund.

The report sets out findings from a narrative literature review and an expert consultation, conducted by [Prof Leon Feinstein](#) and [Dr Georgia Hyde-Dryden](#) at the Centre in collaboration with Dr Mary Baginsky and Rick Hood.

The report was also presented to the House of Parliament on the 6th July 2023.

kinship and unrelated foster care", alongside Linda Briheim, Head of Policy and Development at [Coram Voice](#).

The presentation showcased data from Bright Spots, examining the views of over 1,200 children (aged 4 - 10 years) and young people (aged 11-18 years) in kinship foster care in over 38 local authorities.

You can find out more about Bright Spots findings on kinship foster care [here](#).



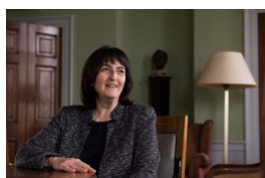
Rees Centre Symposium at EuSARF Conference

We are pleased to say that there will be a Rees Centre symposium on education at the upcoming EuSARF conference, held at the University of Sussex on the 13th - 15th September 2023.

The symposium, entitled, "*Reducing the disadvantage experienced by children and young people in care/edge of care/care leavers through education*" will include five papers.

Those from the Centre will be given by Dr Georgia Hyde-Dryden (with Helen Trivedi, Dr Priya Tah, and Dr Andrew Brown), Prof Julie Selwyn, Dr Andrew Brown (with Prof Judy Sebba). The symposium will also feature papers from Prof Mark Courtney and Prof Elizabeth Fernandez.

We hope to see many of you there.

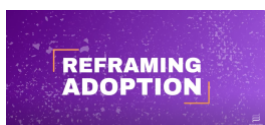


Lambeth Virtual School Conference Keynote

Earlier this month, Prof Judy Sebba, Emeritus Professor at the Centre, gave the keynote speech at the Lambeth Virtual School Conference, entitled, "*What do we know about the factors that contribute to better educational outcomes for children in care and children with a social worker?*".

The conference, which was held at Roots and Shoots in Lambeth, London on the 13th July 2023.

[Find out more about Judy's work](#)



Outcomes of Open Adoption Webinar

On June 12th 2023, [Prof Harriet Ward](#), an Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre, presented a webinar entitled "*Outcomes of Open Adoption: What can we learn from practice?*". The well attended webinar formed part of the Reframing Adoption Conference series, organised by [ExChange Wales](#).

[Watch Harriet's webinar online](#)

DPhil Corner



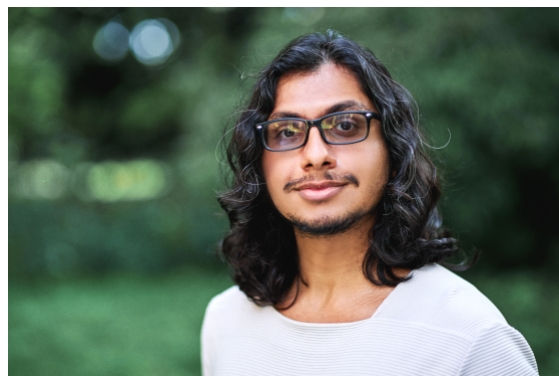
Congratulations Jenny!

Congratulations are due to one of our DPhil students, Jenny, for passing her Confirmation of Status! Her DPhil focuses on adoptive families, where the adoptive parents also have birth children. She is supervised by [Prof Julie Selwyn](#) at the Centre and [Prof Katherine Burn](#), and her examiners were [Dr Andrew Brown](#) also at the Centre and [Prof Rebecca Eynon](#).

Jenny's thesis (in progress) is titled 'Parenting an adopted child in a family with birth children: how assumptions and beliefs shape social work practice and parents' experience'.

So, well done and full steam ahead!

[Find out more about Jenny's work](#)



Well done Yousef!

We would also like to say congratulations to another one of our DPhil students, Yousef, as they were recognised as an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, in recognition of their teaching at the University of Oxford.

Yousef was also recently awarded the Nottingham Scheme Award by the University of Nottingham for their work building the [Hub for Education for Refugees in Europe \(HERE\)](#) project.

Yousef's DPhil explores the educational resilience pathways of unaccompanied refugee minors, drawing upon data and fieldwork from Jordan and Greece.

[Find out more about Yousef's work](#)

Latest academic publications

Julie Selwyn and Lewis Shirley (2023) Keeping in touch: Looked after children and young people's views on their contact arrangements, Adoption & Fostering, <https://doi.org/10.1177/03085759231170879>



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