The University of Edinburgh/NSPCC Child Protection Research Centre six monthly report and workplan

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NSPCC Child Protection Research Centre

Six Monthly Report and Workplan

1st February, 2013 to 31st July 2013

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1. INTRODUCTION

With research workstreams under way, much has already been produced over the six months from 1st February to 31st July, 2013. During this period, four new members of staff joined the Child Protection Research Centre: Professor Julie Taylor took up post as the inaugural NSPCC Chair in Child Protection; and three fixed-term research assistants: Maxine Moy, Alasdair Stewart and Kristin Childers-Buschle. A further research assistant, Audrey Cameron, starts in August. Dr Anne Stafford has been on sabbatical leave since February 1st and returns in October. Interviews for a new lecturer and new research assistant will be held next month. The Centre has had three grants accepted and submitted three further grants that are awaiting possible award. The international MSc in Child Protection Research has reached its development milestones and aims to commence 2014. The Centre has published ten academic journal articles in this reporting period, has had a further seven accepted and has submitted another two that are still awaiting award. Three book proposals have been accepted and will be written over the next year. The Centre has also developed and commissioned a new website which went live on 1st May. Section One provides the overview of the Centre. Sections 2-8 report activity for the six month period Feb-July 2013. Current and submitted proposals (sections 3-5) comprise this year’s workplan.

1.1 WHAT WE DO

The Child Protection Research Centre is an innovative partnership between the University of Edinburgh and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC). We conduct interdisciplinary and international research and foster dialogue to address entrenched problems in child protection.

1.2 WHY WE EXIST

For us ‘child protection’ includes all forms of harm perpetrated against children and young people whether from caregivers and adults or from other children and young people. The challenges for those working within the field of child protection are immense. Yet organisations and professionals working across the UK and internationally can and do make a difference to children. To be effective requires constant vigilance and joint working and so, at the Child Protection Research Centre, we join with those working to keep children and young people safe by bringing our research, knowledge and insights to support this important work. We want to ensure that children and young people are kept safe from all forms of child maltreatment: emotional, physical and sexual abuse, neglect and peer-to-peer harm; and where they have already been harmed, to help them recover as quickly and as fully as possible.
1.3 VISION AND MISSION

Preventing child abuse and neglect is our ultimate vision. We contribute to this by providing research and education to:

- Understand the scope and magnitude of child abuse and neglect;
- Identify, scale-up and evaluate promising interventions for response and prevention;
- Influence policymakers and practitioners with our research.

For us, success means that:

- Child abuse and neglect is prevented.
- All children, young people and adults who have experienced child abuse and neglect have access to the best responses and these responses are developed incorporating the views of children and young people.
- Policymakers incorporate the voice of children and young people and use evidence-based research produced by the Centre to develop and inform policies addressing child abuse and neglect.

1.4 AUDIENCE

Our work is designed to be appropriate for an international, multidisciplinary audience of academics, senior policymakers and professionals. It is designed to be helpful to children and young people, parents and communities. Our research is relevant to national governments, international bodies, professionals in health, social work, education, law enforcement and the criminal justice systems as well as to international development organisations.

1.5 HOW WE WORK

- We work to ensure our research is excellent, relevant, accessible and collaborative. These are the principles and values that underpin our work:
- Delivering excellent research that is independent and academically robust.
- Conducting research that is relevant both within the devolved UK and an international context.
- Ensuring our work is accessible to a wide, multi-disciplinary audience including academics, senior policymakers, professionals and other users and beneficiaries of research, including children and young people.
- Actively fostering links through collaborations and exchanges to strengthen the work and its impact both in the UK and globally.
1.6 ACTIVITY

Our work encompasses all areas of child protection and has four main strands:

- Providing research leadership and ongoing skill development for research on child abuse and neglect. This includes participating in advisory committees, government working groups and professional bodies at both local and international levels.
- Conducting a wide variety of child protection research to address gaps in our understanding of the magnitude of child abuse and neglect and to provide a deeper understanding of the mechanisms underlying effective response and prevention. This includes prevalence studies, systematic reviews, policy research and participatory research, among other approaches.
- Ensuring an active programme of knowledge exchange and sharing learning through publication and fostering links and dialogue nationally and internationally.
- Developing an MSc in International Child Protection Research to educate the next generation of child protection researchers who can make a contribution to the field of child protection globally.

1.7 OUR APPROACH TO RESEARCH

Our core work streams are established in dialogue with key stakeholders including the NSPCC, the University of Edinburgh disciplines and the Centre’s Advisory Committee and draws on the extensive knowledge of others involved in child protection across the UK and internationally. To achieve our mission and vision we draw on our multi-disciplinary team to undertake research at all levels of need\(^1\), including a particular focus on children at significant risk of harm and/or with acute or complex needs. We take a public health approach to child protection and our work is informed by the MRC framework\(^2\) for complex interventions. We are committed to user involvement throughout the research process.

1.8 PROGRESS SINCE INCEPTION

Since our inception, the Centre has undertaken specific studies in areas of identified priority and gaps in child protection research. Additionally, we have examined the direction of child protection reform, trends in policy and the impact of devolution on child protection in the UK. Collaboration is at the heart of our approach. While maintaining independence, we continue to strengthen our relationship with our founding partner – the NSPCC – and with senior policymakers and academics. Our work has been presented through publications including a

\(^1\) Four Levels of Need Model: Level 1 – all children and young people; Level 2 – children who are vulnerable (may be at risk of school exclusion); Level 3 – children in need (complex needs); Level 4 – children at significant risk and/or with acute needs.

book series, journal articles, reports and key message papers. Additionally, we have hosted a number of four-nation seminars, international exchange visits and we have participated on government working groups and international conferences on child protection.

1.9 AMBITIONS AND DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

Child protection research is growing internationally, evidenced by investment in national child abuse and neglect prevalence studies, coupled with increasing investment in promising practices to respond to and prevent child maltreatment. This highlights the growing need for child protection researchers who are at the forefront of research internationally. These large-scale investments in child protection research and evaluation also indicate that offering postgraduate training in this specialised field is vitally important and timely. The Child Protection Research Centre is well placed to contribute to the agenda of understanding the magnitude and consequences of child abuse and neglect; to evaluate and scale up effective response and prevention; and to offer bespoke postgraduate education in child protection research.

In order to achieve our mission and goals, the Centre will:

- Continue to secure funding and conduct excellent, relevant, accessible and collaborative research.
- Strengthen our networks, profile and contribution on UK and international committees, government working groups, global bodies and in other arenas with the outcome of moving the child protection field forward by our contributions.
- Reinforce our contribution to the excellent reputations of both NSPCC and the University of Edinburgh by conducting robust research, increasing our academic outputs and being at the forefront of knowledge exchange in child protection research. Two examples of how we plan to achieve this are to host the British Society of Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (BASPCAN) Conference in 2015 and to make a strong contribution to the University of Edinburgh’s 2014 and 2019 Research Excellence Framework exercises.
- Develop a world-leading MSc in International Child Protection Research that builds on existing research within the Centre. We aim to foster the development of critical thinkers and independent researchers who can make a contribution to the field of child protection globally.
### 1.10 SET-UP AND GOVERNANCE

The Centre\(^3\), established in 2007, is part funded by the NSPCC and is based within the University of Edinburgh, situated within the Moray House School of Education. This unique partnership between the UK’s biggest child welfare charity and a prestigious university\(^4\), ensures that our work has academic rigour and independence, as well as strong links to practice and policy development. We collaborate closely with our colleagues at the NSPCC to ensure the relevance of our programme design and application. We contribute to the strategic goals of excellence in education, research and innovation at the University of Edinburgh through our development of high quality academic papers, events and by our participation in University programmes and committees. Our links internationally and across the UK as well as our Advisory Committee are pivotal in ensuring the relevance and applicability of our work. In addition to funding and support from both the NSPCC and University of Edinburgh, we actively seek grants for work that meets our mission.

The research team members come from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds including social policy, nursing and public health; and we ensure all research is conducted at the highest level with ongoing knowledge exchange and input from the NSPCC and other key stakeholders.

\(^3\) The Centre was previously known as the University of Edinburgh/NSPCC Centre for UK-wide Learning in Child Protection (CLUD). This name features on publications produced between 2007-2011.
\(^4\) The University of Edinburgh is a Russell Group University and was ranked 32\(^{nd}\) in the 2012/13 Times Higher World Rankings.
University of Edinburgh/NSPCC Child Protection Research Centre

PURPOSE: The Child Protection Research Centre conducts interdisciplinary research and fosters dialogue to address entrenched problems in child protection in the UK and globally.

MISSION AND VISION: Preventing child abuse and neglect is our ultimate vision. We contribute to this vision by providing research and education to: 1) understand the scope and magnitude of child abuse and neglect, 2) identify, scale-up and evaluate promising interventions for response and prevention, and 3) influence policymakers with our research.

Inputs

Interdisciplinary academics at the Child Protection Research Centre

Administrative, business and communications support

NSPCC

Funding

Centre’s Advisory Committee

Key national and international CP contacts and networks

Output

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP and ongoing skill development for research on CAN, including:
- Editorial committees
- Advisory groups
- Government working groups
- Membership of academic and professional bodies and networks
- Teaching and supervision

ACADEMIC RESEARCH including:
- Participatory research
- Systematic reviews
- Prevalence studies
- Policy research
- Systems research
- Recognition/identification research
- Response research
- Research on innovative methodologies, and Global Burden of Disease studies, i.e. measuring the burden and impact of child abuse and neglect on a wide variety of health and well-being outcomes

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME including fostering national and international links and collaborations

MSc in INTERNATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION RESEARCH (in development)

Outputs

OUTPUTS developed to maximise impact, including:
- Research reports and key message papers
- Academic articles and books
- Hosting and presenting at seminars and conferences
- Qualified MSc students with enhanced skills for contributing to the field of CP globally

Short-Term Outcomes (1-3 Years)

- The magnitude of CAN understood
- Prevalence of CAN measured
- Complex systems related to the recognition, response and prevention of CAN mapped and understood
- Risk factors for CAN better determined
- Protective factors for CAN understood
- Best/promising practices disseminated
- Professionals and policymakers adopt and promote best practices from successful interventions

Longer-Term Outcomes (4+ Years)

- Causal pathways related to perpetration/victimisation determined
- Complex modelling achieved of context, systems, response and alternative approaches
- Consulted as leaders in the research field on CP nationally and internationally (advisors on grants, research studies, etc.)
- Measurement of large-scale initiatives (RCTs)
- The voice of CYP included and their preferences understood
- Development of new models of thinking for CAN prevention and response and new measurement tools for CAN research
- CP theory advanced

Impact

Prevention of CAN

All children, young people and adults who have experienced CAN have access to the best responses and these responses are developed incorporating the views of CYP

Key issues in Child Protection & NSPCC themes

Context

Children's Rights Framework
MRC Framework for Complex Interventions
Public Health Primary Prevention Model
Ongoing knowledge exchange
Socioeconomic Context
Evaluation

2. JOURNAL ARTICLES

2.1 PUBLISHED


2.2 ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION


2.3 SUBMITTED


3. CURRENT PROJECTS

Next is a description of the Centre’s current research projects (external collaborators are italicised):

- **Is research safe for children?**

  This programme of work involves a number of related strands regarding child protection research issues, including a scoping review of safeguarding children in the research process; policy development; training materials; research ethics and supervision guidance. The Centre is scoping standard operating procedures to explore whether children are adequately protected in the research process, providing training for teachers, staff and clinical researchers on protecting children in research, and leading policy development in the University of Edinburgh on child protection whilst undertaking research.

  **Research Team:** Julie Taylor, Kristin Childers-Buschle, Connie Smith, Deborah Fry, Duncan Randall
  **Funder:** TBA
  **Timescale:** June, 2013

- **Child protection and disability: Implications for practice**

  The aim of this study is to assess how public services (including social work, health care, education, police and other related services) are identifying and supporting disabled children and young people at risk of significant harm, whether neglect or abuse in Scotland. This mixed methods study includes interviews with professionals from a range of organisations, focus groups with Child Protection Committees, good practice case studies (including interviews with parents where appropriate) and the development of systems and response models.

  **Research Team:** Julie Taylor, Deborah Fry, Alasdair Stewart, Kirsten Stalker, Pam Lister
  **Funder:** The Scottish Government
  **Timescale:** March, 2013 to October, 2013
• **Access to healthcare services for disabled women who have experienced domestic abuse**

Abused women find it hard to access health services. Women with disabilities also receive sub-optimal access. This research is exploring the complex interplay between abuse, disability and access.

**Research Team:** Caroline Bradbury-Jones, Julie Taylor, Thilo Kroll

**Funder:** Wellbeing of Women

**Timescale:** Feb, 2013

• **Safe Schools: A longitudinal study of teacher trainees**

First longitudinal study of its kind to ask teacher trainees about their knowledge, attitude and confidence in addressing both safeguarding and also bullying and peer-to-peer harm in school settings.

**Research Team:** Deborah Fry, Kristin Childers-Buschle

**Funder:** European Union – FP7 Marie Curie

**Timescale:** April, 2012 to March, 2015

• **Child abuse stress and the early years (CASEY)**

Scoping study and large proposal preparation for pregnant survivors of sexual abuse in preparation for a tripartite RCT between UK, US and Australia. Pregnancy is a key opportunity when supportive interventions can be effective in improving a woman’s mental health and subsequent attachment relationship with her child. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is less talked about than other common mental illnesses, but it is quite prevalent at around 6.5% during pregnancy in the UK⁵. Pregnancy and pre-natal care can act as triggers for PTSD. The Centre has undertaken the scoping study in preparation for the work in collaboration with the US (University of Michigan: Seng and Sperlich) and Australian (Monash: Rowe and Fisher) teams on the development of: a new postpartum continuation of the programme and a protocol - and an NIHR funding application - for an efficacy trial across the three countries.

**Research Team:** Julie Taylor, Chris Cuthbert, Maxine Moy

**Funder:** NSPCC, University of Michigan

**Timescale:** February, 2013 to April, 2013

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• **Suicide-filicide**

Thematic analysis of cases of suicide-filicide. Parents who deliberately kill their children. This study is a thematic analysis of cases of filicide and filicide-suicide in the United Kingdom and will examine rates and trends of filicide and filicide-suicide, with emphasis on fatal maltreatment, justifications, children and/or siblings left behind, and ascertaining future possible risks for children and their families.

**Research Team:** Julie Taylor, Diane Jerwood, Peter Sidebotham, Marion Brandon, John Devaney, Anne Lazenbatt, Kristin Childers-Buschle

**Funder:** TBA

**Timescale:** April, 2013 ➔

• **Children vulnerable to maltreatment:**

Scoping the capacity of the Scottish Longitudinal Survey (SLS) and associated health and education related databases to identify children who may potentially be vulnerable to maltreatment and/or neglect.

**Research Team:** Janice McGhee, Brigid Daniel, Julie Taylor

**Funder:** Scottish Government Pathfinder

**Timescale:** February, 2013 to September, 2013

• **Views and experiences of deaf and disabled young people & young adults**

This qualitative study explores the enablers and barriers to help-seeking, recognition and response to abuse from the view of deaf and disabled young people in the four nations of the United Kingdom. This study is the first of its kind and will fill a significant gap in the research to understand better the child protection system from the perspectives of deaf and disabled young people and young adults who have experienced abuse.

**Research Team:** Julie Taylor, Deborah Fry, Kirsten Stalker, Anita Franklin and Audrey Cameron

**Funder:** NSPCC

**Timescale:** August, 2013 to May, 2015
• **Exploring ‘Future Academic Leadership’ in educational research**

This study will explore how early career academics perceive themselves and the support they receive in order to mature as academic leaders in their chosen field. It will also explore the extent to which existing strategies and approaches for academic development meet the needs of early career academics and will lead to school-wide discussions on how best to develop leadership amongst early career academics.

**Research Team:** Deborah Fry, Eileen Boeren

**Funder:** Early Career Research Network (ECRN) funded by the Moray House School of Education

**Timescale:** September, 2013 to March, 2015

• **Formulating foster care for under fives**

A scoping study into the extent to which the way foster care as conceived and supported provides the basis for meeting the mental health and emotional needs of young children. It will focus on children aged up to 60 months who have been removed from their parents’ care because of maltreatment, or risk of maltreatment and state provided (non-familial) foster care provision in Scotland.

**Research Team:** Julie Taylor, Connie Smith, Lucy Morton, Tom Rahilly

**Funder:** NSPCC

**Timescale:** June, 2013 to May, 2014

• **Engaging with fathers: One step forward, two steps back**

Taking stock of the development over the last decade in the realms of policy, research and practice in relation to the engagement with fathers of children about whom there are care and protection concerns. Examination will include a critical overview of recent policy developments, a synthesis of empirical research regarding practice with fathers and men in general, and an analysis of contemporary theoretical and conceptual understandings of work with fathers.

**Research Team:** Julie Taylor, Brigid Daniel, Kristin Childers-Buschle

**Funder:** TBA

**Timescale:** June, 2013
4. PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR EXTERNAL FUNDING

The following proposals were submitted for external funding Feb-July 2014.

• Child protection awareness for clinical researchers, Prepared to Protect: a feasibility study of child protection education for nurses in clinical research General Nursing Council for England and Wales Trust, £20k 12months, in collaboration with colleagues in Newcastle and Birmingham, Deborah Carrick-Sen, Julie Taylor, Duncan Randall, Connie Smith (rejected).

• Evaluation of women and CYP experiences of domestic abuse strategy
  Welsh Assembly Government £80K; 12months in collaboration with NSPCC Wales and Queens University Belfast, Julie Taylor, Anne Lazenbatt, Lisa Bunting (award decision pending).

• Transitions for young people on the edge
  Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) £2m; 36month; Nicky Stanley, Sally Holland, Brigid Featherstone, Julie Taylor, John Devaney, H. Buckley, P. Mayock, Anne Stafford, Melanie McCurry (award decision pending).

• Factorial survey child neglect
  Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) $100K 12month; Canada, Northern Ireland and Stirling, Julie Taylor, Jackie Stokes (rejected).

• The UK Council for Child Protection Research and Communications:
  A feasibility study
  Nuffield; £100K 12month with NSPCC, Kate Stanley, Julie Taylor, Nathaniel Kendall-Taylor (award decision pending).

• Child protection training in Initial Teacher Education: Equipping the next generation of teachers to promote children’s well-being and safety in schools
  Higher Education Authority (HEA); £12,500; 12months, Deborah Fry (award decision pending).
5. PROPOSALS IN DEVELOPMENT

The proposals listed below are currently in development.

- **Prevalence, incidence and consequences of child maltreatment in the UK**  
  Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)/Medical Research Council (MRC)  
  Future Research Leaders 24months £200K. Deborah Fry

- **Comparative acute sector response and potential forensic nursing contribution to sexual assault in teenagers**  
  EU Horizon 2020. Julie Taylor, Deborah Fry

- **Children and young peoples’ experiences of risk management for Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)**  
  University of Edinburgh, Moray House School of Education, seed corn funding awarded to further develop. Connie Smith

- **Child neglect**  
  Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) in collaboration with the University of Stirling. Julie Taylor, *Brigid Daniel*

- **Bad break-ups**  
  Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Anne Stafford

- **Funding for masters and PhD level studentships.** Julie Taylor, Deborah Fry

- **Cue cards**  
  National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). *Caroline Bradbury-Jones*, Julie Taylor

- **Policy and small countries** Anne Stafford

- **Secondary data analysis of NSPCC commissioned study ‘Experiences of Children Participating in Organised Sport in the UK’** Deborah Fry, Anne Stafford

- **Crying babies**  
  Public Health Agency (PHA) in collaboration with Queens University, Belfast and the NSPCC. Julie Taylor

- **Child sexual abuse impact on parenting (CASEY)**  
  National Institute for Health (NIH); £ms; 36month; in collaboration with USA, Australia, NSPCC. Julie Taylor

- **Designated person role in schools** Connie Smith

- **The aetiology of sexual and physical abuse** *Jon Brown*, Julie Taylor
6. RESEARCH RELATED ACTIVITY

6.1 CONFERENCES

Presentations have been made at the following conferences.

- **Royal College of Nursing (RCN) – Conference**. Belfast, March 2013. Julie Taylor
- **Royal College of Nursing – Congress**. Liverpool, April, 2013. Julie Taylor
- **NSPCC, Scotland – Conference**. Glasgow, April, 2013. Julie Taylor
- **The European Association of Nursing Science – Summer School and Conference** July, 2013 – Julie Taylor

6.2 SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

The following seminar presentations were given by members of the Centre.

- **The University of Edinburgh, Physical Activity for Health Research Centre (PAHRC)**, Edinburgh, May, 2013. Julie Taylor, Deborah Fry
- **The University of Edinburgh, Centre for Research on Families and Relationships (CRFR)**, Edinburgh, May, 2013. Julie Taylor, Deborah Fry
- **The University of Edinburgh, Centre for Public Health**, Seminar, Edinburgh, June, 2013. Julie Taylor, Deborah Fry

6.3 EXTERNAL RELATIONS

**BASPCAN**: The British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (BASPCAN) is a registered charity, which aims to prevent physical, emotional and sexual abuse and neglect of children by promoting the physical, emotional, and social well being of children.
children. In 2015 BASPCAN will be holding their 9th Congress in Edinburgh, with an expectation of over 700 delegates from 28 countries attending. Julie Taylor will be the Congress Convenor, Connie Smith is a member of the Local Organising Committee and Deborah Fry a member of the Scientific Committee and the Local Organising Committee.

**RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK (REF):** The REF is the expert review system for assessing the quality of research UK Higher Education Institutes. Submissions will be assessed by an expert sub-panel for each unit of assessment, working under the guidance of four main panels. Julie Taylor is appointed to Panel A3: Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy. Regular meetings are held in main UK cities. The bulk of assessment work will take place in 2014.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING RESEARCH SOCIETY:** Julie Taylor is an elected member of the steering group. Meetings are concerned with RCN research and the annual scientific conference.

**EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF NURSING SCIENCE:** The European Academy of Nursing Science is an independently organised body composed of individual members who have made significant contributions to the advancement of nursing science in Europe through scholarship and research. Julie Taylor is an elected member of the executive steering committee. Main duties are at the winter scientific meeting and the summer school.

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO):** WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends. Deborah Fry has been selected to provide research expertise to the WHO Youth Violence Prevention Guidelines Development Committee.

**UNITED NATION’S CHILDREN’S FUND (UNICEF):** UNICEF is a United Nations Programme that provides long-term humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries using a children’s rights approach. UNICEF works in 191 countries worldwide. To inform policies and programs for the prevention of child maltreatment, the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) is developing a regional package of evidence on child maltreatment. Deborah Fry is one of eight members of an expert UNICEF Think Tank for the East Asia and Pacific Region.
6.4 AWARDS

The following awards were presented to members of staff of the Centre.

*Fellowship of the Royal College of Nursing* – Julie Taylor

*Honorary Fellow of The Queen’s Nursing Institute of Scotland* – Julie Taylor
7. TEACHING ACTIVITY

The Centre is currently in the process of developing a Masters programme in International Child Protection Research as a response to growing demand for specialist professionals who are able to respond to local, national and international child protection agendas. The proposed MSc is aimed at equipping those who want to analyse, commission or design robust research that specifically can help keep children safe from all kinds of abuse and neglect in both stable and complex environments.

This programme will build on and complement existing research within the University of Edinburgh/NSPCC Child Protection Research Centre. This unique partnership between NSPCC, the UK’s biggest child welfare charity and a prestigious university, ensures that our work has academic rigour and independence, as well as strong links to practice and policy development. The programme is designed to build and enhance the research skills of upcoming professionals in the field of child protection globally.

The educational aims of the MSc programme in International Child Protection Research are to:

- Equip students with critical and comparative knowledge of the current theories, methodological issues and research evidence relating to child protection including the evidence of the magnitude and scope of child protection issues globally, effective systems and responses, and prevention efforts.
- Enable students to synthesise research evidence in order to critique the symbiotic relationship between current child protection recommendations, policy and practice and how these in turn inform research agendas and vice versa and to identify gaps in the research evidence.
- Provide students with specialist measurement and research skills to investigate with discernment issues in the field of child protection both in stable environments but also in complex emergencies and post-conflict settings.
- Provide students with the specialist policy analysis skills to examine critically child protection policies and systems within various environments.
- Foster the development of independent learners and leaders in the field of child protection research with transferable intellectual, policy analysis and research skills who can make a socially responsible contribution to the field of child protection globally.
8. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITY

8.1 THE WEBSITE

The Centre, with assistance from the University of Edinburgh has launched a new website, which went live at the beginning of May, 2013. The site is in the final stages of development with an estimated completion for the start of the new University semester (September, 2013).

8.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On Thursday 11th April the Centre held it’s Advisory Committee meeting, which was attended by the following members, Emeritus Professor Pamela Munn (Chair) of the University of Edinburgh, Moray House School of Education, Joanne Hay, Associate Head of Strategy for the NSPCC, Professor Andy Pithouse, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University, Nigel Brown, Assistant Chief Inspector, Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW),
Sean Holland, Deputy Secretary, Social Care Policy Group, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Northern Ireland (DHSSPS(NI)), Phil Raines, Children’s Rights and Wellbeing (CRW) Division, Scottish Government, Professor Julie Taylor, NSPCC Chair in Child Protection and Co-Director, Child Protection Research Centre, Deborah Fry, Lecturer in Child Protection, Child Protection Research Centre, Connie Smith, Senior Research Fellow, Child Protection Research Centre, Anna Anderson, Business Manager, Child Protection Research Centre and Wendy Ball, Communications Consultant, Child Protection Research Centre. Apologies were received from Dr. Anne Stafford, Co-Director, Child Protection Research Centre (Sabbatical), Phillip Noyes, Director of Strategy and Development for the NSPCC, Lisa Harker, Head of Strategy Unit for the NSPCC and Anne Houston, Chief Executive of Children 1st.

The following resignations were accepted Jonathan Corbett Assistant Chief Inspector, Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW), Andy Hurdle, Deputy Director, Behaviour and Attendance in Schools Division, Department for Education and Christine Knight, Previous HMIE Inspector.

The meeting consisted of an update on the developments of the Centre, including the charter and logic model (pages 3 to 8), current research projects, the proposed MSc in International Child Protection Research. Further updates were provided from the NSPCC, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Provisional dates for the next Advisory Committee and Seminar have been set as 20th and 21st November, 2013.
FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about research activity and outputs developed by the Centre, please visit: www.childprotection.ed.ac.uk or contact:

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