

PUBLIC DATA FOR PUBLIC GOOD: TOWARDS BETTER UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN'S LIVES

5th November | 13:00 – 15:00 | Online (Zoom)

Event Programme

- 13:00 **Welcome – The place and potential of administrative data in applied research in this area**
Chair, Fiona Mitchell, Research Lead for Understanding Children's Lives and Outcomes, SCADR
- 13.05 – 13.35 **Presentation from ADR Wales**
- 13.35 – 14.05 **Presentation from ADR Scotland**
- 14.05 – 14.10 **Short break**
- 14.10 – 14.40 **Presentation from ADRC Northern Ireland**
- 14.40 **Panel Discussion & Close**

Each presentation will include time for a Q&A. Please see following pages for full presentation and speaker details.

About

Led by the Scottish Centre for Administrative Data Research, the Administrative Data Research Centre Northern Ireland and Administrative Data Research Wales, this symposium will bring together researchers, policymakers, and service providers working in the arena of children's social care.

The seminar aims to illustrate, and explore, the value of meaningful administrative data research as a tool to better understand children's lives, including the health and wellbeing of children known to social services. The core focus will be exploring how secondary analysis of administrative data collected about children who are 'looked after' can help in the understanding of children's needs and how this can inform and appraise policy and practice at a local and national level.

Wales

An overview of children's social care data held within the SAIL Databank, and plans for use

Dr Lucy Griffiths

Lucy's work around this subject involves linkage of population-level Cafcass and health data to examine health and vulnerabilities of parents and children subject to care proceedings in Wales. Other plans include use of the children's social care data held within SAIL to understand more about health and health service utilisation of children involved in the system, their pathways through and their health outcomes.

Child Welfare Inequalities in a Time of Rising Numbers of Children Entering Out-of-Home Care: SAIL and the CASCADE partnership

Martin Elliott

Martin's experiences of data linkage relate to linking administrative data on children looked after or subject to child protection procedures to population, deprivation and household income data as part of the Nuffield Foundation funded Child Welfare Inequalities Project (CWIP) and his doctoral research on variations in the numbers of children looked after in Wales.

Scotland

Infants born into care of local authorities in Scotland – working together with the data

Janice McGhee, Celia Macintyre & Gillian Raab

This presentation will introduce the policy context for children looked after in Scotland and some of the legal and procedural differences between Scotland and England.

Celia will discuss how the Scottish Government has worked with partners - including local authority, academic and other public bodies - to improve the quality of the data used in this project, as well as outlining their approach to

Speaker Biographies

Dr Lucy Griffiths

Dr Lucy Griffiths is a Senior Lecturer at Swansea University Medical School. Lucy is an epidemiologist and largely uses survey and administrative information collected about children and young people, to study a range of individual, social and environmental circumstances that may impact on their health and health behaviours. She currently works closely with the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory; Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre; Health Data Research UK Wales and Northern Ireland; and Administrative Data Research Wales.

Martin Elliott

Martin Elliott is a Research Associate in the Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre (CASCADE) at Cardiff University. An ex-social worker with 17 years' experience in statutory children's services, including front-line practice and team management, in both Wales and England, his research interests include: children and young people in out of home care; children on the edge of care; social inequalities and poverty; and services for disabled children and young people.

Janice McGhee

Janice McGhee is Honorary Fellow in the School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh. She has researched and published extensively on child welfare, child protection and the children's hearings system. Prior to becoming a social work educator at the University of Edinburgh, she had substantial social work practice experience. Since retiring, Janice continues to research and publish in child welfare.

Celia Macintyre

Celia Macintyre is a statistician in ADR Scotland's Data Acquisition Team in Scottish Government, working on the Understanding Children's Lives and Outcomes programme. Celia previously worked in the Scottish Government's Children and Families Directorate to develop and improve statistics on children and young people.

producing a research ready dataset and the accompanying documentation to help users and ensure transparency of the process.

Gillian will present some results from a newly published report *Infants Born into Care in Scotland – Initial Findings*. It parallels recent reports for England and Wales. She will compare rates of children entering care under one year and also describe patterns and lengths of care episodes for these young children in Scotland.

Northern Ireland

Mental ill health in those known, or previously known, to social services: what can we learn from Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Data

Dr Aideen Maguire & Trása Canavan

Aideen's research in this area is the first to utilise over 20 years' worth of population wide social care data in Northern Ireland for research purposes and with that comes new discoveries and new challenges. This presentation not only highlights the findings from a piece of cross sectional work exploring mental ill health in children known social services and in care, but also highlights some of the challenges and successes of working with administrative data and policy partners.

Gillian Raab

Gillian Raab is a part-time Research Fellow at the Scottish Centre for Administrative Data Research, University of Edinburgh. Gillian is an experienced statistician and is retired from her post as Professor of Applied Statistics. She currently works in two key areas: analysis of linked children's data in Scotland and theoretical and practical research on synthetic data generation.

Dr Aideen Maguire

Dr Aideen Maguire is a Lecturer at the Centre for Public Health, Queen's University Belfast. Aideen is a Psychiatric Epidemiologist and her research focuses on making better use of linked administrative data to understand population mental health. With over 10 years' experience she currently works closely with Health Data Research UK, the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study and Administrative Data Research Northern Ireland.

Trása Canavan

Trása Canavan is a Policy & Research Officer for Barnardo's NI. Trása works closely with the wide range of services delivered by Barnardo's NI, to understand the realities facing children in Northern Ireland and uses this evidence to shape policy to achieve the best outcomes for children. Barnardo's NI works with thousands of children and families throughout Northern Ireland, from providing family support and early intervention, to working directly with children and families who have experienced adversity and need our support.

