Welcome to the third newsletter of the Oxford Brookes University Children and Families Research Group (CFRG), based in the Department of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health. Our group is interested in a wide range of issues around research and practice with children and families. Members of the group bring varied expertise and help to create collaborative relationships throughout the university and local community. This newsletter aims to share our research activities with staff and students at the University – please circulate widely!

Research Seminars
These have taken place during Semester 1 in the new John Henry Brookes Building on Wednesdays between 1pm and 2pm, at the end of the teaching for the specialist community public health nursing groups. We are grateful to all of our speakers and to the many staff and students who have enthusiastically supported these events.

PhD Students Mark Mason, Suzanne Watts and Briony Enser presented seminars related to their research. Topics included illegal drug use in older adults, child protection referrals from primary care to child social care and the unseen dimension of alcohol-related harm within the family and social circle. Gerry Byrne (Consultant Nurse and Child Psychotherapist, Oxford Healthcare Foundation Trust and member of CFRG) also spoke about working with children and families where child abuse has occurred in a talk entitled ‘Bringing Light to Dark Places’.

If you would like to present your work or a paper, or you would like us to invite a particular speaker, please let us know – all welcome.

Group News
Professor David Foxcroft has been appointed as President for the European Society for Prevention Research (EUSPR) and as Co-ordinator for the Science for Prevention Academic Network (SPAN).

Dr Jane Appleton has been appointed as one of the inaugural Fellows of the Institute of Health Visiting. She was recognised as “an outstanding role model”, having devoted many years of her career to developing academic health visiting. Jane Appleton has also been appointed Vice-chair alternate of Coventry and Warwickshire NRES Research Ethics Committee. She has been an expert nurse member of the Warwickshire REC since her appointment in 2002.

Suzanne Watts (PhD student) has recently been chosen to sit on the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Children and Young People: Staying Healthy Forum Steering Committee. This group will lead and facilitate the development of policy and practice by engaging with the forum members, to represent their wide ranging views and interests in child health and wellbeing. Suzanne has represented the Children and Families Research Group on a series of evidence-based inquiries, at the House of Commons for the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Conception to Age 2 – The First 1001 Critical Days. The purpose of these is to inform policy makers of best practice and review the evidence to develop services during the critical first 1001 days.

Developments in Online Teaching
In 2012 Dr Jane Appleton was awarded a Higher Education Academy (HEA) Teaching Development Grant to develop on-line learning resources to develop trainee health visitors’ skills in assessing mother-infant interactions, building on her previous research funded by the Burdett Trust on Health Visitor assessments of the quality of mother-infant interactions. This research has led to the development of ‘Think Baby’, an innovative online
learning resource to help student health visitors build their skills in assessing mother-infant interaction. Further funding in December 2013 from Health Education London (NCEL), enabled ‘Think Baby’ to be disseminated to all 650 health visitor students and their Course Leads attending Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across London. Now with additional funding from Health Education Thames Valley (NHS England) and Oxford Brookes University, ‘Think Baby’ is being rolled out to all health visitor students studying at all 51 HEIs across the UK.

Further online distance learning modules have been developed to increase students’ access to learning. These form the MSc Children, Young People and Family Wellbeing delivered by Dr Jane Appleton, Professor David Foxcroft, Dr Nick Pike and Maxine Fletcher.

Research Updates
Debby Allen and Lindsey Coombes completed the first phase of the Moving Evidence-Based Programs into Practice: An Implementation Pre-Pilot of the Strengthening Families Programme (SFP) project in Brazil. The purpose was to provide technical support to the process of adaptation and supervision to the pre-pilot of a Brazilian version of the SFP10-14 (UK) located in 3 municipalities participating in the national programme Health in Schools, ongoing in Brazil under the partnership between the Brazilian Ministries of Health and Education.

Lindsey Coombes, David Foxcroft, Debby Allen and colleagues have published a Cochrane Review of motivational interviewing for alcohol misuse in young adults, which concluded that motivational interviewing for alcohol misuse in this population is not effective enough.

Jane Appleton, Catherine Powell, Nick Pike and Sarah Howcutt carried out an audit, funded by Health Education England, to evaluate NHS staff knowledge and training needs on the topic of child sexual exploitation. This work was presented at Oxford Brookes University and Bucks New University in May (see below).

New Research Projects
Jane Appleton, Fiona Ryan, Jilly Martin, Sarah Howcutt, Helen Lightowler and Miriam Clegg are collaborating on a qualitative study, funded by Oxford Brookes University, to explore the lifestyles of young people and their families where the adolescents have been referred to hospital to manage weight. This work will also engage clinical teams in focus group discussion to provide a fuller picture of interventions with this patient population.

Emma Davies has recently won a grant of £4930 from Alcohol Research UK to carry out a project entitled ‘A digital media intervention tool to reduce alcohol misuse in adolescents: programming and pilot work’.

Appointments
Keron Harris has joined the group as administrator for the MSc in Children, Young People and Family Wellbeing. We would like to welcome her and we have asked her to introduce herself here:
Hi, I’m Keron and I’m the Programme Administrator for the MSc in Children, Young People and Family Well Being. As the name suggests, I deal with the administrative side of the course. I came to Brookes as an Undergraduate in 2008 and studied History with French which I followed up with a Master’s degree in the History of Medicine. After completing my MA, I joined the Academic Management Office (now Student Central) and I am currently on secondment to the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences as a Programme Administrator for this course and Psychology.

I am a Mum to two boys who are now 18 (who is on the ASD spectrum) and 20 years old, so I understand the problems of juggling family commitments, work and study. I’m also looking to apply for doctoral study at Brookes, again in the field of History of Medicine.

PhD Students
Emma Davies graduated in June 2014. Her study, supervised by Prof. David Foxcroft and Dr Jilly Martin, designed an intervention to reduce harmful drinking in young people. She is now Psychology Demonstrator and Brookes Teaching Fellow.

Mark Mason, a part-time PhD Student, successfully completed his viva in November 2014. His project was: ‘The illegal drug use behaviours and social circumstances of older adult regular Class A drug users’. Mark was supervised by Dr Jane Appleton and Dr Helen Aveyard.

MSc Students
Jeremy Day has recently published an article in the journal ‘Community Practitioner’ in November 2014, on healthy internet use in young people. The reference for this publication is:


Congratulations go to three students who have graduated from the MSc Children, Young People and Family Wellbeing course: Sue Perryman with distinction, Kirsty Harris with distinction and Louise Hutchins. Their dissertation titles were:

- “Male victims of domestic abuse. Implications for health visiting practice”
- “How does evidence indicate that the current sex education curriculum for adolescents aged 11-16 years in the UK prevents risky sexual behaviour?”
- “Becoming a young father: Everyday experiences of support and service provision in the antenatal period”

Conferences and Poster Presentations
In September, Professor David Foxcroft presented a lecture at the primary prevention panel and took part in discussions about global studies of effective drug prevention with children and young people at the 8th International Congress on Addiction Science supported by UNICEF.

David has also figured in events by the WHO, the U.N., OECD, and the Green Crescent Society. More details about these will be available in the Faculty and Research News Update which will be published in February.

David Foxcroft presenting at the 8th International Congress on Addiction Science, Iran.

In May Dr Jane Appleton, Dr Catherine Powell, Dr Nick Pike and Sarah Howcutt presented a workshop about the findings and recommendations arising from a regional audit into NHS staff knowledge and training needs on the topic of child sexual exploitation at Oxford Brookes University and also at the International Safeguarding Symposium, Bucks New University.

At the BASPCAN Congress in April 2015, Jane Appleton and Catherine Powell will be presenting the findings and recommendations from this recent
audit and also their study of children who are not brought to hospital appointments.

Briony Enser has given several poster presentations of her PhD research. These were given at the EUSPR conference Palma Majorca (October 2014), and at the Society for the Study of Addiction Annual Symposium York (November 2014). She will be also presenting her project at the Brookes' Annual Postgraduate Symposium which will take place on 14th Jan 2015.

Dates for your Diary

- BAPSCAN Congress 2015 ‘New Directions in Child Protection and Wellbeing: Making a Real Difference to Children’s Lives’, 12\textsuperscript{th}-15\textsuperscript{th} April, University of Scotland, Edinburgh.
- RCPCH (Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health) Annual Conference (incorporating RCN Children & Young People Conference session), 28-30 April, Birmingham.
- 12\textsuperscript{th} International Family Nursing Conference, August 18-21, Odense, Denmark

Recent Publications


Books


Book chapters


Lindsey Coombes and Debby Allen have also had a chapter “Strengthening Families Programme (SFP) 10-14 UK: a Case Study” accepted for a forthcoming book Prevention and Promotion in Mental Health: Foundations, Planning and Intervention Strategies to be published in Brazil.

Please contact our research lead, Dr. Jane Appleton (jvappleton@brookes.ac.uk) if you would like more information about the group or if you would like to make a contribution.

Our website may be found at: http://www.swph.brookes.ac.uk/research/children-and-families.