

Workstream 1: Children and Young People in Migration

**Convener: Professor Stephen Briggs
CSWR Director**

For 2018 we had three key objectives; increasing membership of the advisory group to enhance the team in this workstream; bringing key stakeholders together to focus on ways of working together to safeguard children and young people and presenting the issues in a CSWR B-MAG public seminar. Pursuing these has led to an important strengthening of the advisory group members as we have welcomed new members who bring expertise in working with young people from a range of perspectives and disciplinary backgrounds. Thus we have developed over the year a strong, core membership for this work stream, embracing different approaches: including rights-based, therapeutic and arts-based methods.

- The expertise of CFAB for cross-border child safeguarding, with an emphasis on reuniting families; projects evaluating cross border assessments
- Nick Watts' Together with Migrant Children: provides casework, independent assessments and family support; working with the legal system to advocate individual rights; successful challenges to LA and HO decisions e.g. deportations
- Ana Draper's work with UASC Health in Kent, Coram and the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust on early intervention using a participatory action research methodology provides an innovative approach to working with individual trauma and its manifestations as disordered sleep patterns; semi-starvation and re-feeding symptoms.
- Domenica Pescara, in the Diocese of Canterbury, is undertaking work on building narratives of belonging for refugees; the 'Home' project

A strong focus in our networking has been on the South-East, especially Kent where many innovative projects, including the last two above, demonstrate innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to generate hope in the conflictual and often contradictory contexts of working with migrants. These were represented in the public seminar we held on October 2nd 2018, with contributions from Nick Watts (Together with Migrant Children), Ana Draper, and Oliver Briggs, whose Arts Education Exchange, Margate is generating achievement and enhancing identity for young people. The seminar thus attended to both the immediate needs of young people in migration, and the longer-term issues of constructing identity in the process of rebuilding 'home'.

We have connected with other groups within UEL who are focussing on aspects of working with refugees; it is clear from these discussions that there are opportunities for collaboration, whilst B-MAG holds a distinctive position and remit through our focus on children, young people and families.

During Refugee Week, 18-22 June 2018, B-MAG had a stall at a conference at UEL. Organised by Professor Rachel Tribe, that launched British Psychological Society Guidelines for working with refugees. This provided good opportunities for networking and informal discussions alongside the formal conference presentations.

Towards the end of 2018 we began work with the University of Kassel, Germany on an Erasmus project, working with social work students in Kassel and preparing for their visit to UEL in April. Sharing perspectives, knowledge and understanding is vital; the meeting in Kassel in December demonstrated the importance of reflective anti-discriminatory practice as an underpinning for working with contexts of conflict and difference.

Strategic objectives for 2019

- Continuing to build networks
- Increasing communication including through the website of key issues and developments, including addressing negative narratives
- Building collaborations within UK and internationally
- Offering events and training for practitioners, including a further seminar
- Aiming to publish e.g. in Trade press

Exploring research opportunities including funding applications