

**Workstream 1: Children and Young People in migration**  
**Convenor: Prof Stephen Briggs**  
**CSWR Director**

*"How do we help them survive? And how do we help them thrive?"*  
*-David Miliband, RSA, 6/12/18*

David Miliband's clear and simple phrases hide a devil of detail. Protection and ensuring the longer-term health and well-being of vulnerable migrant children and young people are the aims of safeguarding, but practitioners are often involved in highly conflictual and contradictory situations. Policies and practice need to embed the 'best interests' principle, whilst its interpretation requires skilful, informed and understanding professional practice interventions, coordinated across the different layers and contexts of practice. The many organisations – statutory, large and small charities - involved in working with migrant children/young people at national and local levels face difficulties of coordination, reduced resources, and working with negative narratives about migrants; myths can be hard to dispel.

During the first year of B-MAG we have focused on networking and research; the latter has involved reviewing literature, both published and grey, including policy reports. Our networking has brought us into contact with a range of individuals and organisations working in this complex field, involved with resettlement, education, legal, physical and mental health, and working with issues of identity. In April 2017, Domenica Pecararo, Refugee Project Officer, Diocese of Canterbury presented to the Advisory Group, demonstrating the importance of community initiatives for working with national schemes for the resettlement of migrant children. Domenica also gave a vivid illustration of how educative approaches with children can be helpful for dispelling negative narratives.

For 2018 we have 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 during the early summer; and thirdly, writing and widely circulating a summary of the current literature with identified key actions for practice, policy and training.