



Project No. CIT2-CT-2004-505978

WELLCHI NETWORK

The well-being of children: the impact of changing family forms, working conditions of parents, social policy and legislative measures

REPORT OF THE SECOND LOCAL AGENTS MEETING
Centre for Research on Families and Relationships (CRFR)
Edinburgh , United Kingdom
26 July 2005.

COORDINATION ACTION

Priority 7: Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society

Start date of the project: 1st May 2004

Duration: 36 months

Present:

Fran, Wasoff, CRFR; Lynn, Jamieson, CRFR; Vivien, Smith, CRFR; Sarah, Morton, CRFR; Jennifer, Turpie, Children in Scotland; Anne, Stafford, The Moray House School of Education; Kay, Tisdall, The University of Edinburgh; Malcolm, Hill, Glasgow Centre for the Child and Society; Sharon, Vincent, Barnardos; Mavis Maclean, Oxford Centre for Family Law and Policy; Kelly, Bayes, Aberlour Child Care Trust; Gill, Scott, Glasgow Caledonian University;; Anne, Houston, ChildLine Scotland; Margaret McKay, Children 1st

Apologies Fiona McDiarmid Scottish Executive

1) Website and introduction to the WELLCHI network

Lynn introduced the WELLCHI project using the website.

Some of those attending commented that the website should be more legible and accessible. It should also contain links to other related networks, such as the Four Nations Policy Network.

Suggestions for other members of local agents committee:

Child Poverty Action Group (Fran Bennett, John Dickie, Jonathan Bradshaw)

English-based organisations:

National Family and Parenting Institute

Further suggestions to be emailed to CRFR (S.Morton@ed.ac.uk).

It was suggested that another meeting, of English-based UK local agents, might be held and that we could ask NFPI to host it. One possible occasion might be the launch of the report of the Commission on Families (on family/state boundaries for family support), which NFPI and Rowntree supported.

2) Participation in events and workshops

CRFR reported that if members of the committee of UK local agents wish to participate in any of the forthcoming WELLCHI workshops and conferences, as set out in the tabled paper and website, that we could meet their travel and subsistence expenses up to our (quite generous) budget limit.

We agreed that those attending this meeting would confer within their own organisations and let CRFR know who would be interested in attending particular workshops or conferences.

CRFR will compile an email list of UK local agents, who would be emailed with information and invitations to specific events, as CRFR received them. It was pointed out that the agendas for the workshops and conferences some time off have fairly open agendas so that we can also suggest specific content to the organisers of these events.

3) Statistical Harmonisation

In the discussion of UK priorities and issues for statistical harmonisation, it was noted that the potential field was huge. Nonetheless the following issues/priorities, mainly in the area of social care of children, were identified:

- Physical punishment of children
- Drug and alcohol use and their impact on children
- A number of issues around regulation to manage child protection and safety
- A number of issues in the child protection system, such as:
 - How children are registered as being in need of care and protection
 - Measuring how and why children's parents access services
 - Measures for establishing how children are at risk
 - Measures about children's referral to agencies
 - Measuring what interventions children experience, and what is the impact of interventions
- Young offenders and anti-social behaviour
- Children and disability
- Early Years indicators

In all of these, the need for child oriented statistics was noted, i.e. statistics that are disaggregated so that the child as the unit of measurement is clear.

It was suggested that some preparatory work for specifying harmonised indicators on child welfare was needed. For example, it was generally agreed that an annotated directory to the range of existing statistical sources on children, with details such as definitions, specifics of data collection, access to data and published analyses of data, would be a welcome resource. It was mentioned that some work on this is already being carried out. Ferrans Casas of Gerona gave a paper at the 2005 Children's conference in Oslo on International Indicators of Children's Quality of Life.

4) Close

Members were thanked for their participation and reminded to be in touch with their interest in participating in future events