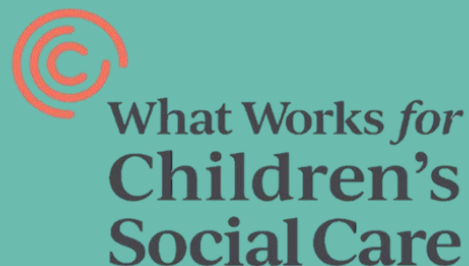
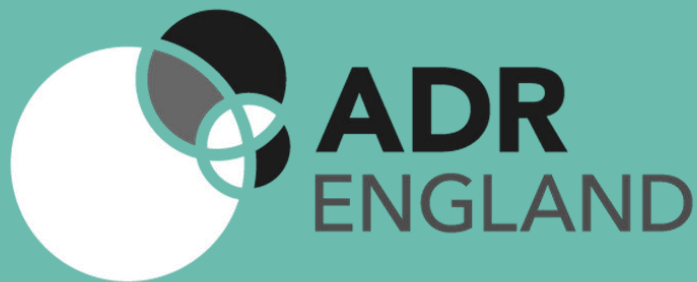


Towards a Research Agenda *for* Children's Social Care

Priorities for Research using Administrative Data

ADR England Community Catalyst: Children at Risk of Poor Outcomes

Prof Lucy Griffiths & Prof Karen Broadhurst



Scoping review

- Map existing research using administrative data
- 142 peer-reviewed articles and grey literature

Full scoping review: Use of administrative data to understand children's involvement with children's statutory social care services

Children at Risk of Poor Outcomes Community Catalyst Full Report

Stakeholder Engagement

- Explore key stakeholder's perspectives on priority topics
- 35 interviews

Speaking to stakeholders about research priorities

Children at Risk of Poor Outcomes Community Catalyst Stakeholder Consultation Report

Scoping review



Stakeholder engagement



Research Agenda – over-arching recommendations

Deliver cross-sector evidence about children's pathways through services and outcomes

Deliver evidence that **interrogates and informs earlier intervention and prevention**, as well as improving outcomes for children already in care

Collaborate to produce evidence in both research design & analysis but also in the use of national and regional data assets

Accelerate the use of flagship datasets, but also continue to develop these datasets so that they can be used to tackle neglected topics

Key topics

1 Early help and Children in Need



2 Household-level hardship

3 Family mental health



4 SEND



5 School disengagement



6 Services and workforce

7 Dual-system involvement



8 Domestic violence/abuse

9 Minority groups



10 Extra familial harm

+ Evaluation 

Achieving a better balance... capturing prevention

- To-date, research using administrative data is weighted towards children in care – delivering multiple important insights – but insufficient attention to children’s earlier involvement in preventative services
- **This imbalance is at odds with an emphasis within policy on prevention**
- Elements of the early intervention eco-system are not readily amenable to administrative data research – however, ADR UK flagship datasets (currently available e.g., ECHILD or in development) can be used to advance knowledge

Family mental health, SEND and School Disengagement

- Stakeholders have raised concerns about **the overall burden of mental health need within families**, in the context of increased family stress.
- Increasing rates of SEND were widely reported by stakeholders – new research is needed to ascertain the profile of SEND for children involved with CSC, and how these profiles compare to children not involved with CSC or are changing over time
- New research is needed regarding school disengagement, again with a specific focus on CSC children and changes over time.
- Stakeholders also welcome research which **captures interactions** between these kinds of needs/vulnerabilities within families

Dual-system Involvement

➤ ADR UK flagship datasets enable completely novel analysis of dual system involvement, because datasets are linked across government departments.

➤ [MoJ-DFE Data Share](#)

<https://www.adruk.org/data-access/flagship-datasets/ministry-of-justice-department-for-education-linked-dataset-england/>

➤ [Data First Programme](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ministry-of-justice-data-first#moj-cross-justice-system-datasets>

Minority Groups and Inclusion

- High quality evidence is scarce - existing studies *lack nuance* by making comparison between **blunt population categories**
- More research is needed to examine **outcomes for minority groups, including ethnic minorities and UASC**, particularly **placement stability, reunification and health at a regional and national level** – use of granular ethnicity data is available in the ECHILD Database and should become standard practice
- Available evidence is that **UASC are a highly vulnerable population**. More detailed information on these children, such as that held by the Home Office (e.g., country of origin, healthcare referrals, victim of trafficking, formal education provision) would further our understanding

Evaluation research

- Evaluation is crucial for **informed policymaking and practice** development, providing essential evidence on whether policy changes or practice interventions are successful.
- Administrative data has the potential to be used for evaluation – however, evaluation research using admin is not particularly advanced.
- Need to draw together insight and understanding on the **potential and limitations** of administrative data for evaluation

Useful Resources



Data Resource Profiles



Data Explained guides



ECHILD community of practice, including How To Guides, Code list repository, User Guides:

<https://code.echild.ac.uk/>

<https://howto.echild.ac.uk>

<https://github.com/UCL-ECHILD>

[Using ECHILD to explore outcomes for vulnerable children](#)

[Introduction to ECHILD short course](#)



[Datacise Open Learning](#)

**Keeping
in touch**

