

RESEARCHING FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS

The expectation for family participation in Serious Case Reviews (England & Wales), Case Management Reviews (Northern Ireland) and Significant Case Reviews (Scotland) has raised the profile of this aspect of the review. However, little is currently known about the family experiences of participation, the local arrangements for participation and the components of good practice in this challenging area. This research aims to address some of the learning needs arising from the expectations of participation and in so doing also seeks to ensure harmful policies and practices are avoided. Specifically the research addresses the following questions:

- What are the current arrangements for participation as set out in local protocols and procedures in England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland?
- What are the experiences of families who have participated in reviews and what learning can be drawn from these experiences?
- What are the professional experiences of family involvement?
- What conclusions can be drawn for guiding effective practice?

The project is commissioned and funded by BASPCAN (British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) and the research team is Kate Morris (University of Nottingham), Marian Brandon (University of East Anglia) and Paul Tudor (SCR Chair). The project has been approved by the University of Nottingham research ethics procedures. The results from the project will be made widely available by BASPCAN and will seek to directly inform policy and practice.

What involvement is needed?

We will gather information from representatives of those involved with reviews; this will include local managers and practitioners, family members and authors of review reports. Some stages of the research will involve focus groups and some stages will involve individual interviews. The project has a clear child protection policy and we will ensure contributions are anonymous.

We will share with participants findings contained in the final report. We anticipate concluding the research in early 2011, with a report being published by BASPCAN in spring 2011, alongside a good practice guide. If you are interested in this project, or you think you may be able to make a contribution, please contact the project lead Kate Morris by email at the address below. Many thanks.

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