

Journal of Children's Services



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- The cross-party challenge: early intervention for children and families
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Aims and scope

Journal of Children's Services is designed to encourage the development of research-based, outcome-focused services to better safeguard and promote the well-being of vulnerable children and their families. It seeks to improve understanding of the way that child development and applied social research can contribute to the evidence base and increasing integration of children's services (which includes activities organised by health services, education, social care, the police, youth justice and voluntary/independent agencies). The Journal is international in scope and published quarterly.

High standards of evidence are encouraged throughout the Journal and all articles are peer-reviewed. Topics covered include:

- child development research and its implications for forward-looking services
- methodological issues and developments, and their implications and application for practice
- evaluation of innovative services, using quantitative and qualitative methods.

Recent articles

- The representation of children and their parents in public law proceedings since the Children Act 1989: high hopes and lost opportunities? (5,2)
- Towards knowledge-based practice in complex child protection cases: a research-based experts' briefing (5,1)
- Adapting The Incredible Years, an evidence-based parenting programme, for families involved in the child welfare system (5,1)

Who needs it?

Journal of Children's Services is vital for everyone involved in children's services. It is a hugely valuable source of information and intelligence for academics, universities and colleges, practitioners, policy-makers, managers, children's charities, campaigning and advocacy organisations, groups representing the views of children, trainers, disseminators of research, social workers, education services, commissioners, local authorities, NHS and primary care trusts, carers and students.

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Towards knowledge-based practice in complex child protection cases: a research-based expert briefing

JUNE THOBURN

University of East Anglia, UK

Volume 5, Issue 1

Abstract

This article is an extended version of an 'experts' briefing' commissioned to inform senior child welfare managers in English local authorities and voluntary agencies about the available evidence to inform the provision of effective services in complex child protection cases. It starts by noting how differences in the approach to service provision in different jurisdictions affect both the nature of research conducted and its transferability across national boundaries. It then summarises the characteristics both of parents who are likely to maltreat their children and also of the children most likely to be maltreated. The factors that make some families 'hard to engage' or 'hard to help/change' are then discussed, as are the essential elements of effective professional practice in child protection. Particular attention is paid to effective approaches to helping families and young people who are hard to identify or engage.

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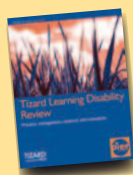
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