

Caring for Vulnerable Children

Telling 'Billy's Story': creating a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in Child and Youth Care Studies

CYC practice, and the close UK equivalent Residential Child Care (RCC), traditionally struggle to encourage their workforces to move beyond mandatory qualification requirements for professional registration purposes. This contributes to the challenge the professions face in attempting to develop professional identity and autonomy, especially when working alongside the disciplines of education, law, health and social work.



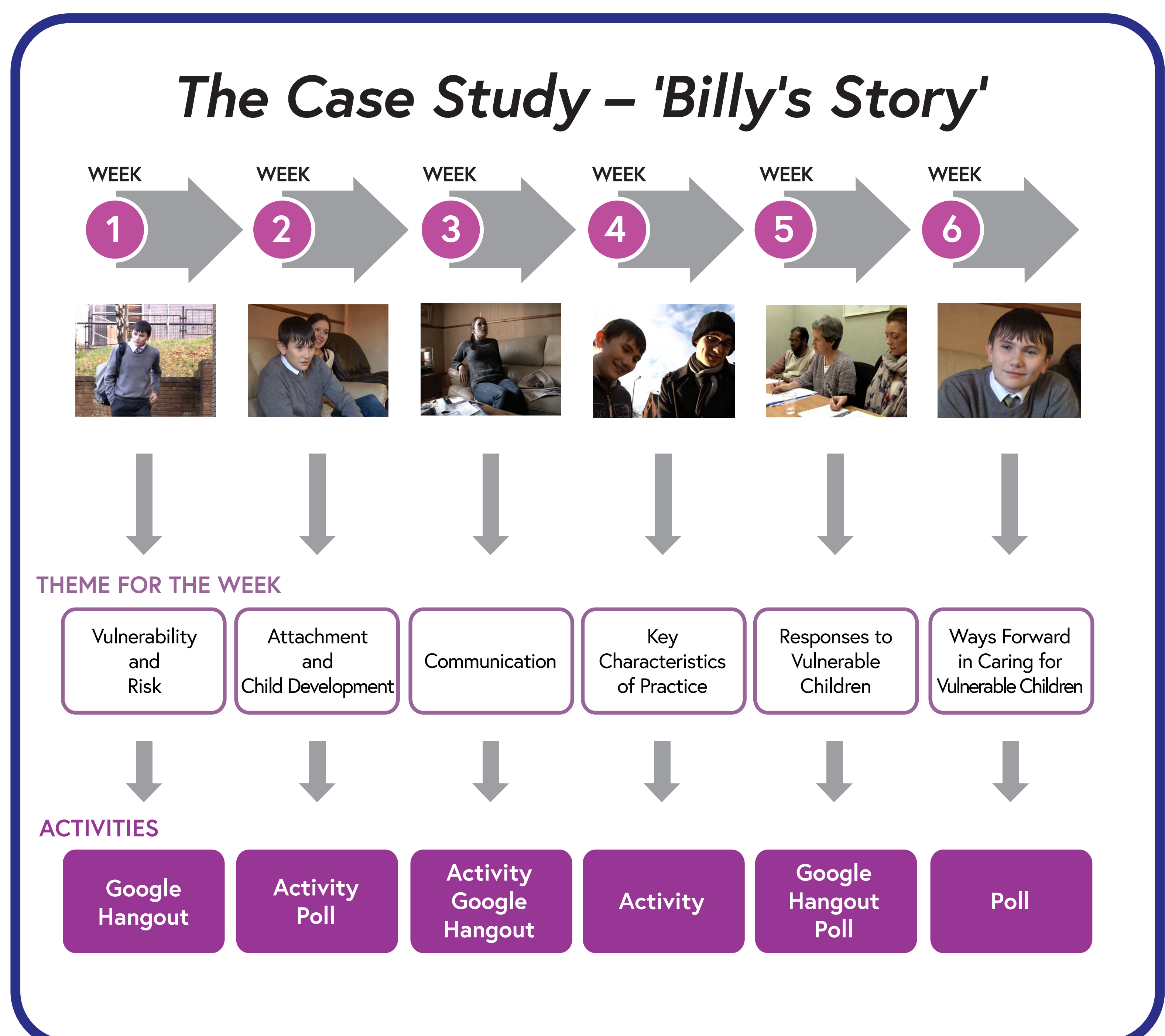
A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) was developed with the specific aim of encouraging practitioners to critically reflect on their professional work experience and consider how this could be utilised in an educational setting.

The use of video-based learning objects, and in particular a 'storytelling' approach to the MOOC curriculum, was successful in targeting practitioners with relevant qualifications and experience to apply for and make the transition to an online Masters level programme in CYC.

Facts and figures about the course

- A six-week online course of four hours per week
- First run February 2015 and repeat runs July 2015 and January 2016
- 34,522 learners enrolled for first three runs of the course
- 30% of learners completed the entire course
- 127,312 participant comments so far
- 59% of learners participated in course discussions - this is the highest recorded level of social participation on a Futurelearn course (average is 38%)
- Many participants reported finding the course useful as part of their CPD
- Next run of the course starts 9 May 2016

Course structure – telling the story



The course has made me think seriously about further educating myself and improving my practice with the new knowledge, to help hone my practice further.

Derek Booth

Really enjoyed the course. Perfect start back into learning after stopping to have babies. Got my brain going again!

Faye Colquhoun