

Editorial

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Welcome to the April 2018 (Vol 17, No 1) issue of the Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care (SJRCC). As I write, news outlets worldwide, and especially in the USA, have been marking the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the cleric and civil rights leader, Dr Martin Luther King, Jr at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis on 4 April 1968. The anniversary inevitably provided an opportunity to reassess King's legacy and progress in the USA since his death in respect of the ambitions for the human rights and social justice he articulated.

Such reflection half a century after those times got me thinking about how something so significant as the major review of care currently being undertaken in Scotland might be judged 50 years from now. The Independent Review of Scotland's Care System has the stated aim to 'deliver lasting change in the care system and leave a legacy that will transform the life chances and wellbeing of children and young people in care.'

The Review resulted from care experienced young people engaging in an organised campaign of telling their stories, and outlining concerns, in the media and political forums. Central to the second of four phases of the Review, which has just completed, has been a major exercise of listening to current looked after children and care experienced adults, and individuals and organisations working in or with views about the care system. This has involved inviting

individual contributions via email or in person, or through the '1,000 Voices' project organised by Who Cares? Scotland.

The Review gave evidence to the Education and Skills Committee of the Scottish Parliament on 14 March 2018. The session, available [here](#), makes compelling viewing.

Another important recent development in Scotland is the introduction, on 1 April 2018, of legislation allowing local authorities to exempt from requirement to pay local taxes (Council Tax) young people aged under 26 who were 'looked after' on or after their 16th birthday. The advocacy charity, Who Cares? Scotland, ran a social media campaign over the recent Easter weekend inviting local authorities to tweet about how care leavers could access their entitlements as a result of the introduction of The Council Tax (Discounts) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2018. The change was also widely promoted by CELCIS, local authorities, the office of the Children's Commissioner and many other organisations and individuals.

Turning to the current issue of the SJRCC, we provide the usual mix of peer-reviewed papers, shorter reflections on contemporary issues, an appreciation of the life of child and youth care expert, Brian Gannon, the text of the 2017 Kilbrandon Lecture, and reviews of recently-published books.

The first of two peer-reviewed papers is the second part of Ted Dunlop's account of 'Toronto's First Street Kids and the Origins of Child Welfare Systems in Canada', Part 1 of which was included in the special issue on history (Vol 16, No 3), published in December 2017. In Part 2, Ted continues the story by

introducing John Joseph Kelso who made the jump from newspaper reporter to founder of Ontario's child welfare system.

The second peer-reviewed paper, by Kiran Modi, Archana Prasad and Jyoti Mishra, is an account of research with young people who have received aftercare support under the auspices of Udayan Care in Delhi, India. The study uses Bronfenbrenner's ecological system model to consider different aspects of the lives of the young people.

Merle Allsopp has contributed a beautiful tribute to her friend and collaborator, the late Brian Gannon, 'the father of the child and youth care profession in South Africa'. Brian was an influencer, teacher, writer and founder of CYC-Net.

As has been our practice in recent years, we publish the full text of the annual Kilbrandon Lecture. The 15th lecture was given by the leader of Scotland's governing administration, First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon. The lecture honours the contribution to child welfare of the distinguished lawyer and judge, Lord Kilbrandon. A lawyer by profession, Ms Sturgeon worked for a time in a community law centre and she brought to the lecture perspectives rooted in direct experience of having been both lawmaker and advocate for families facing challenging circumstances. A poignant moment in the lecture occurred when Ms Sturgeon explained that she had accepted the challenge of being the ultimate 'corporate parent' of a University of Strathclyde Business School student, and accepted his invitation to attend his graduation ceremony: 'I think he might have invited me half as a joke – I don't know if he expected me to agree!' You can also watch a short film of Ms Sturgeon speaking about the lecture [here](#).

In the first of four shorter articles, Heather Shaw, a solicitor in private practice, contributes a personal memory of Lord Kilbrandon, her grandfather. Our usual focus is on Kilbrandon's substantial contribution to Scotland's child care and youth justice system, and the particular observations by the current Kilbrandon lecturer, but in her article, Heather gives us unique access to a more rounded picture of Charles James Dalrymple Shaw, the family man.

Nigel Cantwell and Emmanuelle Werner Gillioz's article is a compelling position paper arguing against the growing phenomenon of 'orphanage tourism' and 'voluntourism'. They conclude: 'Pivotal now is the degree to which those arguments can effectively convince supporters of "orphanages" that, far from contributing to children's welfare, they are in fact aiding and abetting serious violations of the human rights of the children concerned.'

Jean Cram and Irene Stevens write about their observations on residential childcare in Scotland over four decades, from the perspectives of residential childcare practitioners. Irene writes: 'When I got my first job in residential child care, I was 20 years old. The children's home was a large house with a huge garden in a leafy middle class suburb. We had around 20 children, aged from eight months old to 16 years old, including sibling groups.' Jean explains: 'I commenced my career in residential care in the early eighties, at a time when there were no National Standards and little regulation. Establishments were run depending on the value base and practice of those in charge.'

Lisa Armitage provides an account of RESuLT, a vocational training course for residential childcare workers developed in Leeds, England. Lisa argues that:

'RESuLT's novel, ambitious whole team approach is beneficial for embedding the subject matter in the ethos of the home.'

Finally, we provide four reviews of recently published book, all contributed by CELCIS staff. Lorraine Sillars has read 'Everyday Parenting with Security and Love: Using PACE to Provide Foundations for Attachment by Kim Golding'. Mike Findlay has read Carol Craig's latest book, the third in the series, 'Postcards from Scotland', 'Hiding in Plain Sight'. Estelle Carmichael has read, 'Caring for a Child who has been Sexually Exploited' by Eileen Fursland and Richard Withington has read 'Listening to Young Children: a Guide to Understanding and Using the Mosaic Approach' by Alison Clark.