

Editorial

Graham Connelly

g.connelly@strath.ac.uk



@DocCTweets

Welcome to the spring 2023 issue of the *Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care*. We have very exciting news for regular readers and authors. The Journal's editorial team is engaged in a project with colleagues in the Information Services Division at the University of Strathclyde which will lead to improvements in the reach of the Journal, both professionally and internationally. The project involves adding all articles in the Journal's 20-year back catalogue to the University's institutional repository, [Strathprints](#).

The most obvious feature readers will notice is the addition of a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) to every article which provides a unique identifier and permanent web address (URL), making articles easier to locate directly from citations. Among the other benefits which the project aims to realise are greater promotion of articles and improved metrics. Journal information and issues will continue to be available on the *SJRCC* web pages of the CELCIS website, and individual articles, and their associated metrics, will also be accessible via Strathprints.

In another important project, CELCIS has been asked by the [National Library of Scotland](#) to deposit CELCIS's own research, reports and practice guidance related to children's services and the needs of children and young people in need of care and protection, on behalf of the six legal deposit libraries of the UK and Ireland. The aim of the project is to broaden the resources catalogued by the

libraries related to equality, inequalities, and diversity. This means that these materials will return in searches of the libraries' catalogues, as well as via search engines. The project will catalogue material from 2013, and this will include all *SJRCC* journal articles from that year onwards.

In the lead-up to publication of this issue, enforced migration and dislocation of children and families has featured in news reports about current world events and those in the past. We include in this issue two articles about supporting refugees: one by the team at Barnardo's Scotland providing support for refugee Ukrainian children and families forced to flee the conflict and now living in temporary accommodation on two cruise ships moored in Scotland; and another about the Drawing Together project which works alongside young refugees living in Scotland, Finland and Norway.

In March, the International Criminal Court (ICC) (2023) issued an arrest warrant for the Commissioner for Children's Rights of the Russian Federation, Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova. Along with Russian President, Vladimir Putin, Ms Lvova-Belova is accused of the war crime of the unlawful transfer of children from Ukraine to Russia. In what is an extraordinary statement of censure of a government official in a significant child safeguarding role, the ICC says: "There are reasonable grounds to believe that Ms Lvova-Belova bears individual criminal responsibility for the aforementioned crimes, for having committed the acts directly, jointly with others and/or through others (article 25(3)(a) of the Rome Statute)".

News agency Reuters reported that Ms Lvova-Belova denies children were moved against their will or that of their parents or legal guardians and says that her commission acted on humanitarian grounds to protect the interests of children in an area of military conflict. She also denies that children were given up for adoption, saying they were placed with temporary legal guardians in foster homes (Faulconbridge & Osborn).

Historical enforced migration is also the subject of a report recently published by the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry on the experiences of children sent from Scotland to Australia and Canada as part of the child migrant programme in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The report includes the testimonies of 55 former child migrants as well as descendants of migrants. A future report will detail 'the history, policy, and practices of child migration, with a focus on the Scottish context and the responses of organisations involved in child migration schemes' (Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, 2023, p. xii). More than 1,000 children were migrated over a period of approximately a century, in processes that today would be regarded as criminal – practices which included invalid consent to migration, names being changed and links with families at home severed, and children subjected to physical and sexual abuse, degradation and the loss of human rights.

The spring 2023 issue

We open the issue with two long-form, peer-reviewed research papers. Bethany Shelton used a story completion approach to explore how birth children of foster carers make sense of being in a foster family, concluding that: "Reframing birth children as active members within the foster family makes it appropriate to approach them as part of the fostering team". Ed Janes evaluated the Caring Changes course for residential child care practitioners, finding evidence of 'increased team solidification and communication, as well as individual practitioners' confidence and positivity', but also disadvantages to whole staff training because of 'the diversity and complexity of the needs of children in residential care, with a need for more advanced content and the tailoring of the course to individual homes'.

This issue includes the full-text transcripts of two major lectures. Ann Skelton of the University of Pretoria gave the 20th Kilbrandon Lecture on Children of the Beloved Country: Lives and Legacies from Kilbrandon to Mandela, and we also include a response to the lecture by Sophie Shields who took up the theme of

holding decision-makers to account in a Scottish context. Readers can find all previous Kilbrandon lectures archived [here](#).

The SIRCC 2022 keynote lecture was given by Bill Kahn of Boston University who addressed the conditions required for resilient caregiving organisations and proposed that they are: “a function of having the capacity to absorb, to contain, to work with and release painful emotions, and to keep going without lasting damage”.

We also publish five short-form articles on practice issues. Kirsty-Louise Hunt, Karen Campbell and David Finlay of Barnardo’s outline the Barnardo’s Scotland Welcome Ukraine Service, concluding that: “Families from Ukraine will need support for a considerable amount of time as the war in Ukraine continues, and the need for mental health and wellbeing support will be crucial to children, young people and their families learning to cope with the trauma caused by the war”. In an article first published as a feature story on the CELCIS website, Ravi KS Kohli describes the Drawing Together project which aims to examine how young refugees in Scotland, Finland and Norway draw and describe their networks and relationships via art workshops and interviews.

Margaret Davies describes the Lovin’ Care programme which aims to introduce love-led practice in three residential care organisations. David Woodier asks: ‘How do we ensure a relationship is good for a young person?’ and considers “how trust and the capacity to love can be enabled when the workforce has time to focus and reflect on relationships”. Laura Steckley has updated an article she originally contributed to the Goodenoughcaring journal in 2014 in which she reflects on her experiences as a child and youth care worker, (and now an academic) in Colorado, USA, and Scotland.

As usual, we end with book reviews and in this issue, we have four. Marianne Macfarlane reviews Embodied Approaches to Supervision: The Listening Body by

Celine Butté and Tasha Colbert. Jeremy Bayston reviews *The White Bird Passes* by Jessie Kesson. Seonaid Graham reviews *Improving Outcomes for Looked After Children* by Jacqui Horsburgh. And Graham Connelly reviews *Children in Care 1834-1929: The Lives of Destitute, Orphaned and Deserted Children* by Rosemary Steer.

References

International Criminal Court (2023, March 17). *Situation in Ukraine: ICC judges issue arrest warrants against Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova* [Press release]. <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/situation-ukraine-icc-judges-issue-arrest-warrants-against-vladimir-vladimirovich-putin-and>

Faulconbridge, G. & Osborn, A. (2023, April 4). *Russian children's commissioner rejects ICC war crime allegations as false*. Reuters. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russian-childrens-commissioner-rejects-icc-war-crime-allegations-false-2023-04-04/>

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry (2023). *Case study no. 8, volume 1: Child migrants' experiences: Children sent overseas as part of child migration programmes between the late 1800s and the early 1970s* [Evidential hearings: 3 December 2019 to 21 October 2020]. www.childabuseinquiry.scot

About the author

Dr Graham Connelly CPsychol is the editor of the *Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care* and an honorary senior research fellow with CELCIS and the School of Social Work and Social Policy in the University of Strathclyde. Graham's research interests have ranged over alternative care internationally and more particularly

the education of care experienced children and adults. He is a non-executive director of Kibble Education and Care Centre.