Allan Colver
Professor of Community Child Health, Newcastle University, England.

Biography and research interests June 2015

Professor Colver was appointed Consultant Paediatrician with Special Interest in Community Child Health in 1986. From 1997, he occupied research positions at Newcastle University and is now Professor of Community Child Health.

His earlier research included studies of child accident prevention, health surveillance of preschool children and screening. From 1999-2004 he was a member of the National Screening Committee, Child Health. In 2001 he completed a study on food allergy facilitated by the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit; and from 2005-09 was chair of its Executive Committee.

Professor Colver co-founded the North of England Collaborative Cerebral Palsy Survey and then helped to establish a database of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. He is an executive committee member of the Surveillance of Cerebral Palsy in Europe. He founded the Strategic Research Group of the British Academy of Childhood Disability.

Professor Colver’s research is currently directed to:

1. Participation and Quality of Life of disabled children; he co-ordinates a study across Europe [www.ncl.ac.uk/sparcle/] funded by the European Commission and the Wellcome Trust- the SPARCLE study.

2. Transition of young people with complex health needs [http://research.ncl.ac.uk/transition/] ; he leads a Research Programme funded by the UK National Institute for Health Research.

3. A randomised controlled trial of different medications for managing drooling; he co-leads this trial which is funded by a consortium of child medical research charities.

Recent publications:


Dr Anita Franklin – Reader in Children and Family Research, Coventry University.

Anita has been researching social policy and practice issues concerning disabled children and young people for 20 years. During this time she has worked in academia and the independent research centres of large children’s and disability voluntary organisations such as The National Children’s Bureau and The Children’s Society, where she led their disability research strategies. Anita’s main interests centre on participatory research with disabled young people and disabled children’s rights to participate in decision-making. In recent years she has undertaken two UK studies around safeguarding disabled children; a NSPCC funded study, led by Professor Julie Taylor (Edinburgh University) examining the views of disabled and Deaf young people about the child protection system, and Anita is the academic lead on a study funded by Comic Relief to examine the sexual exploitation of young people with learning disabilities, to be published in the Autumn.

Jane Hernon

Jane Hernon is a third year PhD Research Student in the School of Social Work at the University of East Anglia. Her PhD Research explores disabled young people and their families perspectives of their lives and experiences of child protection services.

Recent publications:


Presentation:

Hernon, J., Disabled young people’s perspectives of the child protection system in England. Free paper presentation at BASPCAN, April 2015
Karen Horridge

Recent publications:


Horridge KA. Attitudes Matter. *Dev Med Child Neurol.* 2015. 57(3)208


Dr Berni Kelly

Berni is continuing to lead on studies of disabled, looked after children (due for completion by September 2015, with Dowling and Winter) and disabled care leavers (due for completion by March 2016, with McShane, Davidson and Pinkerton). She has also recently completed a scoping exercise on statutory child protection services for disabled children and young people in Northern Ireland (with Dowling).

Berni co-Chairs the Disability Research Network at Queen’s University Belfast with Bronagh Byrne. The DRN has had a busy year of research activity including ongoing and new research projects, knowledge exchange seminars and international visitors from Canada (Prof Nancy Hansen), Australia (Kate Cameron), the United States (Professor Susan Parish) and New Zealand (Associate Professor Alison Kearney). We have also had the pleasure of hosting Professor Michael Schwartz (Syracuse University, New York) on a Fulbright Scholarship to study communication access for Deaf people in healthcare settings.

Recent publications:

Berni and Bronagh have guest edited two special editions on Valuing Disabled Children and Young People for the Child Care in Practice journal. These special editions are now available online at the following links:

http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cccp20/21/1
http://www.tandfonline.com/action/showAxaArticles?journalCode=cccp20


Recent/ongoing projects


‘Transitions and outcomes for care leavers with mental health and intellectual disabilities.’ (with G. Davidson and J. Pinkerton) Funder: DHSSPSNI: R&D Office.

‘Meeting the needs of disabled children and young people in public care in Northern Ireland.’ (with K. Winter and S. Dowling) Funded by: Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.
Rosemary Murray

Young People recognised for their contribution to Research

Young people from Barnardo’s Armagh-based Disabled Children & Young People’s Participation Project, 6th Sense Group attended a reception earlier in the year at the Palace Demesne in recognition of their contribution to research on disability issues with Queen’s University Belfast.

Hosted by former Armagh Lord Mayor Cathy Rafferty seventeen young people aged nine to 24 received certificates and talked about their contribution to research including ‘The participation of disabled children & young people and their parents in health and social care decisions’ and “Don’t Box Me In” a study on the transition from childhood to adulthood.

The young people from 6th Sense also produced a DVD which reviewed the research findings of Don’t Box Me In and is now used by Queen’s School of Social Work and Social Policy to educate students.

Dr Berni Kelly, Co-Chair of the Disability Research Network, QUB highlighted the value of the young people’s partnership in research,

“Queens University Belfast has worked in partnership with 6th Sense for over a decade now. We have learnt a lot from this collaboration with disabled children and young people and together we have been able to identify priorities for childhood disability research, develop new approaches to participatory research and engage in creative ways to analyse and disseminate research findings to maximise its impact on policy and practice. The group have also benefited from opportunities too influence the research agenda and develop their own research and presentation skills. 6th Sense continue to play a key role in supporting the Disability Network at Queens University Belfast and encouraging staff to undertake participatory childhood disability research that is inclusive, meaningful and innovative. We look forward to our continued partnership for many years to come.”

Disability Research Network
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Lord Mayor Armagh City and District Council Cathy Rafferty said she wanted to acknowledge the young people’s work and highlight the difference they have made.

Barnardo’s Armagh Manager Rosemary Murray said: “We are very proud of what our young people have achieved. They are ensuring their voices are heard on issues that impact on their lives. As well as taking part in research along with Queen’s University they have also developed their own research proposal on the emotional wellbeing issues of young people with disabilities, which although not yet published, has been adopted by the NI Clinical Research Network.”

The event was attended by young people, parents and families and staff from Barnardo’s Armagh Disabled Children and Young People’s Participation Project together with Professor John Pinkerton, Dr Bernie Kelly, Dr Sandra Dowling, Dr Grace Kelly and Dr Bronagh Byrne from Queen’s University Belfast together with Maurice Leeson, HSCB, Director Barnardo’s NI Lynda Wilson and Barnardo’s NI Assistant Director Una Magee.
Dawn Pickering

Dawn Pickering is a children's physiotherapist by background completing an MSc in Child Health. Now a Senior Lecturer at Cardiff University's School of Healthcare Sciences, Dawn is involved in interprofessional education for Allied Health Professionals. Dawn's research projects have included parents of disabled children and staff experiences of Family Centered Care and a funded project about Adapted cycling for children with Cerebral Palsy. As a member of the Strategic Research group of the British Academy Childhood Disability, Dawn is involved in research development of the James Lind Alliance research priorities in relation to neurodisability. Proposed Doctoral study using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis to explore the Lifeworld and views of children and young people with Cerebral Palsy and their carers about their participation in Recreational activities. Dawn has recently hosted an event: 'Great expectations' in Cardiff, on behalf of the recently formed Child, Youth and Family regional research network for South West and Wales. This is an initiative with Katherine Runswick-Cole, Tillie Curran, Sarah Manns, Wendy Merchant, Kirtsy Liddiard and Debbie Watson.

Recent publications:


Kirsten Stalker

Journal papers:

Stalker, K., MacDonald, C., King, C., McFaul, F., Young, C., & Hawthorn, M. (2015). "We could kid on this is going to benefit the kids but no, this is about funding": cutbacks in services to disabled children and young people in Scotland. Child Care in Practice, 21(1), 6-21. 10.1080/13575279.2014.972341


Stalker K, Taylor, J, Fry D and Stewart, A (under review) 'Disabled children and the child protection system: a cause for concern.' Children and Youth Services Review
Reports:


Book reviews:


Voluntary sector magazine: