Residential Care in Great Britain and Northern Ireland
ROGER BULLOCK and DOMINIC MCSHERRY

This chapter discusses residential care for children in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Topics covered include the history of residential homes and schools in the United Kingdom, current legislation, national reviews of residential child care, types of residential care, level of provision of residential care, characteristics of children and young people in residential care, and how residential care can be improved.

Young people and 'risk'
Maggie Blyth, Enver Solomon, and Kerry Baker (eds)

Alongside the current media public preoccupation with high-risk offenders, there has been a shift towards a greater focus on risk and public protection in UK criminal justice policy. Much of the academic debate has centred on the impact of the risk paradigm on adult offender management services; less attention has been given to the arena of youth justice and young adults. Yet, there are critical questions for both theory — are the principles of risk management the same when working with young people? — and practice — how can practitioners respond to those young people who cause serious harm to others? — that need to be considered. The chapters to this book consider risk not only in terms of public protection but also in terms of young people's own vulnerability to being harmed (either by others or through self-inflicted behaviour). One of the report's key objectives is to explore the links between these two distinct, but related, aspects of risk.
Introduction
Jonathan Bradshaw
in The well-being of children in the UK
Published in print: 2011 Published Online: March 2012
Publisher: Policy Press DOI: 10.1332/policypress/9781847428370.003.0001
Item type: chapter

This book is an attempt to establish how British children are doing. Of course, there is already a great deal of material available on children's well-being in the UK, and it specifically draws on it in this volume. However, the objective of this book is to bring the evidence together in one place, in a critical discursive review, which has not been carried out elsewhere. The aims of Childhood Wellbeing Research Centre are presented. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was the pioneer of well-being indices. The comparative studies of child well-being have found an association between spending on children and child outcomes. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) data on spending on families with children indicates that since 1990 it has been increasing in most countries, including the UK. An overview of the chapters included in this book is provided.

Demography of childhood
Jonathan Bradshaw
in The well-being of children in the UK
Published in print: 2011 Published Online: March 2012
Publisher: Policy Press DOI: 10.1332/policypress/9781847428370.003.0002
Item type: chapter

This chapter presents a review of recent developments in the demography of childhood in the UK and children's changing social relationships within the family. It also discusses the demographic characteristics of children — their numbers, gender, age, ethnicity, geographical location and family composition. Comparisons of UK children with those of other countries are then presented. It also reports the evidence of the impact of family structure on child well-being. The fluctuations in the number and age composition of children reflect changes in fertility and birth rates. The fertility rate is influenced by changes in the number of children women will have, the timing of births and migration patterns. Recent demographic changes challenge the well-being of children in the UK, and the outcomes depend on children's and their family's ability to develop strategies that help successfully to adapt to changing circumstances.
Education
Antonia Keung

in The well-being of children in the UK

Published in print: 2011 Published Online: March 2012
DOI: 10.1332/policypress/9781847428370.003.0006
Item type: chapter

This chapter describes the educational attainment of children across the UK. It examines how attainment varies by age, gender, ethnicity and social class. Additionally, it reviews how schoolchildren feel about their well-being at school by drawing attention to the research findings from The Children's Society survey on young people's well-being and the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey. Research findings on the relationship between social background and educational outcome are also briefly reported. The chapter then elaborates the prevalence of educational disaffection through reviewing data on truancy, school exclusion and young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). The latest data and analysis on special educational needs (SEN) are finally shown. There is no sign of improvement in educational mobility of children from a lower social class background, and this in turn is likely to work against the government's efforts in promoting social mobility.

Conclusion
Jonathan Bradshaw

in The well-being of children in the UK

Published in print: 2011 Published Online: March 2012
DOI: 10.1332/policypress/9781847428370.003.0013
Item type: chapter

This chapter brings together the findings and attempts to develop an index of child well-being for the UK. In particular, it tries to answer the question, was Ed Balls right? It also presents a summary of comparative evidence that has been drawn on throughout this book. The financial crisis in the UK began with the housing market in the US, where it was found that British banks had invested heavily in sub-prime housing loans. The Labour government's response to the developing recession was radically anti-cyclical. Under this government, there were no substantial cuts in benefits and services — in fact expenditure had been sustained, while revenue had fallen. It is shown that there is a best hope in the newly established Child Wellbeing Research Centre, although it is responsible only for English children and has a time-limited contract.
This chapter first presents a brief review of the international discussions on family support, mainly in the other Nordic countries and the UK, and this is followed by an overview of the historical background of the development of family work in Finland. The chapter also investigates the current state of family work in child welfare and its objectives, targets and methods. Furthermore, questions are raised regarding the role of service users, families and family members, in family work, especially with regard to connections and possible contradictions between supporting parents and protecting children, and between adult and child perspectives in family work. Home help for families with young children has almost completely disappeared as a universal public social care service in Finland. There are still many challenges for further empirical research and the practical development of family work.

The service context

This chapter examines the service configurations of the main agencies delivering services to mothers with mental health needs and their children and discusses recent organizational developments in order to establish the extent to which these services are equipped to respond to the needs of such families. It outlines the policy in which mental health professionals and child care workers deliver services. It also examines the role of voluntary organisations in providing services for mothers with mental health needs as this sector has been the source of some innovative projects.
In this chapter, the authors present an outline of the philosophical underpinnings of youth work practice and discuss how youth work is conceived, organised and delivered in different member states, and specifically in those the authors encountered in their study (Germany, Austria and the UK). They then introduce their working definition of youth violence. The authors were keen to move beyond the narrow confines of conceptualisation of youth violence as ‘gang’ violence, partly because this is a heavily populated area of enquiry, but also because they recognised that youth workers will be engaging with young people whose experience of violence falls both within and outside of the bounded and contestable phenomenon of the ‘gang’.

Everyday engagement with climate change
Ann Phoenix, Uma Vennam, Catherine Walker, and Janet Boddy

This introductory chapter elaborates on the concept of climate change. It considers how families and the children within them think and feel about their local environments and how these ‘small’ environmental issues fit with ‘big’ environmental concerns about climate change in one country in the Majority world (India), and one in the Minority world (the UK). There is a great deal of evidence that, while most scientists agree that anthropogenic climate change is a pressing issue and most people believe that climate change needs to be addressed, relatively few in countries that produce the most carbon emissions are prepared to make sacrifices to deal with it.
Ways of understanding family practices across contexts
Ann Phoenix, Uma Vennam, Catherine Walker, and Janet Boddy

in Environment in the Lives of Children and Families: Perspectives from India and the UK

Published in print: 2017 Published Online: May 2018
DOI: 10.1332/policypress/9781447339199.003.0002
Item type: chapter

This chapter explores the situated, dynamic, and relational complexities, and of the ways in which space, place, and time intersect with meanings of environment in the everyday lives of children and families. It sets out to disrupt assumptions of Minority to Majority world learning, and homogenising notions of cross-national in/comparability, through a methodological approach designed to create an analytic conversation across diverse contexts within and between India and the UK. The chapter focuses on the relationality and materiality of everyday lives, devising a multi-method approach in order to capture the interconnectedness of family lives and practices. It uses a common world approach that seeks to avoid the unhelpful binarisations of big and small or ‘global’ and ‘local’ environments, which act as a barrier to understanding.

Environmental affordances and the work of everyday family lives
Ann Phoenix, Uma Vennam, Catherine Walker, and Janet Boddy

in Environment in the Lives of Children and Families: Perspectives from India and the UK

Published in print: 2017 Published Online: May 2018
DOI: 10.1332/policypress/9781447339199.003.0003
Item type: chapter

This chapter looks at the sort of environmental issues that families in India and the UK had to negotiate: sometimes routinely (for example, pollution and danger from road traffic) and sometimes unpredictably (for example, flooding and other extreme weather events). It addresses the complexity of the intermeshing of environmental concerns and practices by focusing on families who were so preoccupied with caring for their families and the daily grind of family maintenance that this superseded concern with climate change. Since families live in diverse material circumstances, environmental messages are likely to be received in
different ways and to have varied impacts on different families and children.

**Children are the future? Power, generation and environmental practices**

Ann Phoenix, Uma Vennam, Catherine Walker, and Janet Boddy

in *Environment in the Lives of Children and Families: Perspectives from India and the UK*

Published in print: 2017 Published Online: May 2018
DOI: 10.1332/policypress/9781447339199.003.0005
Item type: chapter

This chapter talks about how children are often responsibilised in environmental policy and media discourses in both India and the UK. Abstract evocations of future generations materialise in many areas of climate change policy, based on the ethical argument that, as those imagined to outlive current generations of adults, children have the most to gain from activities and policies seeking to sustain the environments of which they are a part. Yet the centring of children in discourses of climate change impact and response is not without practical and ethical problems. Positioning children as ‘undercover agents of change’ for the environmental movement is as much an abrogation of responsibility for what are essentially the damaging environmental practices of adults, as is offshoring environmental responsibility to the next generation of stewards of the earth.

**Negotiating environments in children’s and families’ everyday lives**

Ann Phoenix, Uma Vennam, Catherine Walker, and Janet Boddy

in *Environment in the Lives of Children and Families: Perspectives from India and the UK*

Published in print: 2017 Published Online: May 2018
DOI: 10.1332/policypress/9781447339199.003.0006
Item type: chapter

This chapter demonstrates how, through in-depth qualitative research with 24 families who live in differing contexts in India and the UK, environmental practices are inextricably relational, and linked with dynamic family practices, childhood, and parenthood. Holistic understandings of environmental practices, and of children and families, benefit from juxtaposing Minority and Majority world understandings, and
so challenging patronising (colonial) moral discourses of environmental concern that are rooted in Minority world understandings of the affluent ethical consumer practising care at a distance. This approach helps to build the new global perspective based on dialogue between childhoods in Majority and Minority worlds that the book advocates, and so to understand “other” lives, in context.