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Rethinking Domestic abuse in child protection: responding differently (R-DAC)

This collaborative research project, funded by Nuffield, focuses on domestic abuse and violence and child protection. The project will run from March 2022 until March 2024 and has three aims:

1. To address gaps in our knowledge on the nature and characteristics of domestic abuse and violence in child protection situations.
2. To examine the relationship between Domestic Abuse, Violence, Child Protection responses and intersectional inequalities, determining how these shape experiences and outcomes.
3. To co- produce frameworks, in partnership with families and practitioners, to support new approaches in policy and practice.

The research partners (Universities of Sheffield, Huddersfield, Kingston and SafeLives, Research in Practice and Future Men) will work closely with practitioners and families in national and local groups to ensure the research is useful and relevant. The expert Advisory Group will also support the work of the project.

Ethical Governance

The project has ethical approval from the University of Sheffield, the host University. The University will provide secure data storage arrangements, with access limited to the research team. All data will be anonymised when stored and will be destroyed at the end of the project.

Case Study Sites

We will work closely with three LA case study sites, focusing on local responses to domestic abuse in child protection. This work will include a mix of analysis of administrative data and time by researchers in the relevant teams. The quantitative data will focus on children's service data plus local socio economic data, no new data will be sought – instead there will be secondary analysis of existing data.

In the fieldwork, the researchers will interview staff, observe meetings, complete case file audits and attend any relevant family forums to hear local reflections on services.

Outputs

We will produce accessible material for use by policy makers and practitioners throughout the life of the project. These will be free to access via our website <https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/children/content-pages/change-projects/rdac/>

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