Some Useful Sources
Networks, Connectedness and Resilience

N a t h a n   H u g h e s *   a n d   R u t h   E v a n s **

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In addition to the references listed at the end of each article, there are a range of further sources that may be of relevance to those interested in social capital, social networks, and resilience, and their relation to child and family policy. Whilst the articles in this journal relate to a number of empirical issues, the references given here are intentionally broad in focus. These sources are in addition to those discussed in detail by Barnes and Prior in this edition.

D. Halpern (2005) *Social Capital*, Cambridge: Polity.
A. Morris and G. Maxwell (eds) (2003) *Restorative Justice for Juveniles: Conferencing, mediation and circles*, Oxford and Portland, OR: Hart Publishing.
S. Sevenhuijsen (1998) *Citizenship and the Ethics of Care: Feminist considerations on justice, morality and politics*, London: Routledge.
Williams, F. (2004) *Rethinking Families*, London: Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

Social capital

Families and Social Capital Research Group: www.lsbu.ac.uk/families

The Families and Social Capital Research Group is an ESRC funded programme, co-ordinated by South Bank University. The programme of work focuses on the inter-relationship between family change and processes of social capital, questioning how changing forms of family might affect traditional social resources and therefore impact upon the likely effectiveness of policies and interventions. In order to do so three 'conceptual elements' of social capital are considered: identities and values, trust and reciprocity and caring for and about. Against these concepts a range of theoretical and empirical research has been organised around three key substantive areas: ethnicity, education and employment and intimacy. A number of theoretical, conceptual and empirical publications are available online: www.lsbu.ac.uk/families/publications/index.shtml. The Group also coordinated a previous themed issue of this journal, which included a review article:

Franklin, J. (2003) 'Social capital: policy and politics', Social Policy and Society, 2(4): 349–352)

and a further discussion of useful sources:

Franklin, J. and Edwards, R. (2003) 'Some Useful Sources', *Social Policy and Society*, 2(4): 353–354.

Office for National Statistics: www.statistics.gov.uk/socialcapital/

The Office for National Statistics website gives details of progress on developing a set of social capital questions and useful papers including a literature review on social capital and related work.

Social networks

Philipson, C., Allan, G. and Morgan, D. (eds) (2004) *Social Networks and Social Exclusion*, Aldershot: Ashgate.

This collection explores some of the substantial literature that has emerged exploring the nature and role of social networks in daily life, and considers the policy implications of this. Although social network analysis has made a useful contribution to the study of sources of social and personal support (e.g. Clare Wenger's work on older people's networks in relation to the provision of care) children's networks have received less attention. This collection includes a school-based study by Morrow, which applies a social capital analysis to an exploration of children and young people's well-being and health.

Gilligan, R. (1999) 'Working with social networks: key resources in helping children at risk', in M. Hill (ed.), *Effective Ways of Working with Children and their Families*, London: Jessica Kingsley, pp. 70–91.

Gilligan highlights the importance of practitioners identifying and working with children's social networks, including relationships with their peers, parents/carers, siblings, other family members, and relationships with others in the wider community. In particular, Gilligan presents evidence of improved outcomes for children in kinship care in comparison to those placed in other forms of care, even where kinship families may be in poverty.

Centre for Research on the Politics, Practices and Ethics of Care: www.leeds.ac.uk/cava/

The Centre for Research on the Politics, Practices and Ethics of Care is based at the University of Leeds, having developed out of the Economic and Social Research Council Research Group on Care, Values and the Future of Welfare (CAVA). CAVA was a six-year programme, completed in 2005, exploring family, parenting and partnering activities with the aim of developing 'a new framework of values to underpin the social policies that support us in fulfilling our varied family responsibilities'. The research focused on recent changes to traditional models of male breadwinners, nuclear families and lifelong marriages, exploring how such changes have affected the demands on social policies.

A number of publications are available on the CAVA website: www.leeds.ac.uk/CAVA/papers/papers.htm as well as a range of further links and resources www.leeds.ac.uk/CAVA/links/links.htm. The overview book emerging from the programme is discussed in the review article within this journal.

Resilience

There is an ever growing and increasingly varied literature relating to resilience. In this brief discussion we merely highlight a small number of publications of particular relevance to this special issue. In doing so we emphasise conceptual articles and literature reviews rather than empirical studies of resilience in children and young people.

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Howard, S., Dryden, J. and Johnson B. (1999) 'Childhood Resilience: review and critique of literature', *Oxford Review of Education*, 25(3): 307–323.

In this literature review, the authors advocate an ecological approach, taking account of the values, attitudes and beliefs of those who are being studied in order to recognise the complexity of social systems within which children are embedded. They argue that children's perspectives of risk and resilience must be considered and suggest that differences between children's and adults' understandings of these concepts may compromise the success of adult-designed interventions to promote their resilience.

Little M., Axford N. and Morpeth L. (2004) 'Research Review: Risk and protection in the context of services for children in need', *Child and Family Social Work*, February 2004, 9(1): 105–117

Taking a child development and medical model approach, this review seeks to define risk and protective factors, resilience, coping strategies and need in relation to children in need. It argues that such definitions provide a means to undertake objective assessment prior to deciding if and how to intervene.

Luthar, S.S., and Cicchetti, D. (2000) 'The construct of resilience: Implications for interventions and social policies', *Development and Psychopathology*, 12: 857–885.

This article reviews developments in theory and research on resilience from a developmental psychology perspective. It highlights several 'messages' for social policy and practice, including: the need for interagency collaborative efforts at integrated service delivery; the particular benefits of interventions at times of developmental transitions; and the need to guard against stereotypical conceptions of which groups of children or families should be considered 'at risk' of various negative outcomes.

Schoon, I. and Bynner, J. (2003) 'Risk and Resilience in the Life Course: Implications for Interventions and Social Policies', *Journal of Youth Studies*, 6(1): 21–31.

Drawing on longitudinal data collected for two British Birth Cohorts – the 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS) and 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70) – Schoon and Bynner develop the concept of a 'risk trajectory' where one risk factor reinforces another through interactions between the young person and aspects of the environment that s/he experiences, leading to increasingly restricted outcomes in later life. This is seen to have a number of policy implications, including a shift in emphasis from crisis intervention to primary prevention programmes, necessarily integrated into the cultural context, educational programme, or personal behavioural repertoire of the developing individual. Interventions should therefore aim for a holistic approach, for community-based interventions, and integrated service delivery, which aims to involve families and communities in addition to the young people themselves.

Policy and interventions

Social Exclusion Taskforce: www.socialexclusion.gov.uk/

The new Social Exclusion Taskforce replaces the former Social Exclusion Unit, moving from the Department for Communities and Local Government to the Cabinet office, under the new Minister for Social Exclusion. Building upon the work of the SEU, the team will

continue to support the various departments with responsibility for policy implementation, whilst concentrating on identifying and supporting those most at-risk or 'hard to reach'.

Civil Renewal Unit: http://civilrenewal.communities.gov.uk
www.togetherwecan.info/

The Civil Renewal Unit leads on the government's Together We Can action plan, which sets out the government's 'commitment to empower citizens to work with public bodies to set and achieve common goals'. The plan contains four strands: 'Citizens and Democracy', 'Health and Sustainability', 'Regeneration and Cohesion' and 'Safety and Justice'. Through this shared strategy document, the Unit seeks to coordinate key initiatives across 12 departments.

Every Child Matters: www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/

Every Child Matters: Change for Children is a new approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19. The document details the Government's aim for every child, whatever their circumstances, to have the support they need to: 'Be healthy', 'Stay safe', 'Enjoy and achieve', 'Make a positive contribution' and 'Achieve economic well-being'. In order to do so, various service providing organisations, including schools, hospitals, the police and the voluntary sector, will be required to work in partnerhsips, sharing information and in order to address common targets. In addition, children, young people and their families will enjoy greater opportunities to participate in the design and development of servcie provision.

The website includes resources and information about recent UK policy developments including the Children Act 2004, Youth Matters Green Paper, Youth Justice and Children's Trusts.

National Pyramid Trust: www.nptrust.org.uk

The National Pyramid Trust is a programme designed to identify children who are facing difficulties in their social and emotional development in school. The Trust aims to increase children's self-esteem, sense of achievement, social skills and other attributes contributing to resilience. These attributes are derived and cultivated from a combination of family, social and individual relationships and activities. Pyramid Trust offers positive interventions specifically designed to build children's own personal and social protective factors and evidence suggests positive outcomes.

Communities that Care: www.communitiesthatcare.org.uk/

Communities that Care is a programme designed to improve school achievement, while reducing the risks of crime, drug abuse, teenage pregnancy and other problems among young people. Based on an understanding of risk and protective factors, applied through the use of standardised questionnaires, the process asks pupils about school, peer relations, family life and their behaviour and attitudes. The identification of prevalent risks leads to the development of a programme of services, including the reconfiguration of existing services as well as the identification of new interventions with a proven track record of success.

Several publications have been produced. 'A guide to promising approaches' describes projects evidenced as effective in reducing risk factors, www.communitiesthatcare.org.uk/publications. Alan France and Iain Crow undertook a five year study of Communities that Care, published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/details.asp?pubID=640