

Today's speakers

Fran Wasoff (Chair)

Fran Wasoff is Emeritus Professor of Family Policies at the University of Edinburgh, formerly Co-Director and now Associate Director of CRFR. Her research interests are in the sociolegal study of family law, family and social policy, family aspects of demographic change, such as solo living, and early years policies. In that context, she has contributed to GUS from its early stages.

Shirley Laing, Scottish Government

A career civil servant, Shirley joined the then Scottish Office in 1993 and spent the early part of her career working in rural and health policy areas. The last 10 years of her career have primarily been spent in the field of children and education. As Deputy Director for Early Years and Social Services Workforce within the Children and Families Directorate of the Scottish Government, Shirley's policy responsibilities cover the reform of the Children's Hearings system, building capacity in the social services workforce and the sponsorship of SSSC and SCRA.

Paul Bradshaw, Scottish Centre for Social Research

Paul Bradshaw is a Research Director at the Scottish Centre for Social Research (ScotCen). Paul has been managing the Growing Up in Scotland study since its launch in 2005. He is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day running of the project as well as undertaking key survey activities for each wave of data collection including questionnaire design, fieldwork management and analysis and reporting of findings. Having also worked as a researcher for the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime in the School of Law at Edinburgh University, Paul has been involved in a range of research studies in Scotland particularly in the areas of families, children and young people.

Matt Barnes, National Centre for Social Research

Matt Barnes is a Research Director (Analyst) in the Income & Work Team at the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen). Matt specialises in the quantitative analysis of poverty and disadvantage, and much of his research has focused on understanding the causes and consequences of people who face multiple disadvantages. His Ph.D., which investigated multiple disadvantage in Britain and other European Member States, was published as a book in 2005. Matt has also worked for the Social Exclusion Task Force, in the Cabinet Office, where his research focused on the most disadvantaged families in society.

Alison Parkes, MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit

Alison Parkes PhD is an Investigator Scientist in the Sexual Health and Families Team at the Medical Research Council's Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, Glasgow; following research on neighbourhoods at the Department of Urban Studies, University of Glasgow. Her current post involves quantitative research on teenagers as well as young children, and has drawn on data from evaluations of school-based sexual health interventions. Recent publications include a study of first same-sex relationships, and research on how parenting may influence teenagers' sexual behaviour.

Louise Marryat, Scottish Centre for Social Research

Louise Marryat is a Senior Researcher at ScotCen. Louise has worked as a researcher on the Growing Up in Scotland Study since Sweep 1. She also works on a range of other projects around children and families including the Scottish Children's Diet Study 2010 and the Evaluation of the Family Nurse Partnership Pilot in Edinburgh. Louise holds a degree in Politics and Sociology and a Masters in Research Methods, both from the University of Durham.

Christine Puckering, University of Glasgow/ Mellow Babies

Dr Puckering's role as a clinician and research fellow at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow centres round an interest in early parent-child interaction, including both how to measure interaction and how to change it, especially in families where there are multi-generational difficulties in relationships. Christine is one of the authors of the "Mellow Parenting" and "Mellow Babies" programmes, which have been shown to be effective in engaging hard-to-reach families in an intensive treatment programme which focus both on supporting parents and working directly on parenting, using video feedback. Mellow Parenting and Mellow Babies training has now been implemented in many locations throughout the UK, as well as Sweden, Russia and New Zealand.

Dr Puckering is on the Editorial Board of Clinical Psychology and Psychiatry, and is an advisor to the Association for Infant Mental Health UK. Dr Puckering was a member of the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network Group, 2001 on Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorders in Children and Young People and the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network Group, 2002 on Post-natal Depression and Puerperal Psychosis.