

# CHILDREN'S NEIGHBOURHOODS SCOTLAND

## LOCAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME



The tables below give an overview of the research that is undertaken at a local level in each Children's Neighbourhoods (CNS) site. The approach is both participatory and evaluative meaning that participants will be supported to develop their own research and to use evidence to support their activities. At the same time our purpose is to evaluate how these activities work in practice. The evaluation of CNS involves a programme logic and theory, anticipated pathways and outcomes, and applies a mixed method, realist- informed approach to capture important process learning and short- to medium-term evidence of impact. The work is organized over four inter-linked workstreams which are outlined below.

All CNS research has full ethics approval and will be undertaken following the University of Glasgow Code of Good Practice in Research.

### CAPABILITIES APPROACH

#### Description, purpose and outcomes

The Capabilities Approach (CA) is concerned with the task of addressing poverty through the improvement of quality of life (Sen 2009). Capabilities are the freedoms and opportunities that a person has in practice to achieve their goals. Children, young people, and local stakeholders develop the goals and outcomes of CNS at a local level through a programme of participatory research that involves developing the research skills and conducting research. For a full breakdown of the model used see the Capabilities Research Model. A literature review outlining the capabilities approach can be found [here](#).

#### Methods, outputs and impact

The Capabilities Approach will produce a framework of children and young people's capabilities goals for the school or group. The local coordinator will work with children and young people and partners to identify and take forward actions / activity based on the framework. The framework can be produced in the form of a graphic image, research poster for display in a school or community/ youth centre. In addition, we can explore other options for dissemination and sharing using digital, visual and creative methods.

#### Support for research collaboration

Timescales for delivery are flexible to meet the needs of different groups of children and young people. Learning components 1-8 require approximately 1.5 hours each. Learning components 10-13 require approximately 3 hours each. Full details of the components can be found in the Capabilities Research Model. The sessions could be delivered over different timescales, as follows:

- Developing Research Skills (8 weeks x 1.5 hours p/w) + Conducting Research (6 weeks x 1.5 hours p/w)
- Developing Research Skills (4 weeks x 3 hours p/w) + Conducting Research (3 weeks x 3 hours p/w)
- Developing Research Skills (1 week as an intensive delivery) + Conducting Research (1 weeks as intensive delivery)
- Another mode of delivery to accommodate research participant requirements

There are a number of aspects of this research where your support will be required including access to sites at agreed times; staff availability; identification and booking of a suitable venue / room; stakeholder involvement in the research process and support to address the actions identified where appropriate.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD CONTEXT ANALYSIS

#### Description, purpose and outcomes

The strength of the CNS approach is that it is embedded in the local contexts and realities of neighbourhoods with high levels of child poverty. The situated nature of the programme provides an opportunity to gain important insights into the everyday challenges and complexities of place-based change. This research workstream will draw on the contextual knowledge and expertise of local stakeholders and integrate this knowledge with existing local and national data to provide evidence on the neighbourhood context. The context analysis will inform the outcome and process evaluation of the programme, for example, by examining the nature and history of community activity and collaboration between services in the area. This research workstream will support the capabilities work with children and young people by identifying local barriers and enablers to children and young people achieving their goals and providing an analysis of the contextual conditions for change.

#### Methods, outputs and impact

We will work with you to agree the best approach to sharing, discussing the findings from the neighbourhood context analysis and identifying next steps. This could include:

- Adding to the data in your own online databases
- Short briefings or blogs – with links to full report
- Workshops to facilitate interactive learning and co-production
- Brokering relationships between local service providers and researchers in universities and other research centres
- Linking to/or establishing new knowledge and evidence networks

#### Support for research collaboration

We will endeavour to be as flexible as possible with arrangements for meetings and interviews. The researcher will travel to local offices and arrange meetings at times that are convenient for local staff and children and young people. 8-10 semi-structured interviews will be conducted. Interviews and desk-based research will take place between x and y with analysis completed by z. The support of local partners will be required to facilitate access to evidence from available datasets, to identify key participants, identify and, where necessary, book suitable venues for interviews and workshops with local stakeholders.

### OUTCOME AND PROCESS EVALUATION

#### Description, purpose and outcomes

This evaluation workstream will examine how CNS activities can strengthen the agency and voice of children and young people at multiple levels of influence – within and beyond the neighbourhood. It will examine the collaborative work undertaken in the neighbourhood in support of children and young people and how this collaborative activity can be improved to contribute to local planning and delivery; the Scottish Government's 'Every child, every chance: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2018-2022'; and national outcomes.

#### Methods, outputs and impact

The evaluation will employ survey and participatory methods to examine the experiences of all children and young people and front -line staff involved in the programme. 3-5 case studies of 'deep dives' into different areas of practice will be produced to examine mechanisms of change and impact. If there is a sufficient level of commitment and engagement from local stakeholders, case studies can be conducted as collaborative action research projects with local staff. We will work with you to identify cases that have the potential to provide useful insights into how children and young people in the area can achieve their goals and improve outcomes. The research dissemination and impact plan could include:

- Short briefings or blogs – with links to full report
- Accounts of Practice
- Tools to support change in a range of settings (e.g. school, community, education and wider public services)
- Workshops to facilitate interactive learning and co-production

#### Support for research collaboration

We will be as flexible as possible with arrangements for meetings, workshops and interviews to fit in with the challenges of working in a complex and dynamic setting. The CNS researcher will travel to local venues and arrange meetings at times that are convenient for local staff and children and young people.

