

Home or care? The use of linked data to examine outcomes for maltreated children

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ABOUT THE STUDY

- Funded by ESRC, April 2014 – December 2016
- Investigate which risk and protective factors predict recorded maltreatment and admission to care
- Compare education, development and health outcomes for children in care for reasons of abuse or neglect, with those who have been reunified, and those who have remained at home with their parents on a Child Protection Plan (CPP)
- Map the pathways for sub-groups of children involved with children's services
- Explore decision-making around admission to care and support provided to families

SOURCES OF DATA (1)

- Born in Bradford cohort
- Administrative data
 - Children in Need (CIN)
 - Children Looked After (CLA)
- 11,332 BiB children with mother's baseline questionnaire data
- 1,086 (9.6%) ever been CIN due to maltreatment
- 79 (0.7%) ever been CLA due to maltreatment

SOURCES OF DATA (2)

- Administrative data
 - Child characteristics, CIN, CPPs and placement history
- Interviews with parents/foster carers
 - Child mental health outcomes, parenting, socio-economic status
- Online survey of social workers/casefile analysis
 - Reasons for referral, type and severity of maltreatment, decision-making, support
- Education data from DfE NPD dataset (2014-15)
- Assessment of children's receptive vocabulary (BPVS)

DATA LINKAGE AND SAMPLE SIZE(S)

- Multiple permissions
- ID numbers
- Overall sample - 390
 - 122 care, 93 reunified, 175 never in care
 - Includes 63 from BiB cohort
- Education data - 234
 - 133 BPVS, 166 NPD
 - 68 currently in care
 - 166 currently at home (51 reunified, 115 never in care)

COMPARISON OF EDUCATION OUTCOMES

- Outcomes for looked after children are generally considered poor compared to children in the general population, *but*
 - Is this a fair comparison? Comparing like with like?
 - Some research shows some looked after children do very well, e.g. in comparison to those returned to their families
- Do abused or neglected children who enter care do better or worse than children with similar backgrounds and histories who remain at home?

COMPARISON OF THE SAMPLE GROUPS

	Care	Home	p
Child gender (n=234): Male	54.4%	53.6%	0.514
Child disability/illness (n=234): Yes	41.2%	26.5%	0.021
Experienced severe maltreatment (n=234): Yes	83.8%	60.2%	<0.001
SEN support (with/without Statement) (n=213): Yes	48.4%	34.4%	0.041
Extra help from teachers (n=232): Yes	67.6%	35.4%	<0.001
Has behaviour problems at school (n=232): Yes	50.8%	26.5%	0.001
Making good progress at school (n=212): Yes	72.1%	78.8%	0.193
Caregiver confident in supporting child at school (n=201): Yes	42.4%	29.6%	0.057
Level of caregiver engagement in activities with child (n=234): High	63.2%	51.2%	0.062

OUTCOME MEASURES

- British Picture Vocabulary Scale (BPVS) (n=133)
- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (n=43)

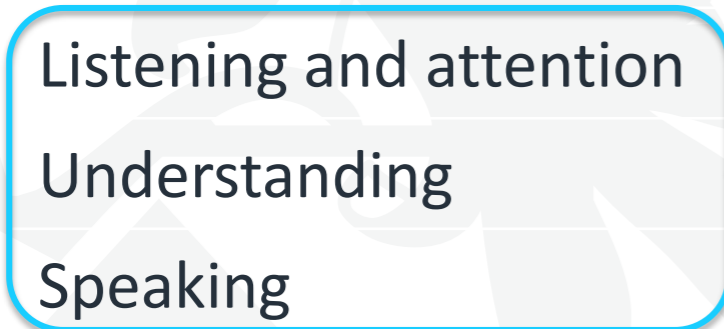
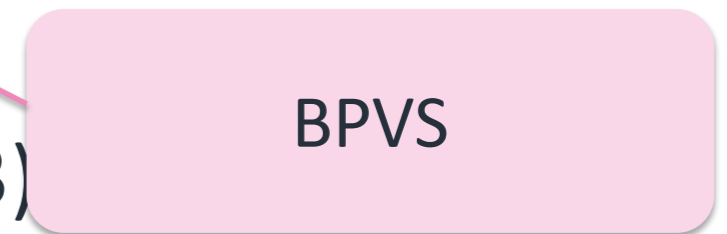
	Sample	Local	National
Listening and attention	65%	83%	86%
Understanding	70%	82%	85%
Speaking	70%	81%	84%
Reading	51%	65%	76%
Writing	51%	65%	71%

- Key Stage 1 (n=64)

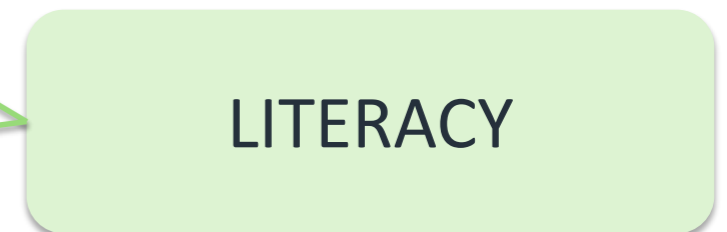
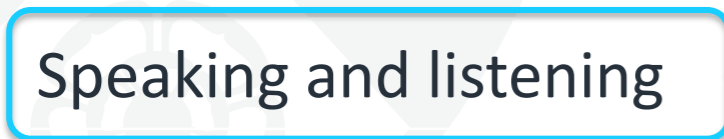
	Sample	Local	National
Speaking and listening	67%	85%	90%
Reading	81%	87%	90%
Writing	66%	84%	88%

OUTCOME MEASURES

- British Picture Vocabulary Scale (BPVS)
- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (n=43)



- Key Stage 1 (n=64)



BPVS (n=133)

➤ Home / Care

- Not significant

➤ Scores improved if

- Caregiver felt child did not have behaviour problems at school
- Caregiver engaged in more activities with the child
- Child did not receive extra help from teachers/school

➤ Severity of maltreatment experienced, age at referral and child protection system pathway not significant

LITERACY (n=107)

➤ Home / Care

- Not significant

➤ Likelihood of achieving expected level increased if

- Child did not have SEN (with or without a statement)
- Caregiver felt child did not have behaviour problems at school
- Caregiver felt more confident in supporting child at school
- Caregiver felt child was making good progress at school
- Child did not have a long-standing illness/disability

➤ Severity of maltreatment experienced, age at referral and child protection system pathway not significant

COMMUNICATION (n=107)

➤ Home / Care

- 70% children living at home achieved expected level, compared to 46% of children in foster care ($p = 0.028$)

➤ Likelihood of achieving expected level increased if

- Caregiver felt child was making good progress at school
- Caregiver felt child did not have behaviour problems at school
- Child did not have SEN (with or without a statement)
- Child did not have a long-standing illness/disability
- Caregiver engaged in more activities with child

➤ Severity of maltreatment experienced, age at referral and child protection system pathway not significant

COMMUNICATION (n=107)

- Multivariate modelling
- Home/care lost significance when other variables were added
- Final model
 - Home/care – not significant
 - Caregiver felt the child was making good progress at school
 - Child did not have SEN (with or without a statement)
 - Child did not have a long-standing illness/disability/health problem
 - Caregiver engaged in more activities with child

CONCLUSIONS

- Overall then, children living in foster care were doing less well on measure of communication
- On the other measures (BPVS and literacy) there were no significant differences
- Other factors, often inter-related to Home/Care, were important
- Implications
- NPD + linkage = opportunity

SUPERVISION ORDERS AND SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP

- Contribution of supervision orders and special guardianship orders to family justice, children's services, and child and parental outcomes
- National picture
- In-depth study
- Linkage to NPD
 - CP outcomes
 - Educational outcomes

CONTACT DETAILS

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