

JOB DESCRIPTION

**Senior Research Associate (0.5FTE), Centre for Child and Family Justice Research
Vacancy Ref: A3291**

Job Title: Senior Research Associate (0.5FTE)	Present Grade: 7P
Department/College: Centre for Child and Family Justice Research (Sociology/Law)	
Directly responsible to: Dr Linda Cusworth, Research Fellow (Lancaster project lead/Co-investigator)	
Supervisory responsibility for: N/A	
<p>Other contacts</p> <p>Internal: Project staff; departmental staff in Sociology and Law; staff across the University linked to the Centre for Child and Family Justice Research; University central support services (Research Support Office, Faculty Finance, HR, Press Office)</p> <p>External: Research team at University of Stirling and Adoption and Fostering Alliance (AFA) Scotland; The Nuffield Foundation; Scottish Government and local authorities; social workers, caregivers and adoptive parents; project advisory group</p>	
<p>The Project</p> <p>Permanently Progressing? Building secure futures for children: Middle childhood</p> <p>In 2018, 14,738 children were looked after in Scotland (Scottish Government 2019). Until recently, little was known about children’s experiences and pathways through the Scottish care system and what influences outcomes and wellbeing. The Permanently Progressing? study is addressing these gaps by tracking the progress of all 1,836 children who became looked after in Scotland aged five or under in 2012-13 at key life stages (early childhood, mid childhood and late adolescence/early adulthood). Phase 1 ran from 2014-2018, with final reports and summaries, including an information sheet for children available at: Permanently Progressing? reports and summaries.</p> <p>Phase 2 of the study runs from December 2020 to September 2024. It will revisit the 1,836 children in middle childhood (age 7+) to find out where they are living, their legal status, wellbeing, and what services bolster resilience. It will use mixed methods, including analysis and linkage of administrative data (Children Looked After Statistics and education data), surveys of caregivers and social workers, and qualitative data from interviews with caregivers, birth parents and children. The multiple types of data will be used to map children’s pathways and permanence status, explore children’s experiences, wellbeing and outcomes, identify connections and support and examine the experiences of birth parents. This will provide a comprehensive picture including what has changed, for whom, why, and in what timeframe, and what has remained the same. It will tell us how children who experienced significant maltreatment and adverse experiences in their early lives are developing, including what bolsters their security and wellbeing in middle childhood.</p> <p>Phase 2 is jointly funded by the Nuffield Foundation and philanthropic donor. It is a collaboration between the University of Stirling (PI: Dr Helen Whincup), Lancaster University and Adoption and Fostering Alliance (AFA) Scotland.</p> <p>We are seeking a Senior Research Associate for 2.5 days a week, based within the Centre for Child and Family Justice Research at Lancaster University. The post is available from 1st January 2021 on an indefinite contract, however the role is contingent on external funding, initially for 15 months, although it is anticipated that this will be extended until 30 September 2024.</p>	

Major Duties:

1. Liaising with key contacts in participating local authorities.
2. Contributing to survey design and administration: including recruiting participants, questionnaire design, sending out (online and paper) questionnaires and reminders, collating responses, and data entry.
3. Data linkage, manipulation and analysis of survey and administrative data.
4. Contributing to project outputs: including interim reports, final report, summary, policy briefings, blogposts, and peer reviewed journal articles.
5. Participating in dissemination activities, including roundtable events with key policy and practice stakeholders, national and international conferences and seminars.
6. Participation in project team meetings, advisory group meetings and other relevant meetings as identified by the Lancaster project lead/project PI.
7. Contribute to the preparation of progress reports for the advisory group and funders.
8. Maintaining confidentiality of information; it will be necessary to comply with the requirements of GDPR and the University Research Ethics Committee.
9. Undertaking any necessary training and development.
10. Undertaking any other duties appropriate to the grade of the post, as required by the Lancaster project lead, project PI, and Director of the Centre for Child and Family Justice Research, Lancaster University.