Social work as social action

Dr Liz Davies
Reader in Child Protection: London Metropolitan University
www.lizdavies.net
The first set of photos are from Occupy London: St Pauls in 2012
• Professor Munro: I have no idea about cuts. I have not seen any form of statistics on it. Whatever funding there is, there will always be a limit to how many services you can provide. You cannot have universal access; it is just not economically feasible. There will always be some who are turned away. You just hope that they are the less important cases.
Tim Loughton MP

I am going to rip up the guidance

(Community Care Live presentation May 2012)
Munro Review of child protection 2011

- Focus only on abuse within family – early intervention/help
- Omitted focus on perpetrators and organised crime: CAIT/Probation not mentioned
- Focus on bureaucracy - used to promote downsizing of guidance *Working Together*: practice guidance to be locally written (DfE 2010): Parallel developments in Probation reducing national standards to three pages
- Decided against the need for a National Signposting system
- Omitted child protection procedures, S47, strategy meetings, child protection conferences
- No mention of children known to be at high risk of harm (eg. disabled children, children in custody, unaccompanied minors)
Revision of Working Together

Supplements gone
Protecting children in specific circumstances – gone
Emotional abuse definition: omits witnessing abuse
Investigation (S47) merged into Assessment Framework
Localism
Police / probation – missing from S 47 column

‘unless to do so would place the child at risk of harm’ – phrase now omitted
Political agendas: From the welfare state to the security state

- Privatisation: profit motives above the welfare of children. Undermining professionalism and deskillling the workforce makes it ripe for privatisation (e.g. Suffolk)
- Government funding services £448 million to 150,000 multi-disadvantaged/hard to reach families because of the ‘corrosive element’ and preventing social unrest. Families defined as - poor housing, unemployed, poor education, can’t afford food & clothing.
- Criminalisation of children as suspects not victims: pre-emptive criminalisation e.g. ASBOs
- Population surveillance and control. Extensive insecure databases of information about children and families
- Children as commodities e.g. pharmaceutical products, food industry etc.
Wyeth pharmaceutical company – a multi national specialising in vaccinations, behaviour modifying medication, children’s antibiotics, babymilk etc.

It was planned for this company to launch Every Child Matters Green Paper with the DfES.

Don’t assume your in-house providers are the best option...a scope of current and potential markets for providing children’s services ... to create a successful business model’. DfES (2004:30) ECM Next Steps

Followed Climbié
Venture Capital company ECI bought Sedgemoor in 2005. Sedgemoor was one of the largest providers of residential care for children.

In 2007 facing losses 45 children’s homes (caring for 75 children) went into liquidation. 5 days consultation with Ofsted and relevant LAs. Within 48 hours 15 homes were sold on. Children in the remaining homes had to be found new placements.’ One council said, ‘the children were very angry, understandably’

These firms tend to operate on a 3-5 year investment model. ‘Is this compatible with the long term care needs of the most vulnerable members of society?’ (Louise Tickle Guardian 05.02.08)
Privatising statutory child protection

Suffolk tried to privatise all children’s services. Public outcry.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/sep/22/suffolk-county-council-outsource-services

Concept of corporate parent? Now pilots to privatise social workers working with children in care.

Which companies? Who is on Board of Directors? What are the financial interests?
Target families; (refer to Levitas 2012)

Multi disadvantaged, disengaged, families with multiple problems (FMP), families in chronic crisis, chaotic families, hard to reach, hardest to reach

2008: Gordon Brown: 110,000 such families - if these families problems could be solved much of society’s ills would be cured.
2011: Cameron about 120,000 allocated £448 million to ‘turn their lives around’ ‘When some people live apart from the rest of society they can have a corrosive effect. We have known for years that a small number of families are the source of a large proportion of problems in our society. Last year we spent 9 billion on these families. £75,000 per family.
Definition

5 or more disadvantages / Generational

• No parent in work
• Poor quality housing
• No parent has qualifications
• Mother has mental health problems
• One parent has disability or long term illness
• Low income
• Can’t afford food and clothing
• Follows on from Family Intervention Projects which were to address root causes of anti social behaviour. Impose sanctions where necessary. Punitive.
The Big Society Capital: to capitalise the growth of a sustainable social investment market.

Big Society Bank launched July 2011. Two expert boards. £220 million capital from major banks. A wholesale investor to social enterprise. It will invest in intermediary organisations so that they can invest in frontline organisations. Who are they?

Chair: Sir Ronald Cohen: pioneer of Venture Capital. With Bridges Community Ventures [which addresses UK projects] I'm chairing an effort to define new approaches to tackling poverty. Sunday Times rich list he is worth £400 million.

….you do have to worry about what's happening at the extremes. The divergence of the rich and the poor creates an unstable situation. And I am interested in avoiding a situation where people get so far left behind that they are desperate, they don't mind overturning the applecart."

Chief Executive: Nick O’Donohoe: JP Morgan/ Goldman Sachs etc…….

Lady Susan Rice Managing Director Lloyds

David Carrington: 2 years as an unqualified social worker
Social enterprises

Businesses set up for social good. Profits reinvested. Social work practice pilots for looked after children (2008: 5: Kent, Hillingdon, Staffordshire, Blackburn Liverpool: 7 more in 2012) less bureaucracy, independent the freedom to work in a way that makes sense away from local authority restrictions and outside of its unwieldy processes is undeniably attractive BUT what about employee rights? Pensions, Union membership? (Gillen: PSW Jan 2012)
Social enterprise: critique

Lack local democratic control
Profits go outside the authority to private business
Social enterprise gets bought out by big companies; no protection for the vulnerable (cartelisation: mergers etc)
Lack of coordination of service provision
People involved who lack expertise / cheap non-professionals ticking boxes.
Lack of accountability and scrutiny/deregulation – role of corporate parent undermined
Role in interagency working
Workers rights (academies no union)
Training and CPD
Local democracy: Local Authorities

Where is the argument to improve LA social work?

General message of failure of LA social work – performance led, bureaucratic, managerial, bullying

The Vote: local democratic control/ local accountability

Bureaucracy was government imposed

Depleted resources – set to fail –

Inquiries – to demolish LA control of services
Campaign against revision of Working Together: to retain national child protection guidance

http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/

- **Consultation on Revised Safeguarding Statutory Guidance**
- This consultation seeks views on three statutory guidance documents:
  - *Working Together to Safeguard Children*: draft guidance on what is expected of organisations, individually and jointly, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
  - *Managing Individual Cases: the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families*: draft guidance on undertaking assessments of children in need; and
  - *Statutory Guidance on Learning and Improvement*: proposed new arrangements for Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), reviews of child deaths and other learning processes led by Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs).
- **Launch Date**: Tuesday 12 June 2012
- **Closing Date**: Tuesday 4 September 2012

Email me your contact email so that I can keep you informed when I have completed a detailed critique:
l.davies@londonmet.ac.uk
Caring is everyone's business.

Our presence here expresses concern for global economic and social justice.
ELITES CUT OFF FROM THE PEOPLE
£70 billion is lost through tax evasion each year whilst welfare fraud cost the treasury 1 billion but with billions of pounds worth of tax credits left unclaimed each year. (Investigation by Richard Murphy chartered accountants). Human labour creates value so it makes sense for those representing those that want something for nothing, the richest 1% to squeeze the labour force to get people to work as cheaply as possible with minimum care and maximum flexibility.

BANKS

YOU AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN

DEFEND OUR SERVICES
HUMANITY BEFORE PROFIT!
$Fund Human Needs, Not Warfare!
This dragon represents the freemasons, they are a secret society with rulers, grand masters, apprentices etc. They total over 7 million worldwide. They are in the most powerful positions - royalty, judges, parliament, church of England, Vatican, the bankers, foreign embassies. They have their own bank; they present their charity but beware... We need to know who St Paul's is a freemason? Who in House of Commons is? Who in House of Lords is? What links our royal family with transparency?

The banks own you! The government has a credit card with no limit and you are their collateral!

We are the 99%.

occupylondon.org.uk twitter.com/occupylsx
The

beautiful

sentiment that

was here is now

faded.

It said this:

Many small people

who in many small

places do many small

things can alter

the face of the world.

It will be replaced.
• CHILDISM: Oppression of children

• The personal is political


  We are professionals first/employees second

UNCRC
Friere described the role of the ‘critical witness’
Use the moment

‘It is a dynamic element which becomes part of the societal context in which it occurred, from that moment it does not cease to affect that context’

(Friere P (1972)Pedagogy of the Oppressed p144).
Saul Alinsky: seeing injustice and striking at it with a hot passion. Having an unreserved confidence in one’s ability to do what he believes must be done and accept, without fear or worry, that the odds are always against him. He is a doer and does. The thought of copping out never stays with him for more than a fleeting moment; life is action;

Change coming from power and power coming from organisation. In order to act people must get together …..much of the organisers work is in painting a tiny leaf but what keeps him going is vision of a great mural where other artists organisers- are painting their bits and each piece is essential to the total

Alinsky S (1971) Rules for Radicals

Child protection warriors (Frampton)
Community action LSE : last module 1972 (George Goetschius)

Paddington Day Hospital Protest
Mental Patient’s Union

Spandler H (2006) Asylum to Action. Paddington Day Hospital, Therapeutic Communities and Beyond (Community, Culture and Change) . London. JKP

Durkin L (1973) Mental Patient’s Union. Health and Social Service Journal. 4th August 1973

www.studymore.org.uk
Andrew Roberts. Founder of MPU. Website has history of MPU and service user movement
1973 Sunday Times: my placement

Mental Patients' Union

Lewis Mantus and Madlib colleagues: “Everyone knows I'm mad.”

Fighting for madmen's rights
Grassroots social action

1970s – 80s

**National Federation of alternative bookshops:**

Centres for community action: claimants unions, squatting, food coops, women/gay liberation, free law centres, civil rights movements, school students union, vegan/vegetarianism and animal liberation, street press

(No references – nothing written!)
The media is an effective way of protecting children. It works. Often it is all we have.

A free press is essential to a democratic society: it is currently under attack.

*There is ALWAYS a way*
Islington: patch/neighbourhood working

From 1992 - over 200 newsprint articles on the abuse of children within the Islington care system: Each of 13 inquiries followed disclosure in the media.

Serious crimes against children – murders, sexual assaults, abductions

Survivors were involved throughout alongside whistleblowing social workers
Islington Inquiry report 1995

- A social worker identified 61 young people – victims of abuse but police said there was no evidence of a network
- No evidence of ritual abuse

‘an extraordinary and horrifying story’ Ken Loach

READ the history from those who were there; Kincora/ Cleveland/ Orkneys/ North Wales etc.
Demetrious Panton: in ‘care’ of Islington council from age 10 years.

Minister for Children, Margaret Hodge, described him as ‘disturbed’.
Focus on single issues: archive on www.lizdavies.net

Islington child abuse scandal
Lisa Arthurworrey – social worker for Victoria Climbie
Nevres Kemal – Haringey social worker and whistleblower
Margaret Hodge – former Minister for Children and former Islington councillor / Demetrious Panton – Islington survivor/care leaver
Jersey care leavers – no child protection investigation
Teresa Cooper – survivor/care leaver - abuse in care and drug regime
Maria Ward / Gillie Christou – Peter Connolly’s social worker and team manager
Appointment of Laming to report following Peter Connolly case
Opposing children’s database
Challenging abolition of child protection register and lack of joint investigation
Challenging the role of pharmaceutical companies
Revision of Working Together / Critique of Munro Report
FGM and more recently male circumcision (MGM) as a children’s rights issue
The scapegoats: to bring in policy

Lisa, Gillie and Maria
Debunking the myths
Victoria - 128 injuries
How could she ever have been expected to do the job right?

- Inexperience
- Lack of essential training
- Non-existent leadership
- Useless supervision
- Inadequate local procedures
- Chaotic and demoralised work environment
- Excessive caseload and overwork
- Allocation to a case beyond her capacity
- Misleading information from senior medical staff
- National organisational and resource shortcomings
- Plausible murderous adults

Peter Jackson QC

PRESS COVERAGE: Victoria’s parents became supportive
Haut de la Garenne - Jersey children’s home until 1986. 1000 children lived there between the 50s and 80s. Police investigation found remains of 5 children, over 100 children’s bones and 4 punishment rooms. 169 adult survivors informed homicide (but not child protection) investigation. Political suppression, imprisonment of key supportive politician. Redress Board.
Gorey Bay and castle: organised crime: physical torture/CSA
Jersey care leavers: 160 stories untold: media provided a voice

Comment piece: ‘We must support the Jersey survivors’ Guardian
01.08.08

UK children sent to Jersey
But

No UK based child protection investigation
The stone bath: police dug into the cellar and found this as survivors had described.
The bunker where children hid
Jersey Opera House
Police investigator : Lenny Harper:

I can quite clearly say that the investigation is being held up. There are people on the island who just don't want us going down the route of this inquiry"
Voices of the children: read the blogs

Simon Bellwood social worker

Senator Stuart Syvret
Stuart Syvret in prison

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aBkXaORFsg

• Voiceforchildren website
• Jersey Careleavers:
• www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=18621845414
BBC cut programme

‘A passion to help improve the lives of children and learners’
Trustee: Paul Blackburn: Glaxo Smith Kline vice president

Phil Frampton - research

Liz Davies: Comment piece:
‘Real experience should have been reflected in Ofsted appointments’
Guardian: 12.06.08

Eileen Fairweather in Mail
Link with vaccine contracts to schools

Resignation in 2 weeks.
Financial Times comment re corporate appointments.
NEVRES KEMAL: Because we're good people, and we do a very good job, and someone has to do it. She gained a voice in the media and was heard.

If they had listened to my concerns and taken measures to rectify them, Baby P might never have died. I’ve had four years of hell and disbelief, words cannot express what I have been through but it’s all irrelevant – a boy has died.
S....... IF YOU CARE TO MAKE A COMMENT THEN GET YOUR LAWYERS TO CONTACT ME VIA THE EMAIL ADDRESS PROVIDED.
• I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR OFFICIAL DENIALS
• I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR LIES AS I HAVE HEARD FOR THE LAST YEAR OR SO
• I LOOK FORWARD TO LOOKING AT YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH EVERY ORGANISATION YOU HAVE EVER DEALT WITH.
• I WILL TAKE PEOPLE ON A MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR
• I WILL SHOW THEM JUST WHO YOU ARE
• I WILL SHOW THEM JUST WHO YOU ARE INVOLVED WITH
• I WILL SHOW PEOPLE THAT YOU HAVE FACILITATED COVER UPS AND WORSE
• ITS GOING TO BE A LITTLE SHOCKING
• S....... YOU KNOW THAT SINKING FEELING YOU JUST GOT, ITS PERFECTLY NATURAL TO FEEL THAT WAY.

Documentary Abuse of Trust by Roger Cook (BBC) available on this website
Child protection is political

- Children silenced
- Adult survivors silenced
- Professionals, the voice for children and survivors are silenced

Effective child protection must include seeking justice through targeting perpetrators

Prohibited by structural split of social work from probation and police and policy focus on abuse / solutions within families

Erroneous assumptions that crime is nothing to do with social work and that work with children is not the business of police/probation
Child protection is political

Prevention defined as an alternative to protection

‘Consider the political reaction to hard end cases being missed’
(Rose: Dept of Health 1994)

Use of media to help us reclaim child protection
We know how to protect children - the knowledge base exists.

The language of child protection has been stolen from us.

The systems of child protection have been stolen from us.
Since the mid-90s government policy has led to a demise of child protection systems and children are now less well protected. This agenda was deliberate and well organised with extensive support from academics.

The government planned for a public response to an increase in child deaths from abuse.

The global industry of child abuse has been safeguarded but not the child victims.
90s working together worked well

Focus on high profile perpetrators

Organised, institutional and ritual abuse investigations (Recent Kidwelly case an exception)
Demise of child protection systems since mid 90s

<p>|• Abolition of child protection register |
|• Undermining of police / probation / social work joint investigation |
|• Social workers assessing child and family need / police investigating crime/probation working with perpetrators |
|• lack of protocols for risk analysis |
|• Loss of specialist child protection social work teams and joint social work/polic |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Number of texts out of a total of 42 in which term included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>joint investigation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>police child abuse investigation team/unit</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 47 (Children Act 1989)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strategy meeting</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>child protection register/child protection plan</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
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</table>
A global crime requires a global protective response

- sexual exploitation
- trafficking
- international adoption trade
- organised, institutional and ritual abuse networks
- online abuse
- trade in abusive images of children
- forced marriage
- sex tourism
- bonded labour/child sex slavery
- illegal organ trade
Children increasingly unprotected

- Substantial reduction in children protected by statutory protocols since mid 90s, accelerated since 2003
- This does not reflect known prevalence rates (NSPCC 2011) or the vast extent of global industry of child abuse
- The most vulnerable children remain unprotected
- The most powerful and well organised criminals avoid detection, prosecution and conviction
## Reduction in protective action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Physical Abuse</th>
<th>Sexual Abuse</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>12,300</td>
<td>7,200</td>
<td>11,721,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>4,400</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>4,700</td>
<td>2,200</td>
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11,721,722 in England in 2010

39,100 in 2010 subject to CP Plans

(Majority neglect and emotional harm)
25 cases of professional abuse of children 2007-11
Headteacher convicted of 9 sexual assaults.
Sexual abuse of 4 children in south wales.
Adult’s denials were accepted
Social workers took a back seat in investigation
deferring decisions to police whose priority was prosecution not child safety
Voices heard: overwhelming professional dissatisfaction and an increase in child deaths

Social workers blogged, went on talk shows, appeared disguised on TV.

- Caseloads very high.
- Not allowed to seek EPO’s, care orders Accountants involvement in decisions. Costs of care proceedings risen / PLO
- Cases kept at S 17 rather than S 47
- Conveyor belt culture/bullying ‘My way or the highway’
- Lack of training in cp
- Targets before children: Assessments closed prematurely
- Technology driven social work: the child doesn’t shout as loud as the managers demanding data entry.
- Strategy discussions but not meetings
- Difficulty accessing archived records.
- Inexperienced managers / experienced staff leaving / agency workers
- Hot desking / smart working

Also see: BASW Survey (2012) http://cdn.basw.co.uk/upload/basw_12214-3.pdf
SCANDANAVIA: BARNAHUS: Children’s House
A children’s rights model under one roof: proactive child protection

Iceland 1998, 22 in Sweden, 1 in Denmark, 7 in Norway.
Development in Finland and Greenland
Multi agency child protection system involving police, social workers, health and education professionals, prosecutors and therapists. Focus on justice as well as the protection of children
Children do not have to present in court
The system applies also to children under age 15 who have offended
Barnahus
Västmanland
MASH: Multi agency safeguarding hubs: Working Together at point of intake. Probation omitted and criminal justice system represented by YOT only. Child Abuse Investigation Teams also omitted whose focus is child victims.
MASH: Multi agency safeguarding hubs

Haringey:
http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/07/06/2011/116936/multi-agency-safeguarding-centre-for-childrens-referrals.htm

Devon multi-agency safeguarding hub: case-study report
References


[https://www.nfer.ac.uk/nfer/publications/LGMX01/LGMX01_home.cfm?publicationID=580&title=Devon%20multi-agency%20safeguarding%20hub:%20case-study%20report](https://www.nfer.ac.uk/nfer/publications/LGMX01/LGMX01_home.cfm?publicationID=580&title=Devon%20multi-agency%20safeguarding%20hub:%20case-study%20report)

Levitas R (2012) *There may be ‘trouble’ ahead: what we know about these 120,000 ‘troubled’ families.* PSE.  
[http://www.poverty.ac.uk/sites/default/files/trouble_ahead.pdf](http://www.poverty.ac.uk/sites/default/files/trouble_ahead.pdf)

Pemberton C (2012) *Fears over plan to slaughter child protection guidance*  
[www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/28/03/2012/118112/fear-over-plans-to-slaughter-child...](www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/28/03/2012/118112/fear-over-plans-to-slaughter-child...)

**ALL HARRY KEEBLE’S BOOKS : website**


## Survivor accounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Humphreys (2011)</td>
<td><em>Oranges and Sunshine. Empty Cradles</em></td>
<td>London. Corgi (now a movie)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Gorman C (2010)</td>
<td><em>Beyond belief</em></td>
<td>Hodder</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKsD-VzZlZk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKsD-VzZlZk)

Documentary *Abuse of Trust by Roger Cook available on website*  
[www.ravingpikey.com](http://www.ravingpikey.com)
Recent links

http://www.rte.ie/player/#!v=1115764
Use of babies in ireland for drugs trials

http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/sep/22/suffolk-county-council-outsource-services
Suffolk tried to privatise all children’s services. Public outcry.

Child protection , family support’ policy in the US and consequences


www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aBkXaORFsq
Former senator in Jersey speaks as he leaves prison
Davies L and Duckett N (2009)
Whistleblowing/the duty of care


Public concern at work. [www.pcaaw.org](http://www.pcaaw.org) (charity providing free legal advice)
Islington references;

**The whistleblower's story**

06/07/2003 · **Paul Harris** and Martin Bright investigate how a 12-year-old saga of child abuse and cover-ups has returned to haunt Children's Minister Margaret Hodge. [www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2003/jul/06/children.childprotection](http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2003/jul/06/children.childprotection)

Fairweather – Baby P articles in The Daily Mail

Baby P relative implicated in child sex ring  Sun 14 December 2008, The Sunday Times

Baby P’s close relative is linked to a big paedophile network  Sat 15 November 2008, The Daily Mail

Whistleblower: Baby P council falsely accused me of abusing a child... I feared I'd lose my daughter  Sat 15 November 2008, The