Archiving Residential Children's Homes (ARCH): Exploring memory keeping in childcare

An event for people with care experience, practitioners, policy makers & academics

Programme and Abstracts

20 June 2023
9.30-4pm

UNIVERSITY *of* STIRLING

UNIVERSITÄT OSNABRÜCK

Morning Schedule

9.30 am	Arrival and Tea/Coffee
10am	Introduction from ARCH team
10.20am	Presentation 1: Chloe Meineck, Studio Meineck, Laura Frood, ACT, Lisa Thomas, Bristol University. *My Story, My Way - A Tale of trove on Tour*
10.40am	Discussion tables
11am	MORNING BREAK
11.15am	Presentation 2: Abbi Jackson, Birthlink. *Birthlink: Access to care records*
11.35am	Discussion tables
11.55am	Poetry: Craig Houston
12.15 - 1pm	LUNCH

Photography notice

There is a photographer coming from 2-4.30pm. Please let a member of the research team know if you DO NOT consent to your image being used in any news articles, physical or online materials which may be used in relation to the project.

Afternoon Schedule

1pm	Presentation 3: Gaynor Clarke, Social Work Scotland & Aberdeen City Council. *I Own My Story – Self Efficacy in Records Access*
1.20pm	Discussion tables
1.40pm	Presentation 4: Viv Cree, University of Edinburgh & Bob Mackenzie, University of Chichester. *Memory keeping in childcare: Opportunities for shared learning*
2pm	Discussion tables
2.20pm	AFTERNOON BREAK
2.35pm	Presentation 5: Andrew Burns & Siân Lucas, ARCH *Residential childcare: Who is responsible for collecting and storing childhood memories?*
2.55pm	Discussion tables presentation 5
3.15pm	Group discussion, facilitated by Karl Magee
3.30pm	Poetic Reflections: Craig Houston
3.40pm	Round up, thanks and next steps
4pm	FINISH

Presentation Abstracts

Presentation 1: Chloe Meineck, Studio Meineck, Laura Frood, Articulate Cultural Trust, Lisa Thomas, Bristol University.
My Story, My Way - A Tale of trove on Tour

Abstract:
Trove is a multi-media storying app and bag, which enables children and young people to record the story that is attached to a precious object. The child can then trigger the story whenever the object is played with.

Articulate, who in parallel have recently developed a digital memory-keeping app called The Vault, connected the dots between the projects and approaches and invited the trove team (Bristol University and Studio Meineck) to meet and work with kinship families to explore the approaches in Scotland for the first time.

Together in April, we took trove, The Vault and the families on a three-day residential trip hosted by the Abriachan Forest Trust just outside Inverness. The tech sat within a packed programme of creative and outdoor activities that were devised to give the families some respite from everyday life and just enjoy being together in the wild.

In this talk, we outline the design of trove and The Vault and share a little about the history of the project and partnership. We will offer some context around the residency and the people and practices involved and share some insights around the emergent themes and future collaborative potentials.

Discussion Question:
How do we encourage children to have ownership and agency around their own memories and stories, and what role is there for technology in enabling this?

Presentation 2: Abbi Jackson, Birthlink
Birthlink: Access to care records

Abstract:

This presentation will be an overview of Birthlink purpose which includes access to records through the different services. It will discuss the challenges in retrieving, handling, and sharing records, and what happens after they have been accessed. This will include types of support service users require and where the gaps are. Inconsistencies in approach will be explored, and the impact on individuals of the lottery they are entering into when they begin their journey.

Discussion Question:

When there are no records found, how should this be handled:
- By the care provider?
- By the support services?

Presentation 3: Gaynor Clarke, Social Work Scotland & Aberdeen City Council.
I Own My Story – *Self Efficacy in Records Access*

Abstract:
We all have a want and need to know our history - and how it has shaped who we are. More people are asking to see their records across the country. How these requests are received, managed, responded to, and supported varies, from speed of response, engagement, support, how the records are shared and received, and support post receipt of records.

The Right of Access gives all of us the right to obtain a copy of our personal information (data) from any organisation which holds information about us. Access to records has long been an important issue to people with care experience because these records are unique and can provide information about their past unavailable from any other source.

Lessons learned from Inquiries, what people with care experience tell us and modern technology all having the potential to radicalise how Right of Access is requested, responded to, and managed, self-efficacy central.

Discussion Question:
Harnessing and leveraging the power of technology – digital development.

- Describe the current balance of power in records access – is self-efficacy central?
- Describe how harnessing and leveraging the power of technology will look and feel in practice?

Presentation 4: Viv Cree, University of Edinburgh & Bob Mackenzie, University of Chichester
Memory keeping in childcare: Opportunities for shared learning

Abstract:

In December 1946, the Guild of Service for Women opened Edzell Lodge children's home in one of Edinburgh's most desirable neighbourhoods. Edzell Lodge was set up on the principle of a 'family' home, in which a small group of children of varied ages would live together throughout their childhoods. But what is known about the experiences and outcomes of this group of children? Our presentation is the result of a journey of shared learning by two individuals: the first, a former social worker and academic whose PhD had centred on the Guild of Service's history; and the second, the first resident of Edzell Lodge children's home, and himself an academic in management learning. It was in coming together and sharing their stories that a new research study was hatched, and it is this that we will talk about today. Building on the curated memories of three children who grew up in Edzell Lodge between the late 1940s and early 1960s and one of their house mothers, we reflect on the ways that these memories have been kept, lost or re-formed, and highlight the inevitable unexpected consequences that are part-and-parcel of any social work intervention.

Discussion Question:

How far is a shared learning approach likely to generate more 'authentic' stories for a living archive?

Presentation 5: Andrew Burns & Siân Lucas, ARCH
Residential childcare: Who is responsible for collecting and storing childhood memories?

Abstract:
In this presentation, we critically discuss the cross generational responsibility of memory keeping in relation to the development of a digital 'living archive'. Since the Shaw report (2007) there has been increasing attention given in social work to the accessibility of case records and more support provided where necessary, to help children to understand and contribute to their records (Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011). Despite this, individualised care records remain a challenging source of information for care experienced individuals (MacNeil et al., 2017; Shepherd, Hoyle and Lomas 2020) and often records fail to capture the day-to-day experience of group living.

Memories and 'remembering' can often be a social experience and raise important questions about the ways in which a living archive records memories with and for children in residential care, which will be a resource for them through care and beyond, to understand their own identity, history, decision processes and shared experiences (Hagan and Magee, 2022). We present data from our engagement with young people who live in residential care in Scotland to discuss the ethical challenges that have arisen in creating a living archive – namely, interrogating who is responsible for recording and storing childhood memories.

Discussion Question:
Who is responsible for memory keeping?

Contact ARCH

You can find out more about the ARCH Project at:

Archiving Children's Residential Homes (**ARCH**)
University of Stirling
Airthrey Rd, Stirling
FK9 4LA

Web: www.archproject.stir.ac.uk
Twitter: @ARCH_Stirling
Email: h.r.emond@stir.ac.uk

SCAN ME

Visit the website here

Tell us what you think

We would love to hear your views about today's event and about the ARCH research project. Please complete our short survey by scanning the QR code below or completing a paper copy on your table.

Feedback from ARCH event, June 20th 2023

Thank your for joining us today. We appreciate your participation in the discussions and wish you a safe journey home.
The ARCH team.