

10 years of GUS: helping to make Scotland a better place to grow up



Case studies

East Dunbartonshire Council



Local authority

East Dunbartonshire Council have used findings from GUS to make sure that projects and programmes being developed as part of the Early Years Collaborative are targeted to benefit families experiencing disadvantage. GUS findings relating to persistent poverty, play, early literacy and attitudes towards services amongst particular groups of parents have been used to inform the 'tests of change' for Early Years Collaborative work. The findings have helped to consolidate improvement work by raising awareness of issues across a range of professionals who are increasing working collaboratively using a 'place' approach to reduce inequality and disadvantage in East Dunbartonshire.

Projects include:

- the development of a new Family Centre, providing new services to support families
- delivery of the Healthier Wealthier Children programme in partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau
- a universal parenting support pathway
- improved transitions for children from nursery to primary school, keeping parents engaged
- action to reduce smoking during pregnancy
- buggy walks
- family literacy projects

Stepping Stones for Families

Voluntary sector



Stepping Stones for Families is a voluntary organisation working alongside children, families and young people to give them support, opportunities and a voice in tackling the effects of poverty and disadvantage in their lives.

At Stepping Stones for Families, findings from GUS have been used to support funding applications to trusts/foundations, including the Big Lottery. Findings have also been used to rationalise service design/delivery models. In particular, findings relating to the impact and prevalence of parental social isolation and the impact of social support networks led to the development of work with the aim of establishing a peer support network. Findings relating to family adversity and their impact on child health and health behaviours supported the development of a Family Wellbeing Service and the activities it delivers.

Quote from SSFF:

"The benefit of a consistent approach to the study of childhood and childhood influences in Scotland is worth its weight in gold. GUS is our primary source of information and keeps us up to date with relevant findings as we review and reflect on our work with children and families. GUS provides incredibly valuable and meaningful research, which will hopefully continue for some time to come."

Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh

Higher education/practitioner training



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

At the Moray House School of Education, lecturers teaching on undergraduate and postgraduate courses in primary education, additional support for learning and physical education have used findings from GUS to support teaching on Equality and Inclusion – specifically, the impact of socioeconomic circumstances on children and the difference that schools can make to their lives.

Quote from lecturer:

"The way the GUS research team explain the findings is exemplary. They explain quantitative approaches very well and it makes the GUS findings really accessible for both teachers and parents."

Challenges

- Presenting research findings in a way that has direct relevance for policy and practice
- Reaching new audiences
- Making sure that the findings inform policy and practice

