

The Social Construction of Vulnerable Families in Children's Centres



Context

'Government guidelines over what makes a family 'vulnerable' have left many confused and at risk.'
(Machan, 2020)



Rationale

The term vulnerable families is now in common use in a range of public services in England yet there is no clear definition of what makes a family vulnerable or what a vulnerable family looks like.



Aim

To explore how Children's Centre workers understand and define vulnerable families.



Methods

12 Children's Centre workers from 8 different Centres were interviewed about what they thought made a family vulnerable and analysed using Critical Discourse Analysis.



One Point of View

"For some people, I believe they will always be vulnerable and for others they can become vulnerable"
(Children's Centre Manager)



"are we a vulnerable family darling?"

Peter Goy

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What Next?

- Complete transcribing the interviews
- Analyse the interview data
- Confirm the analysis with the participants
- Write up the thesis



References

- Machan, T. (2020) Government guidelines over what makes a family 'vulnerable' have left many confused and at risk. *Daily Telegraph*. 20th Mar. p.36.
- The Guardian (2022) Carrie-Boris-Johnson-PM-Wife-Downing-Street [online]. Available from: https://i.guim.co.uk/img/media/12710d9c46e1f8d021c62d2dd64d13920147e656/0_0_4000_2401/master/4000.jpg?width=620&quality=45&auto=format&fit=max&dpr=2&s=f11e33dcc68f54c5695f1f82086c6b40 [Accessed 5 May 2022].