The Children and Childhood Network

The University of Nottingham has a long and distinguished history of world-changing research and advances in medicine, health and well-being for children and young people. Since the University received its Royal Charter in 1948, we have been researching the most pressing issues and challenges that confront children and their families.

Millions have benefited from our discoveries and innovations; our treatments and interventions; and our major research breakthroughs. We have helped to save lives and to transform social conditions in communities locally, nationally and globally.

We have also provided research-led teaching for the education and training of professions that work directly with children, including teachers, social workers, doctors, nurses, psychologists, psychiatrists, counsellors, and many others. Since 2006 alone, our research funding relating to children and childhood has exceeded £30 million, including substantial grants from research councils, central and local government, the European Union, charities and Trusts.

View the Health and Well-being Timeline to see the many landmarks in our advances and impact on health and well-being at www.nottingham.ac.uk/healthtimeline

A priority area

Established in 2009, the Network is one of the largest multi-disciplinary grouping of academics working in this field in the UK, led by Professor Paul Boon, who has been a key member of the coalition of the Children and Childhood Network. The Network brings together leading teams of academics across a range of disciplines and specialisms, including health, education, social science, psychology, and law.

The Network is currently leading a major research programme to understand the long-term health and wellbeing of children and young people. This project, called the Children and Childhood Network, is one of the major research priorities supported by the University’s Centre for Academic Excellence. It is led by Professor Paul Boon, who has been a key member of the coalition of the Children and Childhood Network. The Network brings together leading teams of academics across a range of disciplines and specialisms, including health, education, social science, psychology, and law.

In 2011, the Children and Childhood Network became one of the first mental health research networks to be established in the UK. The network now includes leading teams of academics from across the country, including health, education, social science, psychology, and law.

Research expertise

The Network has developed key research priorities in experimental approaches, including: developmental, biological, and social factors that contribute to children’s health and wellbeing; and the impact of social and economic factors on children’s health and wellbeing.

Aims and approach

The Network is committed to:

1. Building on our existing research and teaching strengths to make a significant contribution to the wider body of knowledge and understanding in all aspects relating to children, childhood, and wellbeing.
2. Undertaking world-class research and teaching that is responsive to the needs of children and young people across all aspects of society, including health and wellbeing.
3. Ensuring that policy makers and professionals can access the most up-to-date and relevant knowledge and evidence to inform their policies, services, and interventions, to deliver positive outcomes for children and families.