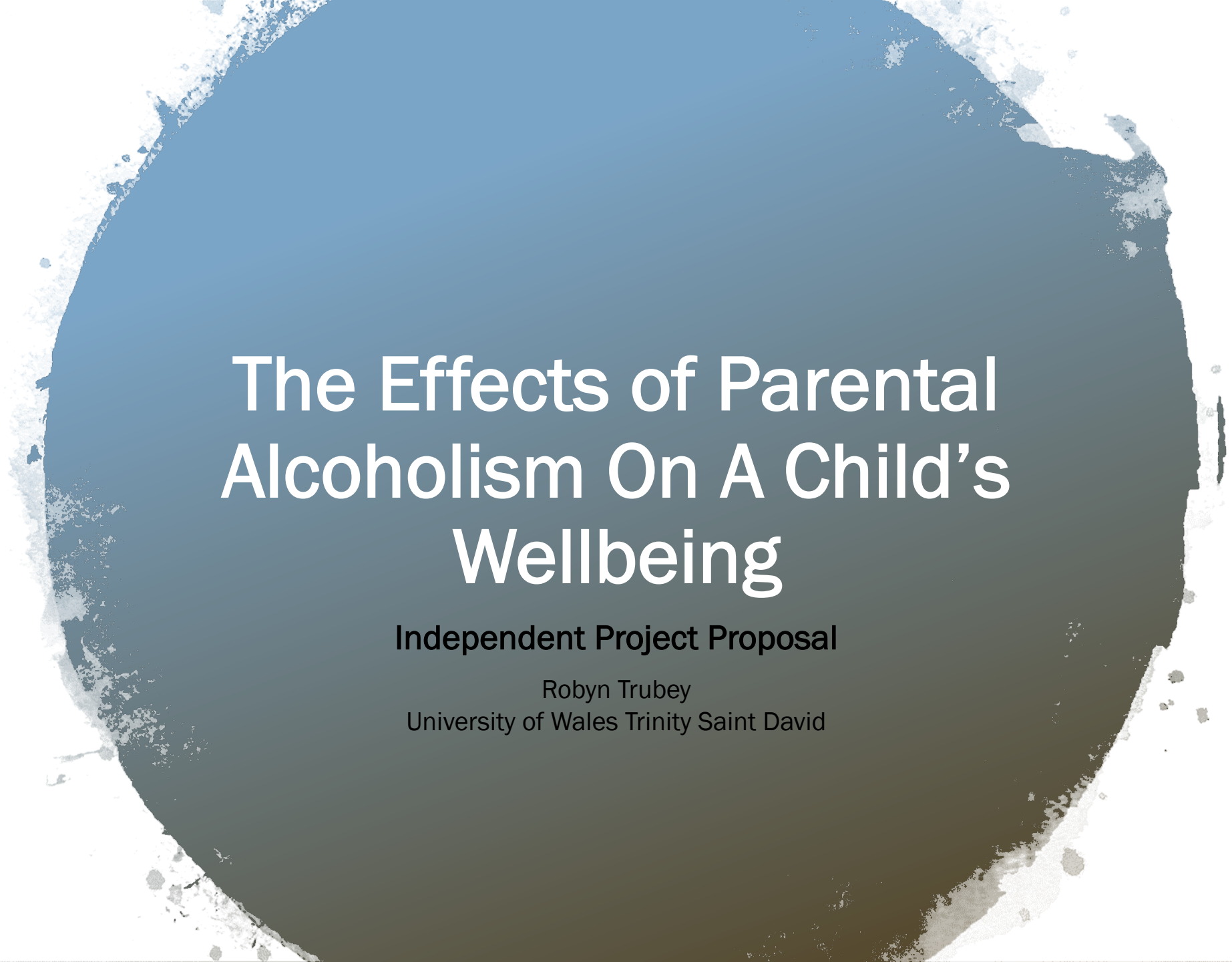




The Effects of Parental Alcoholism On A Child's Wellbeing

Independent Project Proposal

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Key Words

Addiction

Little or no control over doing, taking or using something, to the point where it could be harmful to you (NHS, 2019).

Wellbeing

How people feel and how they function, both on a personal and social level; and how they evaluate themselves as a whole (Mental Health Foundation, 2018).

Alcoholism

Allow for an individual to experience a strong, often uncontrollable, need to consume alcohol (NHS, 2019).

Responsibility

The state or fact of having a duty to deal with something, or have control over someone. A parent has parental responsibility for their child (gov.uk, 2019).

Childhood Development

Refers to the sequence of physical, language, thought and emotional changes that take place in a child; from their birth, right through to the beginning of adulthood (NHS, 2018).

Research Method

Literature Review

A literature review can be defined as a summary of previous research on a specific topic. The literature review considers a numbers of articles, books, journals and other sources related to particular area of research.

Why are they important?

- Explain to the audience the already established knowledge / facts.
- Places the research in context.
- Identify areas for further research to be conducted.
- Identify the strengths / weaknesses of the existing research.
- Understand how others have defined and measured key concepts.



Research Question

What support is / should be in place for a child who has experienced parental alcoholism?

When does heavy drinking become alcoholism? What are the boundaries?

What impact does alcoholism have on a child?

What are the long lasting effects of parental alcoholism for a child in later life?

Is a child aware of a parental drinking problem?



Background & Context

Family
Systems
Theory

Attachment
Theory

Foetal Alcohol
Spectrum
Disorder
(FASD)



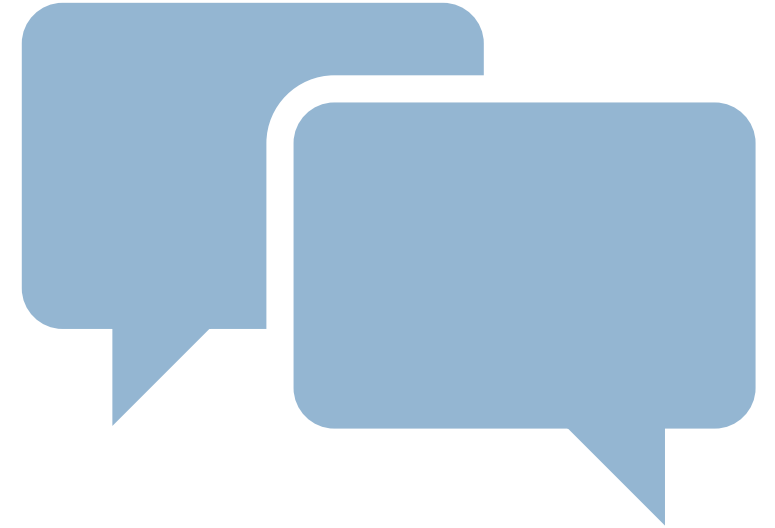
Discussion Points

A parent with an SUD is 3 times more likely to physically or sexually abuse their child (USDHHS, 1996).

A large proportion of families where drinking is a problem can be seen to have poor family functioning, lower levels of care & high levels of conflict (Cleaver, Unell & Aldgate, 2011).

There are 2.5 million children currently living in the UK with an excessive drinker (National Association of Children of Alcoholics, 2018).

For some children, their childhoods are lonely, chaotic & unpredictable; which usually results in lifelong consequences (NSPCC, 2017).



Authors

**National Association for Children of Alcoholics
(NACOA)**

Laura Lander, Janie Howsare & Marilyn Byrne
The Impact of Substance Use Disorders on Families &
Children : From Theory to Practice

Hedy Cleaver, Ira Unell & Jane Aldgate
Children's Needs – Parenting Capacity

**National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to
Children (NSPCC)**

M. Barrera, L. Chassin & F. Rogosch
Effects of Social Support and Conflict on Adolescent Children
of Alcoholic & Nonalcoholic Father

M. Russell, C. Henderson & S. B. Blume
Children of Alcoholics – A Review of the Literature



Ethical Considerations

Addiction

Some people who have had to experience alcoholism may still be undergoing treatment for their condition.

Emotional

Some individuals may find discussing addiction, and the impact that this has had on their loved ones, a difficult topic of conversation. It may bring about complicated emotions.

Transference

Researching the impact that parental alcoholism can have on a child's wellbeing may be a unpleasant topic; due to there potentially being distressing cases.



Potential Arguments / Implications

A child who experiences parental alcoholism should be taken into care.

What support should be put in place for children who do experience parental alcoholism.

Who is responsible for making decisions on that child's behalf.

What are the long-term effects of alcoholism on children – how does it impact them in later life?



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