

OWEN GILL



***BARNARDO'S RESEARCH
AND EVIDENCE BASED
PRACTICE RELATING TO
CHILDREN OF OFFENDERS:
CHALLENGES FOR
COMMUNITY PRACTICE***

FOUR STRANDS OF BARNARDO'S RESEARCH



- Consultations in SW.
- National overview of extent of recognition of position of children of offenders in planning for children's services
- Research on Children's Centre 'reach' to disadvantaged groups (including families of offenders)
- Gathering practiced based experience on our
ECHO (Empowering the Children of Offenders) service in the SW



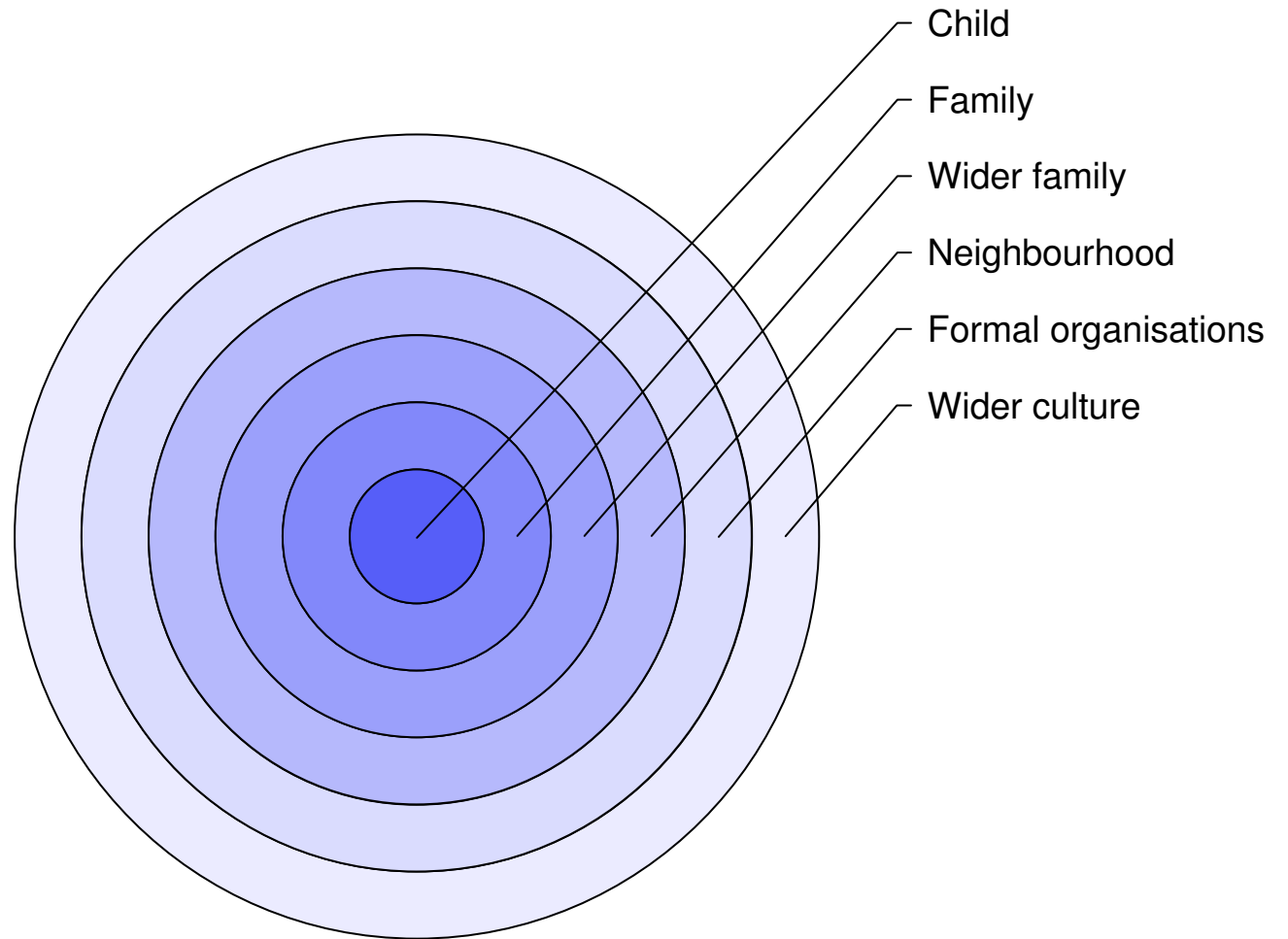
Children of prisoners and the ecology of childhood. A Unifying Theoretical perspective?

- The theory-highly appropriate for position of children of offenders
- The importance of community Practice

Believe in children



Barnardo's
South West





RESEARCH CONSULTATIONS IN S.W.

Consultations with 33 families (including children) in Bristol, Devon, Cornwall

- *Challenges of making contact with no database and agencies not providing information.*
- *Who are the families. Reconstituted families - far more children involved?*

The Internal World of the Child. Emotions/Feelings



- 'Sad'
- Fear of what happens inside
- Emotion channelled into very short periods of contact
- Threat of Powerlessness
- Conflicting needs in family
- The experience of poverty

The External World of the Child. Community Contexts



- Closing down of some contacts
- Children not knowing what information they can give at school etc
- Parents ambivalence about school knowing
- Peer knowledge
- Exacerbation of other factors; racism etc
- Links to poverty-networks etc



Extent of recognition of children of offenders in local plans

- Invisible Children.
- In England just 13 out of 150 Children and Young Persons Plans made reference to children of offenders as a vulnerable group (Oct 2009)
- Child poverty needs assessments and strategies?



Children's Centres and 'reach' to disadvantaged groups (Pinney and Slowley 2011)

- Children's Centres increasingly challenged to reach out to the most disadvantaged; Coalition policy.
- Overview of academic research and Barnardo's practice on CC reach.
- Wide variety in success



Children Centre reach to disadvantaged groups. What works. (Pinney and Slowley 2011)

- 1 Partnership working with local agencies
2. Leadership and strategy
3. Inclusive universal services
4. Targeted groups and activities
5. Outreach and home-visiting

Learning from a community based service. Devon ECHO



- Jan 2010-March 2011. Total Cases 183.(combination of agency + self referral)
- 103 'cases' assessed in terms of outcome measurements. Self reported positive change
- Practice learning-importance of someone who knows way round system, importance of grandparents, role of family group conferencing, working with schools, groups in community etc etc.

Echo-working across the ecology of childhood



- One local authority;
- Individual casework by Echo
 - Adoption of the outcome framework by schools, children services
 - Schools protocol
 - Informal support group set up

Overview



A Barnardo's vision for children
of offenders.....

Community based practice that
addresses the ecology of
childhood