

FYFF



UNIVERSITY OF
LINCOLN



UK Research
and Innovation

Quarterly Newsletter

April 2020

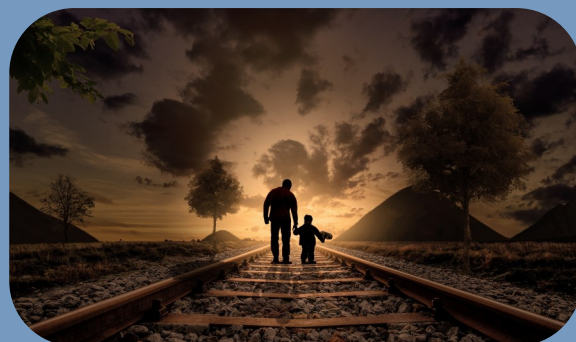
[FYFF.blogs.lincoln.ac.uk](https://fyff.blogs.lincoln.ac.uk)

 @FollowingYFF

Following Young Fathers Further

Welcome!

Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter for the Following Young Fathers Further project. This issue will cover project updates, new developments, future plans and news surrounding the project, from the beginning of the study until the end of April 2020.



Project Update

The FYFF team have been hard at work throughout the first quarter, making preparations for and laying the foundations for this four-year qualitative longitudinal study.

One of our major activities has been securing ethical approval for the study, which in a project with as many stages and components as this one, is a particularly complex process, especially as we will be archiving our data for future researchers. The last few weeks have been spent ironing out the creases and ensuring consistency across the project forms, which have recently received approval! We are also very pleased that our archiving information sheet and consent form will be featured as an exemplar in Professor Emeritus Bren Neale's new book, which will be a state of the art introduction to qualitative longitudinal research.

Laura and Linzi have taken on the monumental task of building an international literature review on young fatherhood, identifying key themes throughout the literature. This will continue to be the main focus of their work for the coming months, and will form the basis of a number of working papers.

In order to increase our public engagement, we now have a project [website](#) and [Twitter](#). Ben, our Research Administrator who joined the team in March, is managing our social media strategy, working on sharing positive content on young fathers.

The team have been working on our first blog posts for the project website, which will begin to be posted in the coming weeks. Please give us a follow on Twitter, and help us to promote the project by sharing our content! We also welcome any blog posts from our project partners and advisory board members about your involvement in the study, as well as from young parents themselves if they would like to share their experiences!

Please contact Ben for information and guidance on this.

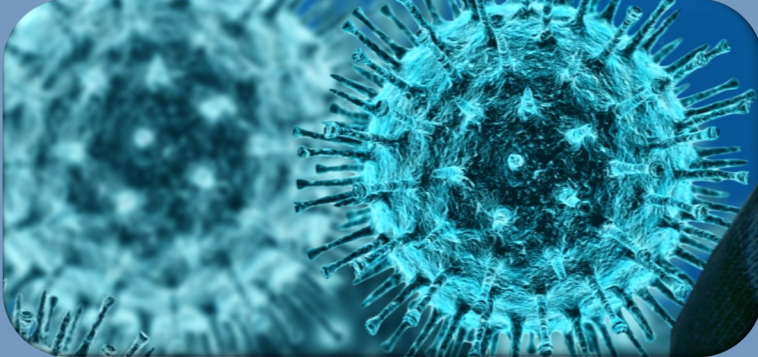
FYFF News!

Anna Tarrant and the FYFF team have recently been featured in two research magazines: The University of Lincoln public engagement magazine, [PEARL](#); and the British Sociological Association [Network](#) magazine.

We are very excited to be part of a consortium of research projects collaborating on an 18 month, Nuffield funded study examining the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic on low-income families (page 2).

The FYFF project has been selected as a case study for a project led by Professor Mark Read to participate in a newly developed method of capturing and mapping research stakeholders (page 3).

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Nuffield Research Opportunity

We were recently approached by Dr Ruth Patrick and Dr Maddy Power (University of York), and Dr Kayleigh Garthwaite (University of Birmingham) to become part of a consortium of national research studies examining the impacts of COVID-19 on low-income families. Funded by Nuffield, the 18-month study will also track the social security response to the pandemic.

We are currently discussing ways we can diversify our methods in ethical and sensitive ways to generate new evidence and track the impact of this crisis on young fathers and their families, as well as how organisations are adapting the support they provide to young fathers. This project enables us to work collaboratively with researchers and organisations across the UK, and in the longer-term we hope to impact policy and practice changes in participatory ways.

Please get in touch if you are interested in being involved with this.



Project Update (continued)

Inevitably, the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that we have had to make changes to the planned timescale of the project. This has most notably affected the UK strands of the study where interviews were anticipated to begin soon. Initially, we decided to delay the first wave of participant recruitment and interviews until such a time that it is possible to meet with participants face-to-face, as the long timeframe of the study means that we should still be able to generate new data and insights. However the research opportunity with Nuffield is pushing us to rethink this strategy and how we could conduct the first wave more creatively.

Strand 2 is currently on hold as much of the activity requires face-to-face engagement, however we continue to have conversations with Coram Family and Childcare, NSPCC and YMCA Humber who remain committed to implementing the Young Dads Collective in Grimsby, when it is possible to do so. While we may need to adjust our plans regarding how much is possible to achieve in light of the current situation, the four-year time frame, with the potential to extend by a further three years means that we may still be able to effectively implement and evaluate two versions of the model.

We are continuing to draft early versions of the interview schedules for strands 1 and 3 in line with developing our conceptual framework. As part of our contribution to the Nuffield research study, we will also be developing some research questions specifically about the pandemic, intended to capture the short-, medium-, and long-term effects of the crisis, and the associated policy response, on young men and their families.

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Stakeholder Analysis Workshops

In January, Anna responded to a call on Twitter by Professor Mark Read, asking for research projects to volunteer to be case studies for a new study. Mark is well known in academic circles for his work on how research develops effective impact and, along with Dr Helen Kendall, has developed a new method for capturing and mapping research stakeholders, called Stakeholder Analysis Workshops. The FYFF project was selected as one of the case studies for this study and we have been asked to run one or more workshops to identify the benefits and challenges of the approach.

This is likely to benefit the FYFF project in multiple ways; we will be given visibility beyond the discipline as an exemplar of good practice; we will contribute to the evidence base and inform impact capture agendas with a focus on social science; we can contribute to academic publications; and we can map national and international organisations and agencies, providing the basis through which to develop relevant research findings and establish networks of engaged stakeholders.

These workshops are inevitably on hold for now, but we now have time to plan them for when lockdown measures are eventually relaxed. They may also aid recruitment and access to participants in the longer-term, so we would like to conduct these in the UK (Grimsby and London), as well as Sweden if possible.

Thank you for reading!
The FYFF Team:



Linzi Ladlow
Research Fellow
LLadlow@lincoln.ac.uk



Ben Handysides
Project Administrator
BHandysides@lincoln.ac.uk

Anna Tarrant

Study Director
ATarrant@lincoln.ac.uk



Laura Way

Research Fellow
LWay@lincoln.ac.uk

