

# UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre

## Mission

The UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre (UCFRC) is committed to improving the lives of children, young people and families through research, education and service development. Our core research focus is the wellbeing and rights of children, young people and their families. Founded in 2007, part of the Institute for Lifecourse and Society at the University of Galway, the UCFRC is uniquely positioned to advance theory and practice and to facilitate knowledge transfer across the worlds of research, policy and practice to improve outcomes for children, young people, families and communities.

Recurring themes of interest across our work programme are: prevention and early intervention as a strategic orientation for policy and practice; family support as a policy and service paradigm; interventions that enable youth agency and development and, across all areas, a strong commitment to engaged research emphasising voice and participation.

## Expertise

Based in the School of Political Science and Sociology and part of the Discipline of Applied Social Science, an experienced research team undertakes independent, robust research and evaluation studies as well as programme planning, training and facilitation.

### Core areas of expertise include:

- Alternative Care
- Child Welfare and Protection
- Child Welfare Systems Change
- Child, Youth & Parental Participation
- Community-Based Youth and Family Interventions
- Educational Disadvantage
- Empathy and Social Values
- Family Support
- Parenting Support
- Youth Civic Engagement
- Youth Mental Health & Well-Being
- Youth Mentoring
- Youth Work



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



## Strategic Goals

The UCFRC is aligned with the University of Galway's Strategy 2020-2025, *Shared Vision, Shaped by Values* reflecting the University's aspiration to view all research, teaching and learning as embracing an international dimension and including a fundamental commitment to nurturing global citizens and addressing key challenges facing the world. As a UNESCO Centre, the UCFRC benefits from a unique platform to inform and influence global policy for children, youth and families. Across a number of high-level international collaborations the UCFRC engages with academic centres of excellence, NGOs and practitioners in a wide range of research, training and programme development activities.

### OUR STRATEGIC GOALS FOR 2023-2027 ARE:

1

#### IMPACT ON POLICY

*... evidence-based research to inform policy and enhanced engagement between policymakers and researchers.*

2

#### ADDRESS SOCIETAL NEEDS

*... research relevant to global priorities and the lived lives of children, youth and families experiencing social exclusion, poverty, adversity and mental health challenges.*

3

#### EXCELLENT SCHOLARSHIP

*... disseminating academic outputs and resources for real world utilisation in public and practice domains.*

4

#### RESPOND TO IRISH STATUTORY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR

*... identifying gaps and need for high quality applied research grounded in Ireland's practice and service context and relevant to international learning.*

5

#### ACTIVE COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

*... engagement with high-level stakeholders including trans-global governmental bodies, NGOs, funder networks, and extensive relationships with university centres of excellence.*

6

#### CONNECT RESEARCH AND TEACHING

*... research-led teaching in the delivery of applied programmes and curricula to inform innovative practice and professional development.*

7

#### BROADEN AND DEEPEN CENTRE NETWORKS

*... capacity and established reputation for collaboration and interdisciplinary research across sociology, social work, social care and including psychology, health and education.*

8

#### ENSURE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

*... the development of new areas of research reflecting societal need, a cadre of experienced researchers and secure resource base.*

9

#### STRENGTHEN CENTRE INFRASTRUCTURE

*... University structures and systems for the highest standards of ethical research, data management, accountability and knowledge translation.*