

Contents

<i>List of Tables and Figures</i>	ix
<i>List of Vignettes</i>	x
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
1 Childhood, Peer Relationships and Peer Violence	1
Listening to children's voices	2
Perspectives on childhood	3
Children, young people and violence	4
Residential care for children	8
Bullying and peer violence in residential settings	10
Common themes on peer violence	21
The meaning of violence	22
Public/private dichotomy of violence	23
Gender and violence	23
The present study – research methods	24
Summary points	27
2 Mapping Peer Violence in Children's Homes	29
Conceptualising violence	29
Young people's evaluation of peer violence and verbal attacks	30
Types and levels of violence	31
Physical violence	32
Physical non-contact violence	36
Sexual violence	37
Verbal attacks and insults	39
Bullying	42
Staff evaluation of peer violence and verbal attacks	44
Peer violence in the previous month	45
Peer violence in the past year	46
Physical non-contact violence	47
Bullying	50
Sexual violence	51
Verbal attacks and insults	54
Developing a continuum of violence	56
Summary points	57

3	Young People's Perspectives on Violence	59
	'We have our own rules': children's cultures and the normalisation of violence	60
	'Seven months living here, you just get used to it': the importance of context	61
	'Hi, I'm Ramon and I run this place': 'pecking orders' and peer group hierarchies	63
	'He rules the place and bullies everyone': bullying as a 'natural' and inevitable peer group dynamic?	65
	The masculinisation of physical violence	67
	Challenging and transgressing passive femininities: girls and physical violence	68
	The sexualisation of female violence	68
	'I never hit him before he hits me': violence as social justice	69
	'Standing ground' and 'saving face': projecting, protecting and maintaining 'hard' masculinities	74
	'He acts like a two-year-old': age and immaturity as catalysts for violence	76
	Summary points	77
4	Staff Perspectives on Violence	79
	'They all know their little places': hierarchical peer group dynamics	80
	Gender and violence	87
	'Racist stuff just isn't allowed here': racial violence	93
	'The youngsters just hit whilst the older lot are more subtle about it all': age and violence	95
	'They've never been shown how to behave properly at home, so they just use violence to get through life': young people's backgrounds and understandings of violence	99
	Summary points	102
5	Shared and Different Understandings of Violence	104
	The use of vignettes	104
	Physical attack – vignette A	106
	Psychological attack – vignette B	113
	Male on female sexual attack – vignette C	122
	Male on male sexual attack – vignette D	130
	Dominant discourses on violence	134
	Linking meaning and experience	136
	Summary points	138

6 Institutional and Organisational Factors	139
Associated with Violence	140
Policies and procedures	140
Young people's assessments of policies and procedures	142
Children's rights	145
Young people's meetings	146
Referrals	149
Size and structure of the building	154
Function of the children's home	155
Staffing levels	156
Relating organisational and structural factors to the violence continuum	157
Summary points	160
7 Evaluating Working Practices	161
Seeking support and issues of disclosure	161
Evaluations of staff interventions	167
Summary points	182
8 Responding to Violence – Methods of Intervention	184
Sanction-based interventions	184
Physical restraint	187
Informal meetings	189
Formal meetings	190
Child protection procedures	191
Proactive working practices	193
Wider perspectives on reducing violence	199
Summary points	202
9 Conclusion	203
Summary of the research	204
Young people's experience of peer violence in residential care	205
Violence as a structured element of the group culture	206
The gendered nature of violence	207
Seeing what really happens or what is expected?	207
Hierarchies and the pecking order	210
Peers as both oppressors and supports	211
Justification narratives	213
The permeable institution and the community culture	214

Combating racism among young people	215
What is different about the residential setting?	216
Understanding the roots of violence	219
Tackling different levels of violence	220
Confronting peer violence – strategies and standards	221
Using the strengths of young people's culture	224
Supporting residential care	225
Peer violence: an aspect of social relations	227
 <i>Appendix A – Researching Violence</i>	 229
 <i>Appendix B – Analysing the Data</i>	 231
<i>Definitions and conceptualisations of violence</i> <i>(what, how and why)</i>	231
<i>Contextualisation of violence (where and when)</i>	231
<i>Experience of violence (who)</i>	231
 <i>Appendix C – Sample Breakdown</i>	 233
<i>Young people</i>	233
<i>Staff</i>	234
 <i>Bibliography</i>	 235
 <i>Index</i>	 248

List of Tables and Figures

Tables

2.1	Staff estimations of the impact of physical violence	45
5.1	Vignette sample	106
5.2	Perceptions of female culpability and the seriousness of sexual violence	127
6.1	Organisational factors and the violence continuum	158
6.2	Structural factors and the violence continuum	159
6.3	Sector and the violence continuum	159
6.4	Length of stay and the violence continuum	159
C1	Age and gender of young people	233
C2	Gender and ethnic origin of young people	233
C3	Grade and gender of staff	234
C4	Type of home by grade of staff	234
C5	Grade and ethnic origin of staff	234

Figures

2.1	Diagrammatic representation of the violence continuum	57
6.1	Diagrammatic representation of the violence continuum	157

List of Vignettes

Physical attack – vignette A	106
Psychological attack – vignette B	113
Male on female sexual attack – vignette C	122
Male on male sexual attack – vignette D	130