**Claire Flower - Report for Music Therapy Charity.**

**March 2018**

**Research Project Title: Music Therapy with Children and Parents in a Child Development Service: A Qualitative Study of the Dynamics of Expertise.**

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My doctoral research has been a practice-led, qualitative study. Through it, I have investigated the processes by which child, therapist, and parent work together within music therapy in the healthcare context of a NHS Child Development Service. The study has had a particular concern with understanding the dynamics of expertise in everyday practice involving the children and parents.

The active phases or data work was completed last year. I am currently completing the final write up of the thesis. This synthesises the pilot study, completed in 2015, with the subsequent phase of research. The amalgamated findings point towards the need for a new theoretical framework through which to understand music therapy with a child and parent. Conventional models of dyadic, context specific practice, while continuing to offer a robust underpinning for practice cannot fully account for music therapy as it has shown itself in this study. An expanded model is necessary which more fully accounts for the ecological and emergent nature of music therapy within the everyday life of the child and parent, and the relational expertise through which music therapy activity is achieved.

My aim is to submit the thesis in the coming months for examination shortly afterwards. The research has continued to garner interest both in the music therapy professional community and more broadly as it has progressed. I look forward to being able to disseminate results from the study widely, both through publications and conference presentations.

I continue to be grateful to the Music Therapy Charity for your support of this project.