

<p>Institution: Nottingham Trent University</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: A04 Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>A central tenet of research in Psychology at NTU is that our work should have a firm theoretical foundation while at the same time striving for real world relevance and validity. This applied focus was highlighted as a strength by the RAE 2008 sub-panel. Our research can be shown to impact at all levels of society from front-line workers to government departments both in the UK and further afield. The main users and beneficiaries of our research include local, national and international government and quasi government bodies, and also the private sector economy. Our work <i>shapes public policy and professional development</i>, encourages <i>healthier life and working styles</i>, and has <i>demonstrable economic benefits</i>. We are also actively engaged in knowledge transfer to and from academia and in <i>cultivating public understanding of science</i>. Impact is most evident in, but not exclusive to, three research groups: <i>Addiction and Aberrant Behaviours</i>; <i>Wellbeing</i>; and <i>Development, Interaction and Social Relations</i>.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>This unit has always been acutely aware and supportive of the need to take our research out into the wider environment. We have an active policy of supporting staff in forging relationships with potential user groups. Direct support is through time allocated on workloads. Less tangible but important support comes in the provision of events such as buzz lunches to encourage cross-discipline collaboration and to introduce NTU researchers to external professionals. We are active at the local/regional, the national and the international level and at each of these levels we have provided robust research findings which we have disseminated through presentations, workshops, and expertise to working parties for key stakeholders (<i>verifiable impact in italics</i>)</p> <p>At the local and regional level we have close relationships with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMPS - we work in Nottingham (Category B local), Whatton (sexual offences) and Brixton prisons and Rampton Secure Hospital (REF 3b: Case Study (CS) 3). Impact: <i>improving offender treatment, cost effectiveness of treatment, change in national guidelines;</i> • Local education services especially those services working with disadvantaged children or young people with special needs. Impact: <i>improving professional practice;</i> • Emergency services, our close working relationship with Nottinghamshire Constabulary is marked by a memorandum of understanding related to data sharing; Nottingham Fire and Rescue Service. Impact: <i>improving professional practice and services;</i> • NHS Trust, Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County PCTs on hearing-related problems, smoking cessation and health and wellbeing. Impact: <i>improving health and welfare.</i> <p>At the national level we have worked with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government departments including The Cabinet Office, Departments for Culture, Media & Sport (REF 3b: CS 1), Education (REF 3b: CS 2), Health (REF 3b: CS 1), Transport, and the Ministry of Justice. Impact: <i>policy debate, influence on advisory committees, change of public policy;</i> • Former government agencies such as Becta and the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (CS 2). Impact: <i>change in guidelines, public policy, knowledge transfer;</i> • Charities and associated professional bodies such as Age UK, AIRSO Blue Light Users Group, British Dyslexia Association, British Society of Audiology, British Tinnitus Association, The College of Optometrists; the Fire Fighters' Charity and the National Autistic Society. Impact: <i>improved wellbeing; improving professional practice, public understanding</i> • Commercial bodies such as Camelot, (REF 3b: CS 1), C3Systems Consulting Ltd., HHES Consultants, Price Waterhouse Cooper and Transport Research Laboratory. Impact: <i>improved cost effectiveness, work force planning</i>

Impact template (REF3a)

At the international level

- International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE), The BIAL Foundation, Portugal Communication DEALL Trust (India). **Impact:** *improving professional practice.*
- Government departments and agencies such as Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (Canada); Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health; and The Norwegian Gaming and Foundation Authority. **Impact:** public policy and law, public awareness of health issues, professional practice.
- GamRes Ltd, Canada. **Impact:** generation of tools. Impact on influencing regulatory bodies.

c. Strategy and plans

Strategy 1: Active engagement. Our primary strategy for ensuring impact is to actively engage with relevant user groups to identify research questions of mutual interest and to ensure that our investigations are collaborative and purposeful.

Strategy 2: Valuing impact at both Unit and institutional level. As articulated in Section b we have an active policy of encouraging impact at all levels of research.

Strategy 3: Promoting our expertise to the outside world. We actively promote and pursue collaborative research in which real-world needs are developed into bespoke scientific studies in partnership with external agencies and individuals. We provide expert consultancy for public, voluntary and private sector organisations. Our contract research takes client questions and we apply our skills and knowledge to answering those questions in a rigorous and insightful way (REF 3b: CS 3 provides notable examples). To promote such activities we have established specialist units that provide educational services, consultancy, and research specifically tailored to external clients' needs as follows:

- Communication for Inclusion Research Unit: joint initiative between Psychology Community Educational Psychology Service and Nottingham City Children's Services;
- Emergency Services Research Unit: a multi-disciplinary unit providing the emergency services with access to expertise, drawing on theoretical understandings and empirical findings;
- International Gaming Research Unit: psychosocial factors of gambling and gaming;
- Sexual Offences, Crime and Misconduct Research Unit: collaboration with HMP Whatton
- Specific Language Impairment Research Unit
- Work and Organisational Psychology Research Unit

Strategy 4: Ensuring translation into end-user products or understandings. This strategy marries the more traditional routes of research engagement such as academic publishing and presenting together with a need to engage with the wider public. For example, Karanika-Murray's ESRC funded project understanding the aetiology of work-related health and well-being required her to work with some 20 organisations ranging in size from tens to thousands of employees, including local authorities, manufacturers, service providers and universities (names withheld due to confidentiality clause agreement). This research led to a number of recommendations on creating a healthy working environment. These were presented to the organizations at a "Work and Wellbeing in Context" workshop held July 2012. Baguley's cross-disciplinary collaboration in a HEFCE funded project, led by Civil Engineering (Loughborough University), on innovative, enjoyable and effective workspaces culminated in the publication of a strategic briefing document "The Case For New Academic Workspaces" launched on November 2009 at the Royal Institute of British Architects at a workshop attended by key figures from academia and industry.

Strategy 5: Increase the number of linked doctoral students. We made a strategic decision in 2008 to target ESRC Case studentships as they reflected our links to external agencies and focused on end-user issues requiring scientific scrutiny. We have also actively sought links with

Impact template (REF3a)

industrial partners outside of the funding council's initiative. Studentships awarded are as follows: ESRC Case students with HMP Whatton (Blagden, McNally, Pemberton); ESRC with the Responsible Gambling Fund (McCormack); and in addition Industry and charity-supported students (Responsible Gambling Fund (Carran [jointly with QMC London] McCormack, Parke, Rigbye).

Strategy 6: Participation in University wide initiatives. For example, **GameCity** - an NTU Industry (e.g. Nintendo, Crytek) and public sector (e.g. National Media Museum, Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies) collaboration examining videogame culture (<http://gamecity.org/about>); **BioCity, Nottingham** - the largest UK, and one of the largest European, bioscience innovation and incubation centres, a joint venture between NTU and the University of Nottingham. (<http://www.biocity.co.uk/>); and **the HIVE** - NTU's purpose-built Centre for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise support that was key to our Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) award held jointly with the Firefighters' Charity.

Strategy 7: Active public engagement. Working with a very proactive press office we have disseminated our research through a range of media, such as national (Hill, Karanika-Murray) and international (Larkin, Griffiths, Torrance, Underwood) professional journals, and local (Griffiths, Underwood, Williams), national (Griffiths, Hall, Underwood) and international TV (Griffiths).

In summary, building on our growing reputation for high quality applied research and consultancy, our strategy for the future is to: draw further on our external partnerships; formalise external collaborations by providing doctoral opportunities for stakeholder groups such as HMPS; effect further exchange with stakeholder groups by outgoing NTU staff placements; build on our successful strategy of developing a diverse portfolio of funded research; and to ensure knowledge transfer through active service on key stakeholder bodies.

d. Relationship to case studies

The case studies reflect our focus on societal issues. Each has benefitted directly from our impact strategies and is integral to our success in delivering high quality impactful integrative research. For example, our aim of increasing linked studentships has born fruit in developing the corpus of evidence on gambling [REF 3b: CS 1] and sexual predation [REF 3b: CS 3], which have led to changes in policy and practice. The facilitation of cross-group interaction is exemplified by Baguley's multi-level modelling expertise to Underwood's work on effective learning [REF 3b: CS 2].

Our research has clearly shaped policy, both inside and outside of government, it has improved both practice and services with efficiency gains that have made training more cost effective, and has helped to develop health guidelines when working with offenders, public servants such as firefighters and also workers in general. We have added to debates and stimulated public understanding of key societal issues. There have also been economic benefits of our work largely in the cessation of maladaptive behaviours [CS1, CS3] but also in the production of marketable tools [CS1]. We have had significant, verifiable reach and impact in the following areas:

1. **REF 3b: Case Study 1: *The Psychosocial Impacts of Gambling*** features the work of Professor Mark Griffiths, an acknowledged world expert in the psychosocial aspects of gambling.
2. **REF 3b: Case Study 2: *Digital Technology and Learning*** features the work of Professor Jean Underwood, a recognised expert concerning the impact of digital technologies on socio-cognitive development and learning practices.
3. **REF 3b: Case Study 3: *Sexual Crimes, Offences and Misconduct*** features the work of the Sexual Crimes, Offences and Misconduct Research Unit and its impact on policy staff development that improved the quality and cost effectiveness of offender treatment.