

<p>Institution: University of Worcester</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: 3 - Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy</p> <p>a. Context</p> <p>Much of the research generated by the submitting unit is applied in nature and designed to be of benefit to non-academic users. The two Research Groups (RGs) identified in this submission are particularly focused on generating research with impact but this is also true of other research areas in the unit.</p> <p>Research within the Dementia Studies RG seeks to build an evidence base to enable those with dementia, and their families, to live well. It thus sets out to improve outcomes for dementia sufferers and their families, to change care practices and to develop training guidelines for carers. Beyond this, the research also seeks to inform decisions, strategy and policy at local, regional, national and international level. Thus individual care homes, county councils, (historically) Strategic Health Authorities, NHS Trusts and government (UK and European) have made use of the Group's research. The Group also works directly with the voluntary sector in developing, delivering and evaluating training programmes for carers.</p> <p>Research within the Domestic Violence RG is designed to inform the development of services and strategies relating to domestic and sexual violence and the work of policy makers and multi-agency professionals in the field of violence and abuse. UK city and county councils, particularly within the West Midlands, and national governments both UK (specifically the Home Office) and overseas (notably Ministry for Women and Child Welfare Suva, Fiji) have drawn on the Group's research.</p> <p>Other research within the unit is also impactful: for example, research in the area of Perinatal Education has focused on examining the experiences and views of women and their partners on the delivery of antenatal education and on labour and childbirth in order to inform the practice of midwives and health visitors.</p> <p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>The University's Strategic Plan for the period 2007-12, under the broad heading <i>Generating Knowledge and Promoting Enterprise</i>, identified the following key objective: "to support the development and expand the reach of our areas of research excellence, in particular interdisciplinary and multi-professional research and consultancy, with social and/or community identified impacts". This objective is strongly reflected in the approach to impact adopted by the submitting unit over the REF period. Two research groups – the Association for Dementia Studies (ADS) and the Domestic Violence Research Group (DVRG) - have emerged over the period with a clear focus on generating research that changes lives for the better. It should be stressed that both these groups are in their formative stages and the full impact of their research is yet to be felt. Nevertheless, it is apparent that the research of these two groups has already begun to benefit users in a profound way.</p> <p>The submitting unit has adopted a number of approaches to ensure that its research has impact:</p> <p>1. Working closely with research users</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADS in partnership with Worcestershire Primary Care Trust, Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, and the Alzheimer's Society made a successful bid to the 2009 Department of Health call for demonstrator projects to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of a Dementia Advisor role prior to the national implementation of the scheme. ADS undertook the evaluation, focusing on the perspectives of the Advisors themselves, the users of this service (and, in contrast, those who did not have access to such a service) and those who manage the service. The evaluation informed policy and practice going forward in the successful roll out of the scheme to Worcestershire as a whole. • DVRG undertook an evaluation of Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Board Pilot implementation of Return Interviews for Children who go Missing from Home or Care for
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Worcestershire County Council.

- ADS has a strategic partnership with Dementia UK built upon the shared aspirations to improve the quality of life for people with dementia and their families and carers, and to support professionals to improve the quality of care experienced. Key to this partnership is a Dementia UK funded post within ADS. This has led to a number of evaluations of innovative practice such as “Utilising Family Carers as Educators” and “The role of Admiral Nurses in End of Life Care”. Without this partnership these programmes would not have been evaluated.

2. Engaging directly with potential beneficiaries of research

For example:

- ADS collaborated with the Alzheimer’s Society to hold the first Worcestershire Dementia Forum in December 2010 exploring the views of people living with dementia and their families on a range of issues.
- Both ADS and DVRG provide research-informed training and development for those delivering services. ADS have delivered over 300 days of education courses to over 4000 participants from a wide range of health, social care and housing organisations since 2009. This provides an excellent means of getting research into practice and also ensures that researchers stay in touch with challenges involved in service delivery.

3. Seeking representation on advisory panels, steering groups, etc. with a role to play in the formation and development of strategy and policy at regional and national level.

For example:

- Professor Dawn Brooker, Head of ADS, has been elected to the Dementia Action Alliance Board with responsibility for research and also sits on the National Dementia Strategy Implementation Reference Group.
- Ruth Jones, DVRG lead, is a member of various strategy/policy groups, e.g. the West Mercia Strategic Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence Group that works with statutory and voluntary sector organisations, educational establishments and the corporate sector to develop workplace strategy on domestic violence.
- Dr Karan Jutlla provided evidence for an All Party Parliamentary Group on Dementia looking at the experiences of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities in dealing with the condition.

4. Involving research users and beneficiaries in research design

For example:

- DVRG works closely with IMPACT, a service user group established by the University. Members of this group have informed the development of research proposals and are now acting as researchers on projects.

c. Strategy and plans

The University’s new Strategic Plan (2013-18) identifies as part of its mission statement its continued commitment to foster research with the potential to achieve major social impact. The University has a strong regional focus and particularly seeks to have a transformative effect on Worcestershire and more broadly the West Midlands, although this does not limit its drive to have impact nationally or internationally. The University’s mission and the success of the approaches outlined above has informed the development of a strategy for achieving impact within the submitting unit. Thus, a key part of the strategy is to develop partnerships and collaborations that will nurture research with impact (with a particular regional focus). There are a number of examples of this strategy:

- The Worcestershire Health Research Collaboration (WHRC), established in 2013, is a clear reflection of this strategy in action. The WHRC is a collaboration between the University,

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NHS organisations, NIHR clinical research networks and other interested research partners set up to develop local health research for the benefit of the wider community. The University's commitment to this initiative is demonstrated by the appointment of Louise Jones as Strategic Director of Health & Well-Being and of a research fellow to drive the WHRC forward.

- The University's partnership with the NCT is also a reflection of this strategy, and in this instance impact arising from the partnership will be national. The NCT identified Worcester as its 'university partner of choice' in 2011, initially with a focus on education of NCT practitioners. The partnership, however, has developed an additional focus on collaborative research which will inform the delivery of education and support for parents.
- The University is collaborating with St Richard's Hospice to develop a Centre of Excellence for Palliative and End of Life Care with a focus on developing research and best practice in palliative care and long term conditions. It is only the second such collaboration across the UK.

Another key element of the strategy is the approach to staffing. Emphasis is now being placed on the importance of employing staff with a significant track record of undertaking research with impact. A good example of this is the recent appointment of Professor Eleanor Bradley, whose research is focused on practice and service improvement. Going forward, there are plans to make senior (likely professorial) appointments in Midwifery and Nursing with a similar focus. The submitting unit has also adopted a particular strategy in its appointment of Visiting Professors. In the last 12 months, for example, it has appointed clinicians, commissioners and practitioners with extensive experience of the healthcare sector - Susan Fairlie, Managing Director of Mindset Matters Ltd, a Healthcare and Organisation Development Consultancy; Stephen O'Hickey, Consultant Physician, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust; Jo Smith, a Consultant Clinical Psychologist & the Lead for Worcestershire Early Intervention Service; and Veronica Wilkie, Academic and Learning Lead for South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group - with the purpose of bringing that experience to bear on the design and development of research that will have impact on practice, on service management and organisational development in the NHS.

The submitting unit is also intent on ensuring that it engages the public with its research in line with the University's commitment to the *Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research*. A significant strand to this strategy is to make maximum use of two key resources: firstly, the Hive, Britain's first joint university and public library, which provides a unique physical space for this engagement (e.g. Professor Mary Nolan has delivered a series of sessions in 2013 to provide information to the public on the socio-emotional development of babies from the womb to two years of age); and the Infirmary Museum, a permanent exhibition gallery on medical history, funded through a Heritage Lottery Fund grant awarded to a partnership between the University and the Charles Hastings Education Centre.

d. Relationship to case studies

The two submitted impact case-studies are both based on research undertaken in ADS. They reflect, however, the range of impacts within the submitting unit and their reach and significance. The first, **Advancing healthcare policies and practice in Europe for people living with dementia and their carers**, exemplifies how the unit's research has impacted on the development of policy and practice both nationally and internationally. The second, **Dementia friendly care & support in extra care housing and acute hospital settings**, demonstrates how research has led directly to changes in practice, initially at a regional level but subsequently at a national and international level. Both case studies also exemplify aspects of the submitting unit's approach to impact. The first exemplifies the ambition to inform national and supra-national policy. The second exemplifies the drive to work closely both with research users (in this instance, a Charity and a PCT) and with potential beneficiaries (in this instance, those with dementia in extra care and acute settings).