

<p>Institution: University of East London</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 22</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>UEL’s submission to UoA 22 demonstrates a dynamic approach to impact. Our distinctive research strengths and interests lie particularly in the areas of international human rights (Davidson, Patel, Tribe); the application of practice-near research in social work (Briggs, Cooper, Finch, Hingley-Jones); the use of new media technology to transform the lives of people with learning disabilities (Rix Centre - Minnion); community-based research and evaluation to improve the organisational performance and user outcomes (Sampson, Chase, Li); and the application to crime, health and social policy of geo-information and numerical simulation (Brimicombe). Work across these diverse areas of research is underpinned by a common desire to enhance social justice and individual wellbeing.</p> <p>Both our relationships with and the benefits we are able to deliver through our extensive local, national and international networks are enhanced by the Unit’s emphasis on work that is both cross-disciplinary and close to practice. We have a longstanding collaboration with the Tavistock Clinic, renowned as a centre of excellence for mental health practice and education, and with which we deliver training to multidisciplinary professionals in therapeutic professional practice. Our research delivers benefits to service users across and beyond the UK, being used by a wide range of social work and social care practitioners, international and national health and social care organisations, governments, NGOs, schools and local community groups. Key impacts include improving professional practice and service delivery through specialist practitioner training; benefits arising from collaborations with statutory sector organisations and NGOs; and the transfer of expert consultancy services and advice to national and international health and social care organisations and policy makers, including through membership of specialist advisory or strategic policy groups.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>All staff submitted to this UoA can demonstrate benefits to research users in either national or international contexts, or both. The transfer of expert knowledge and advice to external partners is at the very heart of their approach to achieving this. Key pathways for this are described in detail below, but include a focus on applied research and activities such as the delivery of specialist practitioner training, and provision of expert consultancy and advice. Also key to our capacity to develop and nurture productive relationships with practitioners, practice organisations, government and NGO are joint and practitioner appointments, networks and collaborations. Our Centre for Social Work Research (CSWR) is run in collaboration with the Tavistock Centre, and the fact that several of our researchers (Briggs, Cooper, Finch, Hingley-Jones, Davidson) work both in UEL and the Tavistock helps us to ensure a connection between research and practice in the mental health and social care domains. Indeed, half of those submitted to this UoA have either a joint or separate practitioner appointment, and our professional networks include well-established links with other practitioner organisations. Patel, for example, combines her role at UEL with that of Director of the International Centre for Health and Human Rights. Davidson is Psycho-social Advisor to the British Red Cross; the global significance of the support she has provided in this role was recognised by the award to her of an MBE for services to the Red Cross in 2008.</p> <p>Our close connections between with statutory, NGO and voluntary organisations develop partly through commissioned and/or collaborative research. Andy Minnion, for example, who was awarded an MBE in 2012 for his pioneering web and social media work for people with intellectual disabilities, has run successful collaborations with the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with a Disability, campaigning for new media-based advocacy in personalised care for this community. The Rix Centre collaborates with partners at every stage of the research process, including NGOs (e.g. Social Care Institute of Excellence, JISC TechDis - a leading UK advisory service on technologies for inclusion), local authorities (Nottinghamshire CC and 10 London Boroughs), charities (e.g. Mencap, Turning Point, Special Olympics), schools and colleges (e.g. Charlton Park Academy, Swiss Cottage School), and community groups (e.g. Hackney People First, Tower Project). Research relationships are consolidated by the Centre’s commissioned work since 2008 on over 20 projects with a total value of £1,156,862. Commissioned work is an important feature of the approach taken across the Unit more widely: examples include Sampson’s work with community organisations such as Fight for Peace,</p>

where she embedded monitoring and evaluation frameworks now 'rolled out' to 120 community-based organisations affecting 72,000 young people living in violence-prone, low-income cities including in the Caribbean and Kenya. In 2020, Sampson, Brimicombe and Li also produced a commissioned, evidence-based report on developing healthy communities on the Olympic site for NHS Newham.

Our work contributes to improvements in practice partly by enhancing practitioner understanding of complex issues such as transgender identity (Davidson, Wren) and protecting children from self-harm and suicide (Briggs). Our **provision of specialist training** constitutes an important facet of our approach to delivering benefits to this user group. To that end, Tribe has conducted training on behalf of the British Psychological Society, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Sri Lanka, Amnesty International, British Council, Red Cross, Save the Children Fund, and the Singapore Psychological Society, among others. Briggs delivers training used by a wide range of social workers, psychotherapists, psychologists and psychological therapists both in the UK and abroad (see UEL22-01). Davidson's work on the Calmer Framework (CF), a single psychosocial framework for responses to crises, was piloted by the Red Cross and adopted in December 2008 across all its services; it has since been used to develop an online programme devised by Davidson for practitioners (started January 2013). Based on her research on social work practice learning, Finch delivers CPD sessions for social workers, improving their capacity to support student social workers. The Unit's research also informs practice via our organisation of and contribution to practitioner events: Briggs, for example, shared key findings from his work on child protection for faith abuse (witchcraft and spirit possession) at two practitioner conferences hosted by Trust for London and the Tavistock Clinic in 2011 (total 175 attendees).

Our researchers frequently **provide expert advice to policy-makers** both within and beyond the UK, often through their invited **membership of specialist advisory or strategic policy groups** or **provision of written or oral testimony**. Within the UK, Brimicombe's work on the application of refined geo-mapping techniques to crime data led in 2009 to his appointment as Chair of the Crime and Justice Statistics Network (CJSN). In 2011, he was invited to provide expert advice on the Project Board for the National Statistician's review of crime statistics; this led to the establishment of an independent Crime Statistics Advisory Committee in 2012. His ESRC-funded work on the impact of the London 2012 Olympics led to his appointment in 2013 as specialist advisor to the House of Lords Select Committee on Olympic and Paralympic Legacy. Tribe's work on community engagement with local black and minority ethnic groups has informed the development of Department of Health guidelines to improve care for BME elders with mental health issues. His membership of the relevant development group has allowed Briggs to use his expertise in self-harm/suicide prevention to contribute to the production of 2011 **NICE guidance** on longer-term management of self-harm (UEL22-01).

Beyond the UK, our research has had particular impacts in the field of human rights, often through our contribution of **specialist knowledge and expertise to intergovernmental organisations** such as the UN. Thus, Patel's research on torture has informed UN committee discussions about and, subsequently, the development of new international laws pertaining to torture survivors' rights to rehabilitation (UEL22-02). Davidson's expertise in psychosocial support led to her contribution to the 2012 edition of the Sphere Handbook, Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, one of the most widely-used and internationally recognised sets of common principles in life-saving areas of humanitarian response. Brimicombe's work on geo-spatial mapping informed the development of a 2012 position paper for the new UN Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management.

In addition to their provision of expert advice, staff **provide consultancy services to a range of national and international health and social care organisations**: Tribe, for example, has provided consultancy to the Department of Health, Department of Children, Schools and Families, the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMHE), the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Harp Archive for Refugee Portal, and the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Davidson is similarly engaged in this sort of activity, particularly through her work to develop the Calmer Framework for the British Red Cross. She is often asked to apply the CF to crisis situations, and recently used it to support oil company staff during a hostage-taking incident in Algeria (January 2013).

Support for collaboration with practitioners is provided to Unit staff based both in UEL and the Tavistock Clinic through seed corn funds to test new research ideas and to engage with service delivery organisations. Other forms of institutional support used to develop and maximise the

outcomes of the impact-generating activities central to the Unit's approach include established procedures to review research centre business plans; timetabled teaching relief; and sabbaticals supporting the delivery of excellent research as a springboard for realising impact.

c. Strategy and plans

Over the next five years we plan to maximise and further systematise our approach to impact. We will sustain, and where possible expand, our current extensive national and international networks with practitioners and policy makers, particularly by capitalising on and maximising the potential of productive researcher-practitioner links. We aim to continue to influence policy and practice – and thereby bring benefits - in the areas of international human rights, mental health, child protection, disabilities, social enterprises, community organisations, and crime. New and emerging research will also broaden our reach in areas such as mental health, crime and children vulnerable to abuse. We plan to expand the number of researchers involved in the Unit's work and support the maintenance and extension of the networks through which we deliver research impact by:

1. Increasing support for researchers, for example through the appointment within our research centres of two staff specialising in impact support to ensure up-to-date engagement with key issues and developments in the sector, and to maintain and drive the extension of our networks.
2. Providing training and workshops for researchers on maximising opportunities for impact and benefits for practice e.g. networking, practitioner workshop design.
3. Providing support for cross-Unit workshops developing external relationships and internal collaborations as a means both of promoting research impact and of maximising its reach. This process began with a successful event in June 2013 for researchers/practitioners focussing on collaborative opportunities. We plan to hold further annual researcher-practitioner events in mental health, child protection and learning disabilities over the next five years.
4. Using the UEL mentoring system and annual review processes to ensure that newly appointed staff have opportunities to maintain and develop their practice links.
5. Using Research Centres, and School Research Committees to promote the appointment of practitioners as staff and visiting researchers.

We also plan to focus on developing the more systematic application of some of the key methods of our existing approach, particularly to provide user benefit through targeted activities including:

1. Applying the Rix Centre's approach to developing social and Web media with distance learning to engage user communities to develop reusable teaching and learning resources for practitioners.
2. Developing systematic ways to increase public awareness of our research through contributions to media discourse, including taking up opportunities for training in media communications.

d. Relationship to case studies

Many of the most significant facets of the approach described above are demonstrated in the Unit's two submitted case studies. Both exemplify the importance of **strong researcher-practitioner links** and our **provision of expert advice to policy makers**. UEL22-02 describes changes to UK and international law resulting from activities including Patel's invited provision of expert advice and consultancy to international and local agencies, in part through meetings with government ministers and NGOs. UEL22-01 likewise demonstrates the influence of our provision of research expertise to policy-makers, but also on improving service delivery through practitioner training. Activity described here also demonstrates our capacity to increase public awareness of important social issues relating to our work through contributions to media discourse, an increased emphasis on which is an important part of our plans for the future.

Both case studies, in fact, have informed our overall approach to impact and our plans for the future, particularly by highlighting the importance to those of our application of research through the **researcher-practitioner link**. The case studies have thus shaped our strategic objectives, their development having involved an important articulation of the ways that thinking about non-academic impact and benefit informs both our research itself and our relationships with practitioners and other research users.