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| <p><b>Institution:</b> University of Winchester</p>   |
| <p><b>Unit of Assessment: C23 Sociology</b></p>   |
| <p><b>a. Context</b></p> <p>Sociology at the University of Winchester is a new research grouping. It arises from institutional investment in new subject areas and the appointment of new staff. It formally received institutional support for research (in terms of funding) in academic year 2012/13. As a consequence it has only recently formed a collective approach and strategy for impact and knowledge exchange. That collective approach is being developed however and a core aspect of the Research Strategy to 2020 is to maximise impact in the local community and beyond.</p> <p>The main non-academic audiences for sociology research range from policy makers (at national and local level), charitable organisations and local government. In addition sociology research at Winchester has attracted a wide public audience and the group is committed to the widest possible dissemination of its research through popular publications and media broadcasting.</p>   |
| <p><b>b. Approach to impact</b></p> <p>Sociology at Winchester works from the premise that it is impossible to separate sociological research and its impact in a binary fashion. Explicitly concerned with the nature of society, sociological research at Winchester seeks to be of benefit to the widest possible audiences and as such the research process begins with an assessment of the value and benefits of that activity. All of the researchers entered in the Unit are expected to produce research that has demonstrable impacts beyond their disciplinary contexts. Such an expectation is not the imposition of a new agenda, but simply recognition of the nature of sociology as a discipline.</p> <p>A key example of this approach is the Crime and Justice Research Centre which was established in 2013 in order to link research, teaching and a wider community. The Crime and Justice Research Centre grew from the University's involvement in the Innocence Project with Innocence UK – a group set up to investigate outstanding criminal cases in which alleged miscarriages of justice have taken place. This includes contributions from researchers from across the institution in disciplines such as sociology, journalism and forensic studies on live cases of alleged miscarriages of justice. This Centre has been supported by the University with the provision of funding and secure facilities in order to house sensitive documentation.</p> <p>Sociology at Winchester acknowledges that our researchers can be of greatest benefit when working with those institutions and organisations that both seek to regulate and improve communities. All researchers are explicitly encouraged to share their expertise with external organisations, and indeed quality-rated research funding has been made available to further facilitate this. For example, <b>Grattan</b> has worked with Hampshire Constabulary and Hampshire County Council with the aim of improving community relations. This on-going partnership with Hampshire Constabulary will lead to further research into the experience of community policing in Hampshire – further demonstrating the interconnectedness of the research process and its impacts.</p> <p>Sociology at Winchester also recognises the importance of feeding into policy making processes at national levels. <b>Grattan</b> in particular has worked extensively with Youth Action Northern Ireland (YANI) and the Office of the First Minister of Northern Ireland around the issue of youth alienation. Again, it is difficult to separate the impacts of the research and the research process itself as <b>Grattan's</b> research has led to partnership with YANI which is itself concerned to conduct further research into Youth experience. As such <b>Grattan's</b> research in this area is explicitly geared to transforming young people's experience.</p> <p>Finally another crucial manner in which sociological research can impact wider society is simply in the transformation of public discourse and conversation. <b>Anderson's</b> research into sexuality has</p> |

been explicitly concerned with challenging societal norms and conventions in this area. As a consequence **Anderson**, and all researchers, are encouraged to seek the widest possible audiences for their research which is achieved, in this case, by writing for mainstream newspapers and other media appearances.

### c. Strategy and plans

Now firmly established, the sociology unit needs to formalise those practices described above into a strategy to enhance the impacts of research. This local prioritising of impact reflects an institutional context in which impactful research is now incentivised by its recognition in promotion and career advancement. Promotion to Reader and to Professor can be achieved through a specific 'knowledge exchange' route where applicants are required to demonstrate the impact of their work.

More specifically the sociology unit has made a strategic priority of developing impact and will do that in a number of ways. Quality-rated funding will be made available to support activity in the following areas:

- i) Develop existing relationships with local and regional user groups: individual members of staff will continue to work with their partners. **Grattan** and the Hampshire Constabulary plan further research on community policing.
- ii) Develop the Crime and Justice Research Centre as a nationally important platform for Knowledge Exchange in this area. The Crime and Justice Research Centre will continue to disseminate research as widely as possible through its public seminar series and will continue to contribute to Innocence UK and work on wrongful convictions.
- iii) Develop further partnerships in line with the expanding staff base.
- iv) Promote and disseminate all academic research as widely as possible. **Anderson** provides a model here, and all staff will be encouraged to seek opportunities to discuss their research in the mainstream media.
- v) To continue to encourage staff to participate in wider research groupings. **Hunter** for example works closely with a research grouping at the University of Sheffield, and this collaboration allows him access to a much wider network.

### d. Relationship to case studies

The case studies focus on **Grattan's** work with young people in post-conflict zones, and its particular impact on policy making and practice, especially in Northern Ireland; and on the impact of **Anderson's** work on the public discussion of sexuality, especially in relation to non-monogamous relationships.

These are two examples of the impact created by the research and the researchers in the unit, and they will be used to inform the further development of impactful research looking to 2020.