

<p>Institution: University of York</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: UoA 22 – Social Policy and Social Work</p> <p>a. Overview</p> <p>The Department of Social Policy and Social Work (SPSW) at York is located within a research-intensive Russell Group university that enjoys a world-leading research profile. The Department is well known for its social policy research and its emphasis on policy and practice. It is strongly supported by the University, which has provided additional resources in the form of anniversary lectureships and an anniversary Readership, as well as strategically important professorial appointments and pump-priming investments. The overall structure of the department, comprising two dedicated research units (the Social Policy Research Unit and the Centre for Housing Policy) alongside the Social Policy and Social Work section (Academic Section), creates a flexible, open environment, and research collaborations occur across the Department as well as with other Departments such as Health Sciences, Education and Law. The wide range of research that this enables includes work on health and social care, children and young people, and labour markets as well as international comparative research and the theoretical foundations of social policy.</p> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Progress on research strategy and activities is overseen by the Department's Research Committee (DRC), which regularly monitors research applications and encourages research activity in the form of grant applications and scholarly publications at departmental and individual levels (see section c).</p> <p>Following the RAE 2008, the Department, through the DRC, has targeted three areas of development in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building research capacity in the Department's core fields of expertise: family, children and youth; health and social care; housing policy; and theoretical work. • enhancing the Department's international profile, with increased collaborative work, and participation in international networks. • developing policy and practice, with greater concentration on implementation through the effective dissemination of research findings. (see Impact Template Document REF 3a). <p>Building on Core Strengths:</p> <p>Family, children and youth have been high on the policy agenda over the REF period and the Department has made a substantial contribution to knowledge in the following areas: Bradshaw's (UNICEF funded) work on child poverty and child well-being both nationally and internationally; Wade and Biehal's work on children in and on the edges of the care system (DoH and DSCF); Hill's work on recovery from child abuse; Beresford's work on managing behaviour in disabled children and supporting parents of disabled children (C4EO); Skinner's work on child maintenance reforms (DWP and Gingerbread); Kiernan's work on what matters for positive child development with its focus on poverty, maternal depression and parenting (ESRC); and Hobcraft's work on the childhood origins of adult socioeconomic disadvantage (ESRC).</p> <p>Health and social care remains a key strategic area, with particular emphasis on health inequalities and mental health. Concerning health inequalities, examples include: Graham's (Health Sciences) on going work on the influences of social disadvantage on health behaviours, and policies and policy discourses concerning the reduction of health inequalities (DH); Kiernan's (with Health Sciences) work on maternal and child health (National Institute of Health Research (NIHR), and Kiernan's work on family influences on child health inequalities in the UK and US (US National Institutes of Health (NIH-ESRC). Concerning mental health, examples include: Gridley's work on interventions in dementia care (NIHR); Irvine and Sainsbury's work on mental health and employment (DWP); Mukherjee's work on the measurement of stress in the children's health and social care workforce using modern psychometric approaches (Cancer Research UK); and Webber's work on social capital and the course of depression (DH), and discrimination against</p>

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people with mental health problems (DH and Comic Relief). Strategic commitment to mental health research led to the department making an appointment (Webber) in 2012 following a successful bid to the University's competitive 50th Anniversary Professors and Readers scheme to provide leadership in this area. In keeping with the Department's research strategy, Webber established the *International Centre for Mental Health Social Research* in 2013 with £148k pump priming awarded from the University's Initiative Fund. Other health-related research over the period includes Holden on the alcohol industry's influence on public policy (Alcohol Research), and Lunt on Medical Tourism with the London School of Health and Tropical Medicine (NIHR).

Housing policy continues to be a core strength by virtue of CHP's specialist expertise, for example on housing tenure, homelessness and communal housing, with cross-cutting interests in ageing, special needs and support services. The Centre has successfully built on its strengths to include: Tunstall's work on ageing and the built environment (EPSRC); Croucher's work on the interaction between sight loss, dementia and care in the home environment (NIHR); Bevan and Snell's work exploring fuel poverty and disability (Eaga plc). A number of longitudinal projects have tracked housing for vulnerable people over time, for example Rugg on social housing tenants subject to welfare reforms (g15 organisation), Pleace and Bretherton on homeless service users (Crisis); and Quilgars on residents of new mixed tenure eco homes (Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)).

Theoretical and conceptual work is regarded as an important strategic concern, because of the Department's commitment to the development of new understandings and ideas in contemporary social policy. Examples include: Shaw's work on the interplay of social work practice and research; Dwyer's work on welfare conditionality, migration and belonging; Ellison's work on emerging forms of citizen participation and engagement with social media; Hobcraft's work on the integration of biology into social science research; Hooper's work on a new framework for ethical participatory research with children and youth; and Pleace and Quilgar's work on new perspectives of **homelessness** and housing exclusion.

Comparative and International Social Policy research has long been part of the Department's work, but has become increasingly prominent since 2008 following major strategic investments. The strategy has: prioritised appointments in comparative and international social policy; enhanced support for existing staff in pursuing international and comparative agendas; facilitated partnerships with overseas universities; and refocused postgraduate programmes (MA & PhD) around comparative and international social policy. For example, the University provided money from its International Seedcorn Awards programme to fund network building activities in China, Hong Kong and South Korea, and Departmental funds have pump-primed partnership building in the same territories. Research includes: Hudson's work on the impacts of culture on welfare states (ESRC) and, with Kuehner, social policies in global cities (WUN); Horsfall's work on political economy and the global economic downturn (ECR: BA Fellowship); Roumpakis' work on the impact of the economic crisis on welfare in Southern Europe; Holden's work on the tobacco industry's policy influence on global health (US National Institutes of Health); Lunt's work on medical tourism (NIHR); Sainsbury's work on disability and employment (EU); Pleace and Quilgars' work on homelessness (EU); and Dwyer's work on integration strategies for Roma communities (ESRC). The largest grouping of PhD students is in comparative and international research.

Departmental Research Strategy 2013-2018

Led and monitored by the DRC, over the next REF period the Department will extend its research activities to address the significant challenges identified by the European Union, the ESRC and other research funders. Specifically, existing research strengths in child poverty, citizenship and migration, welfare regime analysis, health and social care, and homelessness will be shaped to target the EU's new Horizon 2020 programme themes of health, demographic change and wellbeing, and social inclusivity. In addition, researchers will focus on the ESRC's strategic research plans around 'inclusive communities', bringing expertise on housing, family policy, (mental) health and social care, and the role of new technologies to bear on the issues of social sustainability and resilience from an international perspective. Equally important to future research

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objectives are the consolidation and extension of our UK-focused work in health, social care, children and young people, and welfare/labour market reform. To this end, the Department will continue to target key funding sources (e.g. ESRC, EPSRC, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, NIHR) in order to build on successes in areas such as interventions in dementia care, measuring stress in the children's health and social care workforce, the relationship between health and employment, and mobility and wellbeing for older people. In addition, the Department will explore new relationships with private sector funders, particularly in research areas related to the new technologies and social sustainability.

Collaborative initiatives across the Department and beyond will be encouraged in order to facilitate all aspects of this developing research programme – with particular emphasis on the development of new international research networks and partnerships to support international grant applications. The new International Centre for Mental Health Social Research, for example, draws together researchers with mental health interests in the Department, as well as the Department of Health Sciences and universities in Australia, India, the United States and Denmark. The Department plans to develop additional research clusters and networks, in and beyond SPSW itself, which will support innovative approaches to the new research agendas outlined by the EU and the ESRC. In particular we would expect to establish more systematic research frameworks for our existing work in international and comparative social policy, and family, children and young people while also developing – in the wake of recent senior appointments – our expertise in the areas of citizenship, conditionality and participation.

c. People, including:**i. Staffing strategy and staff development**

Strategy: The Department is committed to equal opportunities and, to this end, all staff members are required to complete an online module, 'Diversity in the Workplace'. An understanding of equal opportunities plays an important role in staffing appointments. Those involved in recruitment and selection attend a mandatory course which includes EO issues. One indicator of this commitment is that the Department currently has an equal number of female and male professors (6 of each). SPRU and CHP, where virtually all our contract research staff are employed, deliver practice to support the development of researchers that predates that recommended by the Research Concordat. The retirement of eleven senior staff and four staff who have moved to other Universities has enabled a range of appointments to be made at all levels. Taking forward our post 2008 Strategy, two professorial, two senior level and two early career appointments have been made to strengthen comparative and international policy research. A University Anniversary Readership was secured to lead and enhance our work on mental health. In addition, two early career researchers (ECRs) were appointed to lectureships to bolster the mental health area and a further two to the family, children and youth group. Two other Professors have been appointed: one to the directorship of CHP and one to lead the adult care team in SPRU.

Development: Career development is supported in the department via: mentoring; performance review, work load management; research leave; and funding for training and conferences. The University also provides support through its Postgraduate Certificate of Academic Practice (PGCAP) scheme, mandatory for all new lecturers. This programme includes a specific focus on research activities, with workshops on writing for publication, doctoral supervision, research career development, research planning and management, and research impact and ethics. ECRs have reduced teaching and administrative loads to allow them to embed themselves within research clusters and to develop their own research, which is facilitated by mentoring from a senior colleague. The HoD, Unit Heads and the Head of Research with the DRC monitor and assist with individuals' research outputs, funding applications, dissemination and impact activities, and other research-related activities on a regular basis. The Annual Performance Review is an intensive one-to-one discussion with a senior member of staff based on prior completion of a report of activities in the past year which includes the monitoring of research and impact work, and identifies areas that require support and encouragement. Researchers are encouraged to develop their research skills by attending professional development courses both in the university and beyond. Staff in the Academic Section receive an annual allowance of up to £1500, to be used for training or other professional development purposes and additional support can be requested through the conference/impact development fund overseen by the DRC. Within SPRU and CHP, designated

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training budgets are used to address both generic training needs and project-specific ones. In the Academic section, staff can apply for research leave, which releases them from teaching and administrative duties for a term (when coupled with preceding or subsequent vacations, the period can amount to half a year). The majority of staff on academic contracts have had a period of research leave since 2008. A case for leave is made through the DRC, which has a dedicated budget, and possibilities for research leave have been extended to contract researchers to facilitate the writing up of journal articles. The DRC provides frequent updates on funding opportunities and the University has a dedicated full-time Social Science Research facilitator to support large grant applications and national, international and interdisciplinary networks.

Career progression is taken seriously with the annual performance review typically being the first point of discussion about promotion, before further discussions involving other senior staff members and the Head of Department. In the Research Units there have been two promotions to Chairs (Beresford and Sainsbury), three to Senior Research Fellow (Grade 8) and four to Research Fellow (Grade 7). In the Academic section there have been five promotions to senior lecturer and one to reader. Two staff (Kuehner and Mukherjee) won competitive University of York Anniversary Research Lectureships, which provided replacement funds for one year to the Department to allow them to develop new research areas and publish.

Research Integrity: All research, which involves human subjects requires ethical approval from the Department's ethics committee (which reports to the DRC) and, for complex cases, the University's research ethics committee. All staff and PhD students are responsible for considering the ethical implications of their work and that it complies with the University's Code of Practice and Principles for Good Ethical Governance. Ethical assessment is made of the practice as well as the design of the study. Data has to be stored securely and there are dedicated secure environments for sensitive data. The University expects the highest standards of research integrity to be adhered to by all members of the academic community. The University's Code of Good Practice for Research addresses the issues involved in the proper conduct of all academic research and provides guidance on the standards expected, to which we adhere.

ii. Research students

The Department has a strong postgraduate research community, composed of home and overseas students (from Europe, USA, Africa, Asia and the Antipodes) that have increased in number from 32 in 2008 to 58 in 2013. 71% of submitted staff, excluding ECRs and new appointees have supervised York PhD students over the period. Since 2008, 36 students have completed. Our PhD students are highly qualified and funded from a range of sources: the ESRC, including the White Rose ESRC Doctoral Training Centre (composed of York, Leeds and Sheffield universities); overseas research scholarships made available by the University; and a number funded by overseas governments or research institutions and DfID. The competitive nature of these studentships and the wide range of experiences they bring to the Department (including from a number of students who work as researchers or civil servants in overseas government departments) create a diverse student body and an intellectually rich environment within which to study and conduct research.

Supervision and development: Research students have a supervisor who they meet with regularly and a thesis advisor, who acts as an additional source of advice. The supervisor and thesis advisor meet at least every six months with the student as a Thesis Advisory Panel (TAP), to formally review progress. Students must submit a substantial amount of work to a Confirmation Panel within 18 months of starting before their registration can be confirmed. Training needs are planned with supervisors at an early stage. Students can draw from Departmental and other University modules (detailed below) and are encouraged to attend courses run by the ESRC, NCRM and the Essex Summer School. The Department runs a PhD seminar series involving three seminars per term, which all research students attend. The seminars provide a constructive environment within which PhD students are able to present their work and get feedback from fellow students and staff. Each student is required to present at least once prior to PhD confirmation and at least once more prior to submission of the thesis. PhD students have access to the wide range of staff research seminars run within the Department and across the University. Students are strongly encouraged to make presentations at academic conferences and the Department runs a student development fund to contribute towards the costs of attendance. 'Mock conference'

sessions are held in the spring and summer for students presenting at external conferences, to provide them with opportunities to gain confidence in presenting. In 2011 the Department hosted the International Society for Child Indicators Conference and, in 2012, the Annual Conference of the UK Social Policy Association. A large number of our students attended, and helped to organise, the conferences (ten of whom presented), providing them with valuable experience of a key international conference. Five of our current students have already published in journals. Graduate students are also represented and are actively involved in the Departmental Research Committee and Board of Studies.

Training: Students can draw from departmental modules, including those on advanced quantitative methods, advanced qualitative methods and specialist modules on comparative and international social policy analysis. The Department's MRes programmes in Social Policy and Social Work are ESRC recognised and most students studying on a '1+3' basis take one of these programmes. In addition, students may access any relevant modules from departments across the university including, for example, those in advanced statistical analysis run by the Department of Health Sciences.

Employability training: Post Graduate students attend courses offered by the university's Research Development Team, which cover research and transferable skills, such as research grant writing, software use, and team work. Students who want formal recognition of their training can join the York Award: Researchers Programme. To prepare for the workplace, all students take the online Employability Tutorial, and develop a Professional Development Plan so that they can consider employment goals from an early stage and plan their training needs accordingly. Completion of this is a requirement for their confirmation of registration. Students intending to become academics can enrol on the Preparing Future Academics programme, which includes teaching under the supervision of Department staff, and graduates are eligible for membership of the Higher Education Academy. In addition, the Department has a Postgraduates Who Teach (PGWT) programme, which gives research students the opportunity to develop their teaching skills on undergraduate programmes. An academic staff member allocates teaching and manages termly departmental level training events as well as an annual teaching induction programme. The substantive focus of teaching is tailored thematically to students' research interests.

The White Rose DTC: The DTC encompasses York, Leeds and Sheffield universities and reaches over 1,000 PhD students across the three universities. It has awarded 120 ESRC studentships and attracted over £1.4m in matched funding. Two White Rose networks relating to training in Advanced Methods for PhD students and ECRs have been established: one for Advanced Quantitative Methods, and a second for Advanced Qualitative methods. A Spring Conference (Advanced Methods Fair), on advanced quantitative methods was held in May 2013 and included coverage of latent variable modelling, marketing, panel estimation, and advanced econometrics, ranging from SPSS to R and computational modelling. Our Department contributes to various pathways including the Social Policy and Social Work Pathways, which are developing a programme of training activities within York and among partners in the wider White Rose DTC. For example, a DTC Training Catalogue is under development that will allow the identification of opportunities to develop and open up shared training/course provision for students. The DTC hosted the ESRC Final Year Students National Conference in April 2013 and SPSW hosted the White Rose DTC Annual Conference for Social Work students in the summer of 2013.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research Income: During a period of increased competition and retrenchment in research funding, the Department raised a significant amount of income across a range of funders. External research income amounted to £15.7 million over the REF period with over a third each coming from Central and Local Government and Health funders, with around 10% each from Charities and the Research Councils and 4% from the EU. New awards involving Research Consortia include: Dwyer (PI) on an ESRC Large Grant on Welfare Conditionality 2013-18 (£2m) with five UK Universities; Tunstall (PI) on an EPSRC funded Design for Well-Being study 2013-16 (£1.3m) with three UK Universities and three York University Departments. Earlier awards include: Glendinning's Department of Health Research Programme 2006-2010 - Choice and Independence

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Across the Lifecourse (£2.2m); Gridley (PI) on an NIHR funded Life Story Work With People With Dementia 2012-14 (£430k) (SPRU with Hull York Medical School). ESRC awards include: Bevan's Choice and Constraint in Non-permanent Housing (2009-11); Kiernan and Hobcraft's outputs funded by the ESRC GENET network (2004-10); Quilgar's from the ESRC SCARR network (2003-2008). Outputs linked to Government awards include: Graham DoH PHRC (2010-11); Webber DoH, Social Science Fellowship; Lunt NIHR, (2011-12). EU awards linked to outputs include: Quilgars DEMHOW 7th Framework. Those linked to charities include: Bradshaw JRF 2006-2008 Minimum Income Standard for Britain; Holden Alcohol Research UK 2010-13.

Strategies for generating research income. The Department's **strategy** is both reactive and proactive. We respond to funders' invitations to tender or advertised funding streams when the focus of what they require fits with current strengths or with new areas we have identified for development. Major funders in this category include NIHR, DH, DWP and large charities, but also the research councils. We also pursue funding proactively through researcher-led streams in the major funding bodies, particularly NIHR and ESRC. We have also built relationships across the University to successfully bid for larger, longer duration and inter-disciplinary grant applications (e.g. Parker on Community Health Services for Children and Young People (NIHR); and have utilised national and international collaborations and networks (e.g. Holden on Alcohol (NIH); Kiernan on Disparities in Child Well-Being (NIH-ESRC) to develop applications. All external grant applications are closely monitored with particular attention being paid by the DRC to the quality of research council bids – and all staff are expected to be either holding or preparing a research grant application.

Infrastructure and facilities: The Department is located on the Alcuin College site which it shares with the Department of Health Sciences, Economics, the Centre for Health Economics, the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination and the Department of Education (the Alcuin Collaboration). This concentration of social science disciplines facilitates exchanges and collaborations with other related applied disciplines. The Department is part of the Alcuin *Research Resource Centre* (ARRC) completed in 2004 with funding from the Wellcome/ESRC Joint Infrastructure Fund. ARRC has bespoke rooms for focus groups, interviews, audio-visual recording and editing facilities, sound-proofed telephone interviewing rooms, high quality research seminar and conference rooms and software support services. All Social Science and Health departments and research centres take turns to host the ARRC seminar series that runs weekly during term time. An indication of the University's commitment to social science is the new *Research Centre for Social Sciences* (RCSS) opened in 2013 - a dedicated building (costing c. £1.8m), providing all social science disciplines with additional research training facilities to complement those within departments. It houses the principal offices of the ESRC DTC to facilitate and expand research in the social sciences at York with an explicit mission to foster interdisciplinary research amongst staff and students. It provides dedicated accommodation for 80 PhD students (including SPSW students), research groups, research meetings, workshops and conferences as well as a state of the art Training Suite and interview and focus group rooms. The University Library has undergone a major £20 million programme of refurbishment during the review period which has increased the number of study spaces including dedicated spaces for research students. It is open 24 hours a day, 362 days per year. The University also provides a regular mini-bus service to the British Lending Library. At departmental level a number of staff support research activities including 4.5 administrators who support researchers and research projects; a finance officer; an information officer and information assistant to facilitate dissemination; and a full-time graduate student administrator. The DRC devises and monitors progress on research strategy, and also oversees the work of the Graduate School and Ethics Committee. It reports to the University Research Committee and minutes of the meetings are available to staff.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Since 2008 the Department has published 41 books; 325 refereed journal articles; presented 96 invited plenaries; delivered 211 conference papers overseas and 232 in the UK; organised 15 conferences, hosted 37 visiting scholars and there were 33 research visits overseas of a week or more.

International collaborations include: Hudson, with Nam Jo (Sungkonghoe University, South Korea) on an ESRC funded project examining the impacts of culture on welfare states. Holden is a co-PI on a five-year multi-country collaboration (Canada, USA, UK and Australia) awarded in March 2013 by the National Cancer Institute and US-National Institutes of Health (US-NIH), to investigate 'The tobacco industry, policy influence and global health'. Hobcraft collaborates extensively, as co-I, with researchers in Princeton, Columbia, Michigan and Penn State on the exploration of the interplays of genomic measures, including DNA, telomeres and epigenetics with experiences and outcomes for the mothers and children in the US Fragile Families Study; to date twelve conference presentations and two publications in PNAS and AJPH. Kiernan collaborates, as co-PI, with researchers at Princeton and Brown on family disparities in children's wellbeing (2009-2014 US-NIH and ESRC). To date ten conference presentations and five journal articles have been published. Kiernan and Hobcraft are research associates at the Centre for Research on Child Wellbeing at Princeton and have been annual visitors since 2004. Skinner collaborates with academic experts on child support policies from across Europe, USA and Australia. Collaboration includes: the delivery of joint authored conference papers in Europe and the USA (2009-2012); publication of refereed articles in international journals (2009-12); and, in 2012, the establishment of a new International Network of Child Support Scholars. Wade is a leading member of The International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care (INTRAC), which brings together researchers from around 20 countries to develop collaborative publications on leaving care (outputs include an edited book and a special issue of Children and Youth Services Review). Bradshaw has been a consultant to the UNICEF Innocenti Centre, Florence, as well as to its Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS). He is also a member of the Board of the International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI), which has recently been awarded a grant from the Jacob's Foundation to undertake an International Survey on Child Well Being in which York is a key partner. Following the success of the joint Social Policy Association and East Asian Social Policy Annual Conference hosted by York in 2012, the Department established the Social Policy East Asia eXchange (SPEAX) as a focal point for its research, teaching and collaborative activities within the areas of social and public policy and public management in East Asia. The Department's first SPEAX visitor (March 2013-March 2014) is Professor Lee, a former chair of the social welfare committee of the People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy in Korea. International collaborations have helped recruit PhD students and postdoctoral fellows and some of our current collaborations spring from working with previous PhD students that now have positions overseas.

National collaborations include: Biehal, co-PI with Green (University of Manchester), on the national evaluation of Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care (2004-10, DCSF) and co-PI with Berridge (University of Bristol) on two studies of children's residential care: the national evaluation of the Social Pedagogy Pilot Programme (2009-11, DCSF) and the Living in Residential Care study (2011-12, DfE), Hobcraft and Kiernan collaborated with researchers from eight other universities (IoE, LSE, Cambridge, Oxford, Essex, Open, City and UC Dublin) in the successful ESRC Gender Inequality Network, coordinated by J. Scott (University of Cambridge). Lunt works with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on medical travel and belongs to a White Rose collaboration on British Nationals' responses to migration at a time of economic crisis. Webber's current projects include collaborations with the University of Central Lancashire, National Development Team for Inclusion, King's College London, LSE, University of Birmingham, Social Care Institute for Excellence and the NIHR School for Social Care Research. Wade works in partnership with other universities, for example, the special guardianship study is closely linked to the University of Bristol's investigation of adoption breakdown and, through the DfE, data sharing agreement mechanisms are in place to work collaboratively on large datasets concerning looked after children.

Interdisciplinary research includes: Beresford's collaborations with economists, sociologists and psychometricians; Bradshaw's work with psychologists and social workers; and Kiernan and Hobcraft's work with the Institute for Effective Education (IEE) on their child outcomes research. Several staff work with health scientists and epidemiologists, including Holden, Kiernan and Lunt, and CHP collaborates with criminologists, IT experts and clinicians. The International Centre for Mental Health Social Research (ICMHSR) includes epidemiologists, psychologists, social workers and anthropologists and is intrinsically interdisciplinary. Additionally, ICMHSR collaborates with

health economists, nurses, psychometricians and psychiatrists.

Third sector research collaborations: The Department has a longstanding commitment to third sector collaboration and research both within and outside the UK. For example, CHP has collaborated with third sector agencies centred on the development, pilot evaluation and review of new service models and strategic responses to homelessness and housing exclusion. At EU level, Pleace and Quilgars represent the UK on the European Observatory of Homelessness supported by the European Commission. Pleace was a co-author of the evidence review that informed the first EU level Consensus Conference on Homelessness, which produced recommendations for the future development of European Commission policy towards homelessness in 2011. Hudson and Kuehner are working with the OECD evaluating the relative efficacy of cash versus in-kind spending with regard to family policy outcomes. As a consequence of this work a new family policy structures database has been developed. A 3-month internship for one of our PhD students working in this field (Clarke) has also been secured. Beresford is a member of the Transition Taskforce – a UK-wide, multi-agency, multi-disciplinary strategic group that seeks to support change and improvements in support to young people with life-limiting conditions during transition. Partner institutions include Help for Hospices, Marie Curie Cancer Care, and the National Council for Palliative Care. A three year research study (2010-2013, Big Lottery Fund) involving these partners is researching evidence of positive practice which will support the implementation of good practice for young people with life-limiting conditions within health services. Wade has developed strong collaborative research links and partnerships with a number of high profile children's charities. The studies on special guardianship and fostering for refugee children were undertaken in partnership with British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF). The allegations of maltreatment in foster care study involved partnerships with The Fostering Network and NSPCC and work on runaways and on subjective child well-being (with Bradshaw) was done in partnership with The Children's Society. The Research Director of the Children's Society is a Visiting Associate (2008-present), which has enabled the development of several research projects on children's wellbeing, including new data collection. Knowledge transfer activities have thereby been enhanced, both to the third sector and to the wider public, with the help of the charity's powerful publicity and lobbying activities. PhD students Main and Clair have been able to use the data collected in the Child Wellbeing Study. Snell collaborates with National Energy Action (NEA), the country's leading fuel poverty charity, to meet common objectives regarding fuel poverty, energy policy and research. Members of the NEA sit on the steering group of Bevan and Snell's research project on fuel poverty and disability and have also contributed to PhD student's Thesis Advisory Panels.

International conferences and meetings organised include: Hudson (lead organiser) Kuehner and Holden (co-organisers) of the Joint Conference of the UK Social Policy Association (SPA) and the East Asian Social Policy Research Network, University of York, 2012. It was the largest SPA conference to date and marked a key point in the internationalisation of the Association's activities. Hobcraft organised (and provided the key background paper for) the ESRC International Grand Challenge Symposium on 'Social science and epigenetics: opportunities and challenges', co-sponsored with BBSRC in Edinburgh 2012. This brought together leading social scientists, epigeneticists and other key scholars, predominantly from UK and US, along with a range of funder representatives from the UK, US, and Canada. Bradshaw organised the international research conference of the International Society for Child Indicators University of York, 2011. Skinner co-organised an international multidisciplinary conference on Child Maintenance funded by the British Council. The Department hosted the 2010 meeting of the Inter-centre Network for the Evaluation of Social Work Practice (INTSOCEVAL) on the theme of 'Co-operation and Partnership in Social Work Research and Evaluation'. Bretherton (an ECR) leads CHP's involvement with the 'Women's Homelessness in Europe Network' (WHEN), a collaboration of academics from 14 European countries. The European Homelessness Research Conference was held at the University of York in 2012 hosted by CHP and organised by Pleace and Quilgars.

National meetings and workshops include: a workshop convened by Snell in 2013 to discuss research findings relating to disabled people and fuel poverty, with representatives from 15

national charities in attendance. Beresford and Mukherjee ran a two- day workshop in 2011 designed to help practitioners develop and carry out their own research. Irvine and Sainsbury ran a one-day expert practitioner workshop on mode effects in qualitative interviews in 2010. SPRU hosts a seminar series open to researchers and practitioners on innovation and topical interests in social policy. The 2012 series focussed on making an impact in social policy, and the 2013 series explored the theme of social research in a digital age.

Editorial Board membership in the review period includes: Ellison (Chair), Dwyer, Holden and Glendinning, *Journal of Social Policy*; Dwyer (co-editor), Baxter, Hudson and Glendinning (members), *Social Policy and Society*; Bradshaw, *Child Indicators Research* and *International Social Security Review*; Lunt *Policy Studies*; Sainsbury, *Journal of Poverty and Social Justice*, and *Journal of Social Security Law*; Parker (Associate Editor), *Journal of Health Services Research, and Policy, Health and Social Care in the Community*; Wade and Biehal, *Child and Family Social Work*; Biehal *Children and Youth Services Review*; Quilgars and Tunstall, *International Journal of Housing Policy*; Pleace (co-editor), *European Journal of Homelessness*; Webber, *Primary Care Mental Health*; Shaw, *US Journal of Social Work Research* and a founder and editor of *Qualitative Social Work* of which Hardy is an Associate editor. Another indicator of the inter-disciplinarity of the Department is that our staff refereed for over a 100 different journals during the Review period.

Learned societies: The Department is actively involved in learned societies. Glendinning was Chair of the SPA 2008-12, Ellison succeeded her in 2012 and Dwyer, Holden, Hudson and Kuehner have been committee members during the review period. Kiernan served as Vice President of the European Association of Population Studies from 2004-2012. Bradshaw is a Board member of the International Society for Child Indicators, and Hudson is a member of the East Asian Policy Research Network Executive Committee.

International committees: membership includes: the International Social Security Association (Bradshaw); the Foundation for International Studies in Social Security (Sainsbury and Bradshaw); the international jury of the Jacobs Foundation which awards a one million Swiss franc prize to an individual for renowned work on children and young people (Kiernan); and the Consortium Board and Network of National Focal Points, Gender and Generation Programme, EU FP7 Research Infrastructure (Hobcraft, Chair).

Research council activities: Beyond refereeing, these include; membership of Large Grants Panel (Parker 2009-10); ESRC Methods and Infrastructure Committee (Hobcraft 2010-2013); Research Evaluation Committee (Glendinning, 2005-08); Research Committee (Graham, 2012-); Review College (Shaw 2008-12 and Irvine 2013-); and members of 10 Governing Boards and Scientific Committees. Hobcraft through his role as Strategic Advisor to the ESRC on data resources is helping to shape resources for social science, with special reference to longitudinal data and particularly links to genomics and biomedical sciences, and has also helped shape the ESRC capital spending agendas.

National committees: Ellison and Graham are Panel members for REF 2014, Glendinning is Associate Director NIHR School for Social Care Research, Graham is a member of Cancer Research UK Population Committee and a past member the NIHR Public Health Programme Research Board 2009-11 and Parker is a member of the NICE Quality Standard Advisory Committee. Additionally, our staff have been members of over 100 national, regional and local advisory committees.

Awards and Prizes and other special recognition: Bradshaw (2010) and Kiernan (2012) were elected Fellows of the British Academy and SPRU was awarded the Queens Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 2009.