

Institution: Brunel University
Unit of Assessment: 22 Social Work and Social Policy
<p>a. Context</p> <p>Our research has a wide range of non-academic users with the main international groups and beneficiaries being: the general public, health and social care professionals (pre-registration students, practitioners and managers), social care providers, commissioners and policy makers (e.g. local authorities, professional bodies, governments), and service users and those who support them (e.g. families and carers). Our work also has significant benefits for international organisations concerned with shaping and promoting research priorities in social care (e.g. research commissioners and research councils) and for those engaged in promoting the quality of health and social care services (e.g. courts, charities and the Social Care Institute for Excellence). Professor Madge leads social work research and we facilitate interdisciplinary work and strategic debates in policy and practice through staff collaboration within our Research Centres and the University Ageing Collaborative Research Network (Brunel Institute of Ageing Studies). Strong links with external researchers, key stakeholders and practitioners are evidenced via jointly funded collaborative projects.</p> <p>Social work research at Brunel has generated four types of international impact: <u>Impacts on culture and society:</u> improved social welfare, equality, social inclusion, improved access to justice and other opportunities (including education); enhancements to policy and practice for securing poverty alleviation; influential contributions to campaigns for social, economic, political and legal change; enhanced cultural understanding of issues and phenomena; and shaping or informing public attitudes and values. <u>Health and Welfare impacts:</u> Development of policy and practice in health services or social work provision; improved provision or access to services and/or health and welfare outcomes; and influence on CPD, improved training standards. <u>Impacts on practitioners and professional services:</u> development of resources to enhance professional practice; and use of research findings by professional bodies to define best practice, formulate policy, to lobby government and other stakeholders. <u>Impacts on public policy, law and services:</u> forms of regulation, dispute resolution or access to justice have been influenced; shaping and influencing policy made by government, quasi-government bodies, NGOs and private organisations; policy debate has been stimulated and informed by research evidence, which have influenced policy and services; effect on quality, accessibility, cost-effectiveness or efficiency of services; impact on democratic participation; and improved public understanding of social issues. These impacts arise from research outcomes generated from the £4 million of funded research across our three research clusters: Children and youth: sex education and cultures of sexuality and youth (Alldred); food-secure livelihoods with AIDS-affected young people (Ansell); substance misuse and parenting (Harwin); young people's perspectives on faith values, community norms and social cohesion (Madge); out of school care and parental employment (Smith); body training and mothering (Wainwright); and Olympic legacy for disadvantaged young people (Bradford). User participation: modernisation of mental health day services (Bryant); person-centred support (Beresford); and support for abused women (Buckingham). Ageing and later life: elder financial abuse (Gilhooly); loneliness (Victor); work life balance (Rajan-Rankin); ageing without children (Sullivan); and dignity in care (Victor, Martin).</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>Institutional support: the Brunel Royal Charter of 1966, states that research is '<i>for the benefit of individuals and society at large;</i>' developing impact is integral to Brunel's core mission and strategic plan (2013-17) and is a guiding principle of our research activities. Support available to staff in their public engagement includes: a Brunel-wide knowledge exchange programme; training in the use of Brunel's 'Impact Planning and Review Toolkit'; expertise and advice on liaising with funding bodies, charitable organisations and industry, provided through the University's Research Support and Development Office (RSDO) and external PR consultancy to support staff media engagement. 'Understanding Impact' forms part of induction for new staff and evidence of impact-related research and engagement is a criterion for promotion; and for success in the competitive University Research Leave and University Future Research Leaders Schemes. The knowledge transfer leave programme provides funding to release staff to focus on impact; the Walduck Prize</p>

Impact template (REF3a)

is awarded by the VC for the most impactful doctoral research. **Approach 1: Development of evidence based training resources, procedures and policies. International impacts on practitioners and professional services e.g. Development of resources to enhance professional practice.** Researchers proactively seek pathways to impact where research advances have had the potential to be of benefit to social care practice. Gilhooly et al. created www.elderfinancialabuse.ac.uk, an evidence based training resource, for health, social care and finance professionals, which has been shown to be effective through a randomised controlled trial to maximise the impact of her New Dynamics of Ageing cross research council programme findings. SCIE, Age UK, and professional bodies have nationally advocated this resource and it has been extensively utilised by practitioners nationally (e.g. Essex Social Care) and internationally (e.g. Age Concern, New Zealand). **Impacts on public policy, law and services e.g. effect on quality, cost-effectiveness and efficiency of services.** Harwin evaluated a new procedural model for 'Family drug and alcohol court' proceedings and demonstrated a range of benefits: cost savings for local authorities, higher numbers of parents ceasing to abuse drugs and alcohol during proceedings, improved reunification rates between parents and children, and for those children who could not be reunited, faster rates of permanent placements. **Approach 2: International partnerships with research users have been developed and sustained. Impacts on culture and society e.g. improved equality, and social inclusion.** We use a range of measures to form impact partnerships with, for example, young people (Madge), mental health service users (Bryant), older adults (Gilhooly), and local authority providers (Sullivan); BIAS has developed the Brunel Older People's Reference Group to ensure all activities are grounded in real world issues. Alldred's research on homophobia has directly influenced the European AHEAD White Paper 'Combating Homophobia: Local Policies for Equality on the grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity' and the equalities policies of Sport Scotland, the UK Football Association and member organisations. Bradford's Olympic legacy research influenced policy and service delivery through the StreetGames charity which funds sports projects nationally to improve health outcomes and the social inclusion of young people in disadvantaged areas. **Health and Welfare impacts e.g. Development of policy and practice with regard to health services and social work provision.** Research users have access to on-going research being conducted within the School of Health Sciences and Social Care, which provides the beneficiaries with opportunities to be included in the co-production of research. Dissemination and launch events are held at Brunel and key stakeholder venues e.g. Parliament (Beresford), Hillingdon Science Fair (Gilhooly) and Nuffield Foundation (Harwin). Brunel holds annual events for World Social Work Day (Sullivan) and hosted the British Gerontological Association conference (Gilhooly) thereby showcasing the work of the Ageing Collaborative Research Network. There is also a strong focus on creating impact through active partnership with practitioners, stakeholders and service users, with the internet being used extensively to create global impact. Bryant supported people with long-term mental health problems to gain funding to research their leisure needs. This resulted in the allocation of local borough capital funding to provide social areas for informal support for service users in West London and the inclusion of their outcome recommendations in local service improvement policies. **Approach 3: Contribution to the international governance of health and social care policy through strategic collaboration and influencing: Impacts on public policy, law and services e.g. shaping or influencing policy made by government, quasi-government bodies, NGOs or private organisations:** Gilhooly and Sullivan's Joseph Rowntree Foundation scoping review shaped the subsequent commissioning of research into 'how low intensity support happens in relationships'. Influence on policy is achieved through strategic roles including: Contributor to the Governmental Review of sex education (Alldred); National Secretary, World Development Movement (Ansell); invited United Nations advisor on gender aspects of natural resource management to inform UNDP guidance for field staff working in conflict zones (Buckingham); Evaluation Consultant for the Learning Initiative for Long Term Care and Acute Care (Ontario Ministry of Health and London Term Care) (Sullivan); Associate Director (consumer involvement) of the Medicines for Children Research Network (Madge); social work education consultant to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (British Council) (Sullivan, Victor); member Adult Social Care Strategy Board; Programme Board, and Ministerial Reference Group for Social Care (Beresford).

c. Strategy and plans

One element of the School I⁸ Research Strategy and Action (2012-2020) is 'Impacting'. Research

centre directors and the School Impact Champion will continue to work with the Deputy Head of School (Research) to co-ordinate the implementation of the impact strategy via the Impact Management Executive Working Party (IMagE). We will promote research impact via: **Ensuring grant applications contain excellent ‘pathways to impact’**: Research proposals will be developed with interdisciplinary service providers and consumer involvement to ensure that stakeholders are involved in planning pathways to impact that will directly address their social care and lifestyle needs. Victor’s ESRC study on loneliness led to the development of the ‘Campaign to end Loneliness’ Charity; this has brought about innovative community enterprise initiatives and enhanced social inclusion for older adults. Such benefits arise by having clearly identified impact pathways from the outset of any research projects, thereby ensuring that communities and organisations, to which beneficiaries are connected, are reached. **Facilitating the translation of research findings into policy and practice**: We will strengthen and broaden our collaborative partnerships with policy makers and those who influence practice delivery. Alldred’s 4 nation EU study of antiviolence training will impact through the development and implementation of an enhanced training provision, resulting in direct impact on the health and welfare for service users in the EU and offering worldwide communities a model of best practice. **Utilising the internet, media and social networking to facilitate and evaluate our impact**: We see new communications and social media technologies as ideal mechanisms to share best practice globally. Our Open Access Mandate and Publishing Fund support free access to research by potential users and help promote the serendipitous creation of impact. Our web based training resources have been used internationally to support the development of best practice. We will promote the sharing of our own research by hosting more international forums, in order to increase the impact of research on future policy makers.

d. Relationship to case studies

The mission of our social work research is to enhance the societal, economic and cultural aspects of social care for both individuals and society. **University institutional support** for impact underpins our research activities and our three case studies exemplify all three key aspects of impact: **economic impact is demonstrated by**: enhancing financial efficiency of court proceedings (Harwin); better detection and prevention of elder financial abuse (Gilhooly); and optimising personal payment systems via person centred care (Beresford). **Cultural impacts** are embedded in our approach to research, partnerships being collaborative and grounded in real world needs; they have advanced equality and given a voice to service users and providers (Beresford). **Social impact is demonstrated by** the translation of Harwin’s evaluation of an innovative model for parental substance misuse custody cases into policy and practice via the implementation of an effective service specification, tender and objectives for future court cases in the UK. Our impacts in all three areas have led to invitations to advance research and policy internationally, thereby extending our impact to beneficiaries worldwide. We have **influenced policy makers** with our research findings and **utilised the internet, media and social networking sites to facilitate and evaluate our impact**: the ‘Standards We Expect’ research and development programme, jointly led with service-users, has impacted on the design and implementation of person centred care in the UK (Beresford). We have **developed highly successful evidence based practice and resources**: Beresford’s and Gilhooly’s evidence-based guidelines and web training resources have directly advanced social care services. Our excellent pathways to impact, expert capacity to develop and implement evidence-based resources, and our rapidly expanding strategic and service user partnerships will allow us to widen and extend our social, cultural and societal impacts. We will continue to achieve significant advances in national and international social care through the optimal development of policy and practice.