

Institution: Liverpool John Moores University

Unit of Assessment: UoA 22: Social Work and Social Policy

a. Context

Background statement: The Centre for the Study of Crime, Criminalisation and Social Exclusion (CCSE) recognises that the policy process is constituted by a wide network of actors including ministers, civil servants, research funders, charitable bodies, campaigning organisations, pressure groups, community groups and individuals. Thus its social impact activities have prioritised engagement with a range of these actors and specifically those whose voices are often marginalised in policy discussions and debates. In particular, the CCSE seeks to engage with, and prioritise, an understanding of the lived realities and impact of state policy responses to a range of issues from the perspective of the individuals, groups and populations towards whom they are targeted. For example, asylum seeking women (Canning); the Muslim community (Jackson, Millward, Tyrer); football supporters (Millward); Nepalese women and children (Standing); prisoners (Sim and Scott); tenants of social housing (Allen); victims and families affected by death and injury in the workplace (Tombs); young offenders (Kelly) and working mothers (Standing). This is supported by an active and engaged approach to dissemination, for example via CCSE organised events, seminars, research reports, conference papers and related activities.

Types of impact specifically relevant to the CCSE's research: The impacts that follow from this are changes in the attitudes, awareness and understandings on the part of individuals, groups and organisations with regard to issues of crime, criminalisation and social exclusion. Moreover, critically engaged research has served to open and facilitate dialogue with local, regional, national and international policy makers and practitioners.

Overall, the CCSE aims to produce rigorous, critical, interdisciplinary research on or related to crime, criminalisation and social exclusion with a potential for both high academic and social impact. Our research contributes to a critically informed understanding and appreciation of the lived reality of crime, criminalisation and social exclusion as well as to public debates regarding policy, practice and progressive reform.

b. Approach to impact

Optimising the social impact of research is at the heart of the CCSE's mission. The impacts generated directly and indirectly relate to challenging dominant discourses and conventional wisdom in respect of a broad range of criminal justice and social policy issues and debates. The approach to impact comprises 3 main elements:

i. To encourage and stimulate public debate

A key unifying feature of the research under the auspices of the CCSE is to provide an opportunity for marginalised voices within the processes of criminal justice and social policy to be heard. By definition this means our research engages with public debates both within and beyond the academic. For example, Sim's research on prisons has served to challenge the stigmatisation and 'othering' of prisoners and their families; Kelly's research on young offenders emphasises the individualising and marginalising impacts of the responsabilisation strategies inherent to youth justice policy and practice; Standing's analysis reflects the disconnect between the specificities of policy discourse and intent and relates this to working women's negotiation of the work-life balance; Canning's work emphasises the inadequate recognition and response of the state and community organisations to women seeking asylum as a result of conflict related sexual violence; Allen's research problematises the theoretical, epistemological and policy understandings of housing market renewal and champions the perspectives of ordinary working class people within this policy arena; and Tyrer's research on Islamophobia highlights its regulatory and racist impacts for the Muslim community. Rigorous research forms the basis from which we seek to engage with research stakeholders and users to encourage public debate and activism on questions of criminalisation, exclusion and justice.

ii. To actively work with organisations to lobby for and facilitate social policy reform

The CCSE's approach to impact has also involved making the CCSE's resources, skills and findings available and accessible to policy makers, practitioners, user communities and other key stakeholders in criminal justice, social policy and related fields. For example, the CCSE seminar series is promoted to and open to the public, addresses key local, national and international issues, such as, the August 2011 Riots (December 2011); Aging in Nepal (January 2012); Food

Impact template (REF3a)

Crime (March 2012); and the occupational experiences of lesbian, gay and bisexual police officers in England and Wales (February 2013). It also highlights the activities of a range of campaign groups such as the 'Angola 3' campaign (October 2011); the Knowsley residents' 'Say Bye to Sonae' campaign (March 2012); the Hillsborough Justice Campaign (October 2012); and the Occupy Movement (November 2012). During the REF period, eighteen seminars have been held attracting almost 800 attendees in total, with registration/contact sheets indicating that many, if not, the majority of attendees are coming from beyond academia. Of the 26 speakers who participated, 7 were CCSE members, 6 represented user groups or campaigns with the remainder drawn from academics based in LJMU and other institutions. The CCSE has also organised a range of conferences and symposia which have aimed to contribute to, and influence, local, regional, national and international policy debates and practice, most recently these include the *Breaking the Cycle: Challenging Times for Justice, June 2011* (Jamieson, Tombs and Yates); the *ESRC Festival of Science: Youth Justice Knowledge Exchange, Nov 2012* (Jamieson with USERVOICE); the *North West Policing Symposium, February 2013* (M. Jones) and *Sites of Confinement, March 2013* (Canning).

iii. *Supporting activities that enable engagement with user groups and which lead to change/impact*

The CCSE also seeks to promote its impact agenda via contributing to the progressive reform of criminal justice and social policy. For example, Tombs' work with the Centre for Corporate Accountability (CCA) promoted worker and public safety, lobbied for reform alongside the Labour Movement and engaged with senior civil servants and ministers. The CCA's interventions were central to the passage of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act, which came into force in April 2008, and to changing the Health and Safety Executive's policy and practice on the investigation and registration of occupational deaths. P.A. Jones has developed a national profile in research into the British credit union sector and its work to support people on low incomes. This has had important policy impacts, and has served to influence the Coalition government's initiative to invest £36m in the sector from 2013 - 2015 to facilitate the Department of Work and Pension's Credit Union Expansion Project. Likewise his work with the Citizens Advice Bureau has influenced the modernisation of debt advice services and underpinned a £2 million investment in an integrated debt advice project in the North East of England. His research into financial inclusion, supported by the Cooperative Bank, the Northern Rock Foundation and credit unions, has enabled individuals with experiences of imprisonment and homelessness to access basic bank accounts and prisoners across 13 institutions to access savings schemes whilst incarcerated. His research into financial exclusion in prisons prompted the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) to introduce a revised Prison Service Instruction (PSI) on prisoner access to bank accounts in January 2012. Parker and Standing's research on women and children in post conflict Nepal has influenced policies in Nepal and has been fed into the Schools as Zones of Peace initiative through the NGO Global Action Nepal (2010). Their research has also served to strengthen the links between Higher Education Institutions (CERID, Padma Kanya Campus and the Nepal School of Social Work, Kathmandu) and Non-Governmental Organisations (2010-2013).

Over the REF period these impact strategies have been supported via the following mechanisms:

- Staff development funds were utilised to facilitate staff engagement with user/campaigning groups, NGOs and attendance at relevant meetings and forums (for example, Tombs' involvement within the CCA and the Labour Movement, Sim's trustee work with INQUEST, Yates' executive committee membership and trustee work for the NAYJ; Jamieson and Hayes' collaboration with USERVOICE).
- Impact is regularly discussed at CCSE meetings; School Staff Development events (2011, 2012) and CCSE activities in this regard were selected for inclusion in the first edition of the LJMU Impact Brochure (2010).
- The CCSE commissioned, produced and presented to members a consultation paper, in 2011, which focussed on defining impact and how CCSE members should strategically pursue public engagement. The paper recommended that a cohesive strategy should ensure that impacts and knowledge transfer aims and activities are integral to all research projects and that mechanisms are in place to gather supporting evidence which attends to the reach and significance of impacts.
- Funding was available via the CCSE to support impact activities and events (for example,

facilitating the training and participation of 18 young people in the ESRC Festival of Science knowledge exchange, November 2012; funding research assistance to support Parker and Standing's impact activities in Nepal, June 2013); and supporting the NW Policing Symposium, February 2013 and the Sites of Confinement event, March 2013).

- Impact of research was recognised/rewarded by the University in internal promotions (for example the promotion of P. A. Jones (2012) and Tyrer (2013) to Readerships.

c. Strategy and plans

The CCSE's impact strategy 2012-2017 is shaped at UoA, School and University level and comprises the following elements:

- To identify and invest in the development of specific projects through the targeted use of School and University funding.* For example, three ECR staff have secured funding via the LJMU Early Careers Fellowship Scheme to develop collaborative research links of the highest international standing and to participate in skills training, events and activities which develop their understanding of public engagement and research impact. Canning is working with DIGNITY: the Danish Institute Against Torture (2012); Cooper with the Department of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds (2013) and Monk with the International Centre for the Study of Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Young People at the University of Bedfordshire (2013).
- To work in collaboration with non-academic individuals, groups and institutions.* Collaborating with non-academic stakeholders in our research activities has been a key feature of the CCSE's work and this will continue to be a priority for the UoA. The CCSE will continue to build, develop and consolidate links with organisations, such as, the Association of British Credit Unions Ltd; the British Council; the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control; the Howard League for Penal Reform; INQUEST; Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council; the National Association of Youth Justice; St Mungo's Trust, and USERVOICE.
- To establish a number of thematic research clusters to facilitate collegiate and cross disciplinary working.* It is envisaged that these thematic clusters will enable the CCSE to further progress its aims and objectives and enable an agile approach to impact opportunities. Indications of the potential of this approach to respond quickly and positively to research and knowledge exchange activities is reflected in the fact that members of the 'children and young people in conflict with the law' cluster (Hayes, Jamieson, Kelly and Yates) have responded to an opportunity to organise and contribute to a regional symposium on youth justice policy and practice in association with the National Association of Youth Justice in April 2014.
- To consolidate and develop the CCSE's commitment to social impacts by engaging in a diverse range of public engagement, knowledge transfer and 'outreach' activities.* For example, at least one seminar in the annual CCSE seminar series will include contributions from a research user/campaign groups; the CCSE will facilitate at least 2 further symposia /conferences aimed at the non-academic community before 2017 and its hosting of the 42nd Annual Conference of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control will include a number of supported places for research users and campaign groups.
- To participate fully in the University's strategic plan of being a civic university by raising staff awareness of impact activities and recognising and rewarding this engagement.* For example, CCSE members will be encouraged to participate in relevant workshops and training opportunities, to contribute to LJMU Research Brochures and to engage in knowledge exchange and public engagement activities.

d. Relationship to case studies

The selected case studies provide different examples of the way in which the impacts agenda has been approached within the CCSE. Both Sim and Tombs have sought to challenge common-sense understandings in relation to imprisonment and corporate responsibility, respectively, and to give voice to marginalised groups within the broad ambit of the criminal justice and social policy. As such, they exemplify the CCSE's impact objectives to stimulate public debate; to support activities which enable engagement with research users; and to lobby for, and facilitate, progressive criminal justice and social policy reform.