

| |
|--|
| <p>Institution: UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: C22 Social Work and Social Policy</p> <p>a. Overview</p> <p>The School of Social Policy's commitment to the delivery of world class research is reflected in the consolidation and investment undertaken since RAE 2008 (see www.birmingham.ac.uk/social-policy). The RAE submission involved two Departments located in separate Schools: the Institute of Applied Social Studies (IASS, which comprises subject groups in social policy and social work) and the Health Services Management Centre (HSMC, with a focus on health policy and management). In 2008, these were brought together in a new School of Social Policy, one of four Schools located within the new College of Social Sciences. This has enabled the School to build critical research mass in four areas of strength: Families, Policy and Professional Practice; Global Community; Health and Social Well-being; and Welfare Futures. We have also established three research centres: the ESRC Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC); the Centre on Household Assets and Savings Management (CHASM); and the Institute for Research into Super-diversity (IRiS). These developments have been associated with substantial increases in research activity and research income and the forging of significant inter-disciplinary, international and stakeholder collaborations. Overall, they have enabled us to establish a stronger and more sustainable academic environment in which to achieve our main goal of carrying out rigorous research which makes a difference to people's lives, as well as providing a springboard for future growth of research activity.</p> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of strategy outlined in RAE 2008 and any subsequent changes <p>The strategic aims outlined in our RAE 2008 return were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To invest in areas of strength, for example through the appointment of emerging and established research leaders and greater integration of disciplinary activity. • To generate an enhanced and sustainable flow of research income from a range of funders to further develop our key research strengths. • To pursue more collaborative and inter-disciplinary research across the University and the wider academic community. <p>Progress on our REF 2008 objectives is tangible. Since 2008 the number of research active staff has increased by a third to 34.5, and the number of professors has almost doubled from 6 to 11.2. Over the period research income from external sources has also increased significantly from £7 million to almost £10 million. Similarly, we have increased the number of PhD students and completions in the School (see below). Furthermore, collaborative and inter-disciplinary research has extended internationally (see below).</p> <p>The creation of the School of Social Policy in 2008 was central to the achievement of these aims. The proposal to create the School emerged from the two departments themselves, reflecting a strong commitment by colleagues to a collective research mission. The proposal was fully supported by the College and University. It has enabled us to bring together for the first time our key researchers in social policy, health policy and social work. This already strong research foundation combined with significant University investment in posts supported the development of critical research mass underwritten by a more diverse financial base. It also facilitated an expanded contribution by social policy researchers to interdisciplinary collaboration across the College and more widely.</p> <p>Our strategy on publication of the RAE 2008 result re-affirmed that our key strategic priority would be to: 'increase both the quality and quantity of rigorous and relevant research which we carry out. We aim to carry out research which is of the highest academic standards but which also has an impact on policy, practice and knowledge through a critical, ethical and creative engagement with research participants, co-researchers and other research users.' The strategy identified four research strengths, leading to the creation of research groups on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families, Policy and Professional Practice (Lead- Sue White) • Global Community (Lead- Jenny Phillimore) |
|--|

Environment template (REF5)

- Health and Social Wellbeing (Lead- Russell Mannion)
- Welfare Futures (Lead-Martin Powell).

Alongside the research groups, we have also established three new research Centres:

- TSRC: (Director - Pete Alcock), established 2008 under Venture Funding from ESRC, Cabinet Office and Barrow Cadbury Trust (see www.birmingham.ac.uk/tsrc)
- CHASM: (Director - Karen Rowlingson), established 2010 and supported by College resources, external grants and a philanthropic donation (see www.birmingham.ac.uk/chasm)
- IRiS: (Director - Jenny Phillimore), established 2012 and supported by College resources. (see www.birmingham.ac.uk/iris).

Each group and centre provides a stimulating and supportive forum, organised through regular meetings of staff at all career levels, including doctoral researchers (DRs), to arrange seminars, discuss theoretical and empirical issues, and plan research initiatives. They submit annual reports to the School's Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee (RKTC) about their activities, including publications and research income, which form the basis of the monitoring of their progress over the previous year and the establishment of targets for the following year.

- **Outline of main objectives and activity for next 5 years and drivers and methods for monitoring attainment of targets**

We have continued to review our research strategy in order to meet the challenges of the current economic climate. Our main aim over the next five years is to build on our recent success to establish the School as one of the leading academic centres for social policy, health policy, and social work research in the UK. This will include retaining and recruiting senior academic staff and consolidating support for early career staff to progress as successful academic research leaders. We aim to continue expansion of our research income, despite the impact of reductions in public sector spending, and will extend significantly our international collaborative activities. We will also further develop the impact of our research on policy and practice, with all staff committed to a programme of knowledge exchange to ensure that our work makes a practical difference to people's lives.

Our research activities will continue to be linked to our wide range of taught programmes to inform curriculum development and delivery, including one of the largest undergraduate single honours social policy programmes in the UK, undergraduate and postgraduate qualifying and post-qualifying education in social work, and a leading role in NHS leadership and management development, including a major contract with the NHS Leadership Academy.

In our strategic research review we confirmed our commitment to:

- encourage staff at all levels to carry out the most rigorous and relevant research
- increase further the level of external income generation
- increase further the numbers of Doctoral Researchers
- expand our international activities while sustaining our strong local and national presence.

Planning for the sustainability of our research centres is also underway:

- TSRC's 5-year Venture Funding of £8.9 million came to an end in August 2013. Following on from this, the Centre has received £685,000 Bridge Funding from ESRC in preparation for a shortlisted bid for a further 5 year's support in the ESRC 2014 Centres and Large Grants competition. The Barrow Cadbury Trust has also renewed a 5 year commitment to core funding and this has enabled the retention of core research team at Birmingham. In addition, the University has supported the appointment of John Mohan (formerly Deputy Director at Southampton) to lead the Centre, and 3.3 research fellows from September 2013 to secure and deliver externally funded research activity.
- CHASM has received support from a range of funders following start-up funding of £91,500 from the College of Social Sciences, including the AHRC, Leverhulme Trust, Friends Provident Foundation, JRF and £250,000 from one of the University's alumni.
- IRiS is a more recent venture and has also received start-up funding from the College, but is

already attracting external funding, building on our strong reputation in this area.

The responsibility for implementing and monitoring our research strategy lies with the School Director of Research and Knowledge Transfer who works with the School RKTC and the School Management Team to regularly review our targets and achievements. Central to this is the periodic review of the configuration of our research groups to ensure that they provide the best focus for staff development and business growth, in particular, for example, to respond to emerging research opportunities such as the EU Horizon 2020 programme.

- **New and developing initiatives not yet producing visible outcomes but of strategic importance**

IRiS was officially launched in September 2012 and is the first Institute of its kind in the UK and one of only a handful globally. It will consolidate and enhance the University's existing expertise in immigration, multilingualism, faith and theology, public health, arts and culture, social and economic analysis, and public policy. IRiS will build on the longstanding relationships with partners in the West Midlands to create a resource that will benefit the wider community. IRiS has already generated funding from Marie Curie, AHRC (with the School of Education) and the JRF.

The School of Social Policy is also contributing to the research (and teaching) activity of the new Public Service Academy (PSA), which was funded by and based at the University, launched in 2012 to build on the University's expertise around public services and provide a platform for strategic interaction with a range of national and international public service partners, for example with Chicago and Cook County (with the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign). The PSA coordinates the College's public management and public policy activities and plays a key role in interfacing with important public service partners such as Birmingham City Council. Members of the School are involved in three of the PSA work themes - cohesion; health and well-being; and the social work academy – and are leading two of these (see www.birmingham.ac.uk/psa).

Future planning also includes the establishment of a Family Potential Research Centre jointly with academics at the University of Nottingham and supported institutionally with start-up funding through the strategic partnership developed between Birmingham and Nottingham universities. The centre will combine expertise on 'whole family' approaches to policy and practice and will build on existing international, academic, policy and practice links within the two institutions.

- **Identification of priority development areas including research topics, funding streams, postgraduate activity, facilities, staffing, admin and management**

Priority development areas in terms of research topics are linked to our centres and groups, including research on: the third sector; wealth inequality and personal finance; migration and super-diversity; health service management; and whole family approaches in policy and practice.

A particular priority for us is international activity and funding. We have already succeeded in securing international funding, particularly FP7 funding from the EU, including: for DEMHOW and NEUJOBS, led by John Doling; for INTERLINKS, led by Jon Glasby; and the Third Sector Impact Project, led by John Mohan. In addition we have won a number of Marie Curie Action grants including a three-year 'Outgoing Fellowship' awarded to Nathan Hughes which takes him to Melbourne University for two years and a 3 year 'Intra-European Fellow' coming to IRiS from the Centre for Migration Research, University of Warsaw, awarded to Jenny Phillimore.

We plan to build on this experience to expand our international activities. TSRC will be developing international and comparative research as part of its forward strategy, and already has collaborative links in the USA and Australia, and is part of a major EU network with FP7 funding. In 2012 we developed collaborative health research links with Peking University. In 2013 we will be launching a new International Network for Research on Asset Policies (INRAP). We are also taking part in a number of other existing international networks including INTEGRATE (International Network of Generational Transfers Research) and the Academics Stand against Poverty Network (ASAP) which involves Delhi and Yale Universities. We give papers at a wide range of international conferences and host international think tanks and seminars.

This activity is sustained through School and College support, such as designated College country champions for India (Delhi), China (Guangzhou), Australia (Melbourne), USA (Chicago), and Brazil (Sao Paulo). At the University level support is provided through: its membership of Universitas 21; offices in Brussels, Delhi, Guangzhou and Sao Paulo (in collaboration with the University of Nottingham); research travel funding; and specialist support for bids to European funders.

We also intend to prioritise the further expansion of our doctoral research activities. We will invest in more studentships and enhance our administrative and employability support to DRs.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Our staffing strategy, which is rooted in our wider research strategy, has a number of objectives:

- to strengthen existing areas of work and nurture new ones,
- to achieve an appropriate balance of experienced and newer researchers,
- to assure succession planning and career development for all staff.

We have created PhD studentships specifically related to our research activities and centres: Fatima Syed researching financial education in schools; Emile Whitaker on personalisation in children's services; Tom Daniels on priority setting; and Ben Kyneswood, Amy Burnage and Chris Damm on the third sector. We have appointed early career researchers and supported their development to carry out independent research through College 'first grants' and 'seed corn' schemes: e.g. Stuart Connor's project on poverty (which included meetings at the UN in New York), and Lindsey Appleyard's work on financial education in schools. We have recruited two Birmingham Fellows under a major University of Birmingham investment programme to recruit outstanding, high potential, young researchers who will go on to make a major contribution to research, teaching and academic citizenship; Simon Pemberton is researching social harm and Nando Sigona is researching migration.

During the REF period staff have progressed from: research posts to permanent lectureships within UoB (Chris Allen, Kerry Allan, Kelly Hall, Nathan Hughes, Ross Millar) and without UoB (Simon Teasdale, Domenico Moro); lectureships to senior lectureships (Harriet Clarke, Helen Dickinson, Nathan Hughes, Denise Tanner, Iestyn Williams); senior lectureships to reader (Catherine Needham, Jerry Tew); and senior lecturer to professor within UoB (Jenny Phillimore) and without UoB (Basia Spalek). We have also recruited senior academics at professorial level to lead emerging programmes of work: Russell Mannion, Sue White, Barbara Fawcett, Richard Ronald, and John Mohan; Mark Exworthy is joining us in January 2014. We have supported senior academics in moving to major policy and management positions: Chris Ham has been seconded as Director of the King's Fund since 2010 and Edward Peck is Pro Vice Chancellor and Head of College of Social Sciences at Birmingham.

The achievements of our staff are considered within a formal annual review process. The University was awarded the HR Excellence in Research accreditation in September 2011 and continues to work towards full implementation of its Concordat action plan by December 2013. Organisational level process, policies and activities include annual research performance reviews in parallel with the new academic Performance and Development Review scheme, integrated leadership development programme for staff from experienced contract research staff to senior academic leaders and recurrent central funding to maintain development provision for researchers.

We also support all research active staff on a one-to-one basis, leading to the regular uptake of a range of support including:

- advice during annual research development reviews;
- attendance at workshops on bidding for projects, including EU funding;
- financial support for attendance at academic conferences, both in the UK and abroad;
- the provision of study leave;
- providing those on research contracts with time and mentoring support for writing high quality publications;

- provision of designated staff to advise on drafts of publications and proposals;

The School operates a generous study leave scheme, with staff, including those on probation, being eligible to 1 term's leave after completing 9 terms. All research active staff are encouraged to take up this opportunity, and for those included in our return the average take up over the REF period has been one period of study leave. In addition staff winning external research grants retain a proportion of the income in personal research accounts which can be used for academic activities, including attending workshops and conferences; over the REF period, the School has committed an additional £20,000 per year for this purpose.

The University expects all research carried out by its staff to be conducted to the highest standards of integrity. Research within the School is governed by the University's Code of Practice for Research which provides a framework for the governance of all research carried out by staff and students, and requires them to adhere to the highest standards of performance and ethical conduct. All staff and DRs are required to operate honestly and openly in respect of their own actions and in response to the actions of others involved in research (for further details of ethics and research see <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/university/legal/research.pdf>).

Promotions and appointments are made in line with University procedures that are designed to achieve equality and diversity objectives. This commitment, and the implementation of our School staffing objectives have ensured a balanced and sustainable profile. Two-fifths of those returned as research active and a third of professors are female. There is a mix of experienced senior professors, readers, senior lecturers, lecturers, early-career lecturers, and research fellows: a third of those returned are below 40 years of age, for example. There is a requirement that all staff complete the University's Diversity in the Workplace training course (see University Report Promoting Equality Celebrating Diversity, 2013:

<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/collaboration/equality/documents/publication-of-informatin-report-103.pdf>).

ii. Research students

Following the 2008 RAE, we identified growth in the number of Doctoral Researchers as a key part of our research strategy. We actively recruited students through advertising our research expertise on sites such as FindaPhD.com as well as our own website. High quality applicants without funding were supported by an expansion of School and College studentships, 4 ESRC awards made by the University of Birmingham's Doctoral Training Centre (which includes three pathways located in the School), and successful applications to other funding sources. For example, the School secured Universitas 21 scholarships for Tom Daniels to undertake an international collaborative PhD in health priority setting (with British Columbia), and for Caroline Cresswell's work with Melbourne, which was also supported by an Australia Awards Endeavour Scholarship. Both involved one-year studentships in the partner university. The benefits were not just to the individual DRs. For example, Cresswell's work enhanced an existing research relationship with Melbourne University's Murdoch Family Research Centre and contributed to Nathan Hughes' winning the 3 year Marie Curie Outgoing Fellowship referred to above.

The School's commitment and expertise in postgraduate research is reflected in the lead role played by its staff in the 2010 accreditation of the University of Birmingham as an ESRC Doctoral Training Centre. The DTC's inaugural Director was Stephen McKay, now succeeded by Pete Alcock, both professors in the School. School staff also make a significant contribution to the DTC's postgraduate social research education and training, delivering both core and advanced research training modules for PGT and PGR students from across the college (and to social science/humanities students from other Colleges). The DTC contributes to a richer environment for doctoral research, exposing social policy DRs to a wider range of methods, policy contexts, and theories. The impact of these developments is reflected in the growth in the community of doctoral researchers from 19 in 2008/9 to 39 in 2012/13.

DRs are allocated two supervisors. Students are expected to maintain records of supervision meetings, provide written work regularly for feedback, prepare papers/posters for presentation to

other audiences in discussion with supervisors and engage in annual progress review. Weekly Doctoral Research seminars provide an environment for doctoral researchers to learn from each other and in addition staff are invited to contribute to these sessions (e.g. on career development, reflecting on methodology). Doctoral researchers can apply to the School doctoral researcher conference fund for support to present at national and international conferences. Progress review includes an evaluation by supervisors and students of progress for consideration in interview by independent (non-supervising) staff members. Supervisor training is provided by the Centre for Learning and Academic Development, and less experienced supervisors are paired with experienced supervisors, ensuring ongoing professional development of staff.

All members of the DR community in the School of Social Policy are engaged within the wider School research culture and encouraged to participate in research activities outside of their own doctoral work. Feedback from the 2012 Vice Chancellor's Review of the School of Social Policy noted that DRs felt more like junior members of staff being developed for the future than 'students'. Since 2009-10 DRs have been invited to become members of School Research Groups. DRs attached to TSRC have opportunities to undertake voluntary and paid research activity in the Centre on a range of projects, and have contributed to published Working Papers. In 2011-12, DRs were supported by University Graduate School funding to develop a DR Community and Events Organising Group, which has strengthened the doctoral research seminar programme, including increasing staff engagement, and worked with staff to secure internal and external academics to provide research seminars and workshops to doctoral students. DRs participate in the Annual Midlands ESRC DTC Student Conference which is organised by and for Birmingham, Nottingham and Warwick DTC students and we also hosted the National Conference for Final Year ESRC Funded Students in July 2012. DRs have also been encouraged to engage with wider academic networks, including by joining the Social Policy Association or other relevant professional academic bodies, engaging in postgraduate networks, and presenting at disciplinary conferences. TSRC DRs participated in a National Summer School for DRs organised by the Centre at Cumberland Lodge in 2012, and further similar events are planned. We also hosted a British Academy Link Programme Workshop in June 2013 exploring 'family-minded policy' and 'whole family practice' with a significant DR and Early Career Researcher involvement. Representatives from 11 countries attended, from Argentina, Chile, Mexico, USA, Germany, Italy, Norway and Sweden joining our own doctoral researcher colleagues from Colombia, Greece and the UK. Funding has also been available for DRs from Latin America to attend as research visitors to the University of Birmingham as part of our Marie Curie network on families, and two doctoral researchers have network visits planned to Latin America following their doctoral awards.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Our research income has increased substantially since 2008/9, from circa £1.5 to £2.0 million per annum 2012/13. Given the economic situation and contraction in government spending on research, our success here is particularly notable. We raise income from a wide range of sources, including research councils, research charities, EU programmes and UK government.

The establishment of the TSRC by the ESRC (with £8.9 million Venture Funding from the Cabinet Office and Barrow Cadbury Trust) provided substantial income and this has been extended by significant additional research income generated by the Centre. We have also received additional grant income from research councils (ESRC and AHRC) and academies (British Academy), as well as considerable funding from government departments (DWP and DH), local government (Birmingham City Council), the European Commission and European Union, research charities (Barrow Cadbury Trust, Big Lottery Fund, Nuffield Foundation, Leverhulme Trust, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Friends Provident Foundation) and health funders (National Institute for Health Research, Wellcome Foundation, local trusts, NHS).

Our strategy for generating income is to focus on existing funders with whom we have strong relationships but also to increase funding from international funders. We have a very wide base of research funders which makes our funding more sustainable. Our Research Centres and Groups will continue to build on existing success in generating income from a range of funders in the academic as well as policy and practice communities. CHASM will also benefit from a Deed of Gift,

a legally-binding commitment signed by one of our alumni to donate £2.5 million over 5 years.

Our strategy also focuses on income generation activities which lead to high quality publications and/or significant knowledge transfer opportunities. This is supported by the staff performance and development mechanisms mentioned above: giving advice during research performance reviews; staff mentoring; workshops on writing and on costing proposals; designating key staff to provide advice and comments on drafts of proposals; and support for staff to take study leave where part of the time will be spent writing a major proposal.

The College of Social Sciences provides a College Research Support Office (CRSO) with dedicated support for the School of Social Policy. The CRSO is a one-stop-shop for researchers putting in research bids and helps with identifying funders, selecting peer reviewers, putting proposals (including CVs) into the appropriate style, providing generic information on the institution, liaising with finance and contract officers. Post-bid support is available within the School through dedicated administrators. Each School is provided with a dedicated Facilitator and Administrator through the CRSO structure to offer academics a tailored service designed to meet the specific needs of their discipline. The Facilitator delivers expert bid development advice on the application (focusing on the fit to call specifications, reviewing text and undertaking risk management of the proposed project) whilst the Administrator manages the responsibility of coordinating the required institutional approvals such as financial and contractual sign off. All research grant applications are also internally peer reviewed by an experienced colleague prior to submission.

The Advanced Social Sciences Collaborative (ASSC) was created as an early initiative of the College of Social Sciences. It is designed to act as the College's internal think-tank and research incubator providing funding for new projects and "a forum through which to engage colleagues in identifying and debating emerging social science challenges, and in setting the agenda within the College and the national and international social science community." (CoSS Research Strategy, 2009, p3).

The College of Social Sciences has developed a funded programme of activities to increase our research impact by encouraging academics to engage with the worlds of policy and practice including a distinguished lecturer series, policy commissions, and the 3 day 'Getting PhD Research into Policy' Summer School. These activities are contained under the banner of 'Public Intellectuals' and are designed to enable us to better showcase our research findings, as well as influence future policy and practice.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

- ***Collaborations with researchers outside the UoA, locally, nationally, internationally***

We collaborate extensively with researchers in academia as well as charities and social enterprises, and government locally, nationally and internationally. The Public Service Academy provides strong local links with Birmingham City Council, and is also a forum for international collaboration, particularly with universities and public organisations in Chicago and Melbourne. European links are also strong. For example, DEMHOW, a 33 month project funded by the European Union and led by John Doling, involved collaborators from: the Netherlands; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Hungary; Portugal; Slovenia; and Belgium.

Over the last five years TSRC has collaborated with Southampton, Middlesex and Kent universities, and future plans include collaboration with a wider range of academic institutions in the UK and overseas. The Centre has developed a successful Honorary and Associate Research Fellow scheme, providing for collaboration and joint publication with academic and practitioner researchers. TSRC has close working links with the major sector agencies in England, and undertakes funded joint research activity with the leading agency, NCVO. It also has collaborative links with academics in the three devolved administrations (Scotland, Wales and NI), and with practice and policy agencies there (SCVO, WCVA, NICVA). TSRC researchers are active members of the main international networks (ISTR and ARNOVA), and of an EU network of researchers on third sector impact.

CHASM engages with a number of Associate Members who are researchers/practitioners in a range of institutions: Personal Financial Education Group (PFEG); Centre for Philanthropy, University of Kent; University of New South Wales; Centre for Responsible Credit; Runnymede Trust. Members of the Advisory Board also include Prof. Michael Sherraden (Washington University, St Louis); Dr. Marcin Kawinski (Warsaw School of Economics, Poland); and Sir Brian Pomeroy CBE (former Chair of HM Treasury's Financial Inclusion Taskforce).

Our research group on health and social wellbeing hosted the 7th Organisational Behaviour in Health Care conference in April 2010, attracting 150 academics from across the world and leading to an edited collection of papers on *The Reform of Health Care*. The group has also run joint seminars with Peking University in Beijing (in May and October 2012) and has carried out EU-funded research into long-term care for older people under the INTERLINKS programme.

- **Support for research collaboration/inter-disciplinary research**

The College of Social Sciences has provided funding for inter-disciplinary research collaboration through its Advanced Social Sciences Collaborative (ASSC). For example, CHASM received funding from ASSC and the University's North Atlantic Travel Fund to pay for five leading US academics to travel to Birmingham in 2011 for a three-day programme of events on asset-based welfare. ASSC has also supported development of an inter-disciplinary research group on families with the School of Education, a think-tank on a Beveridge Report for the 21st century with the Birmingham Business School, and research on lessons from East Europe and East Asia for NGOs in the UK with the School of Government and Society.

- **Existing networks or collaborations with third sector, industry etc**

We have an extensive range of networks with the third sector, industry and government. These not only help us to achieve impact but also to design and implement more rigorous research by giving us access to key groups and knowledge about the most up-to-date issues facing key stakeholders. Colleagues facilitate the delivery of a range of research-based master classes and courses for managers and practitioners in Children's Services through the Public Services Academy, and also work with the Adults Services, developing education and development programmes.

TSRC has collaborative links with all the major third sector infrastructure agencies across the UK, most of which are active members of the Advisory Board and Reference Groups. The Centre regularly organises joint conferences, seminars and training events for policy makers and practitioners, and holds policy circle briefing meetings with government officers.

- **Academic collaborations and indicators of success**

Our academic collaborations have been successful in terms of raising research income and producing high quality publications and impact. For example, Martin Powell has been awarded grants in collaboration with academics in other universities to study health reforms (funded by the King's Fund) and current NHS staff satisfaction (with Sheffield University and Glasgow Caledonian, funded by NIHR). Iestyn Williams was a collaborator on a project (disinvestment in health care) funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research, led by Professor Craig Mitton from University of British Columbia). Robert Page has spent time at Harvard University and in Sweden. Nathan Hughes has recently received Marie Curie funding for a three year fellowship in social policy and neuro-science at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Melbourne. Denise Tanner and Rosemary Littlechild carried out collaborative research with academics at Queen's University, Belfast to evaluate the impact of service user and carer involvement in teaching. Russell Mannion is Visiting Professor at the Universities of Oslo, Bocconi and New South Wales.

- **Events**

We organise a series of well-attended research seminars and meetings within and without the School, including:

- ESRC Festival of Social Science events. For example, we organised an event to discuss Islamophobia "Faith in the City" in the Green Lane Masjid (Mosque), Small Heath in 2011. In 2013 we are hosting "Conversations about Religion & Diversity" based around the premise of five days, five conversations, five different locations across the city. These include the new

Environment template (REF5)

library, a church, a gurdwara and an independent coffee shop. These are informal conversation based events that seek to break the barrier between the public and academia. In addition, we have organised a number of other events in collaboration with external agencies, such as ENVISON (2010), INVOLVE (2011), and Birmingham Voluntary Services Council (2013).

- Doctoral Researchers were involved in producing a film on 'New Brummies' in March 2009, to illustrate our research on migration to the city
- There are formal and informal School and research group-based seminars with external speakers, postgraduate research student seminars, and research half-days to discuss our approach to research.

TSRC and CHASM have monthly seminars with internal and invited speakers. TSRC also runs a seminar series in London at NCVO offices, and has hosted two major national conferences in collaboration with the British Library. The Centre has recently led a national 'Futures Dialogue' on the state of the sector, the report from which was launched at the All Party Parliamentary Group in the House of Commons in 2013. Pete Alcock organised and led the Social Science President's Seminar at the 2012 Festival of Science in Bradford.

- **Journal editorship**

Staff are involved in journal editorship for most of the key journals in our field: Denise Tanner, Assistant Editor, *Journal of Social Work*; Jenny Phillimore, *Journal of Social Policy* Editorial Board; Sue White, Editor-in-Chief of *Child and Family Social Work*; Martin Powell, Editor of *Social Policy and Administration* (until December 2012); Iestyn Williams, Associate Editor for *Health and Social Care in the Community* and *Journal of Health Organisation and Management*; Pete Alcock, Assistant Editor of *Voluntary Sector Review* and Chair of the Editorial Management Board; Jon Glasby, Robin Millar and Helen Dickinson, editors of the *Journal of Integrated Care*; Richard Ronald new editor of the *Journal of International Housing Policy*.

- **Contributions to learned societies**

We are active in a number of learned societies. Pete Alcock, Jon Glasby, Karen Rowlingson and Sue White are elected members of the Academy of Social Sciences. Karen Rowlingson was, and Simon Pemberton currently is, an elected member of the Social Policy Association Executive Committee. Karen Rowlingson was Vice Chair of the ESRC's Research Committee and Chair of its Grants Delivery Group 2010-2012 following two years as member of Research Grants Board. She was also co-author of the NORFACE tender on 'welfare state futures' with Bruno Palier (Paris Science Po) and Keith Banting (Canada) and she chaired a panel for the Academy of Finland's call for proposals on debt. Russell Mannion is on the NIHR HS & D Research Programme Commissioning Board. David Mullins is an elected member of the Coordination Committee of the European Network of Housing Researchers (ENHR). John Doling and Richard Ronald are coordinators of a working group on home ownership of ENHR. Denise Tanner is a member of the British Association of Social Workers Special Interest Group on Substance Use. Iestyn Williams is secretary of the International Society on Priorities in health Care. Pete Alcock was an elected member of the Voluntary Sector Studies Network Steering Group for 6 years to 2013. Pete Alcock, Russell Mannion, Robert Page and Jenny Phillimore are Fellows of the Royal Society of Arts.

In summary, the School of Social Policy at the University of Birmingham has a vibrant, distinctive and sustainable research culture and is well placed to continue making an outstanding contribution to the discipline as it develops over the next decade.