

<p><b>Institution: Manchester Metropolitan University</b></p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment: C22- Social Work and Social Policy</b></p>
<p><b>a. Context</b> We work predominantly with public and voluntary sector bodies in the UK drawing on high quality Social work and social policy research and knowledge exchange (see REF5a ). The work addresses social issues and is applied in nature, being characterised by two-way approaches to end-user engagement and reflects some of the particular social and economic challenges within the context of the city (Manchester) and region in which it is based. User engagement and impact are reflected often in design, conduct, review and future development of projects. Our approach to building impact awareness and intelligence has been through long-term engagement with outside partners and through Institutional involvement in public engagement (NCCPE and Manchester Beacons as externally funders). The unit of assessment has 2 major groups of applied research as described in REF5. These are: Critical Disability Studies and marginalisation (CDSM), criminal justice policy innovations (CJPI) with a dedicated outward-facing unit (Policy and Evaluation Research Unit (<a href="http://www.mmuperu.co.uk">www.mmuperu.co.uk</a>) which is led by a Professor of Evaluation, recognised through an enterprise promotion route. Our two impact case studies demonstrate the impact these two groups generate. All of this research can be described as addressing the challenges of people at “the margins” of society. Researchers within this UoA are embedded within faculties, in which professional training is being undertaken, providing social work (the largest provider of UK-based training) and psychology training at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Academics within CJPI deliver mainstream sociology provision but also professional training (the Probation Qualification Framework) to Probation Trusts in the North West and some criminology provision to Greater Manchester Police. These links ensure that research is continually being embedded in professional training linking to practice. This unit also links with the Community Audit and Evaluation Centre (CAEC) – a research and development resource for charities and other groups working on youth engagement and community development issues. In tandem with CAEC, we have recently hosted and trained and first cohort of Community Organisers, funded through government and the cabinet office (<a href="http://www.mmu.ac.uk/news/news-items/1426/">http://www.mmu.ac.uk/news/news-items/1426/</a>). Recognised as an academic partner, we co-delivered the programme feeding into Big Society agenda and working within areas in Greater Manchester.</p> <p>Researchers within the unit partner alongside a variety of non-academic user groups to develop and disseminate research and impact pathways. These include, but are not limited to: Alcohol and drug service referral units (DAATs), probation trusts, prisons, police services and criminal justice professionals and commissioners, forensic teams, National Government departments, local authorities and district councils, youth groups and NGO’s concerned with the welfare and protection of young people including social workers and gang prevention teams, community legal advice centres, disability groups and local, national and international disability NGO’s, teachers, colleges and schools both in the UK and internationally, organisations concerned with the welfare and protection of economic and other migrants, those concerned with mental health and wellbeing, a wide variety of third sector and community groups including arts-based community groups focussed on health and wellbeing. The impact is also evident with the training of practitioners (probation ,forensic psychologists, social workers) through this model of engaged research.</p>
<p><b>b. Approach to impact</b> This unit has a long tradition of socially engaged research aimed at understanding and working with marginalised communities, researchers engage with end-users by following a range of different “pathways” to impact creation. All of the outputs included in the submission are the result of applied research commissioned to address relevant social and economic challenges related to social work and social policy. Generally, this research is conducted using two-way engagement and co-production methodologies that put the experiences of the end-user at the heart of the particular research question. Typically, intermediary organisations (those who are dealing with end users) are also factored into research design and costings so that trust and sustainable relationships can be established. The partnership model to research has gained an external award (Manchester Beacon Recognition Awards, 2011). The partnerships between RIHSC members (Psychology and Social Work and Social change departments) and Wai Yin Chinese Women Organisation received Beacons recognition for their partnership for collaborative research with Chinese Communities. Also, the partnership between RIHSC members (Department of Interdisciplinary Studies) at Cheshire received a Beacons award for partnership with the Cheshire, Halton and Warrington Race and Equality Centre for Schools Stand Up 2 Racism. These</p>

**Impact template (REF3a)**

examples demonstrate capacity building and conceptual use built on genuine partnership, fostered through participation.

Researchers are engaged in a wide variety of consultancy and advisory roles particularly around social work and criminal justice and crime intervention and prevention themes (see REF 5). Public engagement activity is widespread within the unit – participation in relevant city-wide and national festivals and events to disseminate and engage end-users in the research is encouraged. Runswick-Cole won ESRC funding in 2011 and 2013 to put together events as part of the annual Festival of Social Science. These events helped to broaden debate around topics like disability education and adoption involving around 200 young people, parents, disability charities and academics. Research findings are disseminated through a variety of broadcast and print media to a wider audience and there are an increasing number of examples of social media (blogs, twitter streams, youtube) being used across the unit to create interactive engagement bringing debates to a wider audience. Grech's work in Guatemala yielded a film, 'The grounded academic' to raise awareness amongst non-academic users. Funding has been devoted resource to developing filmmaking skills to facilitate novel ways of dissemination – this will enable us to generate consciousness raising approaches for impact. An innovative HEIF funded project, Urban Regeneration making a difference (URMAD) won the THES Outstanding leadership award for contribution to the community.

Researchers in this unit have developed participatory approaches to end-user engagement that typically involve research questions that are shaped and influenced by intermediary organisations and end users. Applied research funding underscores this. A jointly funded Professorial post between RIHSC and Manchester City Council, resulted in evaluation projects around Intergenerational understanding and Manchester Partnerships with older people (POPP). An example of partnership involvement from the question generation through to impact occurred in 2009. Joseph Rowntree Foundation commissioned MMU researchers to undertake an investigation into the experiences of migrant Chinese workers, mostly in Chinese catering and hospitality businesses. A genuine two-way partnership was formed with a cultural organisation that understood the particular needs of this group and co-produced research with the Wai-Yin Chinese Women Society in Manchester. Research funding in the criminal justice area is generally "won" from commissioning bodies (e.g. Home Office, probation trusts, prisons and DAATs) that are seeking to develop and shape evidence-informed policy that will have a local, national and international social and economic impact. This approach has enabled long-term relationships and various consultancy and advisory roles to be secured for key research staff from within the unit (see CS2). The submitted researchers have been involved in leading institutional approaches to university-community engagement and impact generation for some time., Professor Kagan (returned) is a founding member of the University's Community Group (2007 onwards) – a community of practice that brings together academics, research support managers and administrators to share approaches to engagement and impact with external community organisations. Practice within the unit has also been instrumental in shaping approaches to evaluation and engagement as part of MMU's role in the HEFCE, RCUK and Wellcome Trust-funded Manchester Beacon for Public Engagement project. As part of these efforts, every Head of Department in subjects allied to the unit now includes support for public and community engagement in their job descriptions. To facilitate culture shift, MMU has initiated reward and recognition mechanisms such as professoriate promotions and annual contribution zone increments were changed in 2008 to include routes for Knowledge Exchange, Academic Enterprise and Public Engagement. Indeed, Fox's impact generation work was acknowledged in this way - through an enterprise promotion to Professor of Evaluation. The two Research Institutes involved in this submission have dedicated funding to support engagement activities and events, run annual conferences and produce seminar themes to help researchers to develop engagement skills. Researchers within the unit work alongside central institutional services to help plan, promote and deliver Knowledge Exchange and impact generating activities. Research groups rely on the support of locally-based business development managers who help to promote links to external organisations, there are research development managers and key account managers with specialist remits that support the group to prepare proposals and develop relationships.

## Impact template (REF3a)

**c. Strategy and plans** The impact agenda is embedded within Research Institute and faculty strategic plans and was underpinned by strategy outlined in REF2008. This strategy is enacted in the following ways: **Active research relationships with key constituencies**-across the research groupings (existing and developing) we create conditions for research that embed pathways to impact into projects from the outset. Within the Critical Disability Studies and Marginalization group, projects are necessarily undertaken with end users as collaborators. In many cases, these sponsorships grow out of earlier research relationships (from PhD onwards) and a number of impact partner workshops, which are developmental for collaborators and set clear agendas for future working. The work of CJPI arises from sustained networks with practitioners and policy makers. **Taking research into public and policy arenas** – academics sit formally as trustees and advisors on a range of bodies (criminal justice, community groups and north west health agencies/Boards.) This strategy, alongside a conscious approach to partnership working, enables those outside the academy to be involved in the design, planning and conduct of the research. **Formal mechanisms** There are clear faculty plans, which support innovative public and community engagement tied to the Birley fields move. The appointment of a project manager within IHSSR (Humanities faculty) supports public dissemination. Workshops and dissemination around impact are open to all staff and the annual staff development review includes exploration of RKE activity. At a corporate level, the new RKE strategy emphasises impact and focuses on contemporary research agendas that deal with ‘grand challenges’. The planned move to the community-facing campus at Birley fields is important in terms of cementing old partnerships and developing new ones. A public engagement manager has been appointed strategically to oversee activity and enable collaboration between the university and the community. **Future Strategy** :Beyond the REF we aspire to build on the ongoing impact activity which is central to ethical research, alongside finding innovative ways to capture impact, which do not utilise partners’ resources. A recently funded project (ESRC Big Society and Learning Difficulties, Co-I Lawthom, Runswick-Cole) has adopted an innovative model of co-funding impact whereby civil society partners including advocacy groups and disability organizations are getting funded time to act as impact champions.

**d. Relationship to case studies** Each of the groups described in the context make a significant contribution to the generation of impacts but specialisms do exist. The case studies show the ways in which this collaborative approach to impact is enacted. **CS1- ‘Influencing policy and service provision for disabled children and their families in the UK**– shows ways in which collaborative research can generate high quality research and impact from the outset. The primary impact is improving quality of life for disabled children and families, through changed service provision. The secondary impact is around policy change and cultural shift. The research activity alongside public engagement and dissemination enabled non-academic experts to advise and shape research from the outset and during the projects. Academics alongside press officers generated media releases and delivered user focused conferences and downloadable resources. Social media (blogs, twitter and Youtube films) have been utilised and a parent activist was appointed as Honorary researcher to RIHSC. Active research relationships between academics, charity organizations and others evidence successful ways of working in engaged participatory ways. (CS2) **Manchester Metropolitan University’s impact on the policy and practice of commissioning offender rehabilitation** has developed incrementally through a series of applied research and consultancy projects and the development of a new undergraduate module offered to criminology and economics students. The primary impact is to change the understandings and behaviours of service commissioners and service providers in the criminal justice system. The secondary impact is around wider criminal justice policy change and cultural shift. Central to the credibility of the research in the eyes of service commissioners and providers and policy-makers was the mixed method approach that ran through the series of research projects bringing together quantitative and qualitative social science methodologies and engaging with a range of mid-level theories. The researchers were also able to produce findings that have had direct application to current issues thrown up by the government’s Rehabilitation Revolution by drawing on pertinent social and economic theory to interpret empirical findings.