

<p>Institution: University of the West of England, Bristol</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 22 - Social Work and Social Policy</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>Users of the research of Social Work/Social Policy (SWSP) at UWE, Bristol are primarily drawn from public agencies and the third sector, particularly the NHS and environmental organisations. The research of this UOA has influenced, i) professional practice including therapeutic child care, the development of children and family services, the management of sexual offenders and health care practice (Centre for Understanding Social Practices, CUSP, and Institute for Sustainability, Health and Environment, ISHE); ii) organisational policies and practices including the approach of schools to food and of prisons to the health of prisoners (ISHE); iii) macro-level policies such as the Government's responsibility for the promotion of responsible body images for young people (Centre for Appearance Research, CAR).</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>The themes of user empowerment, advocacy and participatory approaches to governance and research are key to SWSP. Knowledge exchange and partnering activities are central to UWE and are considered as part of staff annual personal development review and promotion. This commitment to participatory research is evidenced by initiatives such as i) Strategic approach to involving Service Users and Carers in Research (SUCIR) in health and social care; ii) Established in 2009, Social Science in the City (hls.uwe.ac.uk/research/ssc.aspx), organises a programme of public seminars in Bristol's cafes and provide a two-way public engagement vehicle for our work; iii) Co-hosting, with the University of Bristol, of the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE). UWE is a signatory to the NCCPE Manifesto for Public Engagement. Because the Centres and Institutes involved in SWSP have a social mission, over the years they have developed rich networks, contacts and collaborations with the world of practice. This has provided the foundation for the following four approaches to impact that have been pursued by the Unit during this period, the first two of which are particularly important.</p> <p><i>Impact through Partnerships.</i> The development of partnerships and links with stakeholders is central to SWSP. ISHE has a network of 750+ organisations which benefit from the health and environment related research of this Unit. Ongoing links with partners are sustained through their involvement in stakeholder conferences, research fora, Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programmes, the ISHE Advisory Board (chaired by Jonathon Porritt). These partners include South West Public Health Observatory, South West Strategic Alliance for Healthy Workplaces, Bristol Health Partners, and Bristol City Council Health Improvement Partnership. High impact research partnerships (featured in the Orme and Daykin case studies) are also evidenced by: •ISHE's commitment to Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs), e.g. Powell with the Severn Deanery has remodelled the quality assurance of selection and training of general practitioners across the South West Region. •In partnership with INVOLVE the impact of engaging the public and practitioners in the design and conduct of research has been explored by Powell (with Evans submitted to UOA3) in the first study of its kind funded by NIHR. •Research funding from NHS Bristol enabled De Viggiani to work with HMP Bristol in the development of public health/health promotion performance indicators throughout the prison. De Viggiani's papers in the <i>Prison Service Journal</i> and <i>Public Health</i>, include examples of performance indicators that prisons can use and provides prisons with methodologies for conducting health impact, equity and needs assessments.</p> <p><i>Impact by Engaging Practitioners.</i> There has been a strong emphasis on engaging practitioners in areas such as the prevention of domestic abuse and sexual offending, young people's participation, psycho-social interventions in therapeutic child care, and conflict transformation. Salmon's (2011) unique five year follow up study of the Bristol Pregnancy and Domestic Violence Programme (which promotes routine enquiry amongst health professionals) demonstrated that those trained in this method continued to use it effectively five years after the initial educational intervention. Percy-Smith is a founder of the international Children and Young People's Participation Learning network. He has been involved in working with partners to build cultures of participation and embed young people's involvement in research and the development of children's services as well as evolving innovative uses of action inquiry engaging practitioner partners and service users in service evaluation and improvement.</p> <p>Strong links between psycho-social researchers (Hoggett P, Crociani-Windland, Frost) and</p>

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practitioners has generated a dense network of research/practice interactions. These include the Mulberry Bush School (www.mulberrybush.org.uk), nationally renowned for its innovative work with Looked After Children, the Camphill Community (www.camphill.org.uk) which provides residential care for adults with severe learning and emotional difficulties and the 'Know How Centre for Alternative Child Care' (www.knowhowcentre.org) in Bulgaria. Many regional practitioners are part of a 'learning community' run by the psycho-social group within CUSP which meets four times a year. CUSP has embedded practice links through a network of Visiting Fellows. Hen Wilkinson is the founder and Director of the NGO *Community Resolve* which has a national reputation for its work in transforming community conflict in Britain's urban communities. She was awarded an ESRC Third Sector Fellowship in 2012 to enhance the knowledge exchange process with CUSP. Another Visiting Fellow Adrian Tait, a Transition activist, has established the UK NGO 'Climate Psychology Alliance' (www.climatepsychologyalliance.org), a national network (chaired by **Hoggett P**) of climate change activists, eco-psychologists and therapists concerned to deepen understanding of human responses to climate change.

Research within SWSP has also been strongly oriented towards provision of practitioner guidance. Much of **McCartan's** research has focused on public and policy makers' understandings of sexual offending and sexual offender management. In 2012 **McCartan** obtained an ESRC Knowledge Exchange Award to build on this research. This collaborative project involves eleven local, regional (particularly N. Ireland) and national community groups, NGOs and government agencies. With colleagues in Law, **McCartan** has developed a Sexual Violence Network, a website for practitioners listing recent research on sexual violence, a myths dispelled section and links to relevant contacts (see uwe.ac.uk/hls/research/sexoffenderpublicdisclosure.aspx).

Impact through Use of the Media. Through its research in appearance and disfigurement-related issues CAR has attracted considerable media interest and it has strategically exploited this opportunity to achieve impact on clinical professionals and policy makers. CAR has provided support and training to its researchers in the use of the media, including the popular press and fashion media, to ensure that research findings are effectively translated for different professional groups and publics. It has also made extensive use of social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) in its interface with the public, many of whom are young people concerned about body image issues. Each year, researchers in CAR carry out a variety of public engagement activities including events at science cafés and science festivals, including the Cheltenham Festival of Science and Dorchester Science Festival. Members including **Halliwell** and **Diedrichs** have worked with an award-winning science centre, Explore@Bristol, to utilise their research to produce an interactive exhibit that challenges stereotypical judgements of others on the basis of appearance. The centre attracts more than 400,000 visitors per year, including more than 50,000 school and group visits.

Impact through Influence on Policy. The strategic decision of ISHE to involve policy makers in the dissemination events of some major SWSP projects has been effective in influencing policy in areas such as rural ageing, food in schools and active travel in communities. To take the latter as an example, the co-benefits of improved health and reduced carbon emissions identified in **Powell's** iConnect research (see REF5) have been publicised by the European Commission Science for Environment Policy. A final conference disseminated all the findings to an influential audience of policy makers integrating health and built environment policy and practice. Linked to this, an EPSRC-funded iConnect project has evaluated the impact of Sustrans Connect2 interventions in 79 UK communities. iConnect findings demonstrating the importance of connecting communities to promote active travel has impacted on Sustrans lobbying for a change in the law. The Welsh Government's Active Travel Bill has placed a legal duty on councils to create a network of routes for walking and cycling, and will require them to continuously improve it.

Another innovative ISHE project led by **Orme** and commissioned by the Department of Health through the Social Care Institute for Excellence provided an analysis of the policy context for sustainability in the social care sector. This project focused national attention on this neglected area by instigating the first national conference on Sustainable Social Care, a House of Lords seminar and accessible web information: www.scie.org.uk/adults/sustainable-social-care/index.asp.

c. Strategy and plans

The Unit's future impact strategy builds on previously successful approaches (as described in section b) and has two key themes:

Mechanism to support the achievement of impact. At a strategic level, Business Engagement and

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Public and Community Engagement are led by the PVC for Research and Business Engagement with Faculty input at Associate Dean level. The Unit strategy for impact is linked to the University plans and the Faculty Impact Strategy. It draws on the existing expertise among SWSP members and support from the RBI team, to facilitate research with external collaborators (see Section b). RBI hosts a Knowledge Exchange community of practice in which SWSP is represented by **Diedrichs**. This academic staff network shares good practice in different types of stakeholder engagement across the University. RBI is developing its existing Client Relationship Management system to aid identification and sharing of potential collaborators. A Business Development Manager will be appointed to facilitate engagement with the private sector across the Faculty and SWSP will work to build upon the recent success of **Diedrichs** in obtaining funding from a large multinational company in support of the development of impact from her research. The Unit will invest its Higher Education Innovation Fund 2011-2015 allocation and provide dedicated time for stakeholder engagement activities to support the development of impact.

Plans for supporting impact. SWSP will continue to drive impact through its three Research Centres engendering a greater exchange of learning using the particular strengths and distinctive approaches of each - through partnerships, through communities of practice, through use of the media and through influencing policy. An Impact Champion who understands the research strengths and opportunities for external users to benefit from our research, will be appointed to work with RBI to support SWSP. Their main responsibilities will be to ensure: 1) delivery of impact awareness sessions for new staff and PGR students; 2) workshops run to encourage and support researchers to engage with end-users and the public; 3) mechanisms are developed to maximise and capture evidence of impact; 4) excellent impact case studies are developed for the next REF. Advances in impact awareness have already been made but further developments to build upon the achievements from the current strategy are needed and this has been taken up in the Faculty Impact Strategy and Action Plan. There are three objectives in the coming period:

1. To ensure that all best practice is shared and spread across the Unit: for example, stakeholder-based Steering Groups (ISHE, CAR); the Visiting Fellowship system (CUSP); innovative use of the new media technologies (CAR); linking research with CPD programmes (ISHE); and maximising the effectiveness of knowledge exchange e.g. through Making Research Count which UWE coordinates in the south west. www.uwe.ac.uk/research/makingresearchcount
2. To embed impact within all aspects of the research process. All research staff will receive training in impact and public engagement. Staff will be encouraged to write a 'pathways to impact' statement in parallel with the research application. This statement will become a 'living' document from the start of the research programme.
3. To consolidate support mechanisms for a range of impact oriented activities including: training and advice; delivering CPD linked to client organisation programmes; and systematic approaches to the evaluation of the impact of research. SWSP staff will work increasingly closely with UWE Marketing and Communications to generate timely and targeted press releases and social media (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, blogs) coverage of research and its impact, as well as ensuring that stakeholder dialogue with researchers is captured. RBI will facilitate collation of activities leading to, as well as evidence of, impact. Some of these plans are already taking shape. Impact will be celebrated as part of the Faculty culture (including events open to external audiences). The first Faculty Impact Day was held in October 2013 and this successful event will be further developed in future years.

d. Relationship to case studies

The **Diedrichs** study shows imaginative use of the popular media to disseminate research findings on body image whilst challenging the media to question its stereotypical use of such images in fashion and other areas. The **Orme** and **Salmon** case study illustrates the critical importance of a strong partnership (the Soil Association), engagement of practitioners (The Brook Sexual Health Outreach Service in Schools) and engagement with policymakers through conferences attended by key politicians. The **Daykin** study demonstrates involving user organisations in the underpinning research, including via a KTP, and practitioners in the evaluation of interventions, and delivering CPD workshops through organisations and conferences to achieve impact in society.