

<p><b>Institution: Nottingham Trent University</b></p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment: C22 Social Work and Social Policy</b></p>
<p><b>a. Context</b></p> <p>Research within UoA 22 being applied in nature, shapes knowledge and influences policy and practice through three significant thematic groups: (1) <i>Social welfare, exclusion and identity</i>; (2) <i>Crime and criminal justice</i>; and (3) <i>Engaging and responding to risk</i>. Impact is a deliberate and conscious component of all our research activities, and is achieved through our long established expertise in engaging with non-academic user groups. Our research impact varies in its reach (international, national and local), and is evidenced through how it <i>influences public policy and services, informs practitioners and standards, and contributes to positive health and wellbeing</i>. Our work challenges and shapes social policy and social work and a range of stakeholders are active partners in the design, delivery and dissemination of our research. Examples of policy beneficiaries include national government departments (Home Office, Justice, Health, Education, Communities and Local Government, Northern Ireland Executive, Cabinet Office), national professional or subject bodies (National Youth Agency, Children’s Workforce Development Council, National Children’s Bureau, Homeless Link, Chartered Institute for Environmental Health) as well as local and regional government departments and agencies. The Unit’s members also work directly with police forces, crime and disorder reduction partnerships, prisons, NHS healthcare services, youth services, social services and other public service delivery organisations. Key beneficiaries of, and partners in, our work are both practitioners and policy makers across a range of human welfare services, and the wider public. International collaborations are also prominent in the work of the Unit, evidenced through research and practitioner networks (e.g. <b>Tseloni</b> – policy development within various European countries; <b>Wahidin</b> and <b>Chan’s</b> comparative work with five East Asian universities).</p>
<p><b>b. Approach to impact</b></p> <p><b>A strategic commitment to delivering ‘real world’ orientated research:</b> UoA 22 sits within a multi-disciplinary School of Social Sciences whose overarching aim is to influence and enrich the lives of communities through its staff, students and graduates. Longstanding and significant work by two of the Unit’s members has resulted in challenges to orthodoxies around responses to crime. <b>Tseloni’s</b> studies on crime incidences and trends challenged victimisation risk factors based on the dichotomy of victim/non-victim and socio-economic attributes of interest (<b>Case Study One</b>). Collaborating with external policy partners, <b>Tseloni’s</b> seminal work examined the entire distribution of crime incidents (rather than the dichotomy of victim/non-victim) over contextual and individual risk factors nationally (England and Wales), and cross-nationally (USA and Greece). It also distinguished between the mediated and direct associations of crime experience and related outcomes, such as fear of crime or punitiveness. <b>Tseloni</b> sat on crime and justice statistics committees together with such data producers; disseminated through conferences with practitioners; worked with the Home Office BCS Unit; and produced articles in practitioners’ newsletters. <b>Sutton’s</b> seminal Market Reduction Approach (MRA) is now well established, having first emerged during his time as a Senior Researcher at the Home Office in the late 1990s. He led the first research project which applied the MRA concept to theft. Numerous studies followed, and close collaboration with a number of police forces (e.g. Kent, West Mercia, and Nottinghamshire) has resulted in the application of his findings into practice. Alongside traditional academic outputs and engagement with the professional field, <b>Sutton</b> uses social media (including public blogs and twitter) to disseminate his work to a wider audience. Both <b>Tseloni</b> and <b>Sutton</b> have international reach with key policy reports citing and advocating their approaches. Elsewhere, <b>Bowpitt’s</b> sustained research has brought a new focus upon tackling multiply excluded homeless households and individuals (<b>Case Study Two</b>). His research, in partnership with Framework Housing Association (Nottingham) and Thames Reach (London), has explored the problem of rough sleepers, and evaluated the effectiveness of policy responses to the issues of mental illness, drug dependency and alcoholism amongst the homeless. As well as contributing to the undertaking of this research, homelessness agencies and the homeless themselves have been key targets in the</p>

dissemination of research findings.

**Stakeholder engagement:** Our commitment to 'real world' social science research translates into senior management support and resources for staff to engage with a wide range of international, national and local user groups (e.g. National Offender Management Service, Metropolitan Police, Homeless Link, HMP Whatton, Nottingham City Council's Early Intervention Partnership, National Youth Agency). The School gives equal priority to staff attendance and presentation at non-academic conferences, practitioner meetings and networks alongside engagement with traditional academic audiences. Funding achieved through previous RAE outcomes has also enabled the employment of two part time research professors (**Holdaway** [Criminology], **Dingwall** [Sociology]) who act in an advisory and mentorship capacity, encouraging new and established researchers to develop their impact profiles. For example, **Holdaway** has worked extensively with criminology researchers to connect them to various police services and bodies to ensure translation of emerging research. In its wider commitment to public engagement, the University has enabled staff to host a number of practitioner and policy making events. Two recent examples (in 2013) include a regional British Sociological Association (BSA)/Higher Education Academy (HEA) event linking researchers with School/FE college subject teachers, and a national practitioner conference on the legalisation of cannabis, funded in part by the NHS.

Much emphasis is placed on strengthening the link between research and organisations involved in the delivery of public services. This includes allocating resources to ensure the University is a direct partner in the design, delivery and research of local responses to social need. For example, the Unit's members are supported to act as board members/advisers on local strategic partnerships such as the Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership (**Tseloni, Hunter and Wood [Pandya-Wood]**), and the Police Authority (**Holdaway**, until its disbandment in 2012). The School is a key partner through its provision of the research evidence base in Nottingham City Council's ambitions to consolidate and strengthen its role as an 'Early Intervention City'. The University is also a subscribing member of Nottingham Citizens (part of Citizens UK) resulting in academic staff engaging with faith groups, local health, criminal justice and welfare services, and community groups to challenge conventional approaches to democratic/community engagement. National and international reach and significance is supported through resources to attend conferences, practitioner events and staff engagement with non-academic policy networks (e.g. through funding staff membership of think tanks and other organisations including the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) and the Institute for Public Policy Research).

**A commitment to collaborative working:** Close collaboration with stakeholders ranges from the use of advisory and peer reference groups through to working with service users and professionals in the co-production of new knowledge that will impact upon policy or practice. For example, **Bailey's** work around women in prisons who self-injure involved collaboration from the outset with the Ministry of Justice's Safer Custody Team to ensure the inclusion of vital research design elements (including cost benefit analysis). The study included the use of a national expert reference group on self-harm drawing from professional expertise in prisons, primary care trusts, staff and service users. Another example of **Bailey's** work, developing the use of participatory action research (PAR) to improve services for individuals with complex needs focuses on young people with mental health needs in Nottinghamshire, has led to an ESRC funded KTP project with Nottinghamshire County Council concerning the use of PAR to improve early intervention services for children in need of safeguarding (**Bailey and Barnard**). Collaborative partnerships with central government, local police and probation services as well as a range of third sector organisations have been critical to the successful impact of **Wood's (Pandya-Wood)** work. Since 2005, he has completed four major evaluative studies linked to the community management of high risk sex and violent offenders including two national evaluations of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) which have resulted in changes to statutory guidance (see for example MAPPA Guidance 2009, 2011). In each study, partnership with key government departments was critical to the successful translation of research findings into policy and practice through an active dissemination strategy including emerging findings workshops and practitioner training across the UK.

**Utilising professional networks:** Unit members have long established relationships with key stakeholders across the health, social and criminal justice professions at local, national and

international levels. In many cases, these relationships have been strengthened by the professional backgrounds and expertise of researchers many of whom held professional careers prior to, and alongside, academic ones (e.g. **Wood [Pandya-Wood]** in youth and community; **Bailey** in social work and mental health workforce development; **Holdaway** in policing; **Sutton** in the Home Office). Policy impact has also been facilitated through a number of staff holding advisory roles on external bodies (police authorities, third sector organisations and national charities). In addition, members have submitted evidence to appropriate select committees and inquiries that have resulted in policy recommendations. For example, **Wood's (Pandya-Wood)** appearance before the Education Select Committee resulted in a further advisory role to the shadow youth services minister as well as enabling one local authority to develop plans for delivering a 'Gold Standard Youth Service'. **Bailey** was commissioned to write the briefing paper on mental health education and training for the specialist inquiry into the future of mental health services commissioned by the Mental Health Foundation in 2013. **Bailey's** contribution resulted in the introduction of new roles such as Support Time and Recovery workers; more service user involvement in policy and planning; changed content of national training programmes; and the configuration of mental health teams and services.

**c. Strategy and plans**

The Unit is committed to adopting a strategic approach to strengthening impact through maximising opportunities for engagement with service user groups, policy and practice stakeholders, and the wider public. To this end, the Unit will:

- Continue to build strategic partnerships with local and national policy and practitioner bodies, working closely with government officials and elected members to relate applied social science research to social, political, civic and crime related challenges.
- Pilot and develop innovative public engagement activities, including: active membership of Nottingham Citizens; introducing 'public' sociology/criminology modules and Masters degrees designed to link student and academic research with neighbourhood needs; academics working 'in residence' in neighbourhoods and with local organisations; a commitment to pursuing bids that partner external policy makers and practitioners with academics and students; using 'Notts TV' to produce local television programmes engaging with social science research; hosting election hustings events and other public engagement activities;

Build on its commitment to participatory action and co-production approaches to research, securing an increasingly active role for beneficiaries in the research process. A number of oral history projects are underway locally and nationally which will promote knowledge exchange and social action. The appointment in 2013 of new Visiting Fellows (e.g. **Fleming**) with expertise in social action will enhance this work.

**d. Relationship to case studies**

The two case-studies presented with this submission (**Case Study One: Crime drop, security and victimisation; Case Study Two: Tackling multiple exclusion homelessness**) offer two distinctive examples of the Unit's approach to impact. They exemplify a commitment to embedding mutually beneficial and sustainable partnerships between academia, policy makers and practitioners. They have been selected to demonstrate variations in 'reach' (**Bowpitt**, local and regional; **Tseloni**, national and international) and also show difference in how impact has been realised in terms of their depth of significance. **Bowpitt's** work demonstrates how, after a period of small scale evaluative research projects, a partnership between **Bowpitt** and Framework Housing resulted in the successful ESRC award under the 'multiple exclusion homelessness' research programme that led to a number of nationally significant policy impacts. **Tseloni's** work involved extensive collaboration with government departments to ensure that appropriate methodologies were used to capture and analyse statistical data relating to crime. The significance of this work is in its challenge to orthodoxy, and numerous national/international policy reports now cite this work as an authoritative source.