

Impact template (REF3a)

<p>Institution: University of Hull</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: C22: Social Work and Social Policy</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>Social scientists at Hull seek to have a positive impact through our research on the life conditions and experiences of individuals and communities, variously identifying and addressing problems at global, local and individual levels. In order to facilitate this, engagement with end users is an established part of our research strategy and approach, as evidenced in our RAE 2008 RA5 statement, ‘Engagement with end-users, including the participation of service users in the research process, is actively encouraged’. The main users and beneficiaries of our research have been and continue to be: policy makers; public and third sector professionals; users of health and social care services and other human services clients; voluntary and community organisations.</p> <p>Research is conducted within 5 thematic clusters: Criminology and Criminal Justice; Gender and Sexualities; Globalisation, Power and Post-Colonialism; Health, Well-being and Social Inclusion; Culture, Religion and Society. These themes are reflected in 7 research centres, mostly hosted and directed from within the UOA, but with cross-faculty and/or University membership: the <i>Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCCJ)</i> ; the <i>Centre for Gender Studies (CGS)</i>; the <i>Centre for Applied Research and Evaluation (CARE)</i> ; the <i>Centre for the Study of Social Justice in a Globalizing World (CSJGW)</i>; the <i>Centre for Spirituality Studies (CSS)</i>; the <i>Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation (WISE)</i>; the <i>Centre for End of Life Studies (CELS)</i> (for further information on research centres see http://www2.hull.ac.uk/fass/social-sciences/research.aspx).</p> <p>Interdisciplinary membership of these centres has facilitated innovative approaches to research questions of relevance and concern for the 4 groups of end users identified above, and produced a broad range of significant impacts whose reach extends from particular groups of people in one locale to larger national and international populations.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>A focus on impact and the pathways to achieving impact is embedded in our research culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Centres invite participation from non-academic users; e.g. the Centre for Spirituality Studies has a flourishing associate membership, many of whom are not academics, from local and national communities of interest as well as international associate members linked with non-academic users of research in their own countries; • The School of Social Sciences regularly hosts workshops and conferences involving both academic and non-academic users of research; for example, the Gender Studies 25th Anniversary Lecture in 2012 (distinguished guest the broadcaster Jenny Murray) provided a vibrant public engagement opportunity; • Using seedcorn funding to strengthen engagement with end-users; for example, University strategic research funding of £50k was used by CELS to undertake a scoping exercise with non-academic users, nationally and locally; the faculty strategic research fund was used for a pilot study which led to a successful grant application to Lupus UK. • Funding individuals (in whole or part, through School and Faculty monies) to attend conferences and events where the focus is knowledge exchange between academic and non-academic users; • Encouraging applications and participation in knowledge transfer schemes; e.g. an ESRC Knowledge Transfer Project with Hull City Council on restorative justice development, a BIG lottery grant funded project on restorative justice experience and a Goodwin Development Trust funded study of Reducing Reoffending through Employment Evaluation – has led to the

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development and implementation of restorative justice programmes in the Humber region.

- Allowing researchers to use study leave and secondments to develop relationships with and engage in consultancy and advisory roles with non-academic partners; for example, Holloway has been seconded 0.4% since 2009 to the National End of Life Care Programme; Cooper has qualified as a Youth Worker and undertaken placements in youth work agencies in which he has also undertaken research; Burton chairs the Hull Domestic Violence Forum and is undertaking a PhD in this field.

Working with the University's Enterprise Centre to apply research ideas to practice communities – e.g. the use of HEIF funding to develop training packages for funeral professionals.

c. Strategy and plans

Our Strategy is built around 3 core aims to enhance the impact of our research:

1. Raising public awareness and debate

Researchers in CSJSI and WISE work in partnership with campaigning bodies to raise public awareness of issues relating to slavery, emancipation, social justice and human rights and press for legislative and policy change. In addition to Bales' work, Craig and Wilkinson have investigated gangmasters, trafficking, and the exploitation of migrant labour and, with Oxfam, have contributed to broader campaigning on poverty. We actively engage with non-academic partners in the dissemination and take-up of findings, for example, with Russian civilian groups concerning the Police service and with the UK funerals industry. We have enhanced the communication of our research through re-launching the social sciences research newsletter as 'Research Matters' in 2010, with a view to communicating to a wider audience both the intellectual developments and wider public impacts of research that we do, research newsflashes on the School of Social Sciences website, as well as dedicated websites for individual projects to communicate ongoing findings. These initiatives prompt regular responses from the wider public. The School played a leading role in the ESRC Festival of Social Science, hosting a number of events attracting the general public, for example the very successful temporary exhibition in the city centre Ferens Art Gallery and the Spurnhead Lighthouse, *21st Century Lives: Local and Global Stories*, which portrayed the relevance of social sciences research to current lives, both in the local and the global context and the impact such research can have on the policies and decisions that affect everyday living.

2. Contributing to policy and practice development

Focusing on important areas of policy our research has drawn out the implications for practice and developed research-based practice tools. As well as the case studies, our examples are numerous and wide-ranging. Brennan's research into alcohol and harm prevention has been cited in the UK Government's 2012 Alcohol Strategy and World Health Organization policy documents on a European harm reduction strategy in 2010 and 2012; Yar advised the Home Office's Cyber-Crime Research Unit on its 2012 scoping study and subsequently participated in a workshop to explore and develop mechanisms for knowledge exchange between the National Crime Agency and academic research community; researchers in CCCJ have developed the Restorative Services Development Tool and Green has contributed to training materials and events in the use of the tool to enable Hull CC to achieve its aim of becoming a restorative city; Marsden and White (CARE) produced an Abuse in Care 'toolkit', currently being employed in a DH-funded pilot exercise across 5 community teams in Devon and Dundee; Revell has developed from ongoing research a 'safeguarding' training programme delivered in partnership with NE Lincolnshire Council and Lincolnshire Safeguarding Board.

3. *Directly benefitting service users*

In addition to the above, engagement with users of care services throughout the research process is critical to our strategy of maximising the benefits for those service users. CARE has an ongoing 'reach-out' programme and works closely with service users and their carers on predominantly commissioned projects to ensure that its research addresses their concerns – e.g. on safeguarding issues for older adults in nursing homes commissioned by the Birmingham Safeguarding Board. We have also extended existing partnerships with service users and carers into the research domain. For example, in 2009 the 50-strong Social Work Programme User/Carer Advisory Group, in partnership with Holden, completed research, funded by the GSCC, exploring the quality outcomes of their involvement in social work training at Hull. A key output was a national conference hosted by the group in July 2013 and the development of training materials co-produced with Skills for Care is ongoing to disseminate Hull's leading-edge expertise in social work training partnership working. A working group is looking at the training requirements to enable service users to extend their advisory brief to the School's research – e.g. by contributing to ethical scrutiny.

Support is provided for individual researchers to increase user engagement and maximize impact. For example, the social science research away day held in May 2012 foregrounded 'impact' as a central component of the research cycle from initial stages of research development and grant applications through to analysis and dissemination. We regularly plan events and seminar series which bring together academic and policy and practice expertise; for example, discussions are underway with the Cumberland Lodge Foundation to host an event entitled 'Living and Dying Well with Dementia'. The School is keen to host placements and visits from outside academia in our research centres; e.g. Dr Frederick Craigie, a clinical psychologist from the Maine Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency in 2012.

d. **Relationship to case studies**

The 3 case studies included in this submission have both grown from and continue to inform the UOA's overall approach to impact across all 3 aims. Specifically, Case study 1 exemplifies the first aim and Case studies 2 and 3, aims 2 and 3. They relate to the key research themes pursued across the School and the researchers are core members of research centres.

Case study 1 (Bales: *Freeing Slaves*) is at the heart of the theme of *Globalisation, Power and Post-Colonialism* and exemplifies pursuit of the global social issue of contemporary slavery through state power structures and legislature. Bales works alongside colleagues in the Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation who, in conjunction with the Centre for the Study of Social Justice in a Globalizing World, have focused on local, regional and UK-wide manifestations of contemporary slavery and its attendant evils.

Case study 2 (Holloway: *Living and Dying Well*) belongs firmly to the body of research conducted within the themes of 'Health, Well-being and Social Inclusion' and 'Culture, Religion and Society', taking these insights into the policy-making and practice implementation arenas. Holloway is Director of the Centre for Spirituality Studies, established in 2005 and comprised of members across the University and over 50 associate members, both academic and non-academic. She is overall director of the interdisciplinary Centre for End of Life Studies which aims to achieve impact through a synergy of research, policy and practice, and education.

Case Study 3 (Walker: *Socio-cultural understanding of the HIV/AIDS epidemic*) spans the research themes of 'Health, Well-being and Social Inclusion' and 'Gender and Sexualities' and Walker is active in the Centre for Gender Studies. The case study exemplifies another strand within the School, of using research to achieve impact in professional education and training.