

Institution: University of Portsmouth

Unit of Assessment: 22 Social Work and Social Policy

a. Context

Research within this UoA is grouped under the thematic of *Criminology and Social and Criminal Justice* (CSCJ). CSCJ brings together 24 staff from four academic departments: the Institute of Criminal Justice Studies (ICJS) (16), the School of Law (4), the Department of Psychology (3) and the School of Social, Historical and Literary Studies (1).

Our research is organised in **three Research Clusters** that provide academic leadership and are the focal points for developing quality research that underpins the key activities that relate to impact. They provide the broader academic framework and support for the development of Specialist Centres. The **three Specialist Centres** act as key agents for the delivery of impact. The Centres are different in style and purpose and all are externally focused, undertaking a range of activities with a variety of external agencies. The Centres are designed to enhance the reach and significance of the underpinning research. Our three individual case studies are each attached to one of the Clusters; with two of the case studies also attached to Centres.

Research Clusters	Specialist Centres
<i>Policing, Crime and Investigation: PCI</i>	<i>Centre of Forensic Interviewing: CoFI</i>
<i>Risk, Security and Counter Fraud: RSCF</i>	<i>Centre for Counter Fraud Studies: CCFS</i>
<i>Youth, Crime and Social Justice: YCSJ</i>	<i>Centre for the Study of Missing Persons: CSMP</i>

CCFS is involved in research, training and ongoing knowledge exchange with a wide range of agencies including: Department for Work and Pensions, Department of Health, NHS Protect, HM Revenue and Customs, Identity and Passport Service, Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, National Fraud Authority, ACPO.

The **CoFI** is focussed on research informed interview training of police officers (and others) nationally and internationally. This research directly informs professional practice and sees practitioners becoming researchers and part of the work of the Centre.

The **CSMP** was established in 2012 both to respond to the growing interest in the field of missing persons and to provide a clear focus for collaborative research that seeks to inform policy development and professional practice. Research underway includes projects with police forces, ACPO and Missing People.

In addition to the work of the Centres there is a range of research and impact-promoting activity conducted by colleagues attached to one or more of the Clusters.

The beneficiaries of our research include a range of criminal justice, public, private and third sector agencies. Key examples of impact evidenced in our case studies include: changes to policy development in ‘Welfare to Work’ programmes (*UOP22WELFARE*); changes to police interviewing practise (*UOP22INTERVIEWING*); and changes in how victims of fraud are supported (*UOP22VICTIMS*). Central to the research undertaken by staff in this UoA is engagement with applied or real world research. There is a strong connection between what we teach, who we teach and our research expertise. Half our students (about 1000) are also practitioners within the criminal justice, private and independent security contactors and welfare systems. About a third of these students are working at postgraduate level. Their research with us is part of their continuing professional development.

b. Approach to impact

The main approaches to impact in this UoA are: (i) professional contacts and networks developed through postgraduate teaching; (ii) collaborations with international visiting scholars; (iii) public engagement through seminars and conferences jointly organised with external agencies. Our strong connections with external agencies and practitioners are important in keeping staff up-to-date, developing timely new research projects; and, in facilitating access to research sites and maximising the impact of our research.

We are invited to bid for much of our externally funded research because of our reputation and profile. We aim to be responsive to the needs of agencies trying to effect change and improvement in their services. For example, since 2008 completed externally funded collaborative research with significant relevance for impact in the **YCJS Cluster** includes: European projects on Safer Schools and Violence in Schools (Hayden and Nee, European parliament funding working with the Metropolitan Police and University of Vauban) both projects included a network of 10 European countries; resettlement of young offenders (Ellis and Hayden, YJB funding working with

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Wessex YOT) published on the YJB website; welfare to work (Dan Finn, DWP; UOP22WELFARE) published on the DWP website; the use of 'absence' for children missing from care, funded by ACPO (Shalev-Greene); a needs assessment for drug treatment at HMP Kingston (and funded by them) which was used as the basis for establishing an Integrated Drug Treatment Service (Pycroft). Current funded research projects include collaborations with two 'Troubled Families' programmes (Hayden); and research on shared parenting funded by the Nuffield Foundation (Newnham with Harding -University of Warwick) working with 5 county courts.

The scale and international reach of our postgraduate student base (over 400 postgraduate students, Masters, PhD and Prof Doc) is particularly important in relation to our approach to impact. Three-quarters (around 300) of our postgraduate students are part-time and are working in professional roles. They are keen to be at the forefront of implementing and developing new policies, using and developing research evidence; and, work with us directly in doing this. Of note is the rapidly expanding Professional Doctorate Programme (over 80 students) that requires students to be in practice relevant to the programme and for the thesis to be based on an aspect of practice. We also have a strong group of traditional PhD students (nearly 30); including an ESRC case studentship, working with the London based Kid's Company. Many of our students are senior members of their organisations, or they plan to be. For example, in the MPA (Masters in Public Administration) emerging leaders programme with the Metropolitan Police the dissertation is based on a priority area within their practise. Our postgraduate programmes build future research capacity and enhance research impact through joint publications with students who are well placed to help facilitate impact based on good quality research evidence.

To support our international impact we have a programme of visiting scholars (practitioners and academics) with particularly strong connections with the Japanese Prosecution Office and Korean Ministry of Justice. Other visiting scholars include members of the Thai Police and Ministry of Public Security of the Peoples' Republic of China. Recent visiting scholars from universities include: Dr Amos Aremu, University of Ibadan, Nigeria; Dr. Helen M. Eigenberg, University of Tennessee, USA; Dr. Christine Jennett, Sturt University, Australia. These activities are replicated at a local and national level with Visiting Research fellows eg from the Community Safety Partnership in Portsmouth (Julia Wickman) and Missing People Charity (Lucy Holmes). Visiting Scholars undertake a programme of research with one or more member of academic staff; presenting this research as part of the UoA seminar programme. This in turn leads to joint publications and on-going research and relationships with agencies trying to effect change. For example, the Korean connection led to a keynote speech (Mike Nash) at the *International Seminar commemorating the 20th Anniversary of Korean Probation and Parole*, 2008, in Seoul, with the paper published in English and Korean). This resulted in Gough and Nash working with the Korean Ministry of Justice to set up a research project on police-probation collaboration, which was previously unheard of in Korea. Gough and Nash are reporting to the Korean MoJ who plan to use the research as a starting point for develop inter-agency collaboration in Korea.

Staff use their own research time to undertake collaborative research with external agencies, where a timely opportunity arises. For example, Carney and Hampshire Constabulary in The Community Court Project is investigating an alternative to the formal criminal court system in reducing reoffending by children and young people.

Our external training, knowledge transfer and exchange activities are underpinned by our research. For example, Savage (**PCI Cluster**) used his research on police complaints as part of a training programme run in Jamaica for investigators working for the new police oversight body, INDECOM. Masterclasses on police investigative interviewing (**CoFI**) have attracted attendance from across the UK, Europe and Canada; and, from a range of professional organisations (such as the police, social services and fraud investigators). Wakefield, Button and Loveday (**RSCF Cluster**) worked with global engineering consultancy Arup on a security strategy project for the Provincial Government of the Western Cape, South Africa, to provide an evidence-based solution to their security needs. Eight online briefing papers will inform security managers and others.

All the Research Clusters run seminar programmes, many of which involve the participation of criminal justice, social welfare and security professionals, as well as academics. Some conference activities are partnered with external agencies. For example, the **CSMP - First International Conference on Missing Children and Adults** (18-20th of June, 2013): partnered by Missing People, CEOP, and the UK Missing Persons Bureau. This conference included around 220 specialists in the field, about half of whom were practitioners (police and third sector

agencies); with the rest being academics and research organisations. Every continent of the world was represented at this conference with people from over 20 countries participating.

Forensic open days are held annually and involve direct engagement with the public in a range of activities that aim to enhance public understanding of how criminal investigation and forensic science operates in our criminal justice system.

c. Strategy and plans

Central to our strategy and future plans is the recognition that we need to keep a focus on high quality research and credibility with practitioner and policy audiences. Our future strategy is based on enhancing the ways we have successfully achieved impact to date, as well as looking at new ways of doing this. The key areas that have helped enhance the impact of our research are:

(i) Specialist Centres and Research Clusters; (ii) the strong connections we have to practitioners in our teaching, seminar and conference activities; (iii) the inter-disciplinary expertise and flexibility of our research staff; and, our ability to adapt and respond to a wide range of policy areas and changing initiatives. We aim to increase opportunities for staff mobility, multidisciplinary activity, and practice-led and applied research exchanges with external stakeholders that maximise the impact of research within this UoA.

Whilst we plan to continue the development of our established areas of expertise we have identified new areas of development, that are sustainable in terms of successful teaching programmes and networks both within and outside the university. One key area is Forensics. Hampshire Constabulary Scientific Support Service is relocating to the campus in 2014 and will provide a springboard for new joint research opportunities, with immediate potential for enhancing the impact of the research we do. This development is supported by the cross University Forensics Forum. A range of partnerships are in development: such as LGC Forensics, Saxony police and a number of UK police forces. With these partnerships we plan to bid for external funding to develop our work and increase its reach and significance.

Research in the field of law will be developed as it shows significant potential for impact. For example, Carney's research on sentencing children and young people and Newnham's research on shared parenting and legal aid changes.

The inter-disciplinary nature of much of this UoA means that we are well positioned to understand and bring together experts working on major policy themes, such as payment-by-results. For example, currently Finn's expertise (*UOP22WELFARE*) is informing our research in other policy fields, such as Troubled Families (Hayden) and the Probation Service (Gough). In the Troubled Families research we are also drawing in expertise from other departments (Economics, Education and Social Work) in order to maximise impact. And, we are liaising directly with the DCLG (Ricky Taylor) lead on the national evaluation, both to help develop their understanding of how local programmes are working and exchange ideas about how the programme is developing.

In order to better evidence and highlight the importance of impact in our research we are constructing a robust framework for the monitoring, assessment and evidencing of impact of research across the UoA and throughout the research lifecycle. This is reinforced in the Faculty research strategy. Discussion on the evidence of impact of research is included in the PDRs (Performance Development Reviews) of all research engaged and active staff.

Staff are mentored and supported in planning for maximising and evidencing impact. Our workload model acknowledges the time consequences of actively spending time on impact. We plan to target some of our internal resources (such as mini-sabbaticals) where appropriate, at activities designed to increase the impact of our research.

d. Relationship to case studies

Our three case studies illustrate our strategy of organising research around Centres and Clusters and different approaches to achieving impact:

UOP22INTERVIEWING: linked to **CoFI** and **PCI Cluster** –specialist Centre, knowledge exchange and transfer activities; vibrant group of current and former PhD students working and publishing in the field; public engagement.

UOP22WELFARE: linked to **YCSJ Cluster** – impact achieved through major programmes of research for government and other agencies; scholarly visits to programmes outside the UK; direct feedback to government; public engagement.

UOP22VICTIMS: linked to **RSCF** and **CCFS Cluster** – impact achieved through Centre, annual conference; research for a range of agencies in the field; public engagement.