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WELCOME TO OUR FIFTH Newsletter!

Welcome to our fifth **Newsletter**, delayed a little this year in order to be able to report on our results in the Research Excellence Framework (REF). This is the first time CASS members have been submitted into unit 22 Social Policy and Social Work; and we have done really well. This **Newsletter** opens, therefore, with a big thank you and a big well done to everybody involved with the REF either directly or indirectly. Approximately 48% of our outputs were graded either world-leading or internationally-excellent and overall a third of our submission was graded either world-leading or internationally-excellent. With these results we have an extremely strong base to build on and we should all be really pleased with ourselves. We will hear in the spring what kind of implications these results will have for the future of CASS as the University intends to review its funding of research with QR funding.

Overall, this has been a good year for us with lots to report on: updates on new research projects, conferences attended and work published; the progress of postgraduate students and new members of staff starting in the Department of Social Sciences. As usual the Newsletter is bulging with news of our work and achievements.

Professor Catherine Donovan, **Newsletter** Editor

THE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK (REF) 2014: WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT?

The Higher Education Funding Council's five year assessment of UK universities' research activities is extremely important: for our own individual professional development; our collective standing and visibility within the faculty and university; and our collective standing and visibility as a university within the region and beyond – both within the HE sector and with our external partners in policy and practice. It is also becoming increasingly important in the changing HE context where being research-active is what makes us unique in comparison to FE and private educational institutions; both of which are being validated to award degrees and will be competitors with us for students in future years. The results of the REF show that almost all of our outputs, research environment, the impact of our research and our overall research profile has been judged to be of national and international standing: a truly amazing achievement given the low levels of resource we have had to support research activities. We should all feel very proud of ourselves!

WHAT DID WE DO WITH THE CASS MONEY IN 2014–15?

Rick Bowler: I am grateful to CASS for its support last year enabling me to give a paper at the 2013 British Educational Research Association (BERA) Conference in Brighton. This paper was part of symposium organised by Professor Paul Thomas, focused upon 'Race' Anti-Oppressive Practice, Whiteness and Youth Work. As a consequence of my attendance I was asked by Janet Batsleer who represents the Community and Youth Work Training Agencies Group (TAG) at BERA to present my ideas at a Ruskin College event earlier this year on the topic of Anti-Oppressive Practice. This event explored the relationship between neo-liberal hegemony, the policy of austerity and the diminution of anti-oppressive theory and practice in professional education and training. I have now taken over from Donna Peacock the University of Sunderland CASS representation on the Race, Crime and Justice Regional Research Network located at Durham University under the leadership and guidance of Professors Gary Craig and Maggie O'Neill.

Iлона Buchroth: with a grant from CASS I was able to employ one of our PhD students (Marc Husband) to undertake the fieldwork for a study into youth work in the voluntary sector. We wanted to find out how voluntary youth projects define their distinctiveness within the context of the increasingly blurred boundaries of public and private and how this impacts on their 'independent voice'. Our findings were drawn from interviews with a range of different project in the North East (from very small locally based projects to large organisations with national affiliations) and have now been written up to contribute a chapter for a book entitled *The Nature of Youth Work*, to be published by Palgrave.

Anne Charnock and Jacqueline Merchant: *How Have Local Government Austerity Measures Affected the Experience of Carers of the Older Person?* Links have been established with the Sunderland Carers Centre who recently undertook their own research (October 2014) using survey monkey in relation to the new *Care Act 2014*. They found that 36.8% of their sample of 38 carers felt they had to do more in their caring role since the implementation of the new *Care Act 2014*. Two focus groups are being established with carers of older people to investigate the research question. Following qualitative analysis of data, emerging themes will be further investigated in a small number of interviews.

Catherine Donovan, Kate Butterworth and Rebecca Barnes (University of Leicester): *Speaking Out: Experiences of Domestic Violence and Abuse in the Lives of Trans People.* A qualitative study of trans people's experiences of DVA. Thirteen trans women and men were interviewed for this project which explored their experiences of violence, particularly focusing on violence from their siblings as a result of transitioning. Problems with transcription delayed the report which will be launched in May 2015.

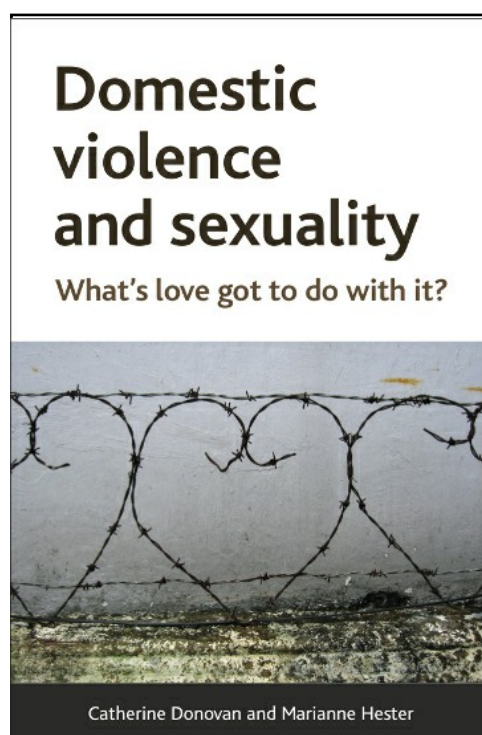
Catherine Donovan: Book and film launch: *Domestic Violence and Sexuality: What's love got to do with it?* (Opposite.) In July 2014 over 150 people representing a range of partner agencies and organisations from across the North East gathered to celebrate the launch of *Domestic Violence and Sexuality: What's love got to do with it?*; written by Catherine Donovan and Marianne Hester (Bristol University); the film *Love Should Never Be Abusive*; and the evaluation of the North East Domestic Abuse Project (NEDAP). Catherine was one of the founder members of the steering group that raised funds for NEDAP, a development project promoting the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and or trans survivors of domestic violence and abuse across the region. After three and a half years NEDAP

closed in September. We have recently been approached by a project in Spain to translate the film into Spanish and make it available as a training tool.

Steve Macdonald: (2012–2014) 'Conceptualising the Experiences of Confinement of People with Significant Mental Health Problems'; and (2013–2014) 'Exploring the Relationship between Specific Learning Difficulties and Disabling Pathways into Homelessness'.

Steve Macdonald: (2013-2014) 'Exploring the Relationship between Specific Learning Difficulties and Disabling Pathways into Homelessness'. The aim of this research was to compare the experiences of homeless people with dyslexia (N=68) and those without (N=375) a specific learning disability in relation to different measures of social exclusion. The research attempted to discover if there are any statistically significant correlations ($P \leq .05$) relating to homelessness, dyslexia and social exclusion that can be conceptualised by applying sociologically informed explanations. Hence, this study applies a structural approach to understand the intersections between social exclusion, socio-economic status, disability and key life events for people with dyslexia. Within the data findings, it is implied that educational disengagement, addiction issues, family breakdown, unemployment and types of crimes were significantly affected ($P \leq .05$) by disabling and social barriers experienced by people with dyslexia.

Steve Macdonald, Anne Charnock & Jane Scutt: 'Exploring Past and Present Biographies of Psychiatric Care'. The aim of this study was to analyse the lived experiences of psychiatric care within the late 20th and early 21st century, from the



*Caption:
Domestic
Violence and
Sexuality: What's
love got to do
with it?.*

perspective of people diagnosed with either a learning disability or mental 'disorder'. The research applied a biographical narrative approach and aimed to compare service users' historical experiences with that of their contemporary experiences of community and residential care. Furthermore, the research has explored the experiences of practitioners who have worked in the pre and post 1983 mental health system. What is unique about this research is that it includes the narratives of people with mental disorders, their families and practitioners in order to investigate the performance of care within two distinct historical periods. A comparison is being undertaken to evaluate the differences in traditional and contemporary care in relation to the needs of service users. We have interviewed 15 people to date throughout 2014 and we are in the process of analysing the data.

Steve Macdonald, Catherine Donovan and John Clayton (University of Northumbria): We presented a paper on our initial analysis of hate crime in the North East based on the Arch database. This paper was given at the inaugural conference of the International Network for Hate Studies in Brighton in June 2015.

RESEARCH REPORTS

Donovan, C. & Durey, M. (2014) *Evaluation of the North East Domestic Abuse Project*, University of Sunderland.

Donovan, C.; Barnes, R. & Nixon, C. (2014) *The Coral Project: Exploring Abusive Behaviours in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and/or Transgender Relationships*, University of Sunderland and University of Leicester, ESRC ES/J012580/01

Donovan, C., Tunmore, J. and Durey, M. (2014) *Evaluation of the Introduction of the Sunderland Customer Services Network to Children's Services*, University of Sunderland.

Donovan, C., Butterworth, K., Durey, M. and Hugman, C. (2014) Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland: Tyneside Rape Crisis (covering Gateshead, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, North Tyneside and South Tyneside): Service Evaluation.

Donovan, C., Butterworth, K., Durey, M. and Hugman, C. (2014) Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland: Grace (covering Northumberland): Rape Crisis Service Evaluation.

OTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST YEAR

Andrew Dalton: National Lottery: Awards for All: "Silent Scream? The Life Histories of People Living with HIV in the North East of England". In collaboration with Body Positive North East, Drew is leading a research project exploring the biographical life histories of people living with HIV in the North East of England. The research is ongoing, with interviews currently taking place. This is to be launched as a practitioner-led document (and for public consumption) for World AIDS Day in December, 2015. Eventual plans are to then make this into a book in a similar vein to work by Ken Plummer and the *Forgotten Voices* books.

Andrew Dalton: Research Active Curriculum Funding: 'Mapping out the existing and potential need for older people's services in the East End of Newcastle' After gaining money from the Research Active Curriculum Funding at the University of Sunderland, I intend to start a small-scale research project mapping out older people's provision and services in a time of cutbacks and austerity in an already deprived area of Newcastle. This project aims to involve two current students in the research process to enable them to gain research experience 'in the field.'

Catherine Donovan: ESRC – Exploring Abusive Behaviours in LGBT Relationships. This was a collaborative multi-method research project with Dr Rebecca Barnes at the University of Leicester. The project ended at the end of November 2014 with four dissemination events around the UK. On Wednesday 17th Sept in London (audience=97); Friday 19th September in Sunderland (audience=150), 7th November, Edinburgh (audience= 30); 28th November, Cardiff (audience=68). The report and executive summary are now available in PDF.

Catherine Donovan: Evaluation of North East Domestic Abuse Project (NEDAP). Matt Durey was employed to conduct an evaluation of NEDAP using a multi-method approach. The report is now available identifying a model of development work that has been successful. This work will also form part of a chapter in the new CASS edited collection exploring the impact of austerity on the voluntary sector, particularly in the domestic violence sector.

Catherine Donovan: Evaluation of the two services making up Rape Crisis Northumberland and Tyneside (RCTN). The two services, the Tyneside Rape Crisis Service and Grace were each evaluated using a multi-method approach to process and impact.

Kate Butterworth, Matt Durey and Cat Hugman were all employed on various aspects of the evaluation. The reports have been submitted to RCTN.

Catherine Donovan: The ACE Project Agenda for Change and the DVD *They Loved Me? They Loved Me Not*. This project was commissioned by the Northern Rock Foundation in 2013 to work with a range of practitioners across the region who work with young people and young lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or trans people, and those young people who are questioning their sexuality and/or gender identity (LGBTQ). The aim was to explore the specific needs of these groups in relation to recognising, addressing and preventing child sexual exploitation and to develop an Agenda for Change identifying what the core needs are and outlining an action plan for promoting this agenda. In June 2014 we launched the Agenda for Change and the film made by a local filmmaker, Julie Ballands. The film was made with three young people, all of whom were supported by projects in the region because of their experience of child sexual exploitation. The film is a free resource paid for by NRF and the only condition for its use is that it must not be put online. Anybody who would like a copy of the film to contact Catherine.

JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARDS

Steve Macdonald is now the Associate Editor for *Insights on Learning Disabilities: From Prevailing Theories to Validated Practices (ILD)*. This is an international peer-reviewed printed journal published bi-annually since 1994. Its primary focus lies in the dissemination of empirically supported interventions for children, youth, and adults with severe difficulties in reading, writing, spelling or doing mathematical calculations.

Nigel Malin was appointed in September 2014 as Editor-in-Chief for the Journal *Social Work & Social Sciences Review - An International Journal of Applied Research (SWSSR)* <http://www.whitingbirch.net/cgi-bin/subscribe?showinfo=ip003>). A Special Issue: 'Disability and Enabling Approaches', is due to be published in early 2015 for which the Journal has received over twenty articles.

Nigel Malin has been invited to become an Associate Editor of the *British Journal of Learning Disabilities* (from January 2015). This Journal has an Impact Factor which has increased modestly, and now sits at 0.3, which is very much within the reach of those who may prefer to publish more professionally-orientated, as opposed to research-intensive articles.

Catherine Donovan and Jane Tunmore: Evaluation of Sunderland City Council's Customers Service Network. Matt Durey was employed to undertake most of the fieldwork for the multi-method evaluation. The report has been delivered to Sunderland Council.

Nicola Roberts (née Ballantyne) and Catherine Donovan: FES Research Active Curriculum Funding. Focusing on SSC 317 Violence, Gender and Society the question was asked whether and how the content of and the teaching and learning in the module impacts upon students' thinking (including attitudes); and what the implications are of any impact. Matt Durey was employed to conduct the research. Findings showed a move to more socially aware views about domestic violence and a desire to work in organisations that deal with violence. The implications of the research led to proposed changes in the assessment methods of the module.

POSTGRADUATE NEWS

This calendar year has been a bumper year for our postgraduate students. The following colleagues have had successful Vivas and have either completed or are completing corrections:

Rick Bowler: Countering Racism and Developing Critical Anti-racist Intercultural Youth Work Practice in a White Highland Setting.

Jane Davies: A Critical Investigation of Provision Relating to 'Race' on Initial Teacher Education Programmes in England.

Lesley Deacon: Children's Social Care Services' Response to Children who Display Sexually Harmful Behaviour, Durham University.

Anna Heyman: Young Adult Carers Transitions to Adulthood: The Impacts of Intergenerational Mutuality, Unequal reciprocation and Intergenerational inequality.

Donna Peacock: From Underground Hacking to Ethical Hacking, Northumbria University.

Wendy Podd: Mechanisms and Opportunities for Participation: Local Authority Responses to Engaging Young people (14–21) in Policy and Service Decisions in the North East of England.

Angela Wilcock: An Exploration of the Knowledge Women in Sunderland have of Routes-to-help-seeking in Response to Domestic Violence.

Adam Robertson has also submitted his thesis and as we go to press is waiting to hear the date his viva.

Many congratulations and well done to you all!

CONFERENCES

Key Note Speeches

Donovan, C. Plenary Speaker at LGBT Youth Scotland day conference on gay, bi and trans men and domestic violence and abuse August 2014.

Donovan, C. Plenary Speaker at Stonewall Housing day conference on domestic violence, LGBT people and housing, September 2014.

Donovan, C. Plenary Speaker at Barnardos, London, on Child Sexual Exploitation and young LGBT and questioning people, September 2014.

Donovan, C. Seminar given at the Edinburgh Law School on December 2014.

Donovan, C. and Barnes, B. (2015) at the launch of the Mirabel Project: evaluating voluntary perpetrator programmes for domestically violent heterosexual men. This project was launched at events in London (January 13th and Durham, January 15th) and Becky and I were invited to speak at both events about The Coral Project: 'Hidden from view: LGB and/or T perpetrators and the challenges they pose to the gendered story about domestic violence and abuse'.

Donovan, C. Plenary Speaker at the Children's Society event in Newcastle, Beacon, on Child Sexual Exploitation and young LGBT and questioning people, January 2015.

Donovan, C. (2015) the University of Sunderland, Centre for Applied Social Sciences, in partnership with Northern Rock Foundation held an event exploring Child Sexual Exploitation and Young Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and/ or Trans and/or Questioning (LGBTQ) People in the North East. Over 80 people from across the region and from our own student body attended the day. Two young women, Jade and Sharnie from the Children's Society SCARPA squad opened the day and then Emilie Smeaton (who has written a report for Barnardos on running away and CSE) talked about her findings in relation to particularly young gay men and finally Catherine Donovan talked about the ACE Project Agenda for Change. Workshops took place in the afternoon with Emilie Smeaton and Kate Alexander from Trinity Youth. Feedback from the day has been very positive and we intend to set up a regional network of interested practitioners to share best practice and promote this work.

Macdonald, S. J. (2014) at: 'SEN Umbrella Group Public Event', Birmingham. This was a one day conference/workshop on issues affecting Special

Educational Needs (SEN) in the twenty first century. This one day conference/workshop was aimed at adults with a specific learning disability (SpLD), parents and carers in order to discuss the developing a national collective voice, in the form of a Cooperative, to confront issues of social inequality affecting people with a SpLD. Stephens's key note paper was entitled 'Models of Disability': Moving Forward'. This discussed the relationship between SpLD's and social inequalities with reference to the 'social model of disability'.

Thorley, W. Plenary Speaker at Voices of Children: Listening to Children and Young People who are Looked After or have been Adopted, Sunderland, (June 2014). The theme of this National Conference was to recognise *the voices of children* who are adopted or looked after at a time of change within services for these children and to portray what being looked after or adopted means to children in a holistic way. The focus of such an approach is underpinned by understanding the child's position is the 1st step to improving these children's lives. A range of speakers provided both academic and non-academic input focusing on the child's position rather than the process or practitioners' role within this. Feedback from participants indicated that the conference was successful in meeting the aims of the day: 97% stated the conference had exceeded their expectations and 99% felt it had enhanced their knowledge and understanding. In addition, all delegates identified areas of practice the conference had impacted upon and enabled them to reflect and consider changing practices.

Thorley, W. Key Note Speaker at Virtual Schools Conference: Children who have Experienced Loss and Trauma, University of Sunderland, Nov 2014. This conference was very successful for the Virtual school team, who requested support in an advisory capacity. Feedback indicates a wide range of impact both direct and indirect for delegates in reflecting upon improving practice when working with children who have experienced Loss and Trauma. One outcome from this conference has been the development of the Attachment School Project. Further outcomes include an invitation to speak at the regional Heads Forum and several INSET school training events, and to be an advisor for the Virtual School Team.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Burdis, K. and Tombs, S. (2014) 'After the Crisis: New Directions in Theorising Corporate and White-Collar Crime?' in: Routledge Major Works

Collection: Critical Criminology. Critical Concepts in Criminology. Abingdon: Routledge.

Dalton, A. (2014) 'Not Enough People are Aware of HIV in the North East, It's a Hidden condition...' Silent Scream? Issues faced using a life histories approach when interviewing people who are living with HIV in the North East of England. European Sociological Association's Biographic Methods Conference in September, 2014 at Durham University.
<https://www.dur.ac.uk/csqs/affiliatedevents/?eventno=19687>

Donovan, C., Barnes, R. and Nixon, C. (2014) 'Researching Perpetrators of Domestic Violence and Abuse in Same-sex, Bisexual and/or Transgender Relationships: Help-seeking and Service Provision in an Age of Austerity' National Deviancy Conference, June, University of Teesside.

Donovan, C., Barnes, R. and Nixon, C. (2014) 'Practitioners' responses on developing responses to lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) perpetrators of domestic abuse: deliberating sameness and difference', Domestic Violence and Abuse Conference, University of Leicester

Donovan, C. and Barnes, R. (2014) 'Same Love or Different Love?: An Exploration of Relationship Conflict, Violence and Abuse in Same-sex, Bisexual and/or Transgender Relationships' Nordic Sociological Association Annual Conference, June, Lunde.

Donovan, C. and Barnes, R. (2014) 'Falling through the Cracks: The lack of Provision for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and/or Transgender (LGBT) Domestic Violence Perpetrators and the Implications for an Equalities Agenda'. Eurocrim, August, Prague.

Donovan, C. and Barnes, R. (2014) 'The Coral Project: Understanding and Responding to Abusive Behaviours in LGB and/or T Relationships' at LGBT Domestic Violence Seminar, De Montfort University, September, Leicester.

Macdonald, S.J.; Donovan, C., and Clayton, J. (2014) 'Reporting and Responding to Hate Crime in the North East of England' at: International Network for Hate Studies Inaugural Conference. Understanding Hate Crime: Research, Policy & Practice Conference, University of Sussex .

Grinstead, J. 'Students Co-constructing Knowledge in Higher Education' BCUR Conference in April 2014. A student who was involved with the research co-presented as a new researcher.

Grinstead, J. 'Working out What is Important: The Where, How and Why and Discernment of Early Inquiry through Literature'. BERA, 2014.

Grinstead, J and Kranz, J. 'Who do they think they are? Perceptions of Young People aged 11–14' The Child's World Conference, June 2014.

Macdonald, S.J. (Chair, 2014) 'Back to the future, disability, and the digital divide 22nd World Congress on Learning Disabilities. University of Southampton.

Marjoribanks, B. (2014) 'The International Student Experience: Implications for Policy and Practice' at the Three Rivers Consortium Conference, Durham University.

Peacock, D. (2014) 'Crossing the Line: Hacking and Ethical Hacking' at the North East Crime Research Network conference, Durham University.

Roberts, N., Donovan, C. and Durey, M. 'Enhancing the Research Active Curriculum: SSC317 Study', University of Sunderland, Research in the Curriculum, July 2014.

STAFF CHANGES

Frankie Williams (Applied Social Studies), Helen Horton and Jerry Norton (both from Childhood Studies) all retired in 2014. We wish them well.

We also welcomed Drew Dalton (Social Studies), Eileen Dunn and Dan Connolly (both in Applied Social Studies).

In April 2015 we will be welcoming Michael Elsy and Stephanie Hunter (both in Childhood Studies).

Finally we welcomed Kate Tudor back from maternity leave.

PUBLICATIONS

Clayton, J., Macdonald, S. J., Smith, P., & A. Wilcock (2014) 'The Impact of Digital Inclusion Initiatives in a Civic Context'. In Mehdi Khosrow-Pour (ed.). *Encyclopaedia of Information Science and Technology, Third Edition*, IGI Global.

Clayton, J., Donovan, C. and Merchant, J. (2015) 'Distancing and limited resourcefulness: Third Sector Service Provision under Austerity Localism in the North East of England' in *Urban Studies*, pp 1-18.

Clayton, J., Donovan, C. and Merchant, J. (2015) 'Emotions of Austerity: Care and Commitment in Public Service Delivery in the North East of England' in *Emotion, Space and Society*, Vol 14: 24–32.

Cosgrove, F. and Ramshaw, R. (2013) 'It is what you do as well as the way that you do it: The Value and Deployment of PCSOs in Achieving Public Engagement, Policing and Society: An International Journal of Research and Policy, Published online 4 Jun 2013. DOI: 10.1080/10439463.2013.802787.

Dalton, A. (2014) "A Fog on the Tyne? Attitudes toward HIV in the North East of England" in *Positive Nation* <http://www.positivenation.co.uk>

Donovan, C. and Hester, M. (2014) Domestic Violence and Sexuality: What's love got to do with it? Policy Press: Bristol

Macdonald, S.J. & Taylor-Gooby, D. (2014) "Patient Zero": A Critical Investigation into the Concept of Public and Patient 'Involvement' in the NHS?' *Social Work And Social Sciences Review* 17 (1) pp.88–104.

Macdonald, S. J. & Clayton, J. (republished in Special Issue 2014) 'Back to the Future, Disability and the Digital Divide'. *Disability and Society*. Disability and Technology Virtual Special Issue.

Macdonald, S. J. (2014) The York Retreat. In Taylor, P., Corteen, K. and Morley, S. (Ed) *A Companion to Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Risk*, Bristol: The Policy Press.

Thorley, W., Marjoribanks, B. & Kranz, J. (2014) 'Enhancing the Undergraduate student Experience via Fund-raising Partnerships: An Action Research Project' in *Educational Action Research*, 22(4): 552-567 10.1080/09650792.2014.887025

OUTREACH AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Donovan, C. Co-presenter at workshop at Northern Feminist Group annual conference, West End Women and Girls Centre, October 2014. Showing film 'Love Should Never Be Abusive' LGBT domestic violence and abuse with discussion.

Donovan, C. Workshop presenter at ESRC funded Sappormation conference in Manchester, Joyce Lelland LGBT Centre November 2014

Parsons, M.; Tait, K.; Tunmore, J. Role of Play: invited to observe and analyse project for private organisation using play as a medium

THE CASS AUSTERITY SEMINAR SERIES

Following the successful seminar series on risk and subsequent publication of that work written up as an edited collection published in 2013, this year CASS has launched a new seminar series on Austerity with a view to publishing a new collection in 2016. Seminar dates in the second semester:

28th January 2015

Sheila Quaid

'Mothering Under Austerity.'

18th February 2015

Stephen Macdonald, Anne Charnock & Jane Scutt
'Exploring Past and Present Biographies of Psychiatric Care in Periods of Austerity.'

And

Mark Bushell

'How Many More can we Take?

Media Distortion in an Age of Austerity and the Erosion of Racial Tolerance in the UK.'

25th March 2015

Nicola Roberts

'Domestic Violence Under Austerity'

And

Catherine Donovan & Matt

Durey

"'Well That Would be Nice, but We Can't do That in the Current Climate": Prioritising Domestic Violence Services Under Austerity.'

29th April 2015

Faye Cosgrove

'The Role of the Special Constable under Austerity.'

27th May 2015

Kate Tudor

'Austerity as the Systemic Violence of Capitalism'

17th June 2015

Nigel Malin

'Austerity and Mental Health Provision'

Parsons, M. Art Exhibition: March 2015, provided by The Open Nest has been developed exclusively with those who have experienced loss and trauma as children who are looked after or Adopted.

Malin, N. Making Research Count (MRC) This is a network that facilitates the dissemination of research findings between academics, practitioners, carers and service users and comprises Social Work/Social Care Departments of ten English universities www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/policy-institute/scwru/mru. Dr James Blewett, Chair of Making Research Count is in contact with Jane Tunmore and Nigel Malin to enable the University of Sunderland to become North-East representative for the MRC network, which aims to offer advice and solutions to agencies to support their shrinking workforces in the face of austerity cuts.

Thorley, W. Centralised Hub hosted by the University to provide accessible information for parents, carers, professionals and para-professionals under development, announce events and links to other areas particularly CASS- this Hub.

Thorley, W. CPD development units offered in the style of MK- certificate of completion rather than HE credits. Collaborative partners will provide much of the distance learning materials.

LOOKING FORWARD...

WHAT 2015 BRINGS...

Malin, N. Contract obtained in August 2014 for Book Publication with Critical Publishing www.criticalpublishing.com. *Professionalism and Identity in Social Work*. A first aim is to revisit the concept of professionalism along with the implications for organizational management of employing a professional workforce, including the potential for leadership and conflict resolution. There is much evidence that the role and status of, for example teachers, social workers and health care professionals has diminished over the years making it necessary to re-assert a belief in their proper designation as professional activities. A second reason for this book relates to context and organisation, such as the changing dimensions of the welfare state. New policies generally aim to provide increased efficiency in the provision and delivery of services and greater responsiveness to user demands. The twin themes of the marketization of welfare restructuring, 'reform', privatisation and out-sourcing; and controlling service delivery -professionalism versus

managerialism, will be addressed in the context of broadening the scope of stakeholders and interests involved in the policy process.

Thorley, W.; Parsons, M.; and Tunmore, J. *The Voices of Children: One year on (Conference 1st July 2015: Glass Centre)* This conference is the follow up conference to Voices of Children in June 2014, and in response to many of the delegates who attended at that time. It is expected that this conference will include perspectives on the latest developments resulting from the Munro review, the Adoption Database, the pilot projects for Post-Adoption Support and the increase of pupil premium for all adopted children in schools.

Thorley, W. supported by local collaborative partners including the Virtual School team and colleagues Developing Attachment Friendly Schools (Commenced Jan 2015- July 2015). This project is a response to a request to support Virtual Schools within the area (Virtual Schools Conference Nov 2014). The project is working in collaboration with a sample of schools in Sunderland LA, looking to promote teacher understanding, knowledge, skills and competencies for dealing with children who have experienced loss and trauma in a proactive rather than reactive approach. The aim of the pilot project is to establish best practice. There is national interest in the outcomes of this project.

Thorley, W. & Tunmore, J. supported by collaborative partners: Developing Life Stories for children and young people (Commenced Nov 2014- June 2015). Looked after and/or adopted children have indicated that, at times, they feel disconnected from their Life Story books. One young person suggested that sometimes they would just like to 'hear' one of the people to make the 'story' real to them. This has led to a pilot project using podcast soundbites as a way to enhance life story work. The project includes representatives from both Statutory and Voluntary agencies. Interest has already been received from other Local Authorities awaiting the outcome. If successful this pilot phase will inform a larger project to develop good practice for Life Story work.

Wendy Thorley, Jan Grinstead, Athanasia Chatzfoutiou, Julian Krantz, and other colleagues The 11-14 Project. Promoting children and young people's 'well-being' requires consideration of the multiple influences upon children and young people's development and learning. Colleagues are involved in a research project exploring 11 year old to 14 year old children and their thoughts about how they see themselves.