

Key staff

Professor David Barrett David is an internationally recognised authority in the field sexually exploited young people. He is a Government adviser in social work, social policy and administration and also undertakes consultancy work and postgraduate supervision.

Tim Bateman Tim is a Senior Policy Officer at NACRO and Senior Research Fellow at the University of Bedfordshire. He is a nationally recognised expert in youth crime and justice and represents the views of NACRO in Government consultations on youth crime and justice and advises parliamentary committees in this area.

Dr Isabelle Brodie Isabelle's research interests include child welfare; children and young people in care; the education of children in need and in care; inclusion and exclusion in education.

Helen Connolly Helen is a PhD research assistant studying unaccompanied young people living within the UK.

Dr Cherilyn Dance Cherilyn's research interests are: services for children in need, family support, education – particularly for children in need or looked after, fostering, adoption and other forms of permanent care, residential care/schooling, children and families social work/social care practice and outcomes for children and young people.

Dr Donald Forrester Donald's research interests include parental substance misuse and discovering what works in child and family social work. He is currently working with the Welsh Assembly Government on a major reform of services in Wales and leads several research projects focussed on developing evidence based approaches in social work.

Dr Sarah Galvani Sarah's broad research interests stem from her social work experience and include alcohol, drugs, and domestic abuse. She is involved with a number of organisations including the Stella Project, Alcohol Concern, Adfam and is the Chair of the BASW special interest group on alcohol and drugs.

Ms Sue Jago Sue's interests are child sexual exploitation, including trafficking, with particular reference to the criminal justice system.

Dr Ravi Kohli Ravi's research interests include children and young people seeking asylum in Europe; resettlement and refugees; social work with refugees; and asylum seekers.

Professor Alan Marlow Alan's research interests include policing and criminal justice issues, including evaluations of projects to improve local policing.

Dr Margaret Melrose Margaret's research interests include young people, poverty and informal economic activity; young people and sexual exploitation; young people and drug use; trafficking in human beings; and the process of exiting from sexual exploitation and/or drug use.

Ms Jo Neale Jo is the Making Research Count Coordinator at the University of Bedfordshire. Her research interests include gender-based violence.

Dr Suzella Palmer Suzella's research interests include young black people's experiences of crime and victimisation, the experiences of black people in the criminal justice system and youth justice.

Professor Jenny Pearce Jenny works with the Council of Europe, central UK Government agencies and national children's charities to develop research and service delivery for sexually exploited and trafficked young people. Her teaching and research interests focus on young people's agency, participation and resilience. She chairs the Home Office Child Trafficking Advice and Information Line and is Director of the Institute of Applied Social Research.

Professor John Pitts John Pitts undertakes research in the areas of youth crime, youth justice and community safety. He has recently completed studies of violent youth gangs in three London boroughs and is currently evaluating a national programme of targeted youth work interventions in gang-affected neighbourhoods.

Professor Michael Preston-Shoot Michael's research interests include: law, ethics and professional practice, service user involvement in social work education, outcomes of social work education and of social work practice.



For further information about the Institute of Applied Social Research, or to find out more about our postgraduate courses, please contact:

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University of Bedfordshire The Institute of Applied Social Research



Research and postgraduate training for the new children's workforce at a centre of excellence in applied social research

The University of Bedfordshire's Institute of Applied Social Research (IASR) is at the forefront of applied social research in the UK. Highlighted as 'world-leading' in the Government *Research Assessment Exercise* (RAE) 2008, the work of the institute has a powerful influence on Government policy and professional practice with children and young people in need and in trouble.

The IASR has developed a range of innovative research methods which enable a clearer understanding of the lives of the children, young people and parents who survive on the social margins. Much of the IASR's research is undertaken in partnership with these 'experts by

experience' and is primarily designed to impact upon policy and practice in this demanding field.

The IASR is also home to Making Research Count, a national initiative involving social welfare agencies and universities, which aims to disseminate cutting-edge research findings to practitioners in the field.

The IASR produces research and scholarship which both anticipate and shape key changes in policy, administration and practice in the areas of social care; child care and protection; work with vulnerable young people; and youth justice. Additionally, it is building a trans-national comparative element into these areas.



Research Centres

The IASR is composed of six active research centres:

The Tilda Goldberg Centre for Social Work and Social Care Research

Funded through a £1.1m grant, the Goldberg Centre is the leading UK centre for developing evidence based approaches to social work and social care. Its work includes a range of studies looking at effective work with substance misuse issues as well as a national programme of events to support practitioners and academics develop research skills. The centre provides research opportunities for postgraduate students, aiming to develop the next generation of research leaders.

The Vauxhall Centre for the Study of Crime

The work of the centre spans empirical studies of youth crime and victimisation; youth justice and community safety services; policing; and the analysis of policy and practice in these fields. Additionally, the centre has an international focus, undertaking studies with universities and criminal justice and welfare agencies in Belgium, China, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation and the USA.

The International Centre for the Study of Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Young People

The centre represents a new development in research on vulnerable children and young people. It is the first international research centre with an exclusive focus on scholarship in the area of sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and young people, reflecting increasing concern in Government and welfare and justice agencies about problems associated with these issues.

The Vulnerable Young People's Centre

Staff have attracted national and local funding to research issues associated with vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in Britain. From its inception in 2002, the centre's research has focused on 'hard to reach' young people who are at risk of or involved in commercial sexual exploitation; drug use; or are victims of sexual abuse.

The Child and Family Welfare Research Unit

The unit focuses on policy and practice-orientated research relating to children in need (including children in public care) and their families. Its work includes research for central Government such as an investigation on the link between permanent exclusion from school and youth offending and a major study of services for difficult adolescents. Staff sit on several Government groups contributing to developing child welfare policy.

The Social Work, Professional Practice and Law Research Centre

Established in 2003 by Professor Michael Preston-Shoot's, the unit has rapidly built an international reputation for its work on the interface between law and social work; on needs mapping and outcomes for service users; and on the involvement of 'experts by experience' in research. It has a well-established relationships with the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), the Isle of Man Government and with several councils with social services responsibilities.

Postgraduate Degrees

The University of Bedfordshire has recently validated an exciting new portfolio of postgraduate degrees in the area of children's and young people's services. Each programme is staffed by academics who are leading researchers and scholars in their respective fields. The degrees aim not only to develop the knowledge, skills and research expertise of students but they also aim to equip them to participate as authors and speakers in the sometimes contentious academic debate in these fields.

MA Applied Public Policy: Children's and Young People's Services

This Master's degree is relevant to those working with children and young people, as well as to those who are seeking to develop their knowledge and expertise in the area, and will be available from September 2010. The degree has three core units, one focusing on the theories underpinning policy and practice, one addressing current political and policy perspectives on marginalised children, young people and their families and the third which deals with methods of social enquiry and research. Students will also have the opportunity to study topics of interest selected from a range of optional units. These will include units on: sexual exploitation and the trafficking of children and young people, 'looked after' children, work with vulnerable adults and children with problem drug and alcohol use.

Professional Doctorate in Leadership of Children's and Young People's Services (PDLCYPS) with specialisms in: Youth Justice, Children's Services and Young People's Services

The PDLCYPS aims to equip senior practitioners and managers in Children's and Young People's Services and allied

fields with the knowledge-base and theoretical grounding in social, childcare, youth and criminal justice policy and practice, and research methods to enable them to make an original contribution to their agency and their professional field at the highest level.

This Professional Doctorate builds on the success of the Professional Doctorate in Youth Justice which has been running at the University for four years. In the academic year 2009-10 we are offering two additional pathways — Children's Services and Young People's Services. The PDLCYPS is a part-time degree developed collaboratively by the University's Institute for Applied Social Research, the NACRO Youth Crime Unit and the Brathay Trust. Several course units are shared but the award has three discreet pathways, Children's Services, Young People's Services and Youth Justice Services, each taught by internationally recognised specialists in these fields.

To complete stage one (year one) you will be asked to write an eight to ten thousand word article of publishable quality. To complete stage two (years two and three) you must produce a thesis or research-based project. The fieldwork for the thesis/project may be based in your own agency or workplace and derive from your professional practice. It is assumed that this work will contribute to service development and, because of this, there is an expectation that the nature of the thesis/project would be negotiated with and supported by your employer.