



## **Centre for Social Policy**

### **AGM December 1st 2021**

#### **Annual Report**

This report covers the twelve months up to December 1st 2021 and details three zoom seminars, other Centre activities and fellows membership.

Thanks must be given to all those who have helped maintain the programme: in particular Patrick Diamond, Brian Warren, Ella Baillie, Roger Bullock and Tim Hobbs.

#### **Our Programme**

Activities over the past year have been seriously affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and we are grateful for the commitment of so many Fellows who have given their time to support the Lab and co-ordinate the events that were able to take place.

Three zoom seminars were held as follows:

#### **December 2020.**

The programme opened with Jenny Simpson (Nottingham Trent University) discussing a reconceptualisation of 'contact' between separated young people and their families in the light of new technologies.

Then, Patrick Diamond (Queen Mary College, London), Tim Hobbs (Dartington Service Design Lab) and Roger Bullock (CSP) discussed How should research, journal publications and social science teaching respond to the ideologies underpinning Brexit and the political drift to the right, manifest in the thinking and policies ideas of many current international leaders?

On the second day, Finlay Green (Dartington Service Design Lab) discussed the Lab's research into Becoming A Man (BAM) - a group based intervention with

adolescent boys in Lambeth designed to improve education outcomes and reduce criminal activity by promoting positive youth development.

In the final sessions, Ray Jones, retired social work manager and university professor, discussed his recent book *In Whose Interest? The Privatisation of child protection and social work*.

## **March 2021**

The (zoom) seminar opened with Ken Taylor from Wisconsin offering lessons from current US children's services for the UK. He discussed fragmentation, rising demand, race, equality and equity, demographic changes and political beliefs.

Sir Michael Marmot, director of the Institute for Health Equity, University College, London, charted recent trends in health inequalities in the UK and compared the findings in Ten Years On and Covid-19 Review with those in his 2010 report Fair Society, Healthy Lives.

Tim Hobbs, CEO of the Dartington Service Design Lab, then talked about a Lab strategy paper New Horizons for Evidence.

The economist Tony Ellison explained why income and wealth inequalities increase despite growing wealth, and why taxation and welfare reforms are eschewed by governments.

## **June 2021**

A zoom meeting was held in June and contributors included:

Carmen Pinto from the Maudsley Hospital on formulating complexity in adopted and looked after children.

Dominic Abrams from the University of Kent spoke on policy framework development and delivery in the Covid decade - emotional health and wellbeing in the early years

Sarah Blower from the University of York discussed her research on enhancing social-emotional health and wellbeing in the early years.

Catherine-Rose Stocks-Rankin from the Dartington Service design Lab director in Scotland talked about achieving similar ends via different means - a comparison of two projects.

The slides accompanying these presentations are posted on the CSP website.

## **October 2021**

A seminar in conjunction with the Child Care History Network and the Mulberry Bush on 50 Years of Early Years Provision (1971-2021) had to be postponed from October and has been rearranged for March 2022 (4th and 7th).

### **The place of CSP in the WHG Charity**

Progress on integrating the work of the CSP and the Dartington Service Design Lab has been affected by the pandemic, but it is intended that composition of the supervisory committee, administrative arrangements, regular consultations and programme planning will continue to move in this direction.

#### *Other contributions to the work of the Charity*

The Centre has assisted the Service Design Lab in several ways. The Ethics Committee continues to provide an opinion on Lab proposals, fellows have commented on proposals and reports and provided specialist information as needed.

#### *The CSP website*

The CSP website, launched in June 2016 contains four sections: About the Centre and future events, details of fellows' professional interests, reports on past seminars and papers from previous meetings (divided into policy and practice, research reviews, theoretical papers and history).

#### *CSP elected officers*

At the AGM in December 2020, John Diamond was elected chair, Brian Warren secretary and Roger Bullock hon. treasurer.

#### *Membership*

As fellows' subscriptions were suspended for the financial year 2020-21, it was difficult to know how many of them would have renewed or resigned their fellowships but the number of fellows who subscribed for 2020-1 is 43 but with the addition of trustees and the Lab director and operations manager who are

fellows ex officio. They represent eleven disciplines and sub-disciplines: social policy, research, social work, education, early years, mental and physical health, psychology, psychotherapy, health, youth justice and law.

Data protection legislation prevents naming fellows on the CSP website but following a request for their permission, 17 agreed for their names and contact details to be sent to the other 16 and this has now been done.

John Diamond

Chair

December 2021