



**DARTINGTON
SERVICE
DESIGN LAB**

**Centre for Social Policy
AGM DECEMBER 4th 2019
ANNUAL REPORT**

This report covers the year up to December 1st 2019 and details the five seminars held at Buckfast Abbey and London. The report also notes changes in the membership of Fellows.

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

Our Programme

We have enjoyed a busy and stimulating programme over the course of the year with five seminars held since last year's AGM. We are grateful for the commitment of so many Fellows who have given their time to support the design and co-ordination of these events.

Details of the seminars are:

December 2018

The December 2018 seminar held at Buckfast Abbey comprised four presentations. The first was by Nick Axford from PenCLAHRC at the University of Plymouth who discussed the concept of early intervention and how thinking on this is changing in view of the findings from its application in a variety of settings.

Heather Price from the University of East London and Mike Staines from the Mulberry Bush School then described new developments in researching therapeutic practice for severely traumatised children, drawing the outcomes from a series of projects undertaken at the school.

Professor Martin Platt, director of PenCHORD, University of Exeter, explained the methods used by NICE to evaluate the value of new treatments and the criteria and processes that inform the decision by the NHS about whether or not to introduce them.

Finally, Deon Simpson and Finlay Green from the Dartington Service Design Lab explained the model of Rapid Cycle Testing, citing their work on adaptations to the Family Nurse Partnership programme as an illustration.

February 2019

An evening seminar was held at Somerset House on Working with Gang Culture. The discussions were led by Sherrylyn Peck, CEO of Safer London; Anthony Gunter, Principal Lecturer in Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of East London and Andrew Whittaker, Associate Professor, School of Health and Social Care, London South Bank University.

The seminar began by considering the concept of 'gang' and the extent to which it was useful in understanding the situations charted in the various research studies and official reports.

The relationships between young people's behaviour, family backgrounds, education, health, culture, deprivation, environment, policing and public and media perceptions were explored in order to establish more clearly the boundaries between what are the fundamental social issues as opposed to the moral panic about gangs that dominates public perceptions and is reinforced by distinct stereotypes and vocabularies.

A report of the seminar is available in the Papers section of the CSP website.

March 2019

The seminar held at the Lab's offices comprised four contributions. Vashti Berry from the Exeter Medical School discussed a new service being trialled in the South West, Life and Leadership Coaching - a promising behaviour change approach for improving the empowerment, efficacy and well-being of carers who are parenting alone following domestic violence.

Kate Tobyn from the Dartington Service Design Lab then explained how findings from a the Lab's research in Scotland is informing the development of services designed to prevent suicide among young people - currently a matter of some national concern.

On the second day, Mervyn Murch then led a discussion of his new book Supporting Children Whose Parents Separate: Embedding a crisis intervention approach within family justice, education and mental health policy.

The seminar ended with a presentation by Maria Portugal, a service design specialist from the Lab, who discussed the relationship between research and design, citing examples of practice-based learnings and historical case studies as well as reflecting on her experiences.

May 2019

A joint seminar with the Mile End Institute, Queen Mary College, London University entitled Parents, Poverty and the State, was held in on May 23rd. The main speaker was Naomi Eisenstadt, first director of SureStart UK. She described her experiences after arrival from the US of working in family centres in Edinburgh and Buckinghamshire and how she was asked to direct the national SureStart early years programme for children and families initiated by the Labour Government of 1997. She outlined the conditions necessary for successful implementation at national and local levels and outlined the benefits that SureStart offered alongside other statutory and voluntary services, explaining how research evidence on early child development influenced what happened. Carl Purcell from the Policy

Institute at King's College, London then gave details of the austerity policies implemented by the UK government since 2010 and how these have affected services for children and families, especially those with special needs or living in poverty. Naomi's and Carl's slides can be read in the Papers section of the CSP website.

June 2019

The June 2019 seminar was held at the Lab's offices at Buckfast Abbey and had four contributions.

Patrick Diamond from Queen Mary, London spoke about what it means to be a social policy expert in an age of 'post-truth' democracy. It explored the current state of evidence-based policy in the UK and the developments that strengthen and challenge its use. Patrick's slides can be seen in the Papers section of the CSP website.

Tim Hobbs, director of the Dartington Service Design Lab, then discussed the Lab's achievements in its first two years and outlined future plans, inviting observations and advice from fellows.

Martin Knapp from the LSE described the dementia challenge caused by the growing numbers of elderly people in most countries of the world and the role of economics in helping health services to tackle it. The tension between welfare and economics, along with moral issues about end of life care and responsible use of public money were discussed. Martin's slides can be seen in the Papers section of the CSP website.

Finally, Liz Burns a systemic family therapist asked how far the Children Act 1989 principle of the child's welfare being paramount has been implemented and practised. She used as a basis for discussion extracts from the 2017 film *The Children Act*.

The place of CSP in the WHG Charity

Following the establishment of the Dartington Service Design Lab in April 2018, the Trustees reviewed the role and function of CSP. The outcome of this was a move to establish a closer relationship between the Centre and the Lab, for instance by combining CSP meetings with some Lab staff days, writing a CSP Constitution and formalising the terms and expectations of a CSP fellowship.

This has now been in operation for a year and the current list of fellows can be seen on the CSP website. The Centre is now managed by a committee comprising the chair, a trustee, the Lab director, another fellow with others co-opted as needed. Brian Warren and Ella Baille are responsible for the administration.

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 Unit proposals, fellows have commented on proposals and reports and provided specialist information as needed.

The CSP website

The CSP website, first launched in June 2016, was made possible by a generous legacy from former CSP fellow and chair Rupert Hughes CBE and has expanded to contain four sections: About the Centre and future events, a list of fellows, reports on past seminars and papers from previous meetings (divided in to policy and practice, research reviews, theory and history).

CSP elected officers

At the AGM in December 2018, John Diamond was elected chair, Brian Warren secretary and Roger Bullock hon. treasurer.

Membership

The number of fellows is now 47 but with the addition of trustees and the Lab director 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. Plans are afoot for the Centre to provide a supportive framework for the work of the Clore South West Social Fellows.

John Diamond

Chair

December 2019