

Centre for Social Policy
AGM NOVEMBER 2016
CHAIR'S REPORT

I am pleased to present this report to Fellows which covers the year to November 2016 and details the series of five successful seminars we have held at Dartington and in London. The report also details the growth in numbers as new Fellows have joined the Centre and notes the resignation of one other and, sadly, the death of a founder member.

I would like to thank all Fellows who have supported and encouraged me during my tenure as Chair – in particular Kay Turner, Kate Moule and Fiona Mowbray, Jean Harris Hendriks, Brian Warren and Roger Bullock who work tirelessly on behalf of the CSP and whose friendship and advice I have really appreciated.

James Wetz

Bristol

November 2016

Our Programme

We have enjoyed a busy and stimulating programme over the course of the year with five seminars held since the last meeting. 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 held during the year are:

November 2015

The seminar held at Dartington Hall had three contributions. In the first, Chris Stanley and Richard White discussed the future of the youth court. Stephen Collishaw, Cardiff University, then presented findings from a study on predicting and preventing depression based on a longitudinal study of the offspring of depressed parents. Finally, Roy Parker discussed the role of bands in residential establishments for children. The last two presentations can be viewed on the CSP website.

February 2016

An evening seminar at Somerset House on February 8th welcomed as its speaker Lord (Bryan) Davies of Oldham, formerly MP for Enfield and Oldham and secretary of the Labour Party until 1997 when he became Deputy Chief Whip in the House of Lords. The topic was Social Policy: the Government's View. Bryan discussed the contrast between his experience of being a teacher responding to Government edicts and later a Government minister issuing them.

March 2016

The March seminar was held at Dartington Hall and focused on two groups likely to make increasing demands on public services: the frail elderly and young people not in education, employment or training. The speakers were Peter Thistlethwaite (social services), Sir Denis Pereira Gray (Royal College of General Practitioners), Tim Hobbs (DSRU), and Tim Legge and Rupert Herd (former FE College principals).

June 2016

The June CSP meeting was held at Lower Hood Barn and contributions included: a presentation by Miranda Davies of Coram/BAAF on Bodies, Babies and Boundaries: New ways of creating babies; Jane Aldgate, Professor Emeritus University at Leicester and The Open University, on Getting it Right for Every Child - A co-ordinated framework to promote the well-being of children in Scotland; James Wetz (CSP fellow and Co-Chair for the Consortium for Emotional Wellbeing in Schools) on A Model of Alternative Education Provision for Students Pushed out of School; and, finally, a discussion led by Nick Axford (Head of What Works at the Social Research Unit) on Communities that Care: A review of prevention and early intervention programmes tested and found effective in Europe.

October 2016

An evening seminar at Somerset House discussed Pathways of Care for Young People in Secure Care. It was led by Heidi Hales, Consultant Adolescent Forensic Psychiatrist, HMYOI, Cookham Wood and CNLW NHS Foundation Trust, and Louise Warner, the project director. They presented some of the results emerging from a major NHS-funded research project on the issue due for completion early next year.

Other contributions to the work of the Charity

The Centre has assisted the research unit in several ways. The Ethics Committee has prepared reports on several Unit proposals, fellows have refereed articles for the Journal of Children's Services, contributed to the Prevention Action website and advised the Unit on proposals and commented on reports.

The new CSP website

The new CSP website was launched in June, and made possible by a generous legacy from former CSP fellow and chair Rupert Hughes CBE. It has 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).

Our Membership

The Centre currently has 78 Fellows representing eleven disciplines and sub-disciplines: social policy, research, social work, education, early years, psychiatry/medicine, psychology, psychotherapy, health, youth justice and law. Since the last AGM, 7 new fellows have joined – Susanna Abse, Anne Boustred, Valerie Brasse, Peter Hewetson-Brown, Heather Geddes, Anita Higham and Mary Anne McFarlane.

One fellow, June Thoburn, resigned and CSP secretary Fiona Mowbray left in August 2015 to be succeeded by Kate Moule.

It is with great sadness that we heard about the death of death of Jean Packman, formerly of Exeter University and later the Social Research Unit. Jean was a founder member of CSP and a distinguished child-care researcher and social work teacher as well as being a delightful person whose company we all relished.