

Centre for Social Policy
AGM NOVEMBER 2017
ANNUAL REPORT

This report covers the year to November 2017 and details the series of five seminars we have held at Dartington and in London. The report also notes changes in the membership of Fellows.

Although it was not possible to appoint a chair at the last AGM, thanks must be given to all those who have helped maintain the programme: in particular Kate Moule, Brian Warren, Ella Baillie, Roger Bullock and Louise Morpeth.

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:

June 2017

The seminar comprised four presentations. Tim Hobbs from the Social Research Unit discussed a project designed to improve mental health services in a coastal town experiencing huge demands on its services. Roger Bullock discussed the theoretical and practical contributions of Roy Parker, Spencer Millham, Barbara Tizard, Bob Holman, Jean Packman and David Quinton who all died in the previous eighteen months. Two speakers from the Schumacher College, Dartington spoke about education: Bringing the Classroom into Life – designing a curriculum for more effective environmental learning in schools (Jonathan Dawson) and Climate Change and World View

Change on the ways that global thinking needs to change to safeguard the environment (Stephan Harding).

March 2017

The seminar opened with a presentation by Johanna Morrell on youth homelessness and the work of a multi-disciplinary team helping severely disadvantaged young people. Stephanie Guy, a researcher with *People in Harmony*, analysed the concept of mixed race and what it means in the UK today. Aine Rose Kelly from the Department of Education, Oxford University, explored the links between early childhood trauma and later eating patterns and Andrea Warman, an independent consultant, applied this knowledge to good practice in foster care. Finally, David Fry, CEO of *Brain in Hand*, described an innovative way to help people with autism or mental health issues self manage their conditions.

February 2017

At an evening seminar in London, two distinguished speakers discussed the role of the creative artist in modern society and how they attempted to address social issues through their work. David Herd, poet and Professor of Modern Literature at the University of Kent, talked about his work with and writing about refugees and asylum seekers and Tony Garnett, the film director, looked back over his career in radical film making and discussed the effects on social policy of films like *Cathy Come Home*, *Poor Cow* and *Family Life*.

December 2016

Lawrence Aber, Willner Family Professor of Psychology and Public Policy at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, and University Professor at New York University, explained why violence towards children is a troubling and enormously complex phenomenon that has many

influences on children's development. He described attempts to understand this complexity by looking at (a) child maltreatment, (b) community violence and (c) war and armed conflict. He introduced the concept of 'complex trauma' to help integrate what has been learned and gave examples of school-based efforts to promote children's academic and social-emotional learning in the face of exposure to violence.

November 2016

Joyce Moseley, CSP fellow, opened the seminar by asking whether 18-24 year olds are children, adults or in a world of their own? She argued that recent research shows that young adults are distinct and often on a difficult journey to maturity and so should be approached differently. Many young adults, especially those without supportive families or with additional problems, face a cliff edge when they reach the age of 18.

Finley Green then discussed his research into the values and aspirations of young Muslims in Tower Hamlets, looking especially at the extent to which they subscribed to British values.

Professor Paul Bywaters, Coventry University, and Professor Brid Featherstone, Huddersfield University, then looked at ways of identifying and understanding inequalities in child protection Intervention rates across the four UK nations. They ended by discussing alternative ways of framing discussions of child protection suggesting that the present approach was dysfunctional, ineffective and harming social work practice.

Other contributions to the work of the Charity

The Centre has assisted the Research Unit in several ways. The Ethics Committee prepared a report on a Unit proposal, fellows have refereed articles for the Journal of Children's Services and advised the Unit on proposals and commented on reports.

The CSP website

The CSP website, first launched in June 2016, has been expanded to include more information on the Centre and papers that have been produced from its events. It was 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 77 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, no new fellows have joined or resigned.

It was with great sadness that we heard about Parker's death in January. He was a professor at Bristol University for 27 years and later worked closely with the Social Research Unit for a further 20. He was a huge supporter of the Unit, once cancelling a holiday to attend a vital meeting that secured funding. He was, of course, a distinguished child-care researcher and social policy analyst as well as someone whose company and contributions we all relished. In the acknowledgments in his two last books, *Uprooted: The shipment of poor children to Canada 1867-1917* and *Change and Continuity in Children's Services*, he mentions the enormous benefits he received from his membership of CSP.

Roger Bullock

Acting Chair