

<b>Institution: University of Central Lancashire</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment 20 – Social Work and Social Policy</b>
<b>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b>

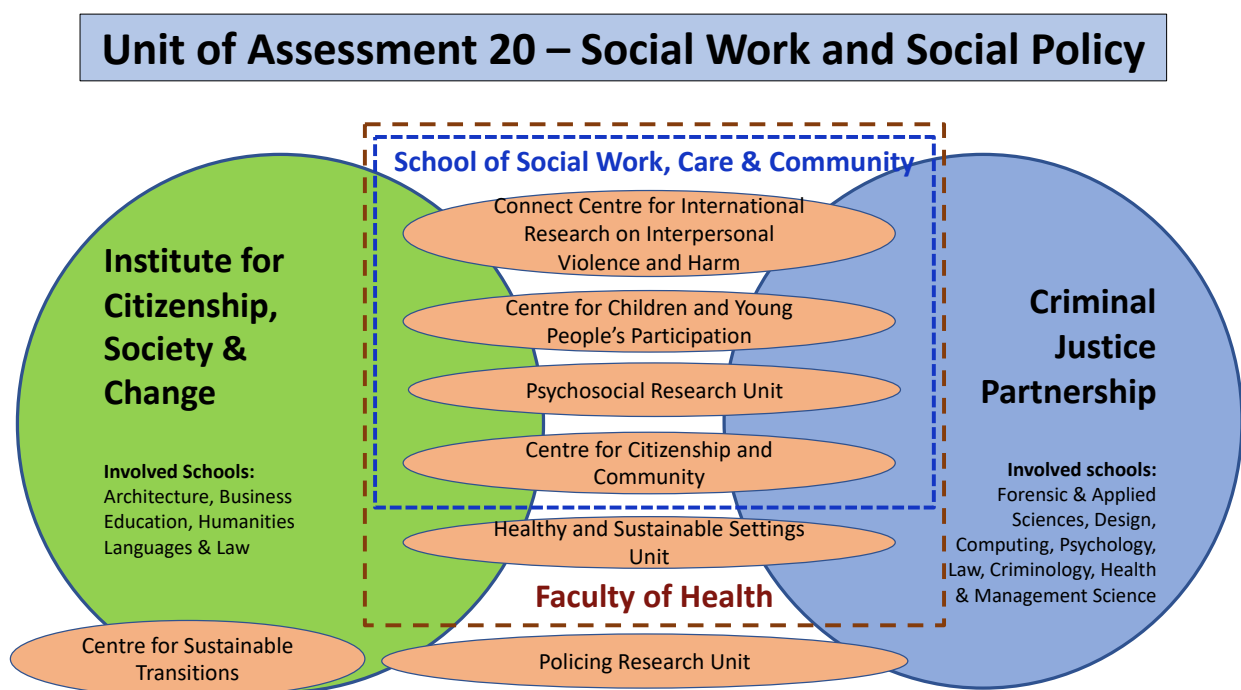
**Unit Overview**

Research in UoA20 is increasingly interdisciplinary and international, evidenced throughout this statement by our strong partnerships and collaborations. Established partnerships with research users and service users have enabled us to achieve extensive policy and practice impact as well as changing lives. We have built on REF2014 to grow a community of highly experienced researchers with exceptional expertise, delivering an excellent level of grant capture from increasingly diverse sources and high impact. Our vital and enabling research culture has supported research career progressions, including advancement from Early Career Researcher (ECR) to Professor, providing the continuity that has enabled local projects to be grown into large-scale impactful studies.

Since 2014, strategic actions have included further development of seven existing centres (see Figure 1) and establishment of new interdisciplinary collaborations. UoA20 also includes: the interdisciplinary Institute of Citizenship, Society and Change (ICSC) and the UCLan Criminal Justice Partnership (CJP). Most staff are located in the School of Social Work, Care and Community (SWCC) which sits in the Faculty of Allied Health and Wellbeing. ICSC and CJP also provide wider environments for interdisciplinary research collaboration and their staff are included in this UoA. The Policing Research Unit collaborates with SWCC’s Connect Centre; researchers from Healthy and Sustainable Settings collaborate with the Psychosocial Research Unit; McKeown works closely with Manley, Spandler and Roy; Bhimji from Humanities and Social Sciences works with ICSC; Cunningham from Social Policy and Whitton and Charnley-Parry from the Centre for Sustainable Transitions (CST) collaborate with the Centre for Children and Young People’s Participation.

Key research groupings are shown in Figure 1 and briefly described below.

**Figure 1 – UoA Structure**



## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

Researchers in UoA20 successfully bid for University funding to establish the new **Institute for Citizenship, Society and Change (ICSC)** in 2017. This was a competitive bid with ICSC one of two Institutes funded from 37 applications. The initial investment (£340,000 over 3 years) funded three new posts and initiatives aimed at building a critical mass of interdisciplinary work across four UCLan Faculties. Led by Co-Directors from social work, psychosocial studies, public health, linguistics and engineering - Professors Stanley, Froggett, Dooris, Zeshan and Whitton - and managed by a co-ordinator (Adams), the Institute fosters collaborations to address complex questions concerning sustainable futures, relationships among individuals and communities, arts, culture, civic life, and public institutions. It has over 40 members drawn from 15 schools across UCLan and partners with a range of organisations nationally and internationally.

The **UCLan Criminal Justice Partnership (CJP)** was established in 2017 with £147,000 of funding from sources including HEIF, resulting in four new posts. CJP responds to the diverse challenges of the criminal justice sector and membership includes researchers from a range of disciplines, structured into five project groups: prisons (led by Baybutt), youth and justice (led by Wainwright), policing (led by Kingston), mental health and criminal justice (led by McKeown), violence and aggression.

These large interdisciplinary research groupings have been built on the success of existing research centres shown in Figure 2:

**Figure 2 – UoA20 Research Centres**

Research Centre	Dates Established & Focus of Work	Staff (*ECR)
Centre for Children and Young People's Participation	Est 2007, research, teaching and networking hub in which children and young people are directly involved in managing, planning and carrying out action research.	Larkins, N.Thomas, Wainwright, Cunningham, Worsley, *D.Thomas,
Centre for Citizenship and Community	Est 2013 in partnership with the Royal Society of Arts, co-produces research on community capacity and assets.	Morris, McKeown, Ridley, Bhimji
Centre for Sustainable Transitions	Est 2013 in partnership with the Royal Society of Arts, co-produces research on community capacity and assets.	Whitton, *Charnley-Parry
Connect Centre for International Research on Interpersonal Violence and Harm	Est 2013, national and international research to prevent and reduce all forms of sexual, gender based and interpersonal violence against adults, children and young people.	Stanley, Westwood, Chantler, Radford, Barter, Robbins, Cooper, *Richardson-Foster, *Martin
Healthy and Sustainable Settings Unit	Est 2001, research on socio-ecological approaches to health and wellbeing across settings and organisations.	Dooris, Baybutt, Farrier
Policing Research Unit	Est 2015, research and consultancy on criminal and deviant behaviour, victimology, and the criminal justice system.	Kingston, Kirby, Cooper, *Phythian
Psychosocial Research Unit	Est 2004, research on welfare, health and the cultural sector, which supports cultural citizenship and participation society.	Froggett, Roy, Spandler, Manley, Farrier

## Unit Aims and Strategy

Our seven research centres have grown substantially since 2014 with 12 new staff appointed, representing an increase in real terms (4 members of staff retired; 3 promoted elsewhere since 2014); this growth has enabled expertise and reputation to be consolidated and has promoted strategic bidding.

Our 2014 research strategy comprised four broad aims: (1) to produce world-class research, building strengths in interdisciplinary and international research; (2) sustain resources and funding, harnessing seedcorn funding to support bidding; (3) maximise impact by extending engagement with external stakeholders; and (4) grow a vibrant research environment increasing the numbers of PGRs. ICSC and CJP have provided the platform and impetus for interdisciplinary research and grant capture from funders such as ESRC, Open Society Foundation and the Wellcome Trust.

## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

Spandler's work demonstrates the fruits of this strategy. ICSC seedcorn funding supported the development of a sustained interdisciplinary focus on mental health, working collaboratively with scholars in sports studies, arts and humanities, history, social science and cultural studies. Her programme of research on the history of critical and creative approaches to mental health has been built through three Wellcome Trust grants.

Since 2014, funding sources have diversified as evidenced in Section 3. Funded research includes a number of European studies, a Canadian study on interpersonal violence and studies undertaken in Japan on ageing and disabled children. In Australia, we have collaborated on studies on children's wellbeing, domestic abuse and international museums. We have deepened and extended our external partnerships and below we discuss the mechanisms enabling service users to contribute to the development of our research (see Section 4).

UoA20 has benefited from UCLan's Home Grown Talent Initiative that prioritises nurturing and retaining talent, including offering permanent posts wherever possible. Sustainably growing our research community, we have successfully implemented a 'grow your own' policy for developing research careers. PGR completions (see Table 1) have increased by 65% since REF2014 and this achievement has been underpinned by funding from the University, Faculty and School and external funding from the EU, the ARC and other research commissioners (see Section 2).

The establishment of the ICSC and CJP was part of a newly designed UoA20 research strategy in 2019 in line with the University Strategy. This followed consultation with staff, students, partners and Comensus, a pan-University organisation consisting of service users, carers and representatives of community organisations which embeds user/carer expertise in research and teaching. This targeted strategy has high ownership emphasising shared values and a culture based on research integrity and equity of opportunity. The strategy has four broad objectives: (1) significantly enhance our research standing; (2) develop cross-cutting interdisciplinary research and partnerships; (3) collaborate with citizens, service users and research beneficiaries to build research integrity and impact and (4) support the research of all academic groups. Below, we outline achievement against these goals.

### *Enhancing Our Research Standing*

Our international profile and reach have been extended through collaborations (see Section 4) and regular international visitors supported by both SWCC and UCLan's Distinguished Visitor programme including visitors from the Universities of: Jyväskylä (2015); Carleton, Canada (2017); Istanbul Arel (2017); Urban Justice Center, New York (2019), Auckland (2019), North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2020). These have resulted in joint publications, international keynote presentations and invitations to affiliate with international centres, enhancing our international reputation.

Staff are supported to deliver papers at international and national conferences by the Faculty and by SWCC's annual £30,000 Staff Development Fund, administered by a panel to provide transparency of decision-making. Dooris has been supported to participate in international forums and networks described in the impact case study on Healthy Universities. University and ICSC funding has assisted PGRs and PhD students to deliver papers at national and international conferences. ICSC and Centres have been given financial backing and administrative support to run conferences that showcase research and influence national and international practice and policy. Examples include the biennial Connect Centre Conference (2016, 2018 and 2020) which has a national profile and contributed to developing one of the Impact Case Studies.

ICSC, the CJP and all Centres deliver regular seminar series which attract audiences from practice, policy and research sectors including strong representation from regional organisations, so contributing to community partnerships. In the context of Covid-19, seminars have moved online increasing participation from international speakers and audiences. From 2014-19, SWCC Research Centres delivered 98 seminars and the CJP hosted 44 knowledge exchange events from 2017-2020, attended by representatives from over 200 organisations. ICSC delivered ten interdisciplinary seminars from 2019-20, with an additional series of online events in 2020 to examine the implications of Covid-19. An ICSC round table event in 2019 resulted in UCLan agreeing to declare a climate emergency and co-ordinate action on climate change. Presentations are available online, increasing the reach and sustainability of our research.

## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

### *Developing interdisciplinary themes and partnerships*

ICSC and the CJP have strengthened links between researchers across the University to promote new forms of interdisciplinary research. ICSC has 52 academic members from 15 schools across UCLan, including nine ECRs and 40 PhD students. Training events, writing workshops, away days and seedcorn funding have developed bids around ICSC's core themes of social justice and sustainability, relationships, risks and safety and community and the public realm.

The CJP has built external partnerships with prisons, constabularies, probation, third sector and community rehabilitation companies and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for research with regional Youth Offending Services.

ICSC seedcorn funding supported Manley and McKeown's research on the Preston Model undertaken in partnership with Preston City Council with specific strategies for linking the local with the global. The international dimension of this research is supported by partnerships with the US organisation 1Worker1Vote and with Mondragon Cooperative corporation, Spain.

The creation of the ICSC has fostered creative alliances such as social work researchers collaborating with Deaf Studies researchers and geographers to research community capacity in India. New partnerships have opened up pathways to original research such as the Centre for Children and Young People's Participation's work in partnership with Media and Innovation colleagues to develop films, websites, apps and phygitals (physical objects with digital components) that enable children and adults to interact with research findings.

### *Research in collaboration with citizens, service users and research beneficiaries to achieve research integrity and impact*

Our REF2014 strategy sought to deepen our strategic engagement with non-academic networks and a wide range of partnerships have been built (see Section 4), supporting involvement in all aspects of our research. The Centre for Children's and Young People's Participation (CCYP) receives funding from SWCC and the University to work with 18 young researchers (UCan) who initiate research studies focused on identifying and challenging discrimination. They have recruited disabled young people as researchers in Japan and conducted research which has contributed to scrutiny of the Japanese government's record on children's rights (see Impact Case Study). UCan is now supported by a dedicated half-time research fellow.

This partnership approach also informed the STIR study on young people's experiences of intimate violence, led by Barter, with Stanley and Larkins. Funded by the EU's Daphne Programme, this research involved young people's advisory groups across five European countries, exploring the prevalence of different forms of abuse in teenage relationships. The findings informed the UK Government's Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence in Schools Inquiry, where Barter sat as a special advisor (see Impact Case Study) and the Swedish National Action Plan on Violence Against Women cited these findings.

The Centre for Citizenship and Community (CCC) facilitates an online forum of twenty local community researchers involved in the design, implementation and analysis of each CCC research project. The CCC maintains close links with key national bodies such as INVOLVE regarding good practice in public engagement in research.

At the international and national levels, contributions to reviews, guidance and inquiries by organisations including UNICEF, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), the Centre for Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation and the NSPCC have brought our work to the attention of commissioners and other influencers, resulting in further commissions and policy impact (see Impact Case Study).

UoA20 staff have collaborated in developing NICE guidelines in England and Wales. Stanley was a member of the NICE Quality Standard Group and Programme Development Group contributing to the development and implementation of the Guideline on the NHS and Social Care Response to Domestic Violence and Abuse 2014. Larkins, with Stanley, leads participatory research to develop NICE Guidelines for working with looked after children and young people (2019-20) (see Impact Case Studies).

## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

At the regional level, the ICSC and the CJP have strengthened partnerships with a range of organisations and commissioners. The ICSC has promoted UCLan's civic university role. Collaboration with the city's Harris Museum included four public seminars in 2018-2019 and a research partnership addressing cultural citizenship through the joint creation of a Centre for Civic Renewal, led by Froggett. The Healthy & Sustainable Settings Unit (HSSU) has cemented links with regional providers through the appointment of visiting professors from public health departments in Blackburn with Darwen and Dudley as well as from Prisons North.

The Psychosocial Research Unit (PRU) has worked in partnership with four Creative People and Places programmes (Arts Council England funded). Projects have addressed intercultural practice and industrial heritage, housing and community capacity, and cultural citizenship. One partnership has co-produced four international conferences and evidence that enabled Heart of Glass, St Helens to be appointed by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation in 2019, accessing £1.4 million in additional funding. PRU has also partnered with Odd Arts and Company Chameleon to research Forum theatre in Prisons and Secure Accommodation leading to the development of a new model of Dance Theatre practice.

The Policing Research Unit's secondment arrangement with Lancashire Police has, since 2015, provided the basis for an ongoing partnership focused on evidence-based policing enabling research findings to be translated directly into practice and policy. Projects have included studies of repeat missing from home incidents in children and Return to Home Interviews with missing children; both projects were undertaken in collaboration with Lancashire Constabulary, University College London and Lancaster University. Impacts include the creation of a 'pilot task force' within Lancashire Constabulary to conduct debriefs of exploited children and repeat missing children as well as a national review into the return to home interview process by the charity, Missing People.

As a long-term member of the national Making Research Count (MRC) network of social work departments, we partner with regional social care organisations (Bolton LA, Barnardo's North-West, Blackpool Adult Services, Lancashire CC) to embed research in their policy and practice through research-informed events. 34 MRC seminars/conferences events have been delivered in this REF period.

UCLan's Connected Curriculum initiative ensures that staff research informs teaching and all research centres draw on their research to contribute to teaching.

We have 24.75 research student completions in this REF period (up from 15 in 2014). The ICSC has attracted funding for two international PhD students through the University Alliance's successful bid to the Horizon2020 CoFund scheme. The University has supported other PhD students through studentships and support monies. In June 2020, the University confirmed funding for five full-time fully funded PhD studentships for BAME students to examine ethnicity in higher education; four will be supervised by staff in UoA20. This followed a paper by Wainwright and Worsley, based on interviews with BAME staff, highlighting strategies for the University's response to challenges faced by BAME academics.

Staff workloads are managed to ensure time is allocated for scholarship and research. Study leave and sabbaticals have been provided in line with School policies to support research, develop proposals and allow staff studying for PhDs extended time for fieldwork. Workload management has facilitated participation in national and international practice and policy forums supporting impact (see Impact Case Studies).

University support for research bidding is detailed in Section 2. UCLan's Research Services provide training and support including the Impact Tracker software which has enabled UoA20 researchers to increase understanding, achievement and articulation of research impact.

Public awareness of our research has been enhanced through media coverage and UoA staff have benefited from the networks and advice from UCLan's Communications Team. Media training has helped staff develop skills to communicate across a range of media. For example, evidence provided to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse by Connect Centre researchers was widely disseminated via You-Tube (see Impact Case Study).

**Unit-level environment template (REF5b)****Open and Ethical Research**

UCLan's Scholarly Communications Unit (SCU) advises researchers on open access requirements and maintains the university's repository. Unit staff contribute to PhD induction days, staff research events and provide training sessions. The Research Administrator deposits all staff outputs in CLoK, the university's repository, where they are checked for accessibility. UCLan's green Open Access policy was introduced in 2014 and revised in 2020 in line with the emerging Open Research landscape. UoA20 researchers have benefited from central university funding aimed at ensuring 'gold' open access for high quality papers in addition to drawing on the OA Block grant from RCUK. All researchers in this UoA have ORCID signifiers.

The University is a signatory to the UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity and this Concordat underpins our approach to ethical research. All research bids are scrutinised by the University's Ethics Committee and UoA members contribute to the work of this committee as Chairs and reviewers.

**2. People****Attracting and Retaining Staff**

The vibrant research environment within UoA20 is designed to nurture, develop and retain highly skilled research staff, ECRs and research students. Our REF2014 strategy aimed to support and strengthen our ECR and mid-career (MCR) researchers, below we identify the approaches adopted. We ensure a balance between professors who lead centres engaged in internationally excellent research, MCRs who contribute to the capture and management of research projects and produce high quality publications, and ECRs whose careers we support with a view to developing and retaining them. The UoA currently includes 12 professors of whom seven are based in SWCC. We have 11 MCRs (5-10 years from PhD or equivalent), and five ECRs (as defined by REF2021 guidance).

In the last three years, the University and UoA20's 'grow your own' strategy for producing internationally excellent researchers has come to fruition. Staff who joined SWCC as PhD students (Larkins, Westwood), lecturers (McKeown, Roy) or Post-Doctoral Research Fellows (Spandler) have been appointed to Chairs. Baybutt completed a Professional Doctorate at UCLan in 2013 and was appointed to a Readership in 2020. UCLan's commitment to employing staff on permanent contracts wherever possible has assisted this growth. Career progression has been supported by mentoring and collaboration with senior professors such as Froggett and Stanley and mentoring through UCLan's central mentoring scheme. SWCC's policy offers MCRs workload space to work on large bids to support career progression. Promotions in this REF period reflect the UoA's commitment to equal opportunities with a 50:50 gender balance amongst those promoted. The University holds a Bronze Athena Swan Award and the Faculty has held a Bronze Athena Swan since 2018 and is working towards the Silver Award.

As staff have retired (N.Thomas, Radford) or been promoted internally, new staff have been recruited at Senior Research Fellow (SRF) or Research Fellow (RF) levels with a view to ensuring sustainability of Centres and research teams. Five ECRs have been appointed to permanent RF posts in the last three years with three of these having completed PhDs at UCLan. The establishment of ICSC involved the creation of three new posts: two RAs and an Institute Co-ordinator.

We have also made external appointments to fill vacant positions. Robbins was recruited in 2014 from Manchester Metropolitan University and Barter moved from University of Bristol to take up a Readership in the Connect Centre in 2016. Kingston moved from Lancaster University to a Chair in the Policing Research Unit in 2019.

The SWCC and the ICSC benefit from administrative support provided by a dedicated full-time Research Administrator (QR funded) and CJP is supported by a part-time administrator. Researchers also have access to the Faculty's Research Support Team (QR funded) which offers specialist support and skills in respect of data collection and entry, statistical analysis and

## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

systematic reviewing. This Team employs 13.3 FTE academic and 7.4 administrative staff working across a range of disciplines including social sciences and public health.

Research induction is provided for all new staff and all academic staff receive training on Ethics and Research Integrity and have access to the Epigeum range of on-line research training. SWCC funds regular research training for all staff including training on systematic reviews, writing retreats and specialist training courses, for example on Social Network Analysis.

SWCC has a designated Research Lead who chairs a regular Research Strategy Group meeting attended by research staff at all levels. This group provides a forum to share new initiatives, identify training needs and develop strategy and is particularly valuable for MCRs and ECRs. All Centres are led by professorial level staff who supervise and mentor Centre members.

## Staff Support and Development

Staff development is informed by the principles of the 2019 Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and we aim to create a research environment that is inclusive, healthy and transparent. Annual staff appraisal is strength-based and used to set appropriate research targets and appraise workload. Flexible working patterns are utilised and time spent on staff development is monitored, particularly in respect of ECRs, to ensure equal access. All staff undertaking appraisals participate in Unconscious Bias training.

Funding has been provided for staff to attend Women's Leadership programmes and to receive individual leadership coaching. Where staff with substantial teaching responsibilities wish to grow their research profile, it has been possible to create protected time for this, including the provision of sabbaticals. Staff who have returned to work following a period of sickness have been offered flexible work patterns and opportunities to reduce their hours if they choose. UCLan has funded the Aurora Women in Education leadership programme for MCRs in UoA20 and Baybutt was promoted following her participation in this programme.

### *Early Career Researchers*

Following a consultation exercise with ECRs in 2016, SWCC has developed and implemented an ECR strategy which includes: a mentorship programme; an increased focus on research in annual appraisals and a reassessment of ECR workloads; promotion of Vitae and research plans in self-monitoring; and increasing involvement of ECRs on research bids. For example, ECRs Richardson-Foster and D.Thomas have been co-applicants on major bids.

In 2014-20, SWCC allocated £50,000 towards the fees of lecturers studying for PhDs. ECRs have been able to draw on ICSC seedcorn funding to develop small-scale studies which have fed into larger bids.

Five ECRs are currently included on PGR supervision teams alongside senior staff and supported by central university training for research supervisors. They also contribute to the University's PGR training programme.

Mentoring partnerships have been developed and used to build the publication profile and wider portfolio of ECRs. For example, D.Thomas has been supported by Larkins to publish papers and Manley received mentoring from Froggett that contributed to his high-profile work on the Preston Model. All ECRs are supported to publish by senior colleagues and have been resourced via the Staff Development Fund to deliver papers at international conferences. ECRs have opportunities to network at the Faculty's ECR Forum and training events and the University organises seminars and events on skills and career development tailored for ECRs.

### *Mid-Career Researchers (MCRs)*

Mid-Career researchers are supported by a Faculty MCR development programme and a series of support meetings. Membership of ISCS has proved valuable for MCRs: the two ICSC RAs have supported MCRs by providing assistance with systematic reviews and pilot studies. MCR Farrier, for example, used Institute seedcorn funding to develop three bids and attended ISCS writing retreats, resulting in a published paper with two further papers underway.

**Unit-level environment template (REF5b)***PGR Students*

Our 24.75 PhD completions in this REF period represents an improvement on the 15 reported for REF2014, reflecting objectives set at that time. UoA20 currently has 58 PGR students registered including 36 PhD students and 22 undertaking Professional Doctorates. Of these, 71% are female and 17% are from BAME groups. A range of funding streams support PGR study. Two full-time international Research Fellows (2019-22) are funded through the University Alliance's Cofund programme, with UCLan a partner in this alliance providing funding to match that provided by the Horizon DTA3 programme. Funding from the School, Faculty and University has supported six PhDs with some allocated to international students. Other significant PGR funding sources include Lancashire Constabulary who have part-funded three PGRs in the REF period and the regional NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC). PGR funding has also been built into research grants from the Big Lottery, the Wellcome Trust and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

**Table 1: PGR student completions**

	2013/ 2014	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	TOTAL	STAFF FTE	PER FTE
PhD	1	2.5	3	2.75	3	2	4.75	19	27.20	0.89
Prof Doc	0	1	0	1.25	1.25	0.5	1.25	5.25		
Total	1	3.5	3	4	4.25	2.5	6	24.25		

All supervisory teams include two/three members of staff who meet the University's training requirements. Three Research Degree Tutors support PGRs throughout their study. All PGR students complete the University's PGR teaching programme which includes a compulsory induction and offers skills and knowledge in research methods, research governance, work management and impact. SWCC also provides a research-informed PGR training programme and support workshops which contribute to a collegiate and supportive learning environment. Students enjoy membership of ICSC and have been able to access ICSC training events and writing retreats. Other training and networking events include the Connect Centre's annual PGR seminar and the Faculty's annual PGR conference. Students' progress, supervision and training needs are monitored via annual progression reports and PhD students submit a progress report at the point of transition from MPhil to PhD status. All students are offered the opportunity of a mock viva with an independent member of staff.

All PGR students are supported by supervisors to publish peer-reviewed papers. PGR career progression is supported through teaching opportunities and consideration for Research Associate (RA) and Research Fellow (RF) posts. Currently, four former PhD students are employed as RAs/RFs within the UoA and RA posts have also been taken up by part-time PGR students who wish to work alongside their studies.

Within SWCC, 14 members of staff have been supported to enrol and study on PhDs or Professional Doctorates with time allocated within workloads for this. Undergraduates are able to obtain research experience via university research internships and both our students and research centres have benefited from this scheme.

<b>3. Income, infrastructure and facilities</b>
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**Generation of Research Income**

In response to feedback from REF2014, UoA20 has substantially broadened sources of research funding to include national and international grants from the ESRC (4 grants), AHRC (3 grants), Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, NIHR, Medical Research Council, European Union, Council of Europe, European Commission, Department of Health, Cabinet Office, Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, NHS England, Office of Children's Commissioner, NICE, SCIE, Scottish Government, Welsh Government, Nature England, major charities and



## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

foundations such as Wellcome Trust, Open Society Foundations, UNICEF, NSPCC, the Big Lottery, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Premier League, and Children in Need as well as regional and local commissioners. The development of new Institutes and partnerships has built on existing track records, boosted research reputation and credibility, and developed new opportunities. Total income in the REF period has amounted to £4,239,742.

Major grants have built on the strength of existing Centres. For example, five permanent staff from the Connect Centre work on the Roadmap Evaluation of Domestic Violence Services (2017-21, total value: £390,000) and Connect Centre teams worked on two systematic reviews for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and for the Scottish Government Inquiry into Child Abuse. Reputation and expertise have led to Stanley partnering with King's College London and University of Bristol on two large-scale NIHR programme grants (total value: £4.5 million) and on four other NIHR awards. Similarly, Robbins was co-applicant on a major UK ESRC study exploring social care responses to children and families affected by domestic abuse (2019-22, total value c. £2 million); and Barter was a partner on a major NIHR study on domestic abuse prevention with the Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine (2017-19, total value £450,000) and a MRC-funded study on domestic abuse with the University of Bristol (2018-21, total value £550,000).

International studies include Larkins' EU funded PEER project, (2014-2016, €0.8 million, with 13 partners in nine countries) on the participation and empowerment of Roma Youth; two projects applying this methodology in other countries (Daiwa funded, 2017-2019, with a partner university and NGOs in Japan, and Open Society Foundations funded, 2019-2021, with partner NGOs in Bulgaria). The Odessa Project (Morris, 2016-19, ESRC, ANR, NSFC, total value: €1million) on ageing-in-place is undertaken with partners in Beijing and Paris. The EU Daphne Programme has funded three projects on interpersonal violence: the STIR study (2013-15, Stanley and Larkins with Barter then at Bristol and four European partners); Radford's PIECES study with the European Child Safety Network and five European partners and Radford's Preventing Intergenerational Domestic Violence collaboration with Verwey Jonker Institute, Netherlands.

A stable senior staff group has enabled the acquisition of new research funding to build on the foundation provided by earlier studies. The PRU have undertaken a series of projects for Paul Hamlyn, Wellcome Trust, Big Lottery, Australia Research Council (total value c £370k) on the arts-health-citizenship interface. Stanley et al's (2018-20) national evaluation of the NSPCC's Speak Out Stay Safe programme (total value £660,000) draws on the systematic review undertaken for the NIHR-funded PEACH study (2013-15, £161,000) built on her track record in research on domestic abuse and children. Likewise, the CCC has extended two small grants from the People's Health Trust to capture further research (£220,000) on community control in 21 sites. The CCC's evaluation of mental health and adult learning programme with IPSOS Mori (£300k in total, Department of Business, Innovation and Skills) built on earlier work on social inclusion for the National Institute of Mental Health.

ICSC seedcorn funding for kickstarting interdisciplinary research resulted in pilot studies for successful large-scale bids such as the ESRC study on Domestic Homicide Reviews (2019-21, total value £545,000) and Larkins' arts-based work in NW England and Wales which led to capture of research income from Nature England, the AHRC (total value £100,000) and the Arts Councils of England and Wales.

The ICSC's partnership with the City of Preston has resulted in research focused on the city's institutions and innovations with Manley and McKeown awarded \$300,000 (Open Society Foundations, 2019-21) to develop and study Preston's co-operative network. This work has been developed further with NIHR funding (total value £598,242) in partnership with Liverpool and Lancaster universities and the North West Coast Applied Research Collaboration (ARC), in a study to identify the public health benefits of Preston's community wealth building model.

The work of the Policing Research Unit has been supported by Lancashire Police who have part-funded unit staff from 2015-20 (£50,000 per annum). This has resulted in ongoing consultation on evidence-based policing and a series of local studies undertaken by staff seconded to Lancashire Police addressing trauma-informed practice; adverse childhood experiences; domestic abuse; victim satisfaction; public perceptions of police; 'sextortion' and mental health demand. Findings

## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

have generated direct changes in policy, procedures and practice and have promoted evidence-based policing through web pages and a policing award conference.

### Research Infrastructure and Technical Support

The University's Grants and Funding Unit (GFU) supports grant capture through bid preparation and the post-award period. Their services include assistance with funder guidelines, submission rules, calculating grant budgets, advice on intellectual property and data protection and legal services.

UoA20 has financially supported the production of a monthly funding opportunity report for SWCC researchers and has provided staff training in the use of Research Professional. Since 2013, all bids over £100,000 are subject to internal peer review to ensure quality. All research staff and students have access to research tools such as bibliographic management systems, electronic databases, inter-library loans and data analysis software for both quantitative and qualitative analysis. PGR students have benefitted from the University's commitment to keep the library open during the pandemic in line with Covid-19 safety procedures.

Criminal justice researchers use UCLan's Hydra Minerva Suite, one of the most sophisticated university installations in the country, to explore decision-making and victims' journeys. This facility comprises syndicate rooms where participants are provided with information about an unfolding incident through a large-screen monitor and a 'control room' where researchers can assess decision making.

The university supports and trains staff in the use of research tools such as SPSS and NVivo and digital technology such as the Rmerge polling package. SWCC subscribes to Qualtrics which is used for large-scale surveys and has been used by CCYP to develop tools which enable tracking of child participation (see Impact Case Study). In collaboration with UCLan's Media Innovation Studio, funded by Open Society Foundation, the tools are being developed further to inform a bespoke multi-lingual library on child participation.

All SWCC staff have dedicated office space with the majority having their own rooms in the same newly refurbished building. PhD students share a dedicated space with other Faculty research students and Research Fellows each have their own rooms.

## 4. Collaboration and contribution to the research base, economy and society

Our collaborations and networks are core to our research strategy and fundamental to the innovation and impact we achieve. We have extended and strengthened partnerships with service users, external colleagues, associates and research users since REF2014, with a sustained focus on increasing interdisciplinary and international collaborations.

### Interdisciplinary Collaborations

Effective social work and social policy research increasingly addresses complex and intersecting problems. In response, we have built a strong culture of interdisciplinary research with ICSC and CJP providing environments that foster internal and external collaborations and networks.

Stanley has a long-standing partnership with the University of Bristol Medical School, collaborating on four major interdisciplinary projects on interventions in domestic violence and abuse (DVA), including primary care responses. These collaborations have produced new tools and training for strengthening the response to DVA in primary care settings (disseminated online and through the IRIS programme of training). She led the Public Health Research Programme NIHR funded evidence review, Preventing Domestic Abuse for All Children (2013-2015) collaborating with health researchers with findings submitted as evidence to the Government's Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence in Schools Inquiry (see Impact Case Study).

Barter is co-applicant with Bristol Medical School on an MRC/ESRC funded study which identifies the determinants and health sequelae of DVA among young adults to inform service responses (2019-2021). In partnership with The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Bristol

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Medical School, she completed the first UK pilot randomised trial of a school-based violence prevention intervention for young people (NIHR PHR); this will inform statutory provision of relationships and sex education.

The integration of intradisciplinary collaborations and participatory research is central to the work of the CYPP. In collaboration with Dialogue Matters, an environmental science consultancy firm, Larkins developed the 'England Coastal Path Initiative' and Nature England's 'Strategy for Child and Youth Participation' with repeat commissions for co-production work as the project developed.

### Collaborations with Citizens and Service Users

A strong emphasis on 'co-production' through sustained engagement with citizens and service users characterises much of our research. These collaborations alert us to new fields of inquiry, shape our research priorities and ensure our research has maximum impact across different sectors.

A fundamental principle of the CCYPP is to support co-produced research with young service users. Larkins has co-produced evaluations of support services for children in and leaving care with local authority partners, funded by local authorities, Family Action and the Cabinet Office. These utilise a distinctive approach to co-producing a theory of change with children and young people through action research groups and have led to impact on care leaver services and informed the development of a new National Youth Advocacy service which is piloting the approach. The CCYPP hosts UCan Young Researchers Group which also advised Ridley on development of the successful YOUCount Horizon 2020 bid.

Whitton co-produced research with young researchers exploring young people's engagement with Climate Change and Community Resilience, using participatory photography and deliberative workshop methods.

Similarly, the CCC co-produces research with community members across age spans and with diverse groups in Preston, supported by local authority and community organisation partners, developing sustained mechanisms to build community capacity, improve wellbeing and reduce loneliness.

The PRU's research has brought together socially engaged art and addiction services, undertaken in collaboration with people in recovery. In partnership with Fallen Angel Dance Theatre (FADT), Roy developed dance and movement workshops to support people recovering from substance misuse. A collaboration with people in recovery led to a public engagement programme at Tate Liverpool involving 1,200 members of the public. This resulted in a new collaboration between FADT and international artists funded by Liverpool Biennial, building on previous work developed with Roy funded by the Wellcome Trust.

Spandler and McKeown's research also includes mental health service users as co-researchers and co-authors, such as Spandler's Hidden from History study on the psychiatric mistreatment of lesbians.

### International Collaborations

Our international collaborations and networks have grown considerably since REF2014. These partnerships provide a continuous challenge to our research practices and theory, strengthening our research culture, relevance and reach of our impact. Through them, we maintain a sustained focus on comparative perspectives across a range of international issues.

The Connect Centre has led/contributed to several European Collaborations funded under the Daphne programme. Including Barter's STIR study, discussed in section 1.

The CCYP's major European collaboration, PEER: Participation and Empowerment for European young Roma, involved co-designing and delivering action research training to 270 professionals and young Roma across Europe and subsequent work with young Roma across Europe, involving 550 children in 33 projects across 19 European countries. These studies brought about change in Roma young people's lives, communities and in public policy (see Impact Case Study). Building on this research, Larkins was awarded an Open Society Foundation grant in 2019 to

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support NGOs in Bulgaria to roll out the PEER methodology to four European NGOs. This grant also funded research across 20 countries assessing marginalized children's involvement in shaping responses to Covid-19, which has informed NGO practice across Europe (see Impact Case Study). Through its partnership with Eurochild, which has 900-member organisations in 43 countries, the Centre models innovative practice in co-creating knowledge exchange with children and young people. For example, the Centre supported child participation in the Council of Europe Child Rights Strategy Review and associated 2019 conference.

In Germany, Bhimji has worked closely with refugee and migration NGOs such as Schlafplatzorga which supports homeless refugees in Berlin. She has also collaborated with and contributed to shows on We!Radio, an independent radio project developed by German refugees and aimed at African diaspora in Germany and family in East and West Africa.

UoA20 has expanded its global networks to include partnerships in Southeast Asian Nations, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China and Canada. All research in low to middle income (LMIC) countries is compliant with the *Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings*, developed by Professor Doris Schroeder (UCLan).

'Optimising Care Delivery Models to Support Ageing-in-Place' (Odessa) is an ongoing global collaborative venture between the Centre for Citizenship and Community, Tsinghua University, Beijing, University Paris Dauphine and University of Paris 1. The study involves older people in finding innovative ways of adapting homes for independent living.

Froggett was the UK lead on 'Curating Third Space' co-funded by the Australian Research Council. A direct outcome was 'The Big Anxiety' Arts and public Mental Health Festival (Sydney 2017, 2019) and ongoing partnerships with the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney, and the ArtScience Museum, Singapore.

The Healthy & Sustainable Settings Unit's research has been instrumental in the adoption of the 'whole system' approach to promoting health and wellbeing within higher education. The model, developed by Dooris, has been implemented in over 70 higher education institutions within the UK and globally, across Southeast Asian Nations, Canada, Ibero-America and New Zealand (see Impact Case Study).

Whitton and Charnley-Parry were partners on the Horizon 2020 study on the History of Nuclear Energy and Society (HoNESt) study involving researchers from 22 EU countries, the US and Russia. This study influenced UK Nuclear New Build public engagement practice and is included in UCLan's UoA17 impact statements.

The Connect Centre collaborated on research to explore fathering and domestic violence with the University of Melbourne, Curtin University and University of South Australia. The study contributed to changes in both policy and practice in different states in Australia with a shift to the recognition of the value of interventions for abusive fathers. The Connect Centre also collaborates with McGill University, Canada, on IMPACTS, a 7-year global partnership on sexual violence on campus, with 22 international educational institutions and nine community partners.

Members of the Connect Centre are co-founders of the International Domestic Homicide Research Network (established 2018). The network exchanges new research on domestic homicide and is establishing a research agenda that incorporates a range of data sources and methodologies. Network members involved in the development of government strategy on homicide review in Scotland and Ireland have drawn on members' research to inform new policy initiatives.

## National and Regional Collaborations

The Centre for Citizenship and Community has developed national projects in public service sectors including housing (for Orbit, a national housing provider) and police (Cumbria) around mental wellbeing and communities. Led by Morris and Ridley, with funding from the Big Lottery, the *Connected Communities* programme involves collaboration with the Royal Society of Arts and the London School of Economics (£500,000). The findings show the value of 'dividends' relating to wellbeing, economic, citizenship and capacity.

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'Stories to Connect' AHRC is a collaboration led by CCYPP with Barnardo's to produce stories with marginalised children, sharing these in fictionalised forms in order to challenge exclusion and stigma (£505,000). This is used in training for social workers and education professionals across the UK and Finland. Building on this work, Larkins currently co-leads *Stories of Landscapes* which, with Rusland Horizons Trust, Art Gene and Blackpool Council, uses an innovative participatory fiction methodology to engage children in environmental planning.

Connect Centre members have delivered a range of national research studies since REF2014. Barter worked with the Premier League Charitable Fund and Children in Need to develop the Premier League's 'Breaking the Cycle of Youth Violence' programme in partnership with the University of Bedfordshire. Findings from the independent evaluation, led by Barter, supported Children in Need's decision to move to a full programme at a cost of £5 million. Ongoing studies led by Stanley include the TESSE national evaluation of the NSPCC's Speak Out Stay Safe programme for primary schools in partnership with the Universities of Edinburgh, Greenwich, Bangor and Queen's University Belfast; and the Roadmap evaluation of innovative domestic abuse interventions (2017-21, Big Lottery, £369,000) with the Universities of East London and Bangor. Both studies will inform future development, commissioning and roll-out of these large-scale programmes as well as shaping understandings of change mechanisms for intervention in interpersonal violence; interim findings have been used to redesign and refocus existing programmes.

The Policing Research Unit's research collaborations with Lancashire Police have supported best practice policing on violent crime; a process evaluation of a pilot intervention for women at risk of serious and organised crime with Lancashire Women's Centre and Lancashire Constabulary; a progress review of Operation Genga, a multi-agency approach to serious and organised crime with Blackburn and Darwen Council and Lancashire Constabulary. Other partnership projects have included Engage 1, an evaluation of interventions for young people at risk of crime involvement, with Greater Manchester Police, and an evaluation of the Cumbria multi-agency assessment and crisis service with Cumbria Partnership NHS Trust and Cumbria Police.

Phythian has led collaborations with the National Police Chiefs Council and CGI Inc to examine the use and limitations of the Police National Database and, with Oscar Kilo, Lancashire Constabulary and College of Policing, to analyse National Blue Light Wellbeing Frameworks and to conduct a landscape review of police wellbeing. Her work on the Police National Database (PND) has informed training events in the US and the UK.

Roy's ESRC funded Knowledge Transfer Partnership with drug treatment commissioners and a Lancashire drug and alcohol treatment service, developed a research-informed recovery model of treatment which has been applied regionally and has directly increased CRI's budget by £1.5 million and supported a three-fold increase in its staff team.

Adams has developed a partnership with The Larder, a local food co-operative, that hosts two PhD studies. GOOP (Greener on the Outside for Prisons) is an environmental programme led by Baybutt in collaboration with HMPPS, NOMS and NHS Gateways that aims to improve the wellbeing of prisoners, reducing health inequalities and re-offending. GOOP has been adopted by all state-run prisons in the region and has produced evidence of impact on prisoners' mental health and behaviour.

The Centre for Citizenship and Community developed an action research programme for Preston City Council (PCC) in partnership with community and statutory organisations and in collaboration with local residents. Consequently, a Community Connectors Group formed with funding from Lancashire CC and PCC has implemented community initiatives including intergenerational food and gardening projects to reduce social isolation.

## Contributions to the wider research base

### *International Conferences and Associations:*

Stanley was UK PI on a British Council Researcher Links Workshop with the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa (2014-15) which involved 30 MCRs from the UK and South Africa, in a 4-day workshop on Violence Against Women and Children in Diverse Contexts. This led to a jointly

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edited special issue of the journal, *Families, Relationships and Society*. Stanley had a key role in inaugurating and developing the European Conference on Domestic Violence which has been convened in Belfast (2015), Porto (2017) and Oslo (2019). Delegate numbers have grown from 500 to 800 in this period. She is a founding member of the Organising Committee and Connect Centre staff have served as members of the Scientific Committees.

Larkins is the current Convenor of the 'European Sociological Association RN04 Sociology of Children and Childhood', following on from N.Thomas who held this role previously. They have led the scientific committee for two international conferences and four international symposia for the association.

Froggett is Director of The Association for Psychosocial Studies, an Academy of Social Sciences Learned Society which brings together researchers, teachers, practitioners and students interested in the development of inter/trans-disciplinary fields of study.

### *Keynotes:*

UoA20 researchers are frequently invited to deliver keynote addresses at international and national conferences. Examples of these keynotes include: 9<sup>th</sup> Nordic Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Stockholm; City of Culture Conference, Hull; Connected Communities Conferences, China; Critical Voices Conference, Ireland; Eurochild Conference, Croatia; European Conferences on Domestic Violence, Belfast and Oslo; Madrid; Finding Common Ground Conference, Canada; Institute of Psychiatrists, London; Spanish Mental Health Association Conference; Madrid.

### *Toolkits and Training Packages:*

UoA20 staff have produced a series of research-based toolkits and training packages. Barter developed a toolkit on Violence in Young People's Relationships (2016, updated 2020) which was widely distributed by Research in Practice. Stanley and Larkins' collaboration with University of Bristol on GPs' responses to children who have experienced domestic abuse, contributed to the IRIS primary care training intervention which has been rolled out nationally.

Larkins has co-written a training manual on participatory research which is translated into seven languages and used to train professionals and young Roma in nine countries. She also produced a practitioners' guide on fiction writing with community groups and led the creation of the Council of Europe's Handbook on Children's Participation.

Spandler was funded by the Wellcome Trust to produce a booklet for sports organisations (2020) providing guidance on including non-binary people in sport.

### *Journal Editorial Boards:*

Spandler is the Managing Editor of *Asylum*, the radical mental health magazine and Baybutt is Editor of the *International Journal of Health Promotion and Education*. Researchers in UoA20 have contributed to a variety of Editorial Boards including: *Critical and Radical Social Work*; *The International Journal of Therapeutic Communities*; *Critical Public Health*, *Journal of Gender Based Violence*; *Child Abuse Review*; *Journal of Social Work Practice Psychosocial Studies Qualitative Social Work*; *London Journal of Primary Health Care and Ageing and Society*; *SAGE Open*; *Community Living*; *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*; and *Journal of Forensic Practice*.

### *Board and Panel Memberships:*

UoA20 researchers have contributed to prestigious international and national boards and wider associations.

Stanley was a member of NICE Quality Standard Group and Programme Development Group on NHS and Social Care Response to Domestic Violence and Abuse. She is also a Trustee of Paladin, the National Stalking Organisation. Barter is an advisor to the Home Office on abuse in young people's relationships and was a special advisor on the Government's Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence in Schools Inquiry. Richardson-Foster is a Board Member of the Association of Child Protection Professionals. Radford participated in the global expert meeting on regulating

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demand for child sexual exploitation, Geneva Switzerland, 2015, which informed the Special Rapporteur's strategy paper for the UN.

Larkins is an Advisor to Home Office on development of child friendly information on Brexit. She is a Board member and now host of ICYRNet, the leading international network of academics and practitioners which has links participants in the Global North and South. She sits as an expert advisor to European Union and Council of Europe Social Affairs Parliamentary Committee and is Chair of Eurochild Reference Group on Participation Methods for the Inclusion of All Children.

Worsley is a member of both the Implementation Group and the Professional Expert Group for 'Social Work England'. He was seconded to the DfE where his work shaped the regulatory regime for qualifying education for all social work programmes in England. He delivered a report to the governing body of Social Work England on education and training with recommendations subsequently adopted into national regulatory standards, such as those relating to approval processes, reapproval arrangements and each social work course in England having a 'Lead Social Worker'.

Ridley and Morris are members of the Coalition for Collaborative Care developing national work on Universal Personalised Care for the NHS England and the Royal Society for Public Health. Ridley is a member of the Local Government Association's Reference Group that is formulating a national framework on integrated health and social care and community wellbeing. Morris contributed to the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Special Committee on Professional Practice and Ethics Report on Person-Centred Care Training and Curriculum (2018).

Dooris is Chair of the International Health Promoting Universities and Colleges Steering Group and Co-Chair of the UK Healthy Universities Network. Baybutt is a member of the National Board for Rehabilitative Culture of Prisons Board and the National Research Group for Care Experience in Prisons. Between 2012 and 2019, Whitton was a Director of Local Trust which oversees Big Local, the £220m, resident-led community regeneration National Lottery programme.

All UoA20 senior researchers and many MCRs are members of international, national and regional research advisory boards. Our researchers sit on reviewing panels for a wide range of national and international funding bodies, with Stanley, Radford and N.Thomas being members of ESRC's College of Reviewers and Larkins, McKeown, Ridley, Roy, Spandler and Stanley regular reviewers for the NIHR and/or the Wellcome Trust.

Stanley is Deputy Chair of Sub-Panel 20 for REF2021.

## Prizes

Spandler and McKeown and Ridley were awarded Emerald Literati prizes for two separate peer-reviewed papers. McKeown was chosen to deliver the annual Eileen Skellern memorial lecture in 2019.

Larkins' 'Stories to Connect' project was the 2019 Winner of Educate North - Research Project of the Year and was shortlisted for the AHRC Wellcome Health Humanities medal. Larkins' study of the 'England Coastal Path Initiative' and Nature England's 'Strategy for Child and Youth Participation' received a 'Highly Commended' prize for 'Best Stakeholder Engagement' from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

## Summary

UoA20 has benefited from strong and consistent leadership and institutional support which together have promoted sustained growth. This growth is demonstrated by research that is increasingly interdisciplinary and global and also enriched by local partnerships with research beneficiaries and service users. The interdisciplinarity and enhanced reputation of our work have broadened our impact and diversified our funding sources. Growth is also evidenced by increased PGR numbers and research careers that have been nurtured and borne fruit in this UoA. The achievements of this REF period provide a strong basis for meeting future national and international challenges and ensuring that we continue to make a significant difference to the lives of vulnerable groups in society.