



THE UNIVERSITY *of York*



## Workshop Descriptions:

### Workshop 1

#### **Title: Promoting the resilience of young people from care to adulthood**

This workshop will explore the concept of resilience in relation to young people leaving care. It will draw upon on research studies of their lives in care, their transitions from care and their lives after care, including their main pathways to adulthood: moving into settled, safe, accommodation of their choice; entering further or higher education, or training; finding satisfying employment, and; achieving good health and a positive sense of well-being. It is intended that this material will provide the opportunity for participants to explore the policy and practice implications for promoting the resilience of young people from care to adulthood.

#### **Professor Mike Stein**

Currently, **Research Professor, in the Social Policy Research Unit at York University**: a qualified social worker, I have worked as a probation officer, a senior child care officer and an area manager in a social services department. During the last 30 years I have been researching the problems and challenges faced by vulnerable young people, including care leavers and young people running away from home and care. My current research includes the neglect and maltreatment of adolescents. I am a joint co-ordinator of the International Research Network on the Transitions to Adulthood for Young People Leaving Public Care (INTRAC). I have been involved in the preparation of Guidance for Leaving Care legislation in the UK, and have also been consulted on the development of leaving care services internationally. I have published extensively in the field (see [www.york.ac.uk/spru](http://www.york.ac.uk/spru)). My most recent book is *Care Less Lives, the story of the rights movement of young people in care*, Catch-22, available from: [www.leavingcare.org](http://www.leavingcare.org).

### Workshop 2:

#### **Title: Young People and Social Enterprise**

The economic downturn and the subsequent reduction in government spending have given rise to an increasing focus on the ability of the Third Sector to fill the gaps in state funded provision. Services for young people have traditionally been vulnerable to such cuts in spending and coupled with a sharp rise in youth unemployment this means that new ways of

delivering services are now being considered. This workshop will explore the potential of social enterprise to deliver services that are shaped by young people and that support them in the rapidly changing economic climate. We will try to define what a social enterprise is and then assess how suited it is to deliver services run by and for young people.

### **Dr Robert Gunn**

Robert is a lecturer in Social Work at the University of York. He has extensive experience working in residential settings with offenders and as a research fellow in community regeneration. He has also contributed to local level policy development by completing research projects that have evaluated young people's experience of service delivery, out of hours health provision and organisational studies of small voluntary organisations seeking to re-focus their activities. He has recently published a book on 'social enterprise', titled '*Social entrepreneurship: A skills approach*' (Gunn and Durkin, 2010).

## **Workshop 3:**

### **Title: Supporting Teenage Parents in Challenging Times**

Drawing upon both qualitative longitudinal research, and vast practitioner experience supporting teenage parents, this workshop will provide a critical appraisal of New Labour's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy (TPS). The experience of both conducting research, and providing support to teenage parents, as the national TPS unfolded, allowed for an appreciation of the tension that arose between a strategy that aimed to *prevent* teenage conceptions (by problematizing teenage parents), but also *support* to young parents so they can gain the confidence and skills to engage in some form of education or employment (to prevent their long term social exclusion).

Research findings that have direct relevance to practice will be discussed, in particular, the stigma attached to teenage pregnancy and parenthood, and how this was played out in a variety of social contexts and over time.

How young mothers are likely to fair under the Coalition government's recent policy reforms, and most notably, the austerity measures will also be covered.

### **Aniela Wenham and Colette Gray**

Aniela Wenham is a lecturer, and programme director for the 'Children, Young People and Social Policy' degree pathway, at the University of York. Aniela's area of expertise is qualitative longitudinal research with young mothers. Alongside her academic role, Aniela also has experience as a Youth Worker over several years. This work has been vast and wide-ranging but primarily entailed working with young people who are socially excluded and have a range of complex needs.

Colette Gray is the Manager of *Future Prospects*, an organisation that supports all members of the community to move back into learning or work. Colette has 14 years' experience in the Advice and Guidance sector. This has included extensive experience in planning and delivering projects that support teenage parents, in particular the 'Babygap' project which has been cited as an example of how intervention projects contribute to significantly reducing the lifetime cost of NEET (Coles et al, 2010).

## Workshop 4:

### **Title: Positive for Youth *Work*?**

The Coalition's recent policy statement 'Positive for Youth' (2011) mentions the words youth work or youth workers 32 times. New Labour's (2005) 'Youth Matters' paper mentioned them just 19 times. The Coalition has been accused of valuing open access, inclusive youth work provision but expecting it to be undertaken by volunteers rather than professionals (e.g. Davies, 2010). Under New Labour, youth work was relatively generously funded but specific, measurable outcomes were expected in return (see *Transforming Youth Work*, 2002). According to Cooper (2011), youth workers have more freedom to work to the values of informal education under the Coalition. However statutory funding has been all but entirely removed. This workshop will facilitate discussion on the Coalition's Positive for Youth policy and its impact on youth work. The session will also explore the differences for youth work under New Labour and the Coalition. It will consider the emergence of 'radical youth work' (Belton, 2010), and of recent campaigns to defend youth work. We aim that the session will allow for critical discussion about the role of youth work, and in what form, in the current political and economic climate.

### **Naomi Stanton and Darren Crompton**

Naomi Stanton is a lecturer in youth work at YMCA George Williams College, London. She is in the final stages of writing her PhD (at the Open University), based on research into young people's engagement with organised Christianity. She is also an Associate Lecturer with the Open University, teaching on their Masters module, 'Critical Practice with Children and Young People'. Her professional background is in a range of community and youth work settings; statutory, voluntary and faith-based. She is part of the Youth & Policy editorial group.

Darren Crompton is a Youth Worker for the City of York Youth Service. He has extensive experience of working with young people who are at risk from educational and social exclusion. His Youth Work experience has included both targeted and universal provision for young people who have complex needs. Darren is also currently completing an MA in Social Work at the University of York whilst continuing to work part-time as a Youth Worker.

## Workshop 5:

### **Title: Effective service user engagement within the Youth Justice System**

The illicit behaviours of children and young people have retained a high policy profile at an international, domestic and local level. Often acting as a trigger for vital support, domestic youth justice services provide individual and wider social benefits through their holistic response that is connected with education, health and social adversity. However, for many service users mandatory engagement can be unsuccessful, resulting in harsh penalties that lengthen the contact time between the service and its users.

Through their knowledge, views and experiences, workshop participants will be asked to consider whether economic austerity is likely to worsen the service engagement of this widely unpopular group, threatening the capacity for sectoral objectives to be met. Or

alternatively, can current reforms be suggested as offering the opportunity to redirect resources, promoting effective policy and practice?

### **Sarah Brooks-Wilson**

Sarah Brooks-Wilson's academic interests relate to the experiences of socially excluded children and young people, particularly in connection with both sustainable development and the Youth Justice System. Current doctoral research at the University of York is concerned with Youth Justice System effectiveness, and the ways in which our understandings of space and spatial engagement can support policy, practice and young service users.

An ongoing involvement in inclusive, visual participatory research methods has been supported by employment relating to photography and marginalised young people, both in practice and within an academic context. Sarah currently represents social policy postgraduates for the UK Social Policy Association.

### **Workshop 6:**

#### **Title: Youth Homelessness (Nicholas Pleace, Centre for Housing Policy, University of York)**

Nicholas Pleace has worked at the Centre for Housing Policy since 1991. His research interests centre on homelessness, housing exclusion, the links between housing and poverty, inequality, worklessness, the role of housing circumstances and neighbourhood in social marginalisation, welfare taxonomies, crime and anti-social behaviour. Nicholas has evaluated services and pilot programmes targeted on homeless former offenders, people sleeping rough, young homeless people, homeless families, homeless children and households and people at risk of homelessness. He has directed over 40 research projects and service evaluations on homelessness for the Department of Communities and Local Government, the former Housing Corporation, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department of Health, the Scottish Government, Emmaus UK, Crisis, Shelter, Centrepoin and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. With Deborah Quilgars, Nicholas represents the UK in the European Observatory on Homelessness which is organised under the auspices of Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales Travaillant avec les Sans-Abri (FEANTSA) he also co-edits the European Journal of Homelessness.

### **Workshop 7:**

#### **Title: Tackling Negative Representations of Young Parents**

This workshop will be led by a small group of young women who have recently launched a media campaign, involving the production of a short film, which aims to tackle negative representations of young parents. The workshop will provide a platform for the young parents to voice key issues highly relevant to practice and research. Of particular importance will be how the campaign aims to challenge common misconceptions surrounding the experience of pregnancy and young parenthood, including the assumption that it should always be viewed

as problematic. The workshop will raise awareness of the stigma young parent's encounter across a range of social contexts. Raising awareness of stigmatisation will help professionals and practitioners gain a better understanding of the experiences of pregnancy and young parenthood, which in turn, will help enable more effective mechanisms of support and provision.

### **Inspired Youth**

The delivery of the campaign has been led by 'Inspired Youth' who specialise in the arts and media to engage young people. 'Inspired Youth' have substantial experience working on media campaigns with groups of young people. For example, a campaign that focused on the experiences of 'Young Carers' won the national 'Kids Count Award 2009' for best contribution to youth issues. 'Inspired Youth' are an award winning non-profit social enterprise who embrace the creativity and vibrancy of arts & media to engage, challenge, educate and inspire.