



## A word from the Director...

I was delighted to join CRSP as the new Director and Professor of Social Policy Research in September 2006. Coming to such a successful and innovative Social Policy Centre is both exciting and challenging.

Exciting in that I am joining a team of highly skilled academic researchers who have already shown themselves to be producing work of the highest quality. This was, as you know, recognised by the role CRSP played in the Queens Anniversary Award for Social Policy that Loughborough University received last year. I look forward to working with people of such high calibre. Taking CRSP into the future will also be challenging. The Centre has recently experienced a period of transition, not only have there been staff changes, but it has also been developing new research profiles and expanding into new areas of work, especially around issues of transport and social exclusion, and health policy. At the same time, the political environment of social research is changing and more and more new organisations within the private sector are competing for social policy research at a time when research resources are under pressure in central government. As a result, CRSP will need to maintain its competitive edge and show why it has such an important contribution to make to policy. Sue Middleton, in her role as Research Director, will continue to provide her expertise and experience, helping CRSP respond to the new challenges ahead.

My particular research interests are in the field of youth policy. Over the previous 15 years I have been active in writing about and researching issues that relate to young people. I have been involved in a wide range of government and research council funded projects looking at issues of inclusion and citizenship. This has recently resulted in the publication of two books that engage with the political and policy aspects of the youth question. *Understanding Youth in Late Modernity* (Open University press) and *Pathways and Prevention: Theory, Policy and Practice* (Willan Press).

My intention is to expand the Centre's interests and expertise in youth policy research. We have already started on this endeavour through a policy review, for the National Youth Agency, of how the 'Staying Safe' and 'Making a Positive Contribution' objectives of

Every Child Matters could impact (see centre spread), both positively and negatively, upon professional youth practice. We are also conducting a locally funded project looking at how young people from different ethnic groups experience life at Loughborough University. This aims to help the University achieve a better understanding of how to ensure a positive University experience for its students.



**Professor Dennis Smith, Head of Department, Department of Social Sciences and Alan France (right), CRSP Director and Professor of Social Policy Research.**

The Centre has also been very busy maintaining its work with the Department of Work and Pensions and our contract as preferred suppliers of research services has recently been extended. This has seen us accepted on to the new DWP Disability Lot giving us opportunities to further our research interests in this area. Our involvement with government research frameworks has increased and we have been accepted on the Department for Transport's new Framework. We are the only academic institution and one of only four organisations to be awarded a contract as preferred suppliers of research services. The Framework's aim is to help national government understand the social impact of transport policy. We have also been shortlisted on the new Learning and Skills Council research Framework and hope to report similar success in our next Briefings. In these new times CRSP is successfully adapting to changes in how Government commissions future research.

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# National Youth Agency Briefing Papers

The National Youth Agency commissioned a series of papers looking at the contribution of youth work to delivering better services across the local authority. Each of the five papers concentrates on one of the Every Child Matters outcomes:

- Being Healthy;
- Staying Safe;
- Enjoying and Achieving;
- Making a Positive Contribution;
- Achieving Economic Wellbeing.

CRSP was commissioned to write two of these papers, *Staying Safe* (Book 3) and *Making a Positive Contribution* (Book 5). The papers are available in full, under the Research Programme Series, on the NYA website: [www.nya.org.uk](http://www.nya.org.uk)

## Introduction

In 2003 the Green Paper Every Child Matters (ECM) set out a holistic framework for the future development of children and young people's services. The ECM legislation was followed, in 2005 by the Green Paper Youth Matters (DfES, 2005). This aims to help young people (13 to 19-year-olds) achieve the five core outcomes of ECM.

## Staying Safe: The implications for youth work of Every Child Matters (ECM)

### Key Proposals

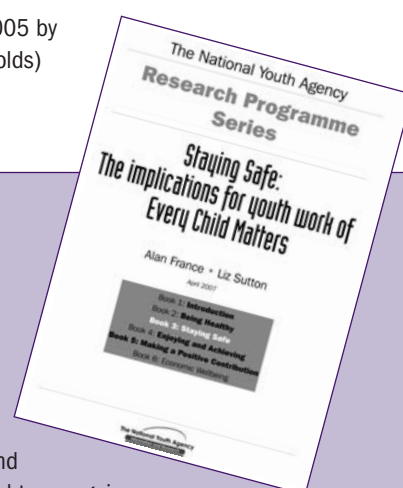
Staying safe is a hugely important area for children and young people. Having it as a core outcome with its accompanying targets and indicators places it firmly on to the policy agenda. As such, it is a step in the right direction that creates opportunities for working with young people in positive ways. While the core objective of staying safe is safeguarding children and young people, ECM introduces the importance of early intervention and prevention in helping young people stay safe. This is a critical policy initiative and one to which youth workers can make an important contribution. Being safe impacts on good health, making a positive contribution, being able to achieve and enjoy life, and being economically active. It should, therefore, be a major part of a coordinated approach to supporting young people in their personal and social development.

The staying safe agenda is being driven forward by a wide range of policies across central government. It is important that in coordinating local responses and practices youth workers and their managers draw upon this broad policy framework to underpin their work. To improve feelings of safety, policy and practice need to recognise that as young people reach their early 20s and move out into independent living, they will be more vulnerable to risks and will therefore need continued support and help beyond the age of 19. This is especially relevant for vulnerable groups and those without the support of adults. It is important that staying safe initiatives build in young people's perspectives. Not only will these help inform practitioners of the issues that should be targeted, but also allow for the development of an evidence base and assessment that recognises the positive contribution young people can make towards policy.

Experiences of safety are influenced by issues of class, race, gender and sexuality, and policy and practice need to recognise this diversity in their local strategic plans.

Government attention to aspects of safety such as recognising and supporting young victims is also very welcome and important. Youth workers are well positioned to develop intervention programmes that help tackle these problems. Homelessness is also an important indicator of safety and needs to be central to the ECM strategic approach to making young people safe in their communities. National policy provides a framework where youth workers could make a significant contribution. Government has also made a very positive move to tackle the sexual exploitation of young women, asylum seekers and refugees have been identified as a high risk group and need to be given more protection. Youth workers have a good record of working with such groups and should be core to practice. The reduction of road accidents is also a new and important area of work to introduce to the ECM framework. For young people coordinated plans should focus on young drivers, young workers, and young people in the home. This will need to be targeted at 16 to 24-year-olds.

Challenges do exist for youth work in this area of work – as the new forms of practice and structures for youth provision emerge. It raises challenges for the notion of *voluntary association* and core youth work values, but youth workers are well positioned to make a significant contribution to this area of work.



## Positive Contribution: The implications for youth work of Every Child Matters

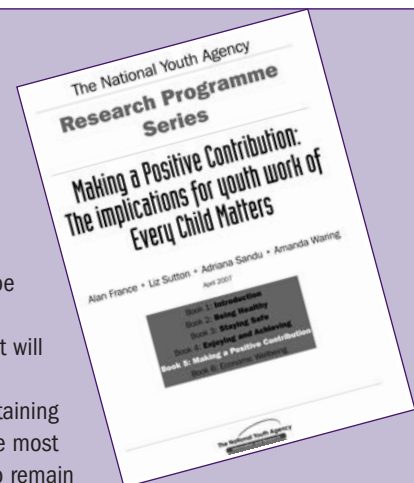
### Key Proposals

A policy focus on developing a more coordinated approach to helping young people make a positive contribution is an important and significant development in youth policy and one that is to be welcomed. Across a wide range of youth policies 'making a positive contribution' has focused on tackling negative contributions such as reducing youth crime, disaffection in education, social exclusion and anti-social behaviour. In contrast the Youth Matters policy agenda offers opportunities to concentrate on more positive activities of the young. Making a positive contribution is closely linked to central government's desire to encourage 'active citizenship' amongst the young and can be seen in a wide range of policy initiatives in areas such as education and sport development, which are aiming to prepare the young for future citizenship.

It is assumed that a common agreement exists over what 'positive contribution' means. Much of this debate focuses on the need to teach the young their responsibilities. There is a danger that limited attention is being given to young people's rights including the right to participate or not. A core challenge to policy and practice in this area remains how to find ways and mechanisms of encouraging the contributions of some of the most excluded groups of young people. This is especially relevant for those from different ethnic groups, disabled young people and those whose

are seen as a 'problem' such as young offenders and those excluded from school. Notions of 'contribution' need to be underpinned by an understanding of how it will bring about change. If practice is about maintaining the status quo then the most disaffected are likely to remain marginalised and less willing to participate. It is important that professional practice and policy makers do not 'problematise' those who do not volunteer, those who decide not to be 'active' in traditional ways, or those that do not participate in sport consultation processes as expected. Participation in this context has to be about choice.

Since early 2000 central government has been developing a wide range of initiatives that have aimed to increase ways that young people can be encouraged to make a positive contribution. Youth work is well positioned to help deliver these programmes. It has a long history of helping the young to develop the skills, confidence and abilities to be active in these processes, and experience in developing processes and programmes of participation in decision making, sport and volunteering.



### References

France, A., Sutton, L. (April 2007) Staying Safe: the implications of youth work of Every Child Matters, National Youth Agency, Book 3. Download, free of charge, from: [www.crsp.ac.uk/publications/alans\\_publications/staying\\_safe.htm](http://www.crsp.ac.uk/publications/alans_publications/staying_safe.htm)

France, A., Sutton, L., Sandu, A. and Waring, A. (April 2007) Making a Positive Contribution: the implications for youth work of Every Child Matters, National Youth Agency, Book 5.

Download, free of charge, from: [www.crsp.ac.uk/publications/alans\\_publications/making\\_a\\_positive\\_contribution.htm](http://www.crsp.ac.uk/publications/alans_publications/making_a_positive_contribution.htm)

## The Australian & New Zealand Society of Criminology Allen Austin Bartholomew Award 2007

CRSP is delighted to announce that Professor Alan France, Director of CRSP and Professor Ross Homel from the Griffith University in Queensland, Australia, have been awarded the annual Allen Austin Bartholomew Award for the best academic paper to appear in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology (2006), Vol. 39(3).

The paper entitled: Societal access routes and developmental pathways: putting social structure and young people's voice into the analysis of pathways into and out of crime, explored the relationship between social context and youth offending, highlighting the importance of listening to what young people have to tell us about their experiences of crime. The article is available from the journal and has also been published in their new book Pathways and Crime Prevention, published by Willan in 2007.

### References

France, A. and Homel, R. (2006) Societal access routes, developmental pathways and prevention policies: Putting structure, politics and culture into the analysis of pathways into and out of crime. Australian New Zealand Journal of Criminology Vol. 39.

France, A. and Homel, R. (2007) (edited collection) Pathways and Crime Prevention: Theory, Policy and Practice. Willan Publishers.

# Gendered Citizenship in Multicultural Europe: The Impact of Contemporary Women's Movements (FEMCIT)

[www.femcit.org](http://www.femcit.org)

FEMCIT is funded by the European Commission's 6th framework programme and coordinated by the University of Bergen. FEMCIT constitutes 15 partners from 10 European countries.

While several social movements have contributed to social change in Europe during the last four decades, the goal of FEMCIT is to investigate the role of women's movements in these transformative processes.

FEMCIT will explore the relationship between the changing forms and practices of gendered citizenship in a multicultural Europe and the demands and practices which have emerged from contemporary women's movements. It will study how different and changing notions and practices of citizenship relate to gender issues in Europe's multicultural context, and explore their implications for policy.

FEMCIT brings together European experts on citizenship and gender to address the central questions of how to ensure inclusion of all citizens. Particular emphasis is given to the importance of understanding the complexity of gendered citizenship, and to show how political citizenship is only one of many levels that need to be analysed. Strategies for ensuring female participation may need to be modified to take into account a wider understanding of citizenship and to include understandings of the intersectional issues of ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality and cultural diversity. A holistic approach that embraces all levels of citizenship is taken and the project combines quantitative, qualitative, historical and contemporary methodologies. The work programme is ambitious and innovative, and aims to achieve a level of integration that takes citizenship studies to a new level.

## Main Scientific Work Packages:

**WP1 – Political citizenship:** Towards full political citizenship: making gender parity representation work.

**WP2 – Social citizenship:** The impact of gender-based organising and claim making on child care and parental-leave policies.

**WP3 – Economic citizenship:** Gendered transformations of the work-life interface.

**WP4 – Ethnic and religious citizenship:** Intersections between feminism, ethnic identity and religion.

**WP5 – Sexual and bodily citizenship:** Citizenship and feminist body politics.

**WP6 – Intimate citizenship:** Women's movements, cultural diversity, personal lives and policy.

**WP7 – Integrative analysis:** A new architecture of gender-fair citizenship in a multicultural Europe.

**Work Package 4, 'Ethnic and religious citizenship. Intersections between feminism, ethnic identity and religion in a multicultural Europe'** is led by Dr Line Nyhagen Predelli, Centre for Research in Social Policy (CRSP), Department of Social Sciences.

Research within this Package addresses the following questions:

1. How do feminist organisations work to eliminate racism and discrimination and violence against women, and what is their impact on policy-making?
2. How do religious identities and practices among women provide resources for and barriers to citizenship?
3. What does citizenship mean in the everyday life of women in different communities?

## For further information on this Package please contact:

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For more information about the FEMCIT project please visit [www.femcit.org](http://www.femcit.org)