



Making Research Count

at the Universities of
Bedfordshire and King's College London



May 2023

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Practice Development Webinar
Tuesday 11 July 2023
11.00am - 12.30pm (online)

Creating Stable Futures: Human Trafficking, Participation, and Outcomes for Children

Dr Helen Connolly University of Bedfordshire
Prof Patricia Hynes, Sheffield Hallam University
Laura Duran, ECPAT UK



In this webinar, Helen, Patricia and Laura will discuss the main findings from their (2022) research study led by the Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice at Sheffield Hallam University and the University of Bedfordshire's Institute of Applied Social Research, in partnership with ECPAT UK.

Based on the voices of young people who have experience of modern slavery, the study aimed to understand what positive outcomes for these young people would look like, and what the pathways towards these positive outcomes might be. It examines how to ensure protection and support for children who have experienced modern slavery. For more information, please click [here](#).

To book your place, please email: mrc@beds.ac.uk

Practice Development Webinar

Emerging Forms of Coercive Control

Tuesday 20 June 2023, 10.30am - 12.30pm



Topics/speakers:

- Misogyny and Coercive Control
Prof [Marianne Hester](#), University of Bristol;
- Religious Faith and Coercive Control
Dr [Natasha Mulvihill](#) and Dr [Nadia Aghtaie](#), University of Bristol;
- Using Pets/Companion Animals as Part of Coercive Control
Dr [Mary Wakeham](#), [Refuge4Pets](#);
- Using Chemical Restraint as Coercive Control
[Sarah-Jane Walker](#) and Prof Marianne Hester, University of Bristol.

In this webinar, speakers will present and discuss new research findings about the use of Coercive Control by abusers in intimate relationships. The research is part of work carried out by the Centre for Gender Violence Research at The University of Bristol, in partnership with Women's Aid Federation of England, and funded by Oak Foundation. The project addresses a series of important issues in tackling domestic violence and abuse that have not previously been dealt with to any extent, relating specifically to emerging forms of Coercive Control.

Using a variety of methods, the project seeks to:

- deepen understanding of the use of chemical restraints (abuse via medication);
- explore use of faith and faith practice as part of coercive control;
- improve measurement of coercive control;
- explore survivors' mental health for implications on employment, ability to seek safe accommodation, and implications for children;
- develop briefings on the relationship between coercive control, financial /economic abuse and housing crises faced by DVA victims-survivors;
- develop a briefing on the abuse of pets in the context of coercive control.

To book your place, please click [here](#)

Practice Development Events

For those working in, and with, children's services

Critical and Reflective Practice Forum: A 'Book Group' for Children's Social Care Managers and Experienced Practitioners

- Meets: Last Friday of Every Month
- Time: 10.00 - 11.00am
- Held Online

The MRC Critical and Reflective Practice group, at King's College London, is a well-established forum that provides an opportunity to:

- Identify and discuss key areas of emerging social work research
- Explore the implications of major policy documents for practice
- Debate and discuss key areas in contemporary social work with colleagues from across London

The Forum has run for more than 15 years and brings together practitioners and managers from across the UK. This unique forum works as a 'book group', looking at articles, research papers and policy documents, which are circulated beforehand to members, and considers their implications for practice.

Topics are selected by the group, but have included: contextual safeguarding; supervision and the meaning of professional leadership; anti-oppressive practice; professional resilience; the nature of reflective practice; the impact of austerity and poverty; the efficacy of the safeguarding and care systems; and implications for social work of new ways of working.

To book places, and for further information, please email Janet Noble at janet.noble@kcl.ac.uk.

The next meetings of the Forum are:

- Friday 26 May 2023, 10.00 - 11.00am
- Friday 30 June 2023, 10.00 - 11.00am
- Friday 28 July 2023, 10.00 - 11.00am
- Friday 29 September 2023, 10.00 - 11.00am
- Friday 27 October 2023, 10.00 - 11.00am

Friday 5 May 2023, 2.00 – 3.30pm
[Reuniting Children and Young People With Their Birth Families](#)

Tuesday 9 May 2023, 11.00am - 12.30pm
[Understanding, Safeguarding and Supporting Young Carers](#)
Hannah Thompson
Signpost Stockport for Young Carers

Friday 12 May 2023, 1.30 – 3.00pm
[Care Planning: Placement Stability and Good Outcomes](#)

Wednesday 24 May 2023, 11.00am - 12.30pm
[Child Sex Trafficking in England and Wales: Child Protection Responses](#)
Dr Paul Nelson
Anglia Ruskin University

Wednesday 14 June, 9.30 - 11.00am
[Children and Technology-Facilitated Abuse in Domestic and Family Violence](#)
Dr Molly Dragiewicz
Griffith University, Queensland, Australia

Tuesday 20 June 2023, 10.30am - 12.30pm
[Emerging Forms of Coercive Control](#)
Dr Nadia Aghtaie, University of Bristol
Prof Marianne Hester, University of Bristol
Dr Natasha Mulvihill, University of Bristol
Dr Mary Wakeham, Refuge4Pets
Sarah-Jane Walker, University of Bristol

Thursday 6 July 2023, 11.00am - 12.30pm
[Understanding What Makes Life Good for Children in Care and Care Leavers: Improving Wellbeing](#)
Dr Claire Baker, Coram Voice
Linda Briheim-Crookall, Coram Voice

Tuesday 11 July 2023, 11.00am - 12.30pm
[Creating Stable Futures: Human Trafficking, Participation, and Outcomes for Children](#)
Dr Helen Connolly, University of Bedfordshire
Prof Patricia Hynes, Sheffield Hallam University
Laura Duran, ECPAT UK

Tuesday 19 September 2023, 11.00am - 12.30pm
[Reframing Child to Parent Violence: Explosive and Controlling Impulses in Pre-Adolescent Children](#)
Dr Nikki Rutter, Durham University

Wednesday 11 October 2023, 11.00am - 12.30pm
[Working with Domestic Violence and Abuse: Managing Professionals' Vicarious Trauma](#)
Simon Kerss
Anglia Ruskin University.

Making Research Count at the Universities of Bedfordshire and King's College London

For further details of these, and other, events visit:

www.beds.ac.uk/mrc
www.kcl.ac.uk/hscwru/research/mrc

Postgraduate Study at the University of Bedfordshire

School of Applied Social Sciences

Introducing the MA Childhood, Youth and Family Studies with two pathway options

The University of Bedfordshire recently developed a new MA aimed at students working with children, young people and/or families in any setting. There are two pathways which are explained below. However, both courses cover areas such as adverse childhood experiences, how professionals involved may be best placed to respond, effective and ethical practice and relevant theoretical frameworks that underpin practice.



Recently Published:

Final Report and Resources from Bright Spots New Belongings Programme

Story of New Belongings programme report launched – improving services for care leavers with care leavers

“We realised that services are better for young people when informed by young people’s views...” (New Belongings Participant, local authority dissemination events)



Bright Spots is a partnership between Coram Voice and the University of Oxford, funded by the Hadley Trust. It supports local authorities to systematically listen to their children in care and care leavers, about the things that are important to them.

Coram Voice are pleased to share the final report from the **New Belongings** programme, The Story of New Belongings - Improving Services for Care Leavers With Care Leavers.

The core message is simple: to deliver the best support and services to care leavers, you must work alongside young people.

Over 3 years Coram Voice worked with 8 local authorities from Dorset in the South to North Tyneside in the North, to help them understand the views and experiences of their care leavers and find new ways of making their lives better through co-production. The work was funded by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Segelman Trust.

Evaluation of the programme showed that local authorities involved reported:

- Increased funding (new posts & targeted provision);
- Improved relational practice;
- Additional resources for care leavers;
- A greater focus on important issues such as suitable accommodation and better awareness of young people’s views;
- Increased confidence in working together (development of roles such as Taskforce leaders).

In partnership with young people, the authorities developed lots of different ways to support their care leavers - for example: Stockport introduced **Ring Door Bells**, and Oldham developed a **programme** for young parents whose children had been adopted. You can read about these examples, and many more, in **The Story of New Belongings** report.

To learn more about the programme, and download the report and other resources, please click [here](#).

Dr Claire Baker and Linda Briheim-Crookall, Coram Voice, will be talking about this work at a 6 July 2023 webinar for Making Research Count:

[Understanding What Makes Life Good for Children in Care and Care Leavers](#)

MA Childhood, Youth and Family Studies pathway

This MA is aimed specifically at those who would like to work with children (around primary school age) and/or families. Students typically have experience working in schools, charities, faith-based organisations, or government programmes which offer pastoral care to children or families needing extra support.

Potential graduate job destinations include:

- Educational roles such as Child Protection Officer, Learning Mentor or Teaching Assistant
- Family Support Manager or Support Worker; Family Liaison Officer
- Early Years Manager or Support Worker
- Pre-school Manager

For more information, you can watch a short video about the course [here](#).

MA Childhood, Youth and Family Studies: Youth Work pathway

This MA is aimed specifically at those who would like to work with young people (around secondary school age). Students will also typically have experience working in schools, charities, faith-based organisations, but with a focus on supporting young people. The course includes a professional JNC qualification in youth work validated by the National Youth Agency. Therefore, students will also need to be in placement for the duration of the course, but we are able to help students find a placement where you will be working alongside young people.

Potential graduate job destinations include:

- Youth Worker or Youth Work Manager
- Educational roles such as Child Protection Officer, Learning Mentor or Teaching Assistant
- Youth Justice Practitioner
- Outdoor Educator
- Outreach Support Worker or Detached Youth Worker

You can watch a short video about the course [here](#).

Child Sex Trafficking in England and Wales: Closing the Gaps

Call for Research Participants

Do you work in/with children's services?

Would you be prepared to complete a brief online survey about your understanding, attitudes and duties towards child sex trafficking?

Did you know that, over the past decade, there have been an estimated 5597 recorded cases of Child Sex Trafficking (CST) in the UK, and that the volume of CST incidents rose by 1206% between 2013 and 2021? Did you know that the National Referral Mechanism is the platform for practitioners to raise concerns about children impacted by CST? If not, perhaps you remember the high-profile cases in Rochdale and Rotherham which attracted significant media attention in the early 2000s?



To address the increasing scale of CST, a research team at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge has received funding to develop a policy response to better inform practice in safeguarding Child Sex Trafficking victims. To do this, we first need your knowledge and expertise.

A brief survey has been designed to determine your existing knowledge and perceptions relating to issues of CST. The results of the survey will enable the research team to focus and target the emerging policy to reflect the needs of children being trafficked for sex, and of those practitioners responding to these needs.

The survey, which should take **no longer than 10 minutes to complete**, is confidential and anonymised. The results will help inform the research team's work to safeguard some of the most vulnerable children in society. They thank you in advance for your time and input to this important piece of work.

For further information about the study, please contact the principal researcher, Dr Paul Nelson, at paul.nelson@aru.ac.uk.

To complete the survey, please click [here](#).

SCIE Resources

Why are We Stuck in Hospital?

Understanding the perspectives of people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people, family and staff when transforming care for people in 'long-stay' hospitals

A new training video and a new resource, on SCIE's website, highlights research into the experiences of people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people in 'long-stay' hospitals. The content was developed from research by the University of Birmingham and the rights-based organisation Changing Our Lives. It highlights the barriers people with learning disabilities and / or autism face over being discharged and living more ordinary lives in their communities – including navigating overly-complicated treatment systems, a lack of psychological support, and a culture of some people being 'set up to fail'.

The University of Birmingham and the rights-based organisation, Changing Our Lives, have conducted a joint project to better understand the experiences of people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people in 'long-stay' hospital settings.

Using this knowledge, they have created practice guides and training materials to support new understandings and new ways of working. SCIE have supported the project by creating training videos to disseminate the outcomes from the project to the health and social care sector.

Training Video

This is a free 28-minute training [video](#) for health and care staff which explains the project, its findings and recommendations, and is brought to life by experts-by-experience.



Project Summary Video

Short of time? A short [video](#) (2 mins, 21 secs) provides a quick snapshot of the project and its outputs.



Click [here](#) to access the full range of resources.

Practice Development Events

For those working in, and with, adult's services

Adult Services CPD Programme

A Critical and Reflective Practice Forum for Managers and Experienced Practitioners in Adult Services

Meets: Last Friday of Every Month
Time: 11.00am - 12.00pm, online

Making Research Count (MRC) is a university based research dissemination network that seeks to build the links between research, policy and practice. The MRC Adult Services CPD Programme, King's College London, is a well-established group that provides an opportunity to:

- Identify and discuss key areas of emerging social work research
- Explore the implications of major policy documents for practice
- Debate and discuss key areas in contemporary social work with colleagues from across London.

The Group brings together practitioners and managers from across the UK. It looks at articles, research papers and policy documents, which are circulated beforehand to members, and considers their implications for practice. Topics are selected by the Group, but have included: end of life care for people with dementia; implications of the 2014 Care Act; and the reablement of people with mental health difficulties.

Signing up to the Group does not commit participants to attending every session. Indeed, several people only attend occasionally - but appreciate getting the papers.

The next meetings of this Forum will be:

Friday 26 May 2023, 11am - 12pm

Friday 30 June 2023, 11am - 12pm

Friday 28 July 2023, 11am - 12pm

Friday 29 September 2023, 11am - 12pm

Friday 27 October 2023, 11am - 12pm

Friday 24 November 2023, 11am - 12pm

To join the Forum, please email mrc@kcl.ac.uk

Tuesday 20 June 2023, 10.30am - 12.30pm

Emerging Forms of Coercive Control

Speakers:

Dr Nadia Aghtaie, University of Bristol

Prof Marianne Hester, University of Bristol

Dr Natasha Mulvihill, University of Bristol

Dr Mary Wakeham, Refuge4Pets

Sarah-Jane Walker, University of Bristol

Wednesday 19 July 2023, 11.00am - 12.30pm

Promoting Good Practice:

Alcohol Use

in Care Homes for Older People

Dr Sarah Wadd, University of Bedfordshire

Wednesday 11 October 2023, 11.00am - 12.30pm

Working with Domestic Violence and Abuse:

Managing Professionals' Vicarious Trauma

Simon Kerss, Anglia Ruskin University

Thursday 11 May 2023, 11.00am - 12.00pm

Preparing for the Next Pandemic:

Lessons for Social Work

Prof Jill Manthorpe, King's College London

Thursday 22 June 2023, 11.00am - 12.00pm

What Works in Respite and Short Breaks Care?

Prof Jill Manthorpe, King's College London

Thursday 28 September 2023, 11.00am - 12.00pm

What's New in Direct Payments?

Prof Jill Manthorpe, King's College London

Thursday 16 November 2023, 11.00am - 12.00pm

End of Life Care:

Implications for Community Based Services

Prof Jill Manthorpe, King's College London

Managing and Leading Your Team

in a Period of Hybrid Working:

A Course for Managers

in Children's and Adult Services

The last 3 years have seen working practice in social work change significantly. At the height of the pandemic, most of the workforce was working largely remotely. This placed particular demands on managers attempting to lead teams, ensure high quality services for those who use them alongside ensuring the well being of staff. It is clear that we will not be "going back to normal". While staff are carrying out more face to face meetings, and visiting their offices less, we are seeing new models of hybrid working emerge. This webinar will explore the implications for management and supervision. It will look at the growing body of research on remote working and think about its implications for social work across the different aspect of supervision. Each session is a stand alone event but, together, they constitute a course that will seek to cover many aspects of learning, and managing teams.

1. **What is Good Practice in Supervision When it is Being Carried Out in a Hybrid Environment?**

Thursday 7 September 2023, 9.30 – 11.00am

2. **Developing Supervisees' Capacity for Reflection, Analytical Thinking and Decision-Making Skills**

Friday 22 September 2023, 9.30 – 11.00am

3. **Managing and Promoting Good Practice: A Strength-Based Approach to Managing Performance**

Thursday 5 October 2023, 9.30 – 11.00am

4. **Building Staff Wellbeing and Professional Resilience**

Friday 3 November 2023, 9.30 – 11.00am

5. **Promoting Use of Self, Relationship-Based Practice, and the Ethical Use of Authority in the Supervisory Relationship**

Wednesday 15 November 2023, 1.30 – 3.00pm

Recordings of Recent MRC Webinars

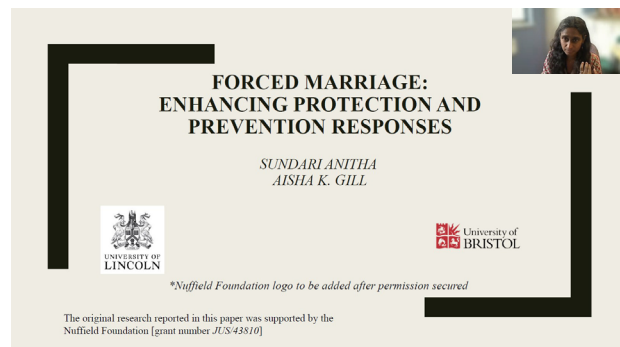
Video recordings of Making Research Count (MRC) webinars

The full library of recordings is available to subscribing MRC members, but the following selection is free to access (click on the title, or image, to view the video):



[Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme: Issues of Power and Responsibility](#)

Dr Katerina Hadjimatheou, University of Essex
March 2023



[Forced Marriage: Enhancing Protection and Prevention Responses](#)

Prof Sundari Anitha, University of Lincoln, and Prof Aisha K Gill, CBE, University of Bristol
March 2023

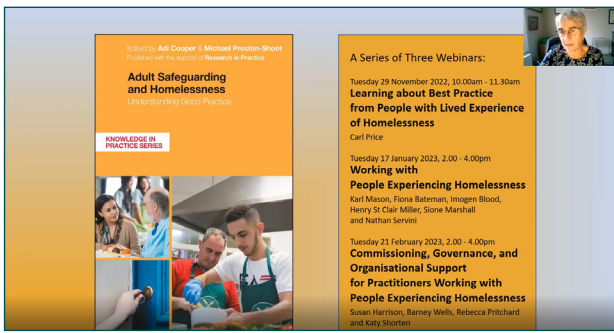


[Why People Die By Suicide and What We Can Do To Prevent It](#)

Prof Rory O'Connor, University of Glasgow
January 2023

This is a selection of the Making Research Count (MRC) webinar recordings available on our website.

To enquire about membership of MRC and, with it, our full range of resources, please contact: mrc@beds.ac.uk



**Webinar series:
Adult Safeguarding and Homelessness:
Understanding Good Practice**

Working with People Experiencing Homelessness

Karl Mason, Fiona Bateman, Henry St Clair Miller, Sione Marshall and Nathan Seruini
January 2023

Learning about Best Practice from People with Lived Experience of Homelessness

Carl Price, Change Grow Live
Dr Adi Cooper, University of Bedfordshire
November 2022



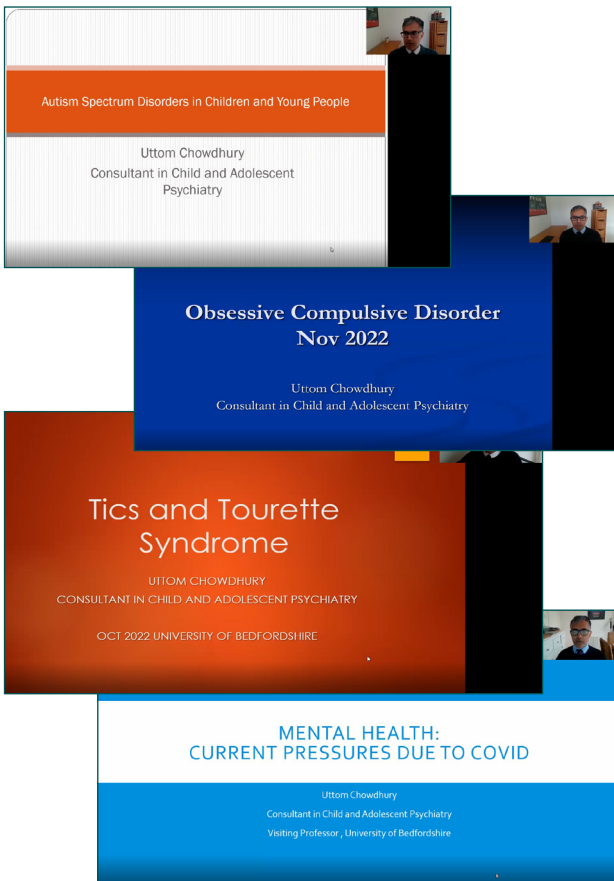
Gangs and Coercive Control: The Gendered Exploitation of Young Women and Girls in County Lines

Dr Tirion Havard, London South Bank University
July 2022



My Nest is Full: Multigenerational Households of Families Living With Addiction

Monica Whyte, European Family Therapy Association
July 2022



**Webinar Series:
Children and Young People's Mental Health
Prof Uttom Chowdhury, University of Bedfordshire**

Understanding Children and Young People With Autistic Spectrum Disorders

December 2022

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder in Children and Young People

November 2022

Understanding Tics and Tourette Syndrome

October 2022

Covid and Mental Health in Young People

September 2022



Dr Prospera Tadam, United Arab Emirates University
September 2022

**Anti-Opressive Social Care Practice
Identifying, Understanding and Disrupting
Oppression in Social Care Encounters**



Self-Neglect: The Challenges for Adult Safeguarding
Prof Michael Preston-Shoot, University of Bedfordshire
July 2022

**Rupture, Repair,
the Loss and Re-construction of Identity:
Seeking Support in Situations of
Adolescent-to-Parent Violence and Abuse**

A new study from [Dr Nikki Rutter](#) at Durham University's Department of Sociology looks at the way mothers understand and interpret their experiences of adolescent-to-parent violence and abuse (APVA).

Family violence is associated with life-long implications including increased vulnerability to poor mental and physical health, and increased risk of repeat victimization. When children or adolescents are the ones instigating the harm, mothers experience the compounding issues of violence, mother-blame, and stigma.



In comparison to other forms of family violence, how mothers understand and interpret their experiences of adolescent-to-parent violence and abuse (APVA) is underexplored, particularly in relation to what it means for them at the emotional and individual level, and how this impacts their sense of self, and their mothering and professional identities.

This brief research report uses an interpretive phenomenological approach utilising hermeneutics to explore how six mothers made-meaning of their lives and identity when their parenting journey was disrupted by APVA.

Help-seeking behaviours were often met with denial, avoidance, and parent-blame from professionals, unless they were familiar with the mother through her professional identity first. Neurodivergences of the adolescents were reported, including mental illness, autism, pathological demand avoidance, and foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. and as no mother reported successful engagement with social care, youth justice, or mental health services when help-seeking, they needed to reimagine their parenting role, or hit crisis, before accessing appropriate support.

Mothers could have been supported earlier if critical incidents were identified by services, and support and/or interventions provided earlier, when mothers first engaged in help-seeking behaviours.

To read the brief research report article, published in March 2023 by *Frontiers in Health Services*, please click [here](#).

On the 19th September 2023, Dr Nikki Rutter will be delivering a webinar for Making Research Count:

**[Reframing Child to Parent Violence:
Explosive and Controlling Impulses
in Pre-Adolescent Children](#)**

To book your place, please contact: mrc@beds.ac.uk

**NIHR's
Local Authority
Academic Fellowship Programme**

The NIHR's Local Authority Academic Fellowship Programme ([LAAF](#)) is rapidly becoming an established feature of the social work and social care research training landscape.

In order to complement its existing pre-doctoral (PLAF) and doctoral (DLAF) opportunities, NIHR has recently launched its new post-doctoral scheme, the Advanced Local Authority Fellowship (ALAF).

By offering this tiered suite of similarly focussed funding opportunities to individuals embedded within local authority settings, the LAAF Programme is contributing to the development of a credible 'practitioner academic' career pathway within local authorities and local authority supporting services.

The LAAF programme awards are available to individuals of any profession or background who are employed by:

- a local authority;
- a provider of local authority commissioned services;
- a non-profit organisation (such as a charity) that provides services on behalf of a local authority, or supports a local authority in meeting its objectives.

**Pre-Doctoral Local Authority Fellowship
(PLAF) Scheme**

These fully funded pre-doctoral fellowships enable awardees to retain their existing employment contracts and salaries, whilst protecting their time to prepare an application for a PhD fellowship and undertake a fully funded programme of relevant Masters level training.

**Doctoral Local Authority Fellowship
(DLAF) Scheme**

These fully funded doctoral fellowships enable awardees to retain their existing employment contracts and salaries, whilst protecting their time to undertake a PhD by research, undertake academic training and develop professional skill sets.

**Advanced Local Authority Fellowship
(ALAF) Scheme**

The ALAF Scheme will enable doctorate holders to retain their existing employment contracts and salaries, as well as some professional responsibilities, whilst undertaking post-doctoral research of their own design and pursuing bespoke programmes of professional and academic development.

An ALAF can have a duration of between two and five years FTE, and can be taken full-time or part-time, the latter with a minimum commitment of 0.5FTE. Between 20% and 40% of funded fellowship time must be spent working and developing in a practice or policy role.

The inaugural call for ALAF applications closes on the 24th May 2023.

For full details of the above schemes and associated opportunities, together with guidance and support available, please click [here](#).