

In association with the Sheila Kitzinger Programme at Green Templeton College



**Mothers on trial: building bridges between maternity, social care,
and criminal justice to support pregnancy and early motherhood.**

5th October 2021

10:00 – 10:10 **Welcome and opening remarks**
Karen Broadhurst & Naomi Delap

Morning session

10:10 – 10:30 **Learning from the Born into Care series: why building bridges matters for everyone**
Karen Broadhurst

10:30 – 10:50 **A Window of Opportunity: the intersections between criminal justice and social services in pregnancy and early motherhood**
Naomi Delap & Kirsty Kitchen

10:50 – 11:00 **Case review of Mother and Baby Unit (MBU): social work decision making**
Isabelle Trowler

11:00 – 11:10 **Compulsory separation of women prisoners from their babies following childbirth**
Laura Abbott

11:10 – 11:20 **Learning from marginalised mothers' experiences of maternity care: not much Better Births.**
Tamsin Bicknell

11:20 – 11:35 **Coffee Break**

11:35 – 11:45 **Key messages from the independent review of children's social care**
Josh MacAlister

11:45 – 11:55 **Justice social work is social work: motherhood, social work, and criminal justice.**
Caroline Bald

11:55 – 12:05 **Maternal imprisonment: the impact on maternal role and identity**
Lucy Baldwin

Keynote speakers and workshop facilitators

Karen Broadhurst *Co-Director, Centre for Child and Family Justice Research*

Karen Broadhurst is Professor in the Department of Sociology at Lancaster University and Co-Director of the University's Data Science Institute. Karen also founded and directs the Centre for Child and Family Justice Research. Karen is recognised nationally and internationally for high quality, high impact research that has catalysed measurable change in policy and practice. Karen's team produced the first estimate of women's repeat appearances in the family courts, drawing attention to the impact of "repeat removals" of children on birth mothers, their partners and wider family networks.

More recently Karen and colleagues initiated the Born into Care series, funded by the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory which has provided the first ever analyses of the scale of family court proceedings concerning new-born babies in England and Wales. Karen is currently serving as expert advisor to the Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households, the Data First Programme led by the Ministry of Justice and is a member of the Data and Evidence Group for the Independent Review of Children's Social Care.

Naomi Delap *Director, Birth Companions*

Naomi Delap is the Director of Birth Companions. Naomi has previously worked with Inside Job Productions an award-winning film company and social enterprise that helps generate training and employment opportunities for women ex-offenders. Naomi has a background in communications, training at the BBC as a documentary filmmaker in the UK, and in Communications for Development in East Africa.

Kirsty Kitchen *Head of Policy and Communications, Birth Companions*

Kirsty Kitchen is the Head of policy and communications at Birth Companions. Kirsty works directly with the Lived Experience Team and with policymakers, parliamentarians, commissioners, and the media to help make sure women's voices are heard and responded to. Prior to joining Birth Companions, Kirsty worked as a consultant specialising in charity communications and campaigns.

Kate Chivers *Engagement Manager, Birth Companions*

Kate Chivers is the Engagement Manager at Birth Companions. Kate leads the Lived Experience Team, which offers opportunities for women to influence maternity services through consultation and co-production. Kate works with commissioners, public bodies and other voluntary organisations to ensure the voice of women facing multiple disadvantage is represented in policy, research, and service development. As well as leading the LET, Kate works as a Peer Support Trainer which involves training serving prisoners to offer practical and emotional support to pregnant women and mothers in prison.

Laura Abbott *Senior Lecturer in Midwifery, University of Hertfordshire*

Dr. Laura Abbott is a Senior Lecturer in Midwifery at The University of Hertfordshire and a Fellow of the Royal College of Midwives. Laura's doctorate examined the experiences of pregnant women in prison: *The Incarcerated Pregnancy: An Ethnographic Study of Perinatal Women in English Prisons*. Laura volunteers with the charity Birth Companions and co-authored The Birth Charter for pregnant women in England and Wales published by Birth Companions in May 2016. Laura has been publicly recognised as one of the Nation's 'lifesavers' from 'Made at Uni' for her research.

Lucy Baldwin *Senior Lecturer in Community and Criminal Justice, De Montfort University*

Dr. Lucy Baldwin is a Senior Lecturer and researcher at De Montfort University. Lucy has worked in criminal and social justice for over 30 years being a qualified social worker and probation officer. Lucy

has worked both in the community, in courts and in prison. She is author and editor of '*Mothering Justice: Working with Mothers in Criminal and Social Justice Settings*', (Waterside press 2015), and (jointly), '*Seen and Heard, 100 poems by parents and children affected by imprisonment*' (Waterside press 2019), alongside multiple academic book chapters and papers. Lucy's work and recommendations helped to inform the Female Offender Strategy.

Caroline Bald **Lecturer in the School of Health and Social Care, University of Essex**

Caroline Bald is a registered social worker and lecturer at the University of Essex with research interest in collateral consequences of criminal records and social work education. Caroline is the co-chair for the British Association of Social Work Criminal Justice Group. She is a trustee of Working Chance and Mental Health Time for Action.

Isabelle Trowler **Chief Social Worker for Children and Families, Department of Education**

Since qualifying as a social worker in 1996 from the London School of Economics, Isabelle has worked within the voluntary, statutory, and private sectors both in education and social care settings, in a variety of practice and senior leadership roles. She is well known for co-designing a new practice model for delivering child and family social work, which has had an enduring influence on the children's social care practice system across the UK. Isabelle took up the role as the government's first Chief Social Worker for England (Children & Families) in 2013. She is also a member of the National Panel for Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Isabelle is currently undertaking a national case review of mothers in prison and their babies.

Josh MacAlister **Chair of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care**

Josh MacAlister is the Chair of the independent review of children's social care. The review is dedicated towards ensuring children and young people receive the support and attention they need. Josh is also the founder of the social work charity Frontline, which focuses on the training and development of social workers.

Shona Minson **Post-doctoral Research Fellow, University of Oxford**

Dr. Shona Minson is a British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Criminology. Shona has provided training to judiciary on the sentencing of mothers and primary carers in England and Wales, Northern Ireland and New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. In 2018, Shona released the film series 'Safeguarding Children when Sentencing Mothers' for sentencers, advocates, probation staff and women facing sentence in England and Wales. Shona has more recently been involved in a similar series for criminal justice professionals in Scotland, which was released in April 2021.

Tamsin Bicknell **Consultant Midwife, Homerton University Hospital**

Tamsin is a consultant midwife with considerable experience in direct care for vulnerable women, safeguarding, and service development focused on reducing health inequalities, improving experiences and outcomes for those with complex psycho-social lives. Tamsin's own research has focused on developing humane and sensitive care for women in maternity settings where there is child protection intervention at birth. Tamsin is currently seconded as a consultant midwife to Barts Health NHS Trust from her home Trust of Homerton University Hospital in Hackney, London. Tamsin has been previously featured in the Guardian Newspaper and was recently awarded a Trust "care and compassion" award.

Claire Mason **Research Fellow, Centre for Child and Family Justice Research**

Claire Mason is a Research Fellow at The Centre for Family Justice at Lancaster University. Claire's work focuses particularly on the lived experience of families within the child protection and family justice

systems. Claire has worked on a range of research projects at local, regional, and national level including a national project investigating the issue of women in recurrent care proceedings and most recently the Born into Care series examining newborns in care proceedings.

Liz Hales ***Independent Researcher and Consultant, Criminology and Diversity***

Dr. Liz Hales has worked in the field of criminal justice since 1987, where her interests have focussed on diversity and human rights issues. Liz worked for the Probation Service for 17 years in community and custodial setting, followed by five years heading up Resettlement and Diversity work at HMP Bronzefield. Liz then carried out ESRC funded research on the Criminalisation of Migrant Woman as a Visiting Scholar at the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge.

Since retiring from full time employment Liz has worked as an independent researcher and consultant, mostly in partnership with organisations in the voluntary sector.

Claire Fitzpatrick ***Senior Lecturer, Lancaster University***

Dr. Claire Fitzpatrick is a Senior Lecturer in Criminology in the Lancaster University Law School and the Youth Justice Lead for the Centre for Child and Family Justice Research. Claire is also the Principal Investigator on the 'Disrupting the Routes between Care and Custody' study, funded by The Nuffield Foundation, which explores the overlapping care and offending pathways of girls and women. Claire has a long-standing interest in researching care and criminal careers, and in challenging negative judgements that routinely link care-experience with being in trouble.

Katie Hunter ***Research Associate, Lancaster University***

Dr. Katie Hunter is a Research Associate at Lancaster University Law School. Currently, Katie works on the Routes Between Care and Custody project which explores the intersections between care and youth/adult criminal justice involvement for girls and women. Katie completed her ESRC-funded PhD research in June 2019. Her thesis focused on the disproportionate involvement of Black and minority ethnic children and looked after children in the youth justice system in England and Wales.