

Maria Duggan: Professional Highlights

Research into policy development

Policy is influenced by many things, particularly ideologies and power. Policy is constantly re-shaped and reformed to address shortcomings, chase elusive targets, and improve impacts or to reflect changes in public opinion. Maria is curious about the ways in which research should serve in the development of better public policy. Researchers cannot be expected to discover all the right answers and often begin with the wrong questions. In order to achieve positive public policy it is essential that policy makers, researchers and organisations work together from the outset to frame the questions, discover answers and devise processes for putting them into practice. This would represent a significant paradigm shift for both researchers and policy makers and invigorate our democracies.

Working independently

Department of Health /Ministry of Justice Joint Lead, National Personality Disorder Development Programme. Maria undertook the research for and was author of [national policy guidance](#) on the inclusion of people with personality disorders in mental health policy, legislation and service provision. The Development Programme involved multi sectoral service development and evaluation with a focus on workforce capability and service user engagement. Maria was the author of the [Personality Disorder Knowledge and Capability Framework](#). Consumers with personality disorder worked alongside national commissioners in all stages of the development, establishment and evaluation of this unique programme.

NHS North West - Research and Development: Maria undertook a scoping study of end of life care research in the North West region and advised the Region on the development of strategic options for strengthening regional capacity and research translation.

Working with other members of PublicServiceWorks

NHS Northwest: Public Health Research: Maria and Sheila Marsh undertook a scoping project for NHS NW on extending the scope and reach of public health-focused research for the region. This involved extensive liaison with researchers and institutions, research-funders, clinicians and policy-makers across the North West region of the UK. Maria and Sheila developed a strategic business case for a regional multi-disciplinary research network. This resulted in the establishment of a new Centre for the Transformation of Population Health in 2012, now integrated with the Greater Manchester Research Hub.

City and Hackney Primary Care Trust: Healthy Weight and Transforming Adult Social Care. Sheila Marsh, Marsaili Cameron and Roma Iskander all worked with Maria on the design, research and facilitation of a policy and strategy development process for the former Primary Care Trust. This work, which was broad ranging in scope, drew on the different skills and interests of the PSW team to deliver detailed strategic plans in two priority areas for local partners.

Future-proofing policy

How can leaders steer policy and delivery at times of huge social and political turbulence? Maria has worked extensively on strategic futures in the UK and internationally and is convinced about the value of processes that produce shared understandings of possible futures and the opportunities or threats that they represent to develop and implement resilient policy.

Working independently

NHS North West and NHS Yorkshire and Humber: Development of scenarios for the future of health and social care systems in the two SHA areas. Maria undertook the research and supported the extensive facilitation required for these scenarios and was a co-author of the scenarios themselves

http://www.northwest.nhs.uk/document_uploads/Using_the_Scenarios/What_if_main_report.pdf

<http://www.ychi.leeds.ac.uk/DesigningFutureEHealthSystems/files/Think%20differently%20-%20John%20Rayner%20&%20Eileen%20Jessop.pdf>

Working with other members of PublicServiceWorks

Brotherhood of St Laurence, Melbourne: working with Sheila Marsh to develop strategic 'future scenarios for Australia' in run-up to the Australian Federal Election in September 2012. The work involved designing and running workshops to explore issues and develop credible future scenarios.

Lambeth Public Health: Maria worked with the PublicServiceWorks team in developing scenarios for the future of children and young people in Lambeth, see the [case study](#).

Policy Development and Evaluation

In recent years, Maria has worked extensively in Australia as well as in the UK, focusing on chronic disease prevention policy development.

Working independently

The Australian Health Policy Collaboration. Recent Australian work includes well-received policy position papers on:

- [Women's Mental Health](#)
- [The costs & consequences of co-morbid chronic diseases](#)
- [Active school travel](#)
- [Improving Heart Health](#)
- [The State of self-care](#)

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists: Maria was a joint researcher and author of an important policy paper for the Royal College: [Keeping Body and Mind Together](#): improving the life expectancy and physical health of people with severe mental illness.

Maria has worked with a number of Government and community-sector organisations in Melbourne on a range of service development initiatives and evaluations. These include research and consultation with community stakeholders to support the development of a new service model for a youth justice diversion scheme in a deprived area of inner-city Melbourne and evaluations of a community intervention and a compensatory education programme.

Working with other members of PublicServiceWorks

Camden Public Health. Maria worked with Roma Iskander and Sheila Marsh to evaluate the impact of the Camden Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This involved an online survey and examination of web analytics, together with interviews and stakeholder workshops to enable a thorough review of the utility of the JSNA process and outcomes.

Career Overview

Maria has had a long career in the UK as a social work practitioner, manager and educator. In recent years her work has been primarily focused on research, international policy development, policy analysis and implementation. Maria has worked at local and national levels in the UK, including for the Department of Health in England and internationally, with the European Commission in Brussels, Germany, USA and latterly in Australia. Maria is an Adjunct Professor at the [Australian Health Policy Collaboration](#) at Victoria University, Melbourne, where she has just finished working on a major policy paper on the need for an integrated prevention agenda for brain and body health, which will be published in Australia in July 2018.