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**Sarah Pollock** is a senior lecturer in Social Work at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. She is a qualified and registered social worker and her practice experience includes working with adults in both community and hospital settings in North West England. Sarah has recently completed her PhD, which explores the under-representation of minority ethnic older women in health and social care services by analysing narratives about their interactions with state welfare systems. Her research interests include social justice, the impact of poverty and adult safeguarding. Sarah has published on the use of family group conferences in safeguarding adult procedures and the rise in food poverty in the UK. She teaches units on adult assessment and intervention, safeguarding and social work practice with adults.

**Kate Parkinson** is a lecturer in Social Work at the University of Salford, UK. Prior to commencing her role at the University of Salford she worked for several years in the field of children and families social work, including managing family group conference and children’s centre services. Kate’s research interests are family group conferences and other restorative approaches to practice. She has co-edited and written a book on the use of family group conferences in social care and is currently undertaking a PhD in this area. Kate is programme leader of the MA in Social Work at the University of Salford and teaches on the MA, BA and Step Up to Social Work programmes. She is a passionate advocate for the social work profession and enjoys teaching and inspiring future social work practitioners.

**Ian Cummins** is a senior lecturer in Social Work at the University of Salford, UK. Prior to taking up academic posts he worked as a probation officer and mental health social worker. His research interests reflect these practice experiences, with a focus on mental health issues in the criminal justice system and the history of community mental health services. Ian has published widely on the subject of mental health; his most recent publication, *Mental Health Reimagined*, was published with Policy Press in 2019.
Author biographies

**Philip Brown** currently holds a chair of Social Change in the School of Health and Society at the University of Salford, UK, and is Director of the Sustainable Housing and Urban Studies Unit. He has broad experience and interests, working in fields as diverse as social inclusion, migration, homelessness, fuel poverty, energy efficiency and regeneration. Prior to joining academia, Philip worked for the Asylum and Refugee Resettlement Projects in Leeds, UK, from 1999 to 2004.

**Scott Massie** qualified as a social worker in 2000 and has worked for local authority social services departments since this time, initially working with adults with learning disabilities before moving into the mental health field in 2004. Scott has been an Approved Mental Health Professional since 2005 and continues to practise in this role. He was social work practice manager in a multidisciplinary community mental health team prior to joining Liverpool Hope University, UK, as Senior Professional Tutor in Social Work in 2016. Scott is currently studying for an education doctorate, undertaking research focusing on student mental health. Scott has particular interests in mental health and adult social work, issues in human rights and civil liberties, anti-oppressive practice, and gender and sexuality.

**Lucy Mort** completed a PhD at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, in the Department of Social Care and Social Work in 2017, with a thesis exploring migrants’, refugees’ and service providers’ experiences of austerity. She is a qualified social worker and her practice experience is primarily in the voluntary sector with migrant and refugee organisations and in women’s domestic violence refuges. Lucy is committed to women’s rights and is a passionate trustee of Safety4Sisters, a grassroots organisation in Manchester that supports migrant women with no recourse to public funds who have experienced gender-based violence. She is working on publications from her thesis and has recently joined the Institute of Public Policy Research as a research fellow.

**Rich Moth** is a senior lecturer in Social Work in the School of Social Sciences, Liverpool Hope University, UK. Before moving into his current role in social work education, he worked for 15 years in the social care field in a variety of roles in both statutory and voluntary sectors, including as a mental health social worker. Rich has been involved in a number of mental health, welfare and anti-austerity campaigns and is a long-standing member of the national steering committee of the Social Work Action Network.

**Donna Peach** is a lecturer in Social Work at the University of Salford, UK. She has 30 years’ practice experience in working with children and families where there have been concerns about the safety of children. Since 2014 her academic
and consultancy roles have included research and developmental projects working with voluntary and statutory health, local government and police services to better understand the phenomenon of the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and our responses to it.

**Ben Williams** is a tutor in Politics at the University of Salford, UK. He completed his PhD at the University of Liverpool between 2009 and 2013 and has written for a range of books, magazines, blogs and journals covering British politics. His most recent publications are *The Evolution of Conservative Party Social Policy* (2015) and *John Major: An Unsuccessful Prime Minister?* (co-edited with Kevin Hickson, 2017).

**Alex Withers** is a teaching consultant at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. He is a qualified and registered social worker whose main area of practice is adults with substance misuse issues. Alex teaches across a range of modules, including Global Inequalities and Substance Misuse.

**Chris Yianni** is a senior lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, where he heads and delivers modules on Addictions, Sociology and Social Policy. His research interests include sports sociology and he has written and delivered work exploring motivations for drug use in sport.
The idea for this book came from our combined teaching experience in university social work departments in the UK, where we have witnessed at first hand how some students entering social work programmes can struggle to engage with politics and ideology. Although some are well prepared for the political context within which the social work and care professions operate, others haven’t previously been exposed to these ideas and are challenged by the relationship between the two. It is hoped that this text will support students to connect politics and ideology to the everyday practices of social work and its allied professions.

Social work is inherently political; the very nature of supporting others to live fulfilled lives and to participate and achieve in society, and how ‘participating’ and ‘achieving’ are defined, are shaped by political ideology. We believe that recognising this is fundamental to the future of both the social work profession and those who interact with it, hence the idea for this book was developed to explore the interconnectedness of social work and politics.

As an editing team we would like to offer our sincere thanks to all the contributing authors, without whose hard work, commitment and knowledge this book would never have been realised. We would also like to thank Catherine Gray, Shannon Kneis and the team at Policy Press for being so supportive of this project from the beginning and for allowing us the freedom to make it our own.

From Sarah Pollock: Thank you to Arran for your patience and support, and for constantly ensuring that I don’t take myself too seriously. This book is for Toby for inspiring me to be a better person every day, and for my parents, Pam and Andy.

From Kate Parkinson: Thank you to Stuart for all of your support and for fabulous photography! This book is for my mum and, as usual, for Ruby, Sam and Scarlett.

From Ian Cummins: I would like to thank my family and friends for all their support. I am also very grateful to my fellow editors, who have done all the hard work.

All of the editors would like to thank Stuart Case for the cover photograph.
## List of abbreviations

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMHP</td>
<td>Approved Mental Health Professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAME, BME</td>
<td>Black (Asian) and Minority Ethnic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Care Act [2014]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJS</td>
<td>Criminal Justice System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMHT</td>
<td>Community Mental Health Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSA</td>
<td>Child sexual abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSE</td>
<td>Child sexual exploitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTO</td>
<td>Community treatment order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPs</td>
<td>Direct Payments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DWP</td>
<td>Department for Work and Pensions</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTT</td>
<td>Fixed term tenancy</td>
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<tr>
<td>HRA</td>
<td>Human Rights Act [1998]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVN</td>
<td>Hearing Voices Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAPT</td>
<td>Improved Access to Psychological Therapies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEA</td>
<td>Institute of Economic Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFSW</td>
<td>International Federation of Social Workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBT</td>
<td>Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCA</td>
<td>Mental Capacity Act [2005]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHA</td>
<td>Mental Health Act [1983 or 2007]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS</td>
<td>National Health Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHSCCA</td>
<td>National Health Service and Community Care Act [1990]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NI</td>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPM</td>
<td>New Public Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ofsted</td>
<td>Office for Standards in Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAP</td>
<td>Poverty Aware Paradigm</td>
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<tr>
<td>RISC</td>
<td>Rational Informed Stable Choice</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCT</td>
<td>Supervised Community Treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPD</td>
<td>Social Democratic Party (Germany)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWAN</td>
<td>Social Work Action Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCRC</td>
<td>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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