

# DCP Annual Conference

18–20 January 2017, Hilton Liverpool



***Professor Peter Kinderman and Dr Lisa Cameron***

## **Psychology matters: Psychology, politics and public service**

### **Abstract**

Psychology matters. Decisions made by politicians and policymakers have dramatic impacts on all areas of well-being. The politics of our security, economic prosperity, employment, relationships, criminal justice, education and healthcare are all fundamentally dependent on an understanding of how human beings think, feel, relate to one another, make sense of the world and make choices about the things that matter. Political decisions have life and death consequences - when our economy suffers, people suffer, and when politicians lead us into conflict, the consequences are daunting.

Lisa Cameron is uniquely placed to bring politics and psychology together. She is the first clinical psychologist to serve as an MP, and serves as a bridge between these two worlds.

This session will stimulate us to think about how psychology can inform, and is affected by, the decisions of politicians, and will allow us to plan how the British Psychological Society could support our politicians in their sometimes thankless task.

### **Biographies**

Peter Kinderman is Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Liverpool and President of the British Psychological Society.

His research interests are in psychological processes underpinning wellbeing and mental health. He has published widely on the role of psychological factors as mediators between biological, social and circumstantial factors in mental health and wellbeing, and has received significant research grant funding – most recently from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), to lead a three-year evidence synthesis programme for the ‘What Works Centre for Wellbeing’, exploring the

effectiveness of policies aimed at improving community wellbeing and from the National Institute for Health Research to investigate the effectiveness of human rights training in dementia care. His most recent book, 'A Prescription for Psychiatry', presents his vision for the future of mental health services. You can follow him on Twitter as @peterkinderman.

Dr Lisa Cameron MP was born and raised in East Kilbride and still lives in South Lanarkshire with her husband Mark and their 2 children. After graduating from Strathclyde University with a degree in Psychology, Lisa went on to gain a Doctorate in Clinical Practice from Glasgow University. Working as an NHS Doctor in Wishaw General, Dykebar and Carstairs, specialising in supporting clients with mental health and learning difficulties. Lisa has been able to use this experience in the House of Commons and since being elected has led adjournment debates on mental health provision for armed forces veterans.

Lisa has been an active local representative for the UK's biggest trade union Unite for more than 12 years, campaigning for workers' rights, pay, pensions and on issues of discrimination and equality in the workplace and has continued to do this as a Member of Parliament.

Lisa is the Shadow SNP Climate Justice Spokesperson and sits on the International Development Select Committee as well as the UK-Japan All Party Parliamentary Group, and chairs the All Party Parliamentary Group on Disability. She attended the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in New York as the sole representative from Scotland, where world leaders formally adopted an ambitious new sustainable development agenda.