

## Governing Risk

*This page intentionally left blank*

# Governing Risk

## Care and Control in Contemporary Social Work

Mark Hardy

*University of York, UK*

palgrave  
macmillan



© Mark Hardy 2015

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No portion of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, Saffron House, 6–10 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TS.

Any person who does any unauthorized act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

The author has asserted his right to be identified as the author of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published 2015 by  
PALGRAVE MACMILLAN

Palgrave Macmillan in the UK is an imprint of Macmillan Publishers Limited, registered in England, company number 785998, of Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS.

Palgrave Macmillan in the US is a division of St Martin's Press LLC, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

Palgrave Macmillan is the global academic imprint of the above companies and has companies and representatives throughout the world.

Palgrave® and Macmillan® are registered trademarks in the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe and other countries.

ISBN 978-1-349-34931-9      ISBN 978-1-137-31351-5 (eBook)

DOI 10.1057/9781137313515

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and made from fully managed and sustained forest sources. Logging, pulping and manufacturing processes are expected to conform to the environmental regulations of the country of origin.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

Transferred to Digital Printing in 2015

# Contents

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <i>Acknowledgements</i>                                | vi  |
| Introduction   | 1   |
| 1 Enduring Debates in Social Work                      | 8   |
| 2 Accounting for the Rise of Risk                      | 34  |
| 3 Mental Health Social Work – A Case in Point          | 52  |
| 4 The Probation Service – Pragmatism in Practice?      | 85  |
| 5 ‘An Analytics of Social Work’                        | 124 |
| 6 A Technical Identity?                                | 144 |
| 7 Risk, Uncertainty and Blame in Contemporary Practice | 164 |
| 8 Conclusion – Doing Justice to Social Work            | 182 |
| <i>Bibliography</i>                                    | 198 |
| <i>Index</i>   | 220 |

# Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the School of Healthcare at the University of Leeds for enabling me to complete the research project at the heart of this book. Thanks also to friends and colleagues, especially at the University of York, whose efforts to make sense of the world in which we live and work have informed my own. These include, but are by no means limited to, Ian Buchanan, Tony Evans, Sheila Fish, Hannah Jobling, Peter Knapp, Peter Morrall and Ian Shaw. Most of all, though, my love and thanks go to Lissie, Liv and Eddie, without whose love and support there would be no point. So a big hug to ‘the home team’.