

Working Title: At Risk
Format: 1 Hour TV - 8 episodes
Genre: Drama (post 9:00 watershed)

Premise:

What if, we are given a look inside the lives of young people and children on the margins of society, the weak, the vulnerable and those on the 'At Risk' register. What would we see and what would it tell us about modern society?

The Story Synopsis:

Clare is the Manger of a Child Protection Team (CPT) for a Northern City (Leeds/Newcastle). She is highly motivated and driven and posses a '*rules are made to be bent if not broken*' attitude. Each week Clare and her team face new cases that come into the office, one of which will focus as the A storyline with others bubbling away in the background. These are not just sexually abused children and young people but those considered 'At Risk' for a whole variety of different reasons. Some are trapped in a cycle of violence and deprivation; others have drug related issues, some are vulnerable due to a disability, while others are in the care system through no fault of their own. The B story line will typically follow an event in the life of one of Clare's team.

We will explore how the wider community of Teachers, Police, Doctors, and the Media are drawn into various cases that Clare and her team face as they battle against high public and media expectations with limited resources, as well as the internal politics that '*dog*' Social Services.

Statement of Intent

A series about Social Workers is the one Precinct drama that has yet to be done. Why, when the world they inhabit is rich with poignant stories and larger than life characters? What I aim to do is to pull back the curtain of a world few of us have had any dealings with and reveal the extraordinary demands, conflicts, complications and realities of those living and working in such environments, their professionalism, risks, the sense of hope and achievement when a positive result is reached.

Visual Realisation:

The pace and feel of each episode will need to demonstrate that time is of the essence with the '*beats*' in the story similar to Scott & Bailey with the camera switching from one person doing the pursuing or investigating to another involved in the same or another case. Episodes will also feature a slow burner, or monitor the after effect of a previous episodes case, so mirroring the reality of the workplace where outcomes are not always clear cut. Stylistically I do not see this in any way like precinct dramas' such as 'Holby City' or 'The Bill,' but rather a post watershed drama such as 'The Street' or 'The Fall.' Gritty, hard-edged, even uncomfortable at times but nonetheless humorous and moving too.

