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## Centre for Research in Social Policy Annual Report 2003/2004

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Davis, Abigail, Liz Sutton, and Claire Lawson. 2019. "Centre for Research in Social Policy Annual Report 2003/2004". figshare. <https://hdl.handle.net/2134/2679>.



21 years of Research in Social Policy 21 years of Research in Social Policy 21 years of Research in Social Policy

# Centre for Research in Social Policy Annual Report 2003/04



# Excellence in Independent Social Policy Research and Evaluation

CRSP 528

ISBN 0 946831 28 9

ISSN 0969-8914

**Design and layout:** Media Services, Loughborough University

**Content:** © CRSP, Loughborough University 2004

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## Preface

**This year CRSP celebrated its 21st anniversary. Since its establishment in 1983 by Professor Sir Adrian Webb CRSP has been a thriving self-funding research centre whose work has had a significant impact upon public policy. To mark the Centre's many achievements a conference on the relationship between research and policy was held in September 2004. The conference was attended by leading social policy analysts including current and former members of staff, and keynote speeches were given by the Rt. Hon. Dawn Primarolo, Professor Ruth Lister and Sue Duncan. Further details about the event are included on pages 10-11.**

The Centre took the opportunity provided by our 21st anniversary to revisit both how we disseminate our research and how we organise our research under themes. As an applied social policy centre, how we disseminate our research is critical and we have established a working group to examine how we can improve the ways in which we inform policy, lay and academic audiences of research findings. During the year work also began on improving our website ([www.crsp.ac.uk](http://www.crsp.ac.uk)), and the new CRSP logo was launched at the 21st conference.

The research and evaluation studies covered in this report are grouped under the four new themes:

- Welfare and Life Transitions
- Comparative Welfare
- Towards Social Inclusion
- Poverty and Social Exclusion

Looking ahead to 2005, Sue Middleton will be spending the year working outside of the Centre on a number of projects, including acting as advisor to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Poverty and Disadvantage committee. Accordingly, Bruce Stafford will be leading the Centre next year.

CRSP staff are all looking forward to 2005 and would like to thank all our colleagues and friends who helped make the celebration of our first 21 years such a wonderful occasion.

## A Short History of CRSP

**It is impossible to do justice to the rich and varied history of CRSP; our developing research interests, patterns of funding, staff comings and goings, and individual and institutional successes, in such a short space. All we can do is highlight some of the main milestones in our development.**

Professor Sir Adrian Webb, then Head of the Department of Social Sciences, founded the Centre in 1983. In the early years, most of the Centre's funding came from the Department of Health through one of the UK's first major national policy evaluations, of the Opportunities for Volunteering Programme. Following Professor Robert Walker's appointment as Director in 1990, CRSP expanded both its research interests and funding base, particularly in the fields of social security research and, more generally, the interaction between people's living standards and lifestyles. Also during this period, the Unit for the Arts and Offenders was established within CRSP under the direction of the late Anne Peaker and Dr Jill Vincent, formerly Assistant Director. The Unit left CRSP in 1996 to establish itself as a separate charity.

1996 also saw the establishment of the Department of Social Security's core funded research unit within CRSP, under Robert's direction and with Bruce Stafford as Assistant Director. The Unit sat within a new programme of research on Welfare Institutions. At the same time, Sue Middleton was charged with further developing CRSP's other research interests under the banner of the Lifestyles and Living Standards Programme. The Centre expanded rapidly during the next few years, taking its funding base from only two funders and 14 members of staff in 1995 to nine funders and 27 members of staff in 2000.

In April 2000 Robert left to become Professor of Social Policy at Nottingham University, and Bruce and Sue took over as Directors. The two research programmes were merged and CRSP's work was re-organised around themes that are reflected in the descriptions of our current research programme elsewhere in this report. The Centre has continued to develop in the ensuing four years, maintaining and developing our reputation for leading large-scale national policy evaluations for government, particularly the Departments for Work and Pensions and Education and Skills, as well as more strategic research funded by bodies such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Economic and Social Research Council.

It is difficult to choose just one achievement from the many over the years of which we are proud:

- public acknowledgements by Ministers and senior civil servants of the role that some of our research has played in changing policy;
- the respect of our colleagues in the research community; and
- the individual successes of members of CRSP as they have developed their careers.

CRSP has always had a fundamental belief in research as a career that merits security of employment for staff. Despite our continued dependence on 'soft' money, one of CRSP's major achievements has been that virtually all staff are employed on open ended contracts. We believe that this has been crucial in securing CRSP's ongoing success and is a model to which others in the sector might aspire.

## Review of the Year

This year's annual report celebrates CRSP's 21st birthday, with an extended edition covering 18 months in the life of the Centre. During this time, in addition to organising the CRSP conference (see pages 10-11), staff have been collaborating with colleagues both here and abroad and sharing research findings and expert knowledge with policy makers, researchers, academics and the media. CRSP warmly welcomed visits from Professor Sir David Wallace, Vice-Chancellor of Loughborough University, and representatives from the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, the Nuffield Community Care Studies Unit at the University of Leicester, HM Treasury's Poverty and Welfare to Work Team and members of the Social Exclusion Unit Impacts and Trends team. External contributors to the Centre's seminar series have included Professor Ruth Hancock, from the University of Essex and John Jensen, from the New Zealand Ministry of Social Development.

Sue Middleton was invited to give evidence to the House of Commons Department for Work and Pensions Select Committee Enquiry into Child Poverty. Nigel Bilsbrough was asked to contribute to the Social Research Association initiative on Research Commissioning, which is led by Dr Janet Lewis. He was also instrumental in facilitating the negotiation of a national agreement with the Inland Revenue on one-off payments to research respondents. Noel Smith gave a presentation on developing budget standards for disabled people at a Labour Party Conference fringe meeting, and was a member of the discussion panel, which also included Maria Eagle MP, the Department for Work and Pensions Minister for disabilities, Dr Roger Berry MP, secretary for the All Party Parliamentary Disability Group and Lorna Reith, Chief Executive of the Disability Alliance.

In 2004 Sue Middleton was invited to act as an adviser to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Poverty and Disadvantage Committee, to help develop the future direction of their work on poverty and social exclusion. Sue will spend 2005 working on this, as well as writing on issues relating to childhood poverty and social exclusion but will maintain links with CRSP. She will return to her role as Director of the Centre in January 2006. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Sue well.

### CRSP and the wider research arena

CRSP staff contributed to various national and international summer schools, research networks and research centre forums. Since 2003, Centre Director Bruce Stafford has been Director of the Department for Work and Pensions Summer School, which takes place annually. The Summer School, held at King's College, Cambridge, is attended by over 100 supervisory and managerial staff from the Department for Work and Pensions. Students attend sessions by the Secretary of State, the Permanent Secretary, and other senior officials from the Department, as well as lectures by established experts and academics in social policy. Besides Bruce, both Karen Kellard and Simon Roberts have also been tutors at the Summer School.

Simon Roberts is a member of the European Commission's Working Group looking at the impact of globalisation on European social security systems. The working group was part of the COST programme, the main objective of which was to increase knowledge and a common European understanding of the reforms and the transformation of social protection

## Review of the Year

systems in Europe in the context of globalisation and European construction. Simon is also a founder member of the Socrates Summer School on European Social Security, which was held for the first time in August 2004 in Ghent. CRSP student researcher Kate Ashton-Brooks was one of the two Loughborough University students to attend.

Nigel Bilsbrough serves on the committee of RAGnet (Research Administrators' Group Network), which is the professional organisation for research managers and administrators in the UK. Nigel is also a trustee and treasurer of the Unit for the Arts and Offenders, which is the national umbrella organisation that supports the development of the arts within criminal justice settings. Both Bruce Stafford and Nigel are members of the Executive Committee of ARCISS, the Association of Research Centres in Social Sciences, which is a membership organisation for research centres in the UK committed to promoting rigorous social science research.

### CRSP around the world

Congratulations are due to Monica Magadi on the award of a EuroPanel Users Network (EPUNet) Grant for Short Research Visits, which will see her visiting the Centre for the Study of Populations, Poverty and Socio-economic Policy in Luxembourg in February 2005.

Line Nyhagen Predelli has been continuing work with colleagues overseas on a project exploring political participation and organisation in multicultural Norway. Funded by the Research Council of Norway, it examines the involvement of Norwegian immigrant organisations in political processes and decision-making, and includes a survey of immigrant organisations and in-depth interviews with representatives from immigrant organisations and immigrant councils.

Laura Adelman spent a year in Australia at the Social Policy Research Centre working on CRSP projects and presenting the Centre's work at seminars and conferences. Laura was invited to attend the meetings of a working party consisting of poverty researchers and members of charitable organisations, which was attempting to draw up poverty definitions and measures for Australia, and was able to present Britain's latest thinking on this issue, as well as CRSP's perspective. During this time she worked closely with Professor Peter Saunders and with him provided written and oral evidence to the Australian Senate's Inquiry into Poverty and Financial Hardship.

Kim Perren presented a paper on the impact of social and political change on the social position of older people in Britain, West Germany and Hungary, at the 6th Annual Conference of the European Sociological Association, which was held at the University of Murcia, Spain. Simon Roberts presented the 2003 UK report for the European Observatory on Social Security for Migrant Workers to the European Commission in Brussels. Simon also attended the European Commission's conference on the Co-ordination of Social Security in an Enlarged Europe: Now and Tomorrow, in Hungary. Karen Kellard gave a presentation at a seminar on Individual Approaches in Activation to the Active Social Policies European Network in Sweden.

## Review of the Year

### CRSP at home

In addition to working with colleagues in the Department of Social Sciences, CRSP staff are involved in several inter-departmental research consortia, and in December 2004 co-ordinated and hosted a meeting of representatives from other Loughborough University research centres in order to facilitate collaboration and to share knowledge and experiences. Sue Middleton is a member of the Social Sciences and Humanities Faculty Board. Karen Kellard is a member of the Human Resources Committee and she and Abigail Davis have been union and staff representatives on the campus' Nursery Consultative Committee.

### Training and development

Each year CRSP recruits an undergraduate in the second year of study from the Department of Social Sciences to work within the Centre for a year in order to gain experience of 'real world' research. Kate Ashton-Brooks was the CRSP Scholar from October 2003-September 2004. Kate said 'One of the main ways that I benefited from my time at CRSP was through making a real contribution to the working life of the Centre. I learnt a great deal through being given the responsibility of doing work that really mattered both to the projects and to CRSP'. The CRSP Scholar for 2004-05 is Sarah Gonzalez.

Staff have participated in a wide range of external training courses and workshops including: approaches to sampling, conducting research with children and young people, reporting, presenting and analysing qualitative data, conducting survey research, dealing with the media, survey data analysis, and using focus groups in qualitative research. In addition to this, staff also attend and contribute to 'in-house' training and the weekly CRSP seminar series. Recent sessions covered data protection and attitudinal questionnaire data. Invitations are extended to external speakers both from within Loughborough University and other institutions and research organisations.

Simon Roberts, Karen Kellard, Noel Smith, Nigel Bilsbrough, Bruce Stafford and Sue Maguire were involved in delivering seminars on aspects of effective management of research within the Department of Social Science's MSc in Social Research. Karen Kellard and Liz Sutton gave a workshop for Social Science and Humanities research students on qualitative interviewing techniques, and Liz Sutton was a guest lecturer at De Montfort University on the use of focus groups in media related research. Bruce Stafford was an external examiner for the first year of a taught PhD in Social Policy at Nottingham University.

# Review of the Year

## Joiners and leavers

Over the past eighteen months we have been pleased to welcome Elspeth Pound, Line Nyhagen Predelli, Clare Lawson, Antonia Ivaldi, Amanda Crompton, Jacqueline Beckhelling, Viet-Hai Phung, and Sarah Gonzalez. We were sorry to say goodbye to Andreas Cebulla (now a Research Director at National Centre for Social Research) and Laura Adelman (now a Senior Research Officer within the Department for Work and Pensions). Sue Maguire and Joanne Rennison joined the Centre for Education and Industry at Warwick University as a Principal Research Fellow and Research Fellow, respectively. Rita Khatri took up a post as a Personal Assistant at the Alliance and Leicester's head office and Emma Gregory joined United Biscuits as a Customer Care Manager. Barbara Dobson emigrated with her family to Canada, Champa Mistry left to take up a position as a Reiki Healer, and Sandra Reyes de Beaman successfully applied to train as a Specialist Registrar in Public Health Medicine. Kate Ashton-Brooks returned to complete the final year of her degree. We wish them all well in their careers and were glad to see so many were able to attend the CRSP 21st anniversary celebrations. At the time of going to print we were also pleased to welcome Chris Dearden who joined CRSP as a Research Fellow in January 2005.

## CRSP out and about

During 2003 and 2004 CRSP staff enjoyed a variety of social and cultural pursuits including greyhound racing, bowling, skittles, performances by the Royal Ballet and visiting Loughborough's annual street fair. One of the highlights of the social calendar was a well-attended day trip to London to see the West End production of Chicago.

Staff have also been involved in a number of charity events, including entering a team in the 'Race for Life' held at Loughborough University this year, to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Yvette Hartfree took part in a sponsored 10 km run, raising £80 for Rainbows, a local hospice for terminally ill children, which staff also support each year by making donations to Rainbows instead of exchanging Christmas cards.

## Congratulations to...

- ... Sharon Walker and Steven Whiles on the birth of baby Ethan James Whiles on 24 April, 2004.
- ... Simon Roberts on his appointment as Assistant Director.
- ... Kim Perren, Line Nyhagen Predelli and Noel Smith on their Research Fellowships.
- ... Antonia Ivaldi on the award of her PhD from the University of Keele.
- ... Liz Sutton and Abigail Davis on attaining passes with distinction in the University's MSc in Social Research.

# Review of the Year



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3



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## Photographs

- 1 CRSP staff past and present
- 2 CRSP Directors 1983-2004. From left, Professor Sir Adrian Webb, Sue Middleton, Dr Bruce Stafford and Professor Robert Walker
- 3 An important part of CRSP's 21st birthday celebrations
- 4 Liz Sutton and Abigail Davis celebrate the award of the MSc in Social Research
- 5 Ethan James Whiles at 8 months
- 6 CRSP runners and friends at the Race for Life, June 2004

# CRSP 21st Conference Report



Professor Sir David Wallace

In 2004 CRSP marked its 21st birthday. The highlight of the celebrations was a special conference, held at Loughborough University on 17 September. More than 80 colleagues in the social policy research and academic communities, as well as those involved in policy making, were brought together to consider and debate the role of research in shaping social policy.

The conference was based around four themes:

- Welfare and Life Transitions;
- Comparative Welfare;
- Towards Social Inclusion; and
- Poverty and Social Exclusion.

Keynote speakers were: the Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP (Paymaster General); Sue Duncan (Chief Government Social Researcher); and Professor Ruth Lister (Professor of Social Policy at Loughborough University). CRSP was also very pleased to welcome back its founder, Professor Sir Adrian Webb (now Vice-Chancellor at the University of Glamorgan), and its former Director, Professor Robert Walker (now at the University of Nottingham).



The Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP

In the morning plenary session, the Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo discussed the vital contribution that research makes to effective government and recognised that 'in constructing evidence-based policies, the Government owes a great deal to social researchers and academics around the country'. She emphasised the Government's determination to ensure that policy makers' decisions are rooted in a 'bedrock' of sound evidence. The Minister also highlighted the importance of longitudinal evidence, particularly in helping to understand the causes of child poverty and its effects on people's life chances.

Sue Duncan focused on the challenge of getting the policy-research relationship right. This includes demystifying the policy process for those working outside of government, as well as recognising within government the complexities of the research process. Without



Sue Duncan, The Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Dr Bruce Stafford



Professor Robert Walker



Professor Peter Golding, Sue Midgley

## CRSP celebrates 21 years of success!

good research information, 'policies can be poorly targeted, can have unintended consequences or they can simply not work'. Current approaches to policy making prioritise inclusiveness, performance measurement and delivery, joined-up government, strategic thinking and identifying 'what works'. In each of these key areas, Ms Duncan emphasised the important role that research plays in providing evidence to those working in government, whilst recognising that there remain inherent frustrations and challenges in the research/policy relationship.

Professor Lister reflected on the relevance and value of social policy research both for government and non-government actors. She considered the influence and limits of research on social policy makers, mediating factors and who decides what is relevant. She emphasised the need to give more thought to how we can make research accessible to its 'beneficiaries'. In conclusion, she argued that we cannot allow government to be the sole arbiter of research relevance, for we also have wider responsibilities, in particular to those whose voices are least heard in policy-making debates.

In the afternoon parallel sessions, participants discussed the role of research in shaping social policy around CRSP's four research themes: poverty and social exclusion; welfare and life transitions; comparative welfare; and progress towards social inclusion. The panels included speakers from CRSP and other UK and international academics and researchers, as well as representatives from government and the research funding community.

The day was a great success and concluded with a round table discussion about the future direction of social policy research. Full conference proceedings will be available via CRSP's website in 2005. More information about CRSP's work can be accessed via <http://www.crsp.ac.uk> or from Clare Lawson at CRSP ([e.c.lawson@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:e.c.lawson@lboro.ac.uk)).

The next CRSP Conference will be held in 2006. Details of themes and booking arrangements will be available on the website from Autumn 2005.



Sue Duncan



Professor Ruth Lister



Middleton



Yves Jorens, Susan Acland-Hood



Professor Sir Adrian Webb, Dr Bruce Stafford, The Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Sue Middleton, Professor Sir David Wallace



# Welfare and Life Transitions

CRSP projects within this theme have examined patterns of movement between benefits, routes off benefit and job retention. This work has informed policy debates about how to secure sustained employment for people of working age. CRSP evaluations of social programmes have been influential in understanding why and how government interventions work. Projects have also explored transitions at various stages of life such as into post-16 education, to adult citizenship for young people, into learning for adults and throughout older age.

Research questions include:

- How transitions in peoples' lives are supported by the welfare state, in particular:
  - movements between work and unemployment; and
  - movements between work and other states such as education, training, caring, sickness, incapacity and retirement.
- Has the UK social security system kept pace with changes in demographics, family structures, labour markets, employment patterns and peoples' retirement decisions?

## Projects within this theme are:

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# Evaluating New Deal for Disabled People National Extension

CRSP leads a consortium to evaluate the national extension of the New Deal for Disabled People, which is a voluntary programme designed to assist people with disabilities and health conditions enter sustained employment. It is a key part of the Government's welfare to work strategy. A network of around 60 Job Brokers (a mix of not-for-profit, private and public sector organisations who bid to cover specific geographical areas) has been established to deliver the programme to people on incapacity related benefits.

The evaluation is large scale and involves a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods. Most of the fieldwork for the evaluation incorporates a longitudinal dimension. The evaluation also includes an impact assessment and a cost benefit study. Principal early findings are:

- over half of the eligible population had heard of NDDP and/or a Job Broker operating in their local area;
- between July 2001 and November 2003, 67,983 people or 1.9 per cent of the eligible population had registered with the programme;
- the programme was designed to give potential participants a choice of Job Broker. However, there is little evidence of participants actively choosing a Job Broker. Of those who made a choice the main influencing factor was the location of a Job Broker's office;
- there is some evidence from the qualitative research that Job Brokers sought to register the most job ready and to prioritise them once registered. Where a registration did not take place the Job Brokers directed the customers towards more appropriate services;
- participants were more likely to be male, younger, on Incapacity Benefit for a shorter duration, and to have musculo-skeletal problems than the Incapacity Benefit population as a whole; they were less likely to have a mental health condition;
- in general, Job Brokers said they viewed the impact of NDDP on their respective organisations as positive;
- Job Brokers did not provide a set menu of services rather, different Job Brokers provided a package of services, which could include basic skills assessments, help with job search, training, work placements, financial advice, etc. Overall, a wide range of services was provided in-house and/or by other/partner organisations. Most provided job search related services;
- Job Brokers' relations with one another were mixed – sometimes seen as collaborative and at other times as competitive. Relations with Jobcentre Plus were seen as central to the success of the programme, and as having improved over time;
- participants' experiences of, and views on, how Job Brokers could help them gain employment varied. For some participants the Job Brokers' links with employers were not always as close as they had anticipated; and
- participants tended to have positive views about the service they had received from Job Brokers. Of those people registering with NDDP up to November 2003, 32 per cent had gained paid work and of these participants 39 per cent had achieved sustained employment.

**Project Team:** Dr Bruce Stafford, Abigail Davis, Professor David Greenberg, Katherine Hill, Karen Kellard, Kate Legge  
**Dates:** Jul 2001-early 2006  
**Funder:** Department for Work and Pensions

# Evaluating New Deal for Disabled People National Extension

The other members of the consortium are: Abt Associates in Cambridge, Massachusetts; the Institute for Employment Studies; the National Centre for Social Research; the Social Policy Research Unit at the University of York; and the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. The consortium is also supported by an Advisory Group of academics and representatives of the voluntary sector chaired by Professor Robert Walker, Nottingham University.

## Publications

Stafford, B. with Ashworth, K., Davis, A., Hartfree, Y., Hill, K., Kellard, K., Legge, K., McDonald, S., Reyes De-Beaman, S., Aston, J., Atkinson, J., Davis, S., Evans, C., Lewis, J., O'Regan, J., Harries, T., Kazimirski, A., Pires, C., Shaw, A. and Woodward, C. (2004) *New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP): First synthesis report*, DWP Research Report No. 199, Sheffield: DWP.  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/jad/2004/199rep.pdf>

Orr, L., Bell, S. and Kornfeld, R. (2004) *Tests of Nonexperimental Methods for Evaluating the Impact of the New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP)*, DWP Research Report No. 198, Sheffield: DWP.  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/jad/2004/198rep.pdf>

McDonald, S., Davis, A., Stafford, B. (2004) *Report of the Survey of Job Brokers*, DWP Research Report No. 197, Sheffield: DWP.  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/jad/2004/197rep.pdf>

Ashworth, K., Hartfree, Y., Kazimirski, A., Legge, K., Pires, C., Reyes de Beaman, S., Shaw, A. and Stafford, B. (2004) *New Deal for Disabled People National Extension: First Wave of the First Cohort of the Survey of Registrants*, DWP Research Report 180, Sheffield: DWP.  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/jad/2003/180rep.pdf>

Woodward, C., Kazimirski, A., Shaw, A. and Pires, C. (2003) *New Deal for Disabled People Eligible Population Survey Wave One*, DWP Research Report 170, Sheffield: DWP.  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/jad/2003/170rep.pdf>

Corden, A., Harries, T., Hill, K., Kellard, K., Lewis, J., Sainsbury, R. and Thornton, P. (2003) *New Deal for Disabled People National Extension: Findings from the First Wave of Qualitative Research with Clients, Job Brokers and Jobcentre Plus Staff*, Sheffield: DWP.  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/jad/2003/169rep.pdf>

Aston, J., Atkinson, J., Evans, C. and O'Regan, S. (2003) *Employers and the New Deal for Disabled People: Qualitative Research: First Wave*, DWP Research Report WAE145, Sheffield: DWP.  
[http://www.dwp.gov.uk/jad/2003/145\\_rep.pdf](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/jad/2003/145_rep.pdf)

# The Evaluation of the Piloting of Education Maintenance Allowances

This has been the largest single evaluation ever funded by the Department for Education and Skills and has been undertaken by a consortium of organisations, led by CRSP. Commissioned in 1999, the evaluation aimed to assess the effect of providing young people from poorer homes with a weekly allowance to encourage them to remain in full-time education post-16 years, in terms of improvements in participation, retention and achievement.

## The Policy Problem

Despite very large increases in the proportions of young people remaining in post-16 education during the early 1990s, there was concern that levels had peaked at around 70 per cent, below those in other similar countries. Participation in post-17 education was particularly low among young men and those from lower socio-economic groups:

- in 1997 only 66.2 per cent of 16 year old men remained in post-16 education compared with 72.8 per cent of young women<sup>1</sup>; and
- by 1998 only 48 per cent of young people from unskilled manual backgrounds remained in full-time education after the end of compulsory schooling compared with 85 per cent of those from professional/managerial backgrounds<sup>2</sup>.

Lack of money was thought to be one of the main reasons why young people from these backgrounds were not staying on<sup>3</sup>.

There have, in fact, been a number of EMA Evaluations. In addition to the main evaluation in ten of the original 15 pilot areas and 11 control areas, separate evaluations have taken place:

- in the remaining five pilot areas (Leeds and four London Boroughs);
- in four of the original 15 pilot areas where extensions to the main EMA scheme were introduced to encourage 'vulnerable' young people to remain in education; and
- in a further five pilot areas where a variant of EMA to assist young people with the costs of transport was tested.

## The EMA Pilots

- for young people in full-time education post-16;
- annual family incomes of £30,000 or less;
- a maximum of £40 per week in term time;
- termly retention bonuses;
- achievement bonuses; and
- receipt conditional on compliance with a Learning Agreement.

**Project Team:** Sue Middleton, Yvette Hartfree, Dr Kim Perren, Joanne Rennison

**Dates:** Apr 1999-Dec 2004

**Funder:** Department for Education and Skills

# The Evaluation of the Piloting of Education Maintenance Allowances

## Methods

The evaluation involved a range of qualitative and quantitative methods, all of which included a longitudinal element. Methods employed for the main EMA evaluation were:

- large longitudinal surveys of an initial random sample of 22,500 young people (and their parents at first interview) in ten pilot areas and 11 control areas. Young people from two cohorts, those who finished compulsory education in 1999 and 2000, were interviewed four times at annual intervals to track their post-16 activities and progress. Data from these surveys provided impact measures of gains in participation, retention and achievement arising from the availability of EMA, using Propensity Score Matching techniques. They also provided a wealth of descriptive data to contextualise and extend the impact analysis;
- studies of how EMA was implemented in the pilot areas involving annual interviews with the main stakeholders in the evaluation at local level;
- area studies to collect contextual socio-economic and demographic data in the pilot and control areas; and
- qualitative interviews with young people and parents over the first twelve months of the pilot to explore the processes underlying young people's decisions to remain in education and to claim EMA.

## Findings

The evaluation produced a wealth of findings about young people as they made the transition from compulsory education to higher education and the labour market. Full reports and research summaries are available on the DfES website.

In terms of the main evaluation, our best estimate of the impact of EMA was that it had **increased participation in full-time education in Year 12 among eligible young people in the pilot areas by 5.9 percentage points**. These gains were even larger among young men in urban areas, the group that had been a particular focus of policy concern. There was also evidence that EMA had **improved retention among eligible young people beyond initial participation at the start of Year 12 and into Year 13 by some 3.2 percentage points**. Analysis of the achievement data is currently ongoing and results will be available in 2005.

The evaluation consortium comprised researchers from CRSP, the Institute for Fiscal Studies, National Centre for Social Research, National Institute for Careers Education and Counselling and the Centre for Education and Industry.

<sup>1</sup> DfES Statistics 2001 <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/DB/SFR/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> DfES Youth Cohort Study, Statistical Bulletin, 02/2000

<sup>3</sup> Social Exclusion Unit (1999) Bridging the Gap: New opportunities for 16 year olds not in education employment or training. Cmnd 4405.

# The Evaluation of the Adult Learning Grant

In July 2003 the Government announced in its Skills Strategy the piloting of the Adult Learning Grant (ALG) (*21st Century Skills – Realising our Potential*, 2003). The ALG is a means-tested grant for adults and provides financial support (up to £30 per week during term time) to adults studying full-time for their first level 2 qualification, and young adults studying full-time for their first full level 3 qualification. The ALG contributes to the government's 2010 target to achieve a 40 per cent reduction in the number of adults in the workforce lacking any qualifications up to level 2.

In September 2003, the ALG was launched in ten pilot sites across England. Payments of grants are subject to strict attendance requirements, which are monitored by learning providers. Although take-up of the ALG has been slow, 4,864 learners have now been awarded ALG and payments worth £2,187,980 have been issued (as at 8 December 2004).

The ALG evaluation, commissioned by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), is being conducted by a consortium of organisations. The consortium is led by CRSP and includes the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) and the National Institute for Careers Education and Counselling (NICEC).

The evaluation aims to:

- 1 evaluate the impact of the ALG on retention, attainment and progression of learners;
- 2 examine the effect of the ALG on the level of qualification, type of learning and working patterns of learners;
- 3 explore implementation of the ALG at local level; and
- 4 identify good practice.

The evaluation design has both qualitative and quantitative elements. Quantitative techniques, comprising large-scale longitudinal surveys of learners in pilot and control areas, will be undertaken to address aims 1, 2 and 4. Surveys will take place in 2004, 2005 and 2006. Qualitative techniques are being adopted to address aims 3 and 4.

The findings from the qualitative element were reported to the DfES in October 2004.

## References

Department for Education and Skills (2003). *21st Century Skills – Realising our Potential: Individuals, Employers, Nation*. (CM5810). London: HMSO

## Publications

Pound, E., Maguire, M., Middleton, S. and Ashton-Brooks, K. (2004) *A Qualitative Investigation into the First Year (Pilot) Implementation of the Adult Learning Grant*. Department for Education and Skills.

**Project Team:** Sue Middleton, Dr Monica Magadi, Elspeth Pound and Dr Bruce Stafford

**Dates:** Oct 2003-Mar 2007

**Funder:** Department for Education and Skills

# Delivering the Jobcentre Plus Vision: Qualitative Evaluation

CRSP, in partnership with Ecotec Research and Consulting Ltd, completed a third phase of the qualitative evaluation of Jobcentre Plus. The overall aim of the research was to look at the extent to which the first pathfinder offices (launched in October 2001) had progressed in delivering the Jobcentre Plus vision. A small number of newer offices (rolled out in 2002) were also included in the research for comparison. There were three elements to the data collection: interviews with staff; interviews with customers; and non-participative observations.

## Findings

- First Contact

Customers initiate the new claim process by telephoning a Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre. In identifying the appropriate benefit for customers to claim, arranging work-focused meetings and despatching claim forms the First Contact process was largely working well. It appeared, however, that First Contact was less effective in promoting the work-focused element of Jobcentre Plus. For some customers there were limited explanations as to the purpose of the work focused interview. Although discussions about work did occur with some customers claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), these tended to be brief.

- Meetings with Financial Assessors

Benefit services are delivered through Financial Assessors (FAs), who check customer's completed claim forms and supporting evidence, and respond to any benefit queries. FAs had progressed from checking benefit claims to delivering a more comprehensive service. There was an increase in FAs' knowledge and confidence in giving customers information and advice on other entitlements, such as new Tax Credits. However, generally customers were still not being informed about how much benefit they could expect to receive.

- Meetings with Personal Advisers

As a condition of benefit receipt customers are required to attend a work-focused interview with a Personal Adviser (PA). Across all customer groups work was discussed, but the extent to which these discussions were relevant and substantive varied greatly. PAs were more knowledgeable and confident in giving customers information about the help and support available, such as New Deals or training courses. However, the main criticism from customers was that the information they received was insufficient to enable them to determine whether the course of action suggested would be appropriate for them.

## Conclusions

Where progress occurred it was largely as a result of increased individual staff knowledge and confidence gained 'on the job'. A number of barriers appeared to hinder the delivery of the Jobcentre Plus vision including: staff preconceptions as to the job-readiness of some non-JSA customers; a lack of confidence in promoting a work focus to some non-JSA customers; insufficient knowledge across all of the Jobcentre Plus benefits; and constraints on staff time.

## Reference

Davies, V., Hartfree, Y., Kellard, K. and Taylor, J. (2004), 'Delivering the Jobcentre Plus Vision: Qualitative research with staff and customers (Phase 3)', DWP Research Report 222. [www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2003-2004/rrep222.asp](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2003-2004/rrep222.asp)

**Project Team:** Yvette Hartfree, Katherine Hill, Karen Kellard

**Dates:** May 2003-Jun 2004

**Funder:** Department for Work and Pensions

## Delivering Labour Market Policies through Local and Regional Partnerships

CRSP researchers have been part of a consortium, which also involved the Policy Research Institute (Leeds Metropolitan University) and GHK Consulting, commissioned to evaluate current local and regional strategic partnerships aimed at improving operations of labour markets and economic development. The evaluation reviewed and assessed the effectiveness of partnership working and the contribution it can make to the delivery of labour market policies in eleven Jobcentre Plus districts. The project also identified models of best practice and provided guidance to Jobcentre Plus staff on their roles in developing and strengthening partnerships.

Qualitative interviews with Jobcentre Plus managers and representatives of partner organisations were conducted, producing case study reports from Scotland (Lanarkshire) and England (Tees Valley). These reports have fed into the overall and final report from the project, *Delivering Labour Market Policies through Local and Regional Partnerships*, prepared for the Department for Work and Pensions.

The research found that Jobcentre Plus is involved in a wide range of strategic partnerships at regional and local levels, and that Jobcentre Plus contributions, in the form of time, experience, and knowledge, are valued by its partner organisations. It was observed that the effectiveness of Jobcentre Plus involvement could be limited by a narrow focus on national, short-term performance targets, limited flexibility to operate at the local level, limited local discretion over spending, recent focus on the Jobcentre Plus roll-out, and an inward-looking organisational culture.

The majority of research participants perceived strategic partnership working as important and as having a positive impact on the local labour market. Nevertheless, respondents found it difficult to describe in detail the relationship between strategic partnerships and labour market impact, or to provide specific examples of how this had worked in practice. Due to the complex relationship between strategic partnerships and labour market outcomes, it was also difficult to obtain quantitative support for the notion that strategic partnership working has a positive impact on the labour market.

**Project Team:** Andreas Cebulla, Dr Line Nyhagen Predelli, Dr Sandra Reyes de Beaman  
**Dates:** May 2003-Jul 2004  
**Funder:** Department for Work and Pensions

# The Evaluation of Local Housing Allowance Pathfinders

The Local Housing Allowance represents a radical reform of the assistance given to people on low incomes with their housing costs. The reform was signalled in April 2000 in the Labour Government's housing green paper *Quality and Choice: A Decent Home for All*. On 17 October 2002 the Secretary of State announced 'the biggest reform of Housing Benefit since 1988', with Local Housing Allowance being tested in Pathfinder local authorities. The Local Housing Allowance was introduced in nine Pathfinder areas from November 2003 onwards.

The Local Housing Allowance, which is part of the Government's wider strategy for Housing Benefit reform, applies to tenants in the deregulated private rented sector. The amount of the allowance awarded is based upon family size and the property's location within a 'broad rental market area', and is means-tested. The new allowance has been designed to be simple to administer, transparent and fair. In addition Local Housing Allowance will operate in such a way that, where the rent charge is lower than the housing allowance, the tenant can keep the difference. In this way the Local Housing Allowance aims to offer a 'shopping incentive' through giving tenants the opportunity to decide how to spend their Local Housing Allowances, by securing properties above, at or below the relevant housing allowance rate.

A further key feature of the reform is the ending of direct payments of benefit to landlords except where the tenant is considered to be financially vulnerable. This change is one of the most controversial aspects of the reform, and means that many tenants who previously had their Housing Benefit paid direct to their landlord will instead receive the housing allowance and be responsible for paying their rent.

CRSP is a member of a consortium evaluating the Local Housing Allowance. The consortium, which is led by the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, University of Birmingham also includes the Centre for Housing Studies, University of York and the National Centre for Social Research.

Within the consortium CRSP undertakes fieldwork in three of the pathfinder areas – Coventry, Lewisham and NE Lincolnshire – and, with the National Centre, has responsibility for research focusing on claimants' experiences and views.

## Publications

Anderson, T., Stafford, B. and Woodland, S. (2004) *Claiming Housing Benefit in the Private Rented Sector*, Local Housing Allowance Evaluation Report No. 3, London: DWP.  
[http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/lha/evaluation/2004/private\\_rented\\_sector\\_3.pdf](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/lha/evaluation/2004/private_rented_sector_3.pdf)

**Project Team:** Dr Bruce Stafford, Yvette Hartfree, Katherine Hill, Dr Simon Roberts  
**Dates:** Jul 2003-Jun 2005  
**Funder:** Department for Work and Pensions

## Risk Perceptions and Responses, and Transitions in the Life Course

The issue of risk has come to pervade many dimensions of contemporary life, from global terrorism to personal health. There is burgeoning interest in the social sciences and social policy in understanding people's perceptions of and responses to risk in everyday experiences and life changes, such as decisions about careers. It has been argued that social change has resulted in a society that is increasingly risk-orientated, and that this may result in intergenerational difference in people's risk perceptions and responses. However, there is a lack of empirical research about these issues.

This project is part of the ESRC-funded research network, Social Contexts and Responses to Risk. The project's aims are to explore:

- individuals' and families' responses to, and perceptions and experiences of risk events, and the consequences of risk events;
- how responses to risk might change at different points in people's lives and in different generations; and
- the extent to which responses to risk draw on, and are shaped by, personal networks and public institutions.

The research is in two parts. First, a survey has been conducted with 1400 respondents. This catalogues perceptions and experiences of a range of potential risk events, ranging from changing employment and family responsibilities, through becoming seriously ill, to encountering poor customer services. Data has been gathered about individuals and their families, and about the support networks and agencies used to mediate experiences of risk. Preliminary analysis of the survey reveals that two-thirds of the sample experienced at least one risk event in the previous two years, and that respondents with experience of risk events in the past were more likely (than those without experience) to worry about such events in the future.

The second part of the research will be a qualitative study of 30 families, involving an interview with a parent and an adult, independent child in each family. Interviews will investigate participants' perceptions, and past and present responses to career-associated and other risks. An aim here is to consider the influence and 'transfer' of perceptions across family generations. One member from each family will be interviewed again after a year to observe how responses to risk events resolve (or fail to resolve) the challenges posed by risk events over time.

### Website

Social Contexts and Responses to Risk (SCARR). <http://www.kent.ac.uk/scarr/>

**Project Team:** Andreas Cebulla (National Centre for Social Research), Dr Noel Smith, Lynne Cox, Abigail Davis, Sarah Gonzalez

**Dates:** Nov 2003-Jul 2008

**Funder:** Economic and Social Research Council

## Needs and Resources in Later Life

The aim of this research is to investigate the 'needs' and 'resources' of older people, with a particular focus on poverty and hardship in later life, by conducting secondary analysis of data from five nationally representative datasets (see below).

The aims of the project are ambitious, requiring an exploration of many dimensions of needs and resources and their interactions, both at a point in time and over successive cohorts. One of the central challenges for this research is that people's (changing) needs in later life have not been studied in any systematic rigorous fashion, either for the generality of older people or for particular sub-groups (age, ill-health/disability, gender). The research will also include evidence on older people's aspirations, focusing on what they have, buy and do as well as what they 'need'.

The following 5 datasets are being explored:

- **British Household Panel Survey (BHPS).** BHPS has followed the same individuals and households since 1991, and contains a wide range of questions on needs and resources including questions on level of income, sources of income, receipt of benefits and how people are managing financially;
- **The Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS).** A nationally representative sample of all households in the United Kingdom, which brings together the Family Expenditure and National Food Surveys, and contains detailed information on individuals' and households' expenditure on a wide range of items and services;
- **General Household Survey (GHS).** The GHS is a repeated cross-sectional survey that has been carried out since 1971 and collects demographic information including individual, household and family information, in addition to a range of information on needs and resources including consumer durables, as well as information on pensions, health and use of health services and income;
- **The Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey of Britain (PSE).** The PSE was developed (in 1999) specifically to measure different aspects of poverty and social exclusion, and as such contains a wide range of variables including those relating to access and take-up/usage of key services. Its sample was drawn from the GHS and, although low income households were over-represented in the sample, weights have been devised to ensure that the data are nationally representative; and
- **Health Survey for England (HSE).** The HSE includes 'core' modules on, for example, general health and longstanding illnesses, use of health services, drinking, cigarette smoking, psycho-social health (GHQ12) and non-fatal accidents.

The analysis will focus on three areas in order to examine how the needs and resources of individuals in later life interact, identifying triggers of hardship and protective factors:

- a general overview of the needs and resources of individuals in later life;
- changing needs and resources with age; and
- changing needs and resources over time.

The analytical techniques will include both simple descriptive methods and multivariate techniques, which can show the relative importance of different characteristics in 'explaining' needs and resources and changes in them. Professor Ruth Hancock (of the University of Essex) is providing expert advice and analysis relating to health data.

**Project Team:** Sue Middleton, Karen Kellard, Jacqueline Beckhelling, Dr Kim Perren, Viet-Hai Phung

**Dates:** Jun 2004-Mar 2005

**Funder:** Joseph Rowntree Foundation

## Social Change and Later Life

This research is funded by a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship. It uses British and international social surveys to investigate change and continuity in the experience of ageing across the last three decades of the twentieth century. In so doing, it highlights an under-researched dimension of later life – the impact of social change on the lives of older people. It considers the interlinked themes of social relationships and social attitudes. These facets of life are viewed as complementary measures of ‘connectedness’. Social relationships reflect social engagement, while holding values that are at odds with those of the majority is viewed as an indicator of social exclusion.

The study investigates the claim that rapid and profound social change increasingly renders the world-views and life-styles of older people obsolete. From this perspective, modern society is individualistic and privatised. These characteristics are manifested in novel family situations (such as pre-marital cohabitation and divorce), which are often in conflict with traditional family values. In any historical period, older individuals may feel marginalised where they do not have the resources to engage in the full range of normal social activities and where they hold minority views. At times of great change, this sense of exclusion may be magnified.

The study also utilises the General Household Survey to track changes in the community relationships of older people over the past two decades. The number of single occupancy households has burgeoned as more working age people live outside family units. Concomitantly, car usage has increased, with many people commuting long distances to work and relying on distant facilities to meet their consumption and leisure requirements. These shifts may have a negative impact upon the environment of older people who are more likely to have home-based lives and who are less likely to have access to a car. The combination of these two areas of investigation contributes to an understanding of the processes whereby, for some people, ageing is associated with marginalisation.

### Publications

Perren, K., Arber, S. and Davidson, K. (2003), ‘Men’s organisational affiliations in later life: the influence of social class and marital status on informal group membership’, *Ageing and Society* 23, pp 69-82.

Perren, K., Arber, S. and Davidson, K. (2004), ‘Neighbouring in Later Life: The Influence of Socio-economic Resources, Gender and Household Composition on Neighbourly Relationships’ *Sociology* 41, pp 959-978.

# Comparative Welfare

CRSP has used comparative methods to explore workfare in an international context: family structure, labour market participation and the dynamics of social exclusion; workfare, unemployment and the insurance compensation principle; social security coverage in fifteen countries around the world; and minimum income standards within the EU member countries. CRSP is also a member of the European Commission's Observatory on Social Security.

Research questions include:

- How far have common pressures caused convergence amongst European welfare systems?
- How desirable/practical is it to harmonise and coordinate social policy at the European level?
- What role does the EU have in stimulating convergence?
- What are the implications of the expansion of the EU?

### Projects within this theme are:

Minimum Income as the Social Protection of Last Resort: Safety Net, Trap and/or Springboard	26
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European Observatory on Social Security for Migrant Workers (4th Year)	28
Vehicle Safety Standards: Improving Car Crashworthiness	29
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## Minimum Income as the Social Protection of Last Resort: Safety Net, Trap and/or Springboard

This project, which was undertaken in collaboration with Hoger Instituut voor de Arbeid (HIVA) at the University of Leuven in Belgium, used longitudinal panel data and policy analysis to investigate access to, and exclusion from, social security and employment in thirteen 'old' EU member countries. It asked:

- How effective are the existing safety nets of guaranteed minimum income and, more generally, social security systems in the EU?
- What proportion of the active population actually has/has no access to minimum income protection?
- What structural mechanisms determine the probability of exclusion from/inclusion into social protection?

The project built on a previous study 'Traps and springboards in minimum income standards' which covered four countries – Belgium, Denmark, Greece and the UK – and which was also carried out by CRSP and HIVA. The framework fits with the current conceptual approach to social inclusion, where structural and dynamic processes are emphasised rather than static individual characteristics. Data were drawn from the European Community Household Panel (ECHP).

The study produced indicators of movements between insufficient protection, minimum income, social security and work and contributes to debates about measuring poverty and social exclusion. It found a serious lack of effective access to minimum protection in almost all countries (Finland seems to be the only exception). On a yearly basis, between two and 13 per cent of the population have at some point lived below the national minimum income level. Between 50 and 80 per cent of the group affected by insufficient protection suffered severe deprivation (i.e. their income was less than three-quarters of the minimum income threshold). Two-thirds of the group were affected in two or more years.

The study identified measures:

- To strengthen the safety net. These include:
  - relaxing legal restrictions on access to Guaranteed Minimum Incomes (GMI);
  - raising benefits of mainstream social security above GMI level;
  - detecting potentially entitled households;
  - encouraging take-up; and
  - avoiding deductions from benefits.
- To remove 'traps'. These include:
  - strengthening mainstream social security; and
  - relieving sanctions and duration limits on benefits.
- To improve inclusion. These include:
  - removing unemployment and poverty traps in benefit schemes;
  - activation of benefits;
  - provision of in-work benefits; and
  - building bridges between GMI and other rights.

**Project Team:** Dr Simon Roberts, Laura Adelman, Sue Middleton

**Dates:** Dec 2001-Dec 2003

**Funder:** European Commission and Belgian Ministry for Social Integration

## Assessing the Coverage Gap

**CRSP assembled and led an international team of renowned experts to examine who is excluded from social security coverage, and why, in 15 countries around the world. The case study countries are: Australia; Costa Rica; Czech Republic; Finland; Germany; Hungary; India; Mali; Mexico; Morocco; Tanzania; Thailand; UK; Uruguay; and USA.**

The study examined coverage for old age and healthcare in all 15 countries and coverage for unemployment in Australia, Finland, Germany, UK and USA. In addition the study asked which programmes suffer most from lack of universality of coverage, and what policy options are available in the short and medium term to extend coverage.

The study found that exclusion is 'non-random'. There are, across countries, systematic similarities in who is least likely to be covered by social security. The study identified women, migrants, and agricultural and urban informal sector workers as most likely to be excluded. It was found that these groups are unprotected largely because of the interface between their labour market position and the role and design of contributory schemes, which lie at the heart of most of the case study countries' social security systems. The problem of an over-concentration on formal sector worker insurance is exacerbated for healthcare in some of the case study countries by an inappropriate focus on providing services that are not relevant to the prevailing sickness profiles and epidemiological patterns, and failure to provide for women's healthcare needs. These findings have important implications for the design of policies to extend coverage of social security.

The findings suggest a link between funding method and coverage: coverage appears to increase the further the scheme moves away from a direct equivalence between individual contributions and benefits and towards a social security scheme that redistributes resources. The relationship between redistribution and coverage is perhaps not all that surprising. While schemes that are based on equivalence between individual contributions and benefits can provide security in old age and sickness for 'insiders' they are closed to those who may need social security the most. In many cases it is not feasible to bring the excluded within the scope of contributory benefits. Providing adequate social protection for these groups will necessitate a complete or partial de-linking of contributions and benefits and a redistribution of resources. The study concluded that the key political challenge that closing the coverage gap poses is to secure legitimacy at both the national and the global level for the sharing of risks and redistribution of resources so that a commitment can be made to providing and maintaining social security for all, not just a few.

### Publications

International Social Security Association (2004) *ISSA Initiative Toolkit*. Geneva.

Roberts, S., Stafford, B., and Ashworth, K. (2004) *A Synopsis of the ISSA Initiative Study. ISSA Initiative Findings and Opinions* No. 12, Geneva.

Roberts, S., Stafford, B., and Ashworth, K. (2002) *Gaps in coverage for old age pensions and healthcare in 15 countries*. Paper presented to the Conference on the ISSA Initiative, Vancouver, Canada, 10-12 September.

Roberts, S., Stafford, B. and Ashworth, K. (2002) 'Assessing the coverage gap: A summary of early findings from an ISSA Initiative study', *ISSA Initiative Findings & Opinions* No. 4, Geneva.

**Project Team:** Dr Simon Roberts, Karl Ashworth, Dr Bruce Stafford, Rachel Youngs  
**Dates:** 2001-2004  
**Funder:** The International Social Security Association (ISSA)

# European Observatory on Social Security for Migrant Workers

## The coordinating regulations

Regulation (EEC) 1408/71 coordinates the national social security schemes of the member countries of the European Union to ensure that people moving within the EU are not discriminated against and do not lose their social security rights.<sup>1</sup> The Regulation achieves coordination through four main principles:

- discrimination on grounds of nationality is prohibited;
- rules are laid down to determine which member country's legislation the person is subject to;
- rights in the course of acquisition are protected through aggregation of periods of insurance and/or residence spent in each of the respective countries; and
- rights already acquired are protected by allowing certain benefits to be exported.

## The role of the Observatory

The Observatory, which is under the direct supervision of the European Commission, is coordinated by the Max Planck Institute in Munich and consists of national 'experts' from each of the member countries of the European Union (EU). Dr. Simon Roberts is the UK expert and member of the project's Editorial Board.

The role of the Observatory is to provide the European Commission with systematic, information on how the regulations work in each of the member countries. This involves:

- an overview of the way the social security coordinating Regulations are applied in the member countries and any difficulties encountered by the various stakeholders;
- an examination of the application of the four main principles of Regulation (EEC) 1408/71 (see above);
- information on case law of the national courts and the European Court of Justice;
- an analysis of the impact of the coordinating regulations on national legislation;
- an overview of relevant international agreements; and
- an examination of the interface between social security regulations and competition and tax law and human rights.

## Publications

Roberts, S. (2003) *European Observatory on Social Security for Migrant Workers: National Report: United Kingdom*. Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Social Law, Munich.

Roberts, S. (2002) *European Observatory on Social Security for Migrant Workers: National Report: United Kingdom*. Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Social Law, Munich.

Roberts, S. (2001) *European Observatory on Social Security for Migrant Workers: National Report: United Kingdom*. Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Social Law, Munich.

Roberts, S. (2000) *European Observatory on Social Security for Migrant Workers: National Report: United Kingdom*. Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Social Law, Munich.

**Project Team:** Dr Simon Roberts  
**Dates:** 1999-2004  
**Funder:** The European Commission

<sup>1</sup> On 29 April 2004, the Council and the European Parliament adopted Regulation No 883/2004 on the co-ordination of social security systems. This regulation reforms and simplifies the rules for co-ordination of social security. However, it will not be applicable until the end of 2006.

## Vehicle Safety Standards: Improving Car Crashworthiness

This study, which is being carried out with Ergonomics and Safety Research Ltd (ESRI), at Loughborough University, evaluates improvements in car crashworthiness in the context of the UK government's commitment to reduce the number of killed or seriously injured road users by 40 per cent, with an equivalent figure for children of 50 per cent, by 2010 when compared with the average for 1994-1998.

The study assesses the effectiveness of the Department for Transport (DfT) research programme between January 1990 and December 2002 in contributing to these policy aims and objectives. Specifically, the study evaluates the contribution that Department for Transport initiatives have made to the development and implementation of EU front and side impact regulations and the EuroNCAP consumer test.

The evaluation framework includes:

- a review of policies and DfT actions, including consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of the programme in terms of both content and delivery. Where appropriate, recommendations for improvements will be made;
- quantification of casualty reduction and improvements in occupant protection. The analysis will draw upon the National Road Accident Database (STATS 19) and the UK in-depth accident data base (CCIS). It will also be necessary to consider some exposure data and this will be drawn from the National Travel Survey and the Vehicle Licensing Statistics;
- identification of stakeholder/public attitudes and behaviour to car safety including the policy making and research communities, car industry, and consumer representatives. This part of the evaluation uses a conceptual model that is based on theories of change and realistic evaluation, which seeks to trace adaptation in the thinking and behaviour of people and/or institutions over time. Relating changes in thinking and behaviour to legal/regulatory changes will allow real policy effects to be mapped; and
- synthesis of qualitative and quantitative data to evaluate impact, effectiveness and value for money of the Programme.

Dr Judith Unell has been assisting the CRSP team with the qualitative fieldwork for this project.

**Project Team:** Dr Simon Roberts, Dr Bruce Stafford

**Dates:** Jan 2004-Mar 2005

**Funder:** Department for Transport

# Meta Analysis Of United States Welfare-To-Work Programmes

## Background

Welfare-to-work programmes in the United States continue to attract the interest of researchers and policy makers in Britain and beyond as we seek to understand why programmes work or do not work, and explore opportunities for transferring international best practice to national programmes. Implemented by individual states rather than by the federal government, programmes vary in content, and are set within different social and economic environments. Between 2000 and 2002, with support from the Economic and Social Research Council and the Rockefeller Foundation, Andreas Cebulla and Abigail Davis at CRSP, with David Greenberg from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), aggregated the evaluation evidence of mandatory programmes. A first meta-analysis of their impacts was conducted together with Karl Ashworth (see Annual Report 2001/02). Robert Walker, Professor of Social Policy at the University of Nottingham, complemented the research team.

## Interim Findings

The meta-analysis showed that the effectiveness of US welfare-to-work programmes depended on the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the locations in which they were implemented. Client characteristics also affected impacts and a preference for Work-First (i.e. immediate job search and placement) over Human Resource Development (i.e. training) strategies was shown to increase the proportion of participants moving off social security benefit (Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)) and led to greater earnings increases among participants. However, regression analysis also found that programme impacts peaked after about two and a half years, declining thereafter.

## Recent work

Abigail Davis, Andreas Cebulla (now at the National Centre for Social Research) and David Greenberg worked to expand the meta-analysis database by updating evaluation data, adding further years' impact data where available for specific programmes, and by appending impact data for voluntary programmes in 2003 and 2004. Existing information about the use of financial incentives and sanctions was refined to add further detail and allow greater differentiation between programmes. The database was expanded to include information about the impact of US welfare-to-work programmes on the health and educational achievements of the children of programme participants. Analyses of the data were undertaken in late 2004, with results expected by early 2005.

**Project Team:** Andreas Cebulla (NatCen),  
Abigail Davis, Professor David Greenberg (UMBC)  
**Dates:** Jan 2003-Dec 2003 (at CRSP/UMBC)  
Jan 2004-Feb 2005 (at NatCen/UMBC)  
**Funder:** US Department of Health and Human  
Services

# Towards Social Inclusion

CRSP research in this area has included the household dynamics of participation in the e-society (internet, mobile telephones and computers), the impact of legislative changes, for example through the Disability Discrimination Act, research examining the experiences of disadvantaged groups such as people with disabilities and health problems, and experiences and impacts of local Sure Start programmes.

Research questions include:

- What progress has been made towards a socially inclusive society?
- How have well-being and living standards improved?
- What is the impact of new information and communication technologies?
- How can children get a better start in life?
- What are the multi-dimensional processes of social inclusion?
- How are difference and diversity recognised?

## Projects within this theme are:

Sure Start Loughborough East: a Baseline Study of Parents' Views	32
Saffron Sure Start Local Evaluation	33
Evaluation of the New Opportunities for PE and Sport Initiative (NOPES)	34
School Sports Partnership Impact Study	35
Navigating the E-Society: Dynamics of Participation and Exclusion	36
Employers' Pension Provision Survey 2003	37
Disability in the Workplace: Employers' and Service Providers' Responses to the Disability Discrimination Act in 2003 and Preparation for 2004 Changes	38
The Public Sector Response to the Provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act	40

## Sure Start Loughborough East: a Baseline Study of Parents' Views

CRSP was commissioned to undertake a 'baseline' survey by Sure Start Loughborough East. Sure Start is the cornerstone of the Government's drive to tackle child poverty and social exclusion. It is targeted at children under four and their families, and aims to give children a better start in life through delivering coordinated community-based services that aim to:

- improve social and emotional development;
- improve health;
- improve learning;
- strengthen families and communities; and
- improve the availability, accessibility, affordability and quality of childcare.

There are over 520 local Sure Start programmes, concentrated in areas of relative deprivation. Each programme is run by a Partnership, which in the case of Loughborough East is headed by NCH Action for Children.

Each local programme is required to carry out (or commission) a local evaluation. Part of this evaluation includes conducting a 'baseline' survey of the views of local parents of young children about the services that are currently available to them. CRSP has been carrying out this survey for Sure Start Loughborough East using a variety of methods to suit the needs of the diverse community, which includes many different minority ethnic groups. Methods used include a postal survey, face-to-face surveys, and discussions with parents and staff. The results of the research are informing the development of the programme (for example, by identifying which services are most important to parents) and will provide a benchmark against which to assess future satisfaction with, and usage of, local provision for families with pre-school children.

The baseline survey was completed in October 2004. The research team then worked with the local Sure Start team to disseminate the results of the study to the community members, parents and professionals working in the area, to enable the findings to feed into the development of the Sure Start programme over the next three years.

**Project Team:** Karen Kellard, Kate Ashton-Brooks, Lynne Cox, Kate Legge

**Dates:** Feb-Nov 2004

**Funder:** NCH Action for Children

## Saffron Sure Start Local Evaluation

The government's Sure Start programme began in 1999 with the intention of tackling poverty and social exclusion among children by giving them a better start in life. The programme is targeted towards deprived areas; bringing together core health, welfare and education services and delivering them through a community approach, better to meet the needs of local families.

Although the programme is national, each of the local programmes (currently approximately 520) is different, tailored according to the needs of the community in which it is based. Saffron Sure Start is a third wave programme, which began in 2001. The programme is based at a local community centre, where staff from different professions and agencies work together to provide co-ordinated services in a way that best meets the needs of families living in the community.

In late 2002 CRSP began working with Saffron Sure Start to help them to create an evaluation framework within which to explore and assess the progress of the programme. The end of evaluation report is now completed, which provides an overview of the first years of the project. In particular, the report includes both staff and parents' experiences of using the services provided under the Saffron Sure Start umbrella, including views of how the programme was set up and developed during the early years, and perspectives on how the programme has benefited those involved in it.

The report also includes an in-depth focus on two specifically selected elements of the programme:

- The Food and Health Project was designed to promote healthy eating, nutrition and food safety for those living on a low income, and used many innovative approaches to working with local community members; and
- The Born to Read project focused particularly on working with parents to encourage them to use books in play to encourage their child's development and to help parents to overcome practical and financial obstacles to accessing age-appropriate books.

As with all of the Sure Start services, the project aimed to deliver services and support in an informal and non-stigmatising way.

Part of the report provides an overview of parental satisfaction with the services provided under the Sure Start umbrella, and identifies clear increases in satisfaction with core services between the first and the second surveys of parents.

**Project Team:** Karen Kellard, Kate Ashton-Brooks, Lynne Cox, Abigail Davis

**Dates:** Aug 2002-Dec 2004

**Funder:** Saffron Under 8s Forum

# Evaluation of the New Opportunities for PE and Sport Initiative (NOPES)

The Big Lottery Fund has allocated £750.75 million for the New Opportunities for PE and Sport (NOPES) initiative throughout the UK. The initiative has six key outcomes that projects are expected to achieve:

- improved physical education and sport in schools;
- higher standards across the whole school through PE, sport and other forms of structured activity;
- better opportunities to increase the levels of physical activity among the school age population and, more generally, local communities;
- improved collaboration, co-operation and partnership between schools and their communities;
- promotion of social inclusion through access to, and use of, sports and outdoor adventure facilities by all groups in society; and
- innovation and best practice in the design and management of facilities.

As part of the Loughborough Partnership led by the Institute of Youth Sport, CRSP staff have been working with the British Heart Foundation National Centre and the Institute for Sport and Leisure Policy (all based at Loughborough University) and the Centre for Developing and Evaluating Lifelong Learning (Nottingham University) on a six year evaluation of the initiative, using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

The evaluation includes:

**Eleven core case study local authorities:**

- five Local Education Authorities in England;
- two Local Authorities in Scotland;
- two Local Authorities in Wales; and
- two Education and Library Board areas in Northern Ireland.

**Surveys** are used to collect quantitative data nationally on the impact of the NOPES initiative. Baseline and subsequent annual surveys will mainly be used to measure changes in participation over time.

Seven **fast track projects** have been selected to provide examples of effective practice and demonstrate innovative approaches or designs. The emphasis of this aspect of the evaluation will be on assessing the scope for fast track projects to offer examples of effective practice for later, main track projects.

In addition to the main case studies, a number of telephone case studies will be conducted. These will enable the evaluation team to monitor the implementation practices in a more diverse range of local settings.

## Publications

Nevill, M., Almond, L., Armour, K., Coalter, F., Davis, A., Dobson, B., Houlihan, B., Lindsey, I., Mason, C.L.J. and Simkin, C. (2004) *Evaluation of the New Opportunities for PE and Sport Initiative: Annual Report Year One*. Loughborough: Loughborough University.  
[http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/sses/institutes/iys/nof/downloads/Annual%20Report%20\(web%20version\).doc](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/sses/institutes/iys/nof/downloads/Annual%20Report%20(web%20version).doc)

## Website

<http://www.nopesevaluation.org.uk/>

**Project Team:** Dr Simon Roberts, Amanda Crompton

**Dates:** Nov 2002-Oct 2008

**Funder:** Big Lottery Fund

## School Sports Partnership Impact Study

**CRSP is part of a consortium, led by the Institute of Youth Sport, which is evaluating the effectiveness of the School Sports Partnership Programme (SSP Programme) in delivering its policy objectives.**

The SSP Programme is a joint initiative of the Department for Education and Skills and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, involving Sport England and the Youth Sport Trust, launched in September 2000. The programme's aims are to:

- increase the participation of school age children in sports;
- improve the standards of performance;
- improve motivation and attitudes of pupils; and
- increase the number of qualified and active coaches.

The programme has so far put into post more than 8,000 key personnel, whose task it is to co-ordinate sport and sport teaching activities by creating local networks of schools linked to specialist sports colleges.

The impact study commenced in 2003 and will be completed by 2008. It has both quantitative and qualitative components. The evaluation team will gather part of the information through a series of questionnaires distributed to all Partnership Development Managers and to a sample of School Sport Coordinators and Primary Link Teachers. Further, more detailed information will be gathered through a series of case studies focused on individual partnerships. Twenty in-depth case studies will be compiled in each of the five years of the study. Of these, five will be longitudinal studies.

The consortium includes the Institute for Sport and Leisure Policy, the Physical Education and Sports Pedagogy Research Group, the British Heart Foundation National Centre (all based at Loughborough University), and the Centre for Developing and Evaluating Lifelong Learning (University of Nottingham). The project is being conducted in association with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

**Project Team:** Dr. Simon Roberts, Amanda Crompton

**Dates:** Mar 2003-Mar 2008

**Funder:** Department for Education and Skills

## Navigating the E society: Dynamics of Participation and Exclusion

Over the next few years there will be significant developments in the information and communication opportunities available to people. These changes are driven by the Government's commitment to bring Internet access to everyone who wants it, the continuing expansion of broadband connections, the predicted growth of digital interactive technologies and the increasing ownership and use of mobile phone technologies.

A research team comprising Professor Ruth Lister and Graham Murdock from the Department of Social Sciences, and Karen Kellard, Liz Sutton and Dr Antonia Ivaldi from CRSP, has been working on an ESRC-funded longitudinal project which looks at how families and individuals interact with these different technologies, and how such interactions vary over time. The central focus of the research is to explore variations in access and usage, and how these might be shaped by different social, economic and cultural resources.

Ninety three households were purposively selected to represent a range of different household sizes and compositions, including families with and without children, older people, ethnic minority families as well as those living in rural and urban areas. Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected through:

- in-depth interviews with all household members age six and above;
- week long activity diaries;
- household ICT inventories; and
- computer activity checklists.

Two waves of interviews were conducted during 2003 and 2004. The second wave of interviews concentrated particularly on any changes since the first wave, for example, in Internet access and usage, digital television and mobile phone ownership and activities. Both waves of data will be analysed during Winter 2004/Spring 2005.

Some early findings have already been disseminated; Antonia Ivaldi presented a paper exploring young people's mobile phone usage at the Digital Generations: Children, Young People and New Media Conference. Liz Sutton presented findings at the Association of Internet Researchers Conference looking specifically at patterns of Internet access and use within and between households, and the economic, cultural and social resources families draw on to facilitate such usage. Conference presentations are also planned for the MeCCSA conference in January 2005 in Lincoln and the British Sociological Association in York in March 2005.

The project has its own website, which includes further details of the innovative techniques adopted, including the use of visual techniques and children's drawings. The website also contains more information about the research, the research team, the methodology used and its early findings.

### Website

<http://www.newtechnologyandyou.net>

**Project Team:** Graham Murdock and Professor Ruth Lister (Department of Social Sciences, Loughborough University), Karen Kellard, Dr Antonia Ivaldi, Liz Sutton

**Dates:** May 2003-Apr 2005

**Funder:** ESRC

# Employers' Pension Provision Survey 2003

The Centre for Research in Social Policy together with the British Market Research Bureau (BMRB) undertook the 2003 Employers' Pension Provision Survey. The survey was the fifth of its kind, previous surveys having been conducted in 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000. Commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions, the aim of the survey is to monitor the provision of occupational and group pension schemes among British businesses, to establish the extent of businesses' contribution to private pensions and, for the first time in 2003, their provision of access and/or contributions to stakeholder pensions.

The fieldwork was conducted in Spring 2003 by BMRB, who surveyed a representative sample of 2000 small, medium-sized and large enterprises in England, Scotland and Wales. Businesses were asked about the type of provisions they offer, the level of their contributions, and any changes they had made in recent years to their pension provisions. The Employers' Pension Provision Survey allows a cross-sectional comparison of employers' pension provisions and of changes in the pattern and level of provision over time. The survey analysis was undertaken by CRSP.

The survey is of particular importance because of the introduction of the stakeholder pension in 2001 – a low-cost personal pension for employees on low or medium incomes. Employers with five or more employees and not providing an occupational or group pension scheme are required to provide employees access to a stakeholder pension. However, employers are not required to contribute to these schemes.

Financial and social researchers as well as policy-makers are interested in obtaining firm evidence of the extent to which employers provide access to stakeholder pension schemes and the impact this has had on employers' pension provisions in Britain. This survey will produce estimates of the proportion of employees who have joined stakeholder pension schemes, and provides robust information about the extent of the closure or conversion of occupational pension schemes in Britain.

Finally, in the face of such changes to the existing system of pension provision, the analysis of the 2003 Employers' Pension Provision Survey explores the interaction between scheme closures or conversions (of private and group pension schemes as well as occupational schemes) and the introduction of the stakeholder pension. The aim is to investigate whether the arrival of the stakeholder pension has led to a net increase in employers' pension provision and a net increase in employees covered by pension schemes, or whether there is evidence of pension substitution.

## Publications

Cebulla, A., Reyes de Beaman, S. (2003) *Employers' Pension Provision 2003*. DWP Research Report No. 207, London. DWP

**Project Team:** Dr Bruce Stafford, Andreas Cebulla, Dr Sandra Reyes de Beaman  
**Dates:** Nov 2002-Oct 2003  
**Funder:** Department for Work and Pensions

# Disability in the Workplace:

## Employers' and Service Providers' Responses to the Disability Discrimination Act in 2003 and Preparation for 2004 Changes

This study, which was carried out in conjunction with the British Market Research Bureau (BMRB) explores how employers and service providers were responding to both existing and forthcoming provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). Specifically, it examines awareness of the Act, current policy and practices, actions taken to conform to existing legislation, and preparation for the October 2004 changes in legislation.

### The Disability Discrimination Act

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) introduced new legislation in the areas of:

- employment;
- access to goods, facilities and services;
- the management, buying or renting of land or property; and
- the duties of trade organisations to their members and applicants.

Requirements under the Act have been introduced in phases with the final phase becoming effective in October 2004. Under Part II of the Act the exemption from provisions concerning the recruitment and employment for employers with less than 15 employees was removed. Under Part III of the Act the final stages of access duties came into force which require service providers to remove, alter or avoid physical barriers or provide alternative means of using the service, where physical features of their services make access for disabled people unreasonably difficult or impossible.

The study comprised around 2,000 telephone interviews and in-depth face-to-face interviews with 38 employers and service providers in public, private and voluntary sector organisations across the United Kingdom.

### Key Findings

- There is a lack of knowledge about disability on the part of employers, in particular by small employers and/or those who have not employed a disabled person. Employers do not have as broad a perception of disability as is set out by the DDA. Disability still carries connotations of physical and visible impairments and there are misunderstandings and prejudices around mental illness.
- Knowledge of the employment provisions of the DDA was higher among larger organisations, and in public and voluntary sector organisations, as well as among employers at workplaces where there had been disabled employees. Smaller employers in particular (those with fewer than 15 employees) were unsure of the implications of the Act for their organisation. Knowledge of the October 2004 changes concerning the provision of services was usually higher in organisations within the public and voluntary sector.

**Project Team:** Dr Simon Roberts, Claire Heaver, Katherine Hill, Joanne Rennison, Dr Bruce Stafford

**Dates:** Nov 2002-Sept 2003

**Funder:** Department for Work and Pensions

## Disability in the Workplace: Employers' and Service Providers' Responses to the Disability Discrimination Act in 2003 and Preparation for 2004 Changes

- Nearly all employers (94 per cent) stated that their workplace always sought to recruit the best person for the job, regardless of any disability, yet many felt that taking on a disabled person is a major risk for the employer (33 per cent), and that their workplace would find it difficult to retain an employee who became disabled (47 per cent). Workplaces that had employed people with disabilities were more likely to report that it is easy to employ a disabled person.
- Over four-fifths of employers that have had disabled employees (83 per cent) said that adjustments at the workplace or to working practices had been made or were planned specifically to help disabled employees. Overall, nearly three-quarters of service providers said that they had adjustments in place, or planned, to assist disabled customers. However, changes and adjustments by service providers tended to be for customers with physical impairments.
- The cost of making adjustments was of concern to some employers, especially small ones, in the case studies. However, 72 per cent of employers in the survey who had made changes said that it had been easy to make the adjustments while only 14 per cent said that it had been difficult.
- The case studies indicated that the DDA had acted as a driver and 'road map' for organisations where a commitment to disabled people was already a core value.

### Publication

Roberts, S., Heaver, C., Hill, K., Rennison, J., Stafford, B., Howat, N., Kelly, G., Krishnan, S., Tapp, P. and Thomas, A. (2004), *Disability in the workplace: Employers' and Service Providers' Responses to the Disability Discrimination Act in 2003 and Preparation for 2004 Changes*, DWP Research Report 202, Leeds, CDS.

This report is available to download at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2003-2004/rrep202.asp>

## The Public Sector Response to the Provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 introduced measures aimed at ending the discrimination which many disabled people face in the areas of: employment; access to goods, facilities and services; the management, buying or renting of land or property; and trade organisations.

The Disability Discrimination Bill proposes substantial amendments to the Act, building on amendments already made by other legislation since 1999. Amongst other things the proposals in the Bill would make it unlawful for public authorities to discriminate in carrying out any of their 'functions' that are not already within the scope of the DDA. Public authorities would be placed under a duty to make reasonable adjustments if the outcome to a disabled person would be 'very much less favourable' than to a non-disabled person. In addition the Bill proposes to place a positive and proactive general duty on organisations that come within the definition of a public authority to put disability equality in the mainstream of their activities.

During 2003 CRSP, along with the British Market Research Bureau (BMRB) conducted an evaluation of how employers and service providers were responding to both the existing and forthcoming provisions of the Act. The study explored awareness of the Act, current policy and practices, and actions taken to conform to existing legislation, as well as preparation for the changes in legislation, which were due to come into force the following year (Roberts et al., 2004).

The new study is evaluating the performance of public authorities specifically and has a dual purpose:

- to examine public authorities' performance in relation to the new provisions introduced on 1 October 2004; and
- to provide a baseline against which to assess the extent to which the duties in the Disability Discrimination Bill make a positive impact on disability equality.

Thus, it will:

- test the extent to which public authorities are already taking steps to avoid discrimination against disabled people in the provision of their services and in the exercise of public functions; and
- assess the extent to which public authorities understand the impact of their activities on disability equality, and build in disability equality concerns in the way they conduct their activities.

### Reference

Roberts, S., Heaver, C., Hill, K., Rennison, J., Stafford, B., Howat, N., Kelly, G., Krishnan, S., Tapp, P. and Thomas, A. (2004), *Disability in the workplace: Employers' and service providers' responses to the Disability Discrimination Act in 2003 and preparation for 2004 changes*, DWP Research Report 202, Leeds, CDS.

This report is available to download at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2003-2004/rrep202.asp>

# Poverty and Social Exclusion

This major theme of CRSP's work is central to the social policy agendas of both the UK government and the European Union. CRSP projects have been conducted at international, national and local level and have been critical in highlighting the importance of research in this area. Our research findings have had significant implications for the shaping of policy. Using qualitative and quantitative methods our work explores the causes and effects of deprivation throughout the life course.

Research questions include:

- Do poverty and social exclusion exist?
- What do we understand by them?
- How do we measure them?
- Who is at greatest risk from them?
- How can policy help?
- Can the 'low pay, no pay' cycle be broken?

## Projects within this theme are:

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# Developing Budget Standards for Disabled People

It is well known that disabled people face additional costs to enable them to meet their needs, and that they are more likely to experience poverty than non-disabled people. However, there has been no clear evidence about the true extent of these additional costs and needs. Consequently, there is no way of assessing the extent to which they are met by current benefits and services.

This research, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) and undertaken with the support of Disability Alliance, presents budget standards for groups of disabled people who have different needs arising from physical or sensory impairments. The budget standards represent the amounts disabled people (of working age) require in order to cover the costs of an acceptable and equitable quality of life. They were developed by disabled people themselves, using a needs-based, consensual budget standard methodology consisting of a series of rigorously-conducted focus groups and workshops. The budgets represent the minimum essential resources necessary to meet disabled people's needs, detailing all costs for disabled people's households and lifestyles, and were arrived at through debate and negotiation within the focus groups. The research found that:

- Disabled people experience additional costs in most areas of everyday life, from major expenditure on equipment essential for independence, to ongoing higher expenses for items such as food, clothing, utilities and recreation.
- The weekly budget standards required for disabled people are as follows:
  - £1,513 for a person with high-medium mobility and personal support needs;
  - £448 for a person with intermittent or fluctuating needs (i.e. from relatively negligible needs to higher needs);
  - £389 for a person with low-medium needs;
  - £1,336 for a person with needs arising from hearing impairment; and
  - £632 for a person with needs arising from visual impairment.
- Deaf people faced particularly high costs due to their need for interpreter/communicator services.
- The weekly income of disabled people who are solely dependent on benefits is approximately £200 below the amount required for them to ensure an acceptable, equitable quality of life.
- Unmet weekly costs for disabled people who work 20 hours per week at the minimum wage are up to £189 (for those with high-medium needs).

The research was designed and undertaken with the active support of Lorna Reith, Chief Executive, Disability Alliance.

## Publication

Smith, N., Middleton, S., Ashton-Brooks, K., Cox, L. with Reith, L. (2004) *Disabled people's costs of living; more than you would think*. York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

This report is available from <http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop>

**Project Team:** Dr Noel Smith, Sue Middleton, Kate Ashton-Brooks, Lynne Cox, and Dr Barbara Dobson  
**Dates:** Feb 2003-Jul 2004  
**Funder:** Joseph Rowntree Foundation

## The Social Fund: Current Role and Future Direction

The Centre for Research in Social Policy is undertaking research for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation exploring the current role and future direction of the Social Fund. This project was suggested, and is supported, by Sir Richard Tilt, the Social Fund Commissioner.

The Social Fund was established in 1988 to provide financial support for people on low incomes experiencing exceptional needs. It has two elements: the regulated Social Fund and the discretionary Social Fund. This project focuses on the discretionary Social Fund, which has been a controversial part of the welfare system. Recently, the Select Committee on Social Security (2001) questioned whether it was succeeding in helping the poorest and most vulnerable in society. It concluded that without reform 'there is a strong possibility that the wider social policy objectives of the Government will be endangered'.

### Objectives

This research project has the following objectives:

- to explore what contribution the Social Fund makes to reducing poverty and social exclusion;
- to assess whether proposals for changes to the Social Fund are likely to further Government objectives of combating poverty and social exclusion; and
- to produce policy recommendations for reform based on the experiences, reflections and deliberations of both eligible and non-eligible groups that will contribute to combating poverty and social exclusion.

Kate Legge and Sue Middleton are producing a short review of relevant literature which will feed into the other elements of the project. Monica Magadi, Kate Legge and Jacqueline Beckhelling are undertaking quantitative analysis using the Family Resources Survey and the Expenditure and Food Survey. Analysis will explore the main socio-economic and demographic characteristics of users of the Social Fund and the uses made of Social Fund awards.

Yvette Hartfree is leading the qualitative element of the project, with support from Sue Middleton, Bruce Stafford, Line Nyhagen Predelli and Kate Legge. Focus groups are being conducted in two stages.

- Stage 1 will use vignettes to explore how low income households deal with times of particular financial hardship, including the role of the Social Fund where appropriate.
- Stage 2 comprises four focus groups to discuss various policy options identified from the literature review and the Stage 1 focus groups.

We are grateful to Sir Richard Tilt, Ann Greenshields and Pauline Adey, of the Independent Review Service, for their support throughout the project, providing information and insight into the workings of the Social Fund.

**Project Team:** Sue Middleton, Jacqueline Beckhelling, Yvette Hartfree, Kate Legge, Dr Monica Magadi, Dr Line Nyhagen Predelli, Dr Bruce Stafford  
**Dates:** Jun 2004-May 2005  
**Funder:** Joseph Rowntree Foundation

# A Systematic Review of Poverty Dynamics Research

This project, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, is a major review of research on the dynamic – or life-course – perspective of poverty. Until the 1990s, the study of poverty in the UK was limited largely to point-in-time comparisons of poverty rates using repeat cross-sectional surveys. However, in recent years there has been an expansion in the availability of longitudinal data, leading to a wide range of studies exploring poverty dynamics. This represents a shift away from studying snapshots of poverty to a dynamic perspective, from which it is possible to investigate, for example, why some poor people move out of poverty while others remain persistently poor.

As this crucial approach gathers pace, a comprehensive review of poverty dynamics studies is urgently required. This review has two aims:

- to map existing studies, highlighting gaps in poverty dynamics research and so identifying priorities for future research programmes; and
- to synthesise the findings of existing studies in order to inform policy in relation to the reduction and eradication of poverty and disadvantage.

In achieving these aims, the project builds on the relatively recent – but increasing – use of systematic review methodology in social policy. This innovative methodology involves identifying all potentially pertinent studies from a broad, specified range of sources, using a structured search strategy. This search has generated in excess of 10,000 references. These will be systematically assessed and screened for relevance and quality using predefined criteria, so that the project will be able to catalogue and collate a complete set of best-available evidence. It is this evidence which will be mapped and synthesised.

It is anticipated that the synthesis will provide insight on questions such as:

- What are the factors and transitions in people's lives that lift them out of or keep them in poverty?
- Which groups experience persistent or cyclical poverty?
- What measures can help combat poverty?
- What effect does child poverty later have on adulthood?
- How does household and individual poverty change over time?

In support of the systematic review, the project will also consult with international experts on poverty research in order to identify techniques for the analysis of poverty dynamics that might be imported for use in the UK.

**Project Team:** Dr Noel Smith, Abigail Davis, Sarah Gonzalez, Kate Legge, Sue Middleton

**Dates:** May 2004-Mar 2005

**Funder:** Joseph Rowntree Foundation

# Developing an Income Support System for Jersey

As part of ongoing work for the States of Jersey, CRSP has been commissioned to assist further in the development of a new income-tested minimum income system. Jersey currently provides a range of benefits funded by Social Security contributions, but does not have provision for unemployment benefit or an island-wide system of support for those in need who do not qualify for contribution-based benefits. As in most systems where financial and other forms of support for individuals and families have developed over time, Jersey has a plethora of means tests with different income limits and allowances.

The research that we have undertaken this year has two main elements:

## Extending and finalising consensual budget standards

Since 1998, CRSP has employed consensual budget standards methodology to establish the minimum cost of living for all family types on Jersey. In summary, the method involves bringing together groups of people for whom a budget standard is to be constructed to act as their own budget standards committee, discussing, negotiating and reaching a consensus on lists of items considered to be essential<sup>1</sup>.

In this phase of the research, additional work has been undertaken to develop further policies for:

- supporting parents in work with the costs and availability of childcare; and
- meeting particular needs of the older section of the retired population who do not have a recognised disability or medical condition but who, nevertheless, might have additional needs<sup>2</sup>.

## Policy Review

This element of the research explored the nature of minimum income systems worldwide in order to identify issues that will need to be considered in designing a new minimum income system for Jersey. The review posed a number of questions for policy makers and has been fed into the development process, which is currently ongoing.

## Publication

Middleton, S. and Roberts, S. (2004) *Issues for the Design of a New Minimum Income System for Jersey*. CRSP 514.

<sup>1</sup> For further information about consensual budget standards methodology, see Middleton, S. (2000), 'Agreeing Poverty Lines: The Development of Consensual Budget Standards Methodology' in *Researching Poverty*, Bradshaw, J., Sainsbury, R. Ashgate: Aldershot, pp59-76.

<sup>2</sup> Hartfree, Y. and Middleton, S. (2004) *Jersey Household Budget Standards: Childcare and Frail Elderly*. Loughborough: CRSP 516.

**Project Team:** Sue Middleton, Yvette Hartfree, Dr Simon Roberts

**Dates:** Mar-Sep 2004

**Funder:** States of Jersey

## Staff Profiles

### Jacqueline Beckhelling

*Research Associate*



Jacqueline trained as a statistician and her main interest is in quantitative analysis methods. Current and recent research:

- Establishing Household Budgetary Requirements for People in Jersey
- The Social Fund: Current Role and Future Direction
- Needs and Resources in Later Life

### Nigel Bilsbrough

*Finance and Resources Manager*



Nigel has responsibility for all aspects of finance, including budgeting and reporting, and heads the support team. He is also a member of the Centre's Management Team. In addition to his role at the Centre, he continues as minutes Secretary to the Research Administrator's Group Network (RAGnet); is on the Executive Committee of the Association of Research Centres in the Social Sciences (ARCIS); and is Treasurer and a Trustee of the Unit for the Arts and Offenders.

### Lynne Cox

*Research Assistant*



Lynne works mainly on qualitative projects, with interests in youth transitions and the welfare and social status of disabled people.

Current and recent research:

- Developing Budget Standards for Disabled People
- Two local Sure Start Evaluations
- A Systematic Review of Poverty Dynamics Research
- Risk Perceptions and Responses, and Transitions in the Life Course

### Amanda Crompton

*Research Associate*



Amanda has conducted qualitative research in the field of health and lifestyle. Her main areas of interest are health policy, lifestyle choices and personal responsibility.

Current and recent research:

- Evaluation of the New Opportunities for PE and Sports Initiative
- School Sports Partnership Impact Study

### Abigail Davis

*Research Associate*



Abigail's main research interests are qualitative methodology, children and families, and policy and initiative evaluation.

Current and recent research:

- Cost Benefit Analysis for the Evaluation of New Deal for Disabled People
- A Systematic Review of Poverty Dynamics Research
- Risk Perceptions and Responses, and Transitions in the Life Course

## Staff Profiles

Sarah has completed two years of a degree in Social Policy and Social Issues and is currently undertaking a nine-month work placement within the centre as the CRSP Scholar. Her research interests include issues of race, immigration, asylum laws and gender issues and conflicts.

Current and recent research:

- Risk Perceptions and Responses, and Transitions in the Life Course
- A Systematic Review of Poverty Dynamics Research

Yvette's main research interests are unemployment, social security and the delivery of benefit services to clients.

Current and recent research:

- The Social Fund: Current Role and Future Direction
- Evaluation of the Local Housing Allowance
- Qualitative Evaluation of Jobcentre Plus

Katherine has conducted qualitative research in the area of welfare and work, with particular focus on issues surrounding disability or health conditions and employment.

Current and recent research:

- Longitudinal qualitative element of the Evaluation of the New Deal for Disabled People
- Employers' and Service Providers' Responses to the Disability Discrimination Act
- Evaluation of the Local Housing Allowance

Antonia's research interests are in the social psychology of music, in particular the importance of music to adolescents, role models, and the role of the media in the construction of identity.

Current and recent research:

- Navigating the E-Society: The Dynamics of Participation and Exclusion
- Public Sector Response to the Provisions of the DDA

Karen's research interests are in the area of welfare provision and labour market research as well as issues relating to poverty and social inclusion.

Current and recent research:

- Evaluation of New Deal for Disabled People
- Navigating the E-Society: The Dynamics of Participation and Exclusion
- Two local Sure Start programme evaluations
- Needs and Resources in Later Life



**Sarah  
Gonzalez**

*Research Student*



**Yvette  
Hartfree**

*Research Associate*



**Katherine  
Hill**

*Research Associate*



**Dr Antonia  
Ivaldi**

*Research Associate*



**Karen  
Kellard**

*Assistant Director*

## Staff Profiles

**Clare  
Lawson**

*Project Administrator*



Clare has been a member of the Centre's support team for 6 months. She is responsible for the diary of a CRSP Director and is the administrator for a number of projects including the Social Fund, Risk Perceptions and Responses, and Transitions in the Life Course and the Adult Learning Grant. Clare is also the administrator for the large consortium project, the Evaluation of Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots.

**Kate  
Legge**

*Research Associate*



Kate's research interests are in the fields of poverty and social exclusion, European social policy and comparative study.

Current and recent research:

- The Social Fund: Current Role and Future Direction
- A Systematic Review of Poverty Dynamics Research
- Evaluation of the New Deal for Disabled People
- Evaluation of the Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots.

**Dr Monica  
Magadi**

*Research Fellow*



Monica's area of research interest is statistical modelling, especially multilevel modelling, and reproductive health research, focussing mainly on maternal health and adolescent reproductive health in sub-Saharan Africa.

Current and recent projects:

- Evaluation of the Adult Learning Grant
- The Social Fund: Current Role and Future Directions

**Sue  
Middleton**

*Director*



Sue's main research interests are in the study of poverty and social exclusion, particularly in relation to children, youth transitions, evaluation methodology and the development of qualitative methods.

Current research includes:

- Evaluation of the Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots
- Needs and Resources in Later Life
- The Social Fund: Current Role and Future Directions
- A Systematic Review of Poverty Dynamics Research

**Dr Kim  
Perren**

*Research Fellow*



Kim is a quantitative sociologist whose main research interests lie in the field of ageing and the life course. She currently holds a British Academy post-doctoral fellowship to explore the impact of social change on the social relationships of older people.

Current and recent research:

- Evaluation of Education Maintenance Allowance
- Needs and Resources in Later Life

## Staff Profiles

Viet-Hai specialises in quantitative research. His research interests include social exclusion, community safety and widening participation in higher education.

Current and recent research:

- Needs and Resources in Later Life
- Employers' and Service Providers' Responses to the Disability Discrimination Act

Elsbeth's research interests include the determinants of social gradients in ill-health, policy responses to inequalities, and evaluation methodologies. Elsbeth is currently working on her PhD (University of Nottingham): 'Staff interpretations of health policy guidance for delivering new NHS service to low-income smokers.'

Current and recent research:

- Evaluation of the Adult Learning Grant

Line is a sociologist and a political scientist. Her research interests are in the fields of gender studies, immigration and ethnic relations, religion, voluntary organisations, and public policy evaluations.

Current and recent research:

- The Social Fund: Current Role and Future Directions
- Delivering Labour Market Policy through Local and Regional Partnerships
- Political Participation and Organisation in Multicultural Norway

Simon's research interests include UK, European and international social security, minimum income standards, migration and social security, and discrimination and disability.

Current and recent research includes:

- Assessing the Coverage Gap: Coverage of Social Security in Fifteen Countries Worldwide
- Minimum Income as the Social Protection of Last Resort
- Employers' and Service Providers' Responses to the Disability Discrimination Act
- EU Observatory on Social Security for Migrant Workers

Phil is responsible for the installation and maintenance of the Centre's IT systems. He has a BA (Hons) in Business Administration and is a Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA). Phil also provides support to staff and students in the Department of Politics, International Relations and European Studies.



**Viet-Hai Phung**

*Research Associate*



**Elsbeth Pound**

*Research Fellow*



**Dr Line Nyhagen Predelli**

*Research Fellow*



**Dr Simon Roberts**

*Assistant Director*



**Phil Sadler**

*IT Technician*

## Staff Profiles

**Nicola Selby**

*Project Administrator*



Nicola has been a member of the CRSP support team for 4 years. She is the administrator for a number of projects including the Evaluation of the Local Housing Allowance Pathfinder, the Evaluation of the New Opportunities Fund for PE and Sport, School Sports Partnership Impact Study and Developing Budget Standards for Disabled People. She assists with the administration for the New Deal for Disabled People project, and also has responsibility for personnel administration in the Centre.

**Dr Noel Smith**

*Research Fellow*



Research interests include qualitative methodologies, citizenship (broadly defined), choice, transitions and lifestyles.

Current and recent research:

- Transitions to Citizenship
- Budget Standards for Disabled People
- A Systematic Review of Poverty Dynamics Research
- Risk Perceptions and Responses, and Transitions in the Life Course

**Dr Bruce Stafford**

*Director*



Bruce's research interests include policy evaluation and social security, in particular welfare-to-work, the administration and delivery of welfare services, and disability issues.

Current and recent research:

- Evaluation of the New Deal for Disabled People
- Evaluation of the Local Housing Allowance
- The Social Fund: Current Role and Future Direction
- Employers' and Service Providers' Responses to the Disability Discrimination Act

**Liz Sutton**

*Research Associate*



Research interests include the impact of new technology in overcoming social exclusion, qualitative methodology and family research, and lifestyles and living standards.

Current and recent research:

- Modern Forms of Marriage
- Drugs and Alcohol Misuse as Barriers to Employment
- Navigating the E-society: The Dynamics of Participation and Exclusion

**Sharon Walker**

*Office Co-ordinator*



Sharon has been a member of the CRSP support team for 11 years. She is the Office Co-ordinator with responsibility for the administration for the Centre's Management Team, and is the administrator for various projects including the large consortium project, New Deal for Disabled People. Sharon is also working on redesigning the CRSP website.

## Events Attended, Presentations and Visitors to CRSP

### Conferences

Launch of 'Britain's Poorest Children', Save the Children - UK, 2 September 2003, London. Keynote speaker/co-author Sue Middleton.

6th Annual Conference of the European Sociological Association, 23-26 September 2003, University of Murcia, Spain. Paper presented by Kim Perren.

'Careers Education and Guidance in the Frame', Careers Research and Advisory Centre, 9 October 2003. Paper presented by Sue Maguire.

'Fighting Economic Injustice', Vincentian Millennium Partnership and the Zacchaeus Trust, 19 November 2003, Westminster Cathedral Hall, London. Chaired by Sue Middleton.

'Making a Difference: The Impact of Social Research', Social Research Association Annual Conference, 1 December 2003, Institute of Education, London. Attended by Abigail Davis.

'Looking Forward, Looking up: Improving the Quality of Social Research', Social Research Association, 3 December 2003, London. Attended by Elspeth Pound.

'e-QUALITY Festival', Institute for Public Policy Research, 16 December 2003, London. Attended by Liz Sutton and Antonia Ivaldi.

Financial Exclusion Conference, National Consumer Council, 26 February 2004, London. Seminar on credit and debt in low income families led by Sue Middleton.

'Tackling Social Exclusion: Taking Stock and Looking to the Future', Social Exclusion Unit, 22 March 2004, London. Attended by Sue Middleton, Laura Adelman, Bruce Stafford and Simon Roberts.

Association of University Teachers Conference, 24-27 March 2004, Scarborough. Attended by Elspeth Pound.

'Childhood Research and Policy Making', Prosoz, 27-28 March 2004, Herten, Germany. Paper on Social Exclusion in Childhood presented by Sue Middleton.

'Emerging Practice and Innovation', Adult Learning Grant Conference, 21-22 April 2004, Coventry. Paper presented by Elspeth Pound.

'Collaboration, Competition and Concentration in Research', RAGnet Spring Conference. 13-14 May 2004, York. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

'From Third Way to Which Way?', Social Policy Association Annual Conference. 13 July 2004, Nottingham. Paper presented by Kate Legge. Attended by Katherine Hill and Bruce Stafford.

'Digital Generations - Children, Young People and New Media', Centre for the Study of Children, Youth and Media, 26-29 July 2004, London. Paper presented by Antonia Ivaldi.

Work Employment and Society Conference, 1-3 September 2004, Manchester. Paper presented by Yvette Hartfree.

'Taking Stock of Risk' Conference, British Sociological Association Risk and Society Study Group, 5-7 September 2004, Nottingham. Attended by Noel Smith.

Local Housing Allowance Conference, Department for Work and Pensions, 14 September 2004, London. Attended by Bruce Stafford.

'Shaping Social Policy: What Role for Research?', CRSP 21st Conference, 17 September 2004, Loughborough. Morning session chaired by Bruce Stafford. Papers presented by Sue Middleton, Karen Kellard and Simon Roberts. Attended by all CRSP staff.

Association of Internet Researchers Conference, 19-22 September 2004, University of Sussex, Brighton. Paper presented by Liz Sutton.

## Events Attended, Presentations and Visitors to CRSP

'Budget Standards for Disabled People', Disability and the Social Market Foundation, 29 September 2004, Labour Party Conference – Fringe Meeting, Brighton. Presentation by Noel Smith.

School Sports Co-ordinator Partnership, Sport England, 5-6 October 2004, Nottingham. Attended by Amanda Crompton.

'A Social Europe: Let's Deliver!', Dutch Presidency, European Union Unit, 7-9 November 2004, Rotterdam. Attended by Bruce Stafford.

'Research in Education: What Works?', Department for Education and Skills, 19 November 2004, London. Workshop presentation by Sue Middleton.

'Supporting Children in Every Community', 4Children, 20 November 2004, London. Attended by Kate Legge.

'Poverty and Place: Policies for Tomorrow', Joseph Rowntree Foundation Centenary Conference, 13-14 December 2004, York. Workshop on adequacy standards presented by Sue Middleton.

### Workshops

RAGnet, Research Administrators' Group Network, Sixth Induction Workshop, 15-16 September 2003, Loughborough. Hosted, and presentations given, by Nigel Bilsbrough.

'Resources in Later Life: Towards Better Measurement of Needs and Hardship at Different Ages', Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 18 September 2003, York. Sue Middleton: Invited attendee.

'Jobcentre Plus: Staff Understanding and Application of Deferrals', Department for Work and Pensions, 28 November 2003, Sheffield. Paper presented by Yvette Hartfree.

'Current Developments in Social Science Research Ethics', Association of Research Centres in Social Sciences Workshop, 23 January 2004, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

Conducting Research with Children and Young People', National Centre for Social Research, 12-13 February 2004, London. Attended by Abigail Davis.

'Introduction to Collecting Qualitative Data', Postgraduate Training Course, 13 February 2004, Loughborough. Presented by Liz Sutton and Karen Kellard.

'Weighting the Social Survey', Royal Statistical Society, 12 March 2004, London. Attended by Kate Legge.

'Fulfilling our Potential: Managing First Class Social Science Research', Association of Research Centres in Social Sciences Workshop, 18-19 March 2004, University of Warwick. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

RAGnet Seventh Induction Workshop, 20-21 September 2004, Loughborough University. Hosted, and presentations given, by Nigel Bilsbrough.

'The Impact of Full Economic Costing', Association of Research Centres in Social Sciences Workshop, 2 November 2004, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

DWP Framework Agreement Workshop, 15 November 2004, Sheffield. Attended by Bruce Stafford and Nigel Bilsbrough.

### Seminars

'Financial Support for 16-19 Year Olds', HM Treasury with End Child Poverty Coalition and the Local Government Association, 10 September 2003, London. Attended by Sue Maguire.

Seminar to Develop a Research Programme for Older People, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 18 September 2003, York. Attended by Sue Middleton.

## Events Attended, Presentations and Visitors to CRSP

'Evaluation of Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots and Propensity Score Matching', Economic and Social Research Council and Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, 12 November 2003, Guildford. Paper presented by Sue Middleton.

'Current Developments in Social Science Research Ethics', Association of Research Centres in Social Sciences/Social Research Association, 23 January 2004, London. Attended and paper presented by Bruce Stafford.

'The Complexity of the Benefit System', National Audit Office Seminar, 10 February 2004, London. Attended by Bruce Stafford.

'Poverty and Social Exclusion in Childhood', Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion, 10 March 2004, London. Attended by Laura Adelman and Sue Middleton.

Full Economic Costing Seminar, Joint Loughborough University/University of Leicester, 19 March 2004, Loughborough. Attended by Sue Middleton and Bruce Stafford.

Social Exclusion Unit Seminar, 22 March 2004, London. Attended by Bruce Stafford, Sue Middleton, Laura Adelman and Simon Roberts.

'Life Chances and Social Mobility', Institute of Public Policy Research, 30 March 2004, HM Treasury, London. Attended by Sue Middleton.

'Trying it Out', Queen Mary and Westfield Seminar, 7 April 2004. Paper presented by Sue Middleton.

'Supporting Couple Relationships for the Long Term', National Family and Parenting Institute. 4 May 2004, London. Paper presented by Liz Sutton.

National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux Seminar, 14 July 2004, London. Paper on the Social Fund presented by Sue Middleton.

Social Fund Seminar, National Audit Office, 23 September 2004, Leicester. Attended by Bruce Stafford.

'The Potential of Laboratory Methods for Social Research', Department for Work and Pensions, 24 September 2004, HM Treasury, London. Attended by Bruce Stafford.

'International Perspectives on Family Friendly Careers', Economic Social Research Centre Seminar, 13 October 2004, Loughborough. Attended by Abigail Davis.

'Future of Incapacity Benefit', Institute of Public Policy Research, 28 October 2004, London. Attended by Bruce Stafford.

ASPEN (Active Social Policies European Network) Seminar on Individual Approaches in Activation, 10-12 December 2004, Vaxjo, Sweden. Paper presented by Karen Kellard.

New Deal for Disabled People Internal Seminar, 21 December 2004, Loughborough. Attended by Bruce Stafford, Karen Kellard, Katherine Hill.

### Presentations to Government and Other Policy Makers

Evidence to Department for Work and Pensions Select Committee's Enquiry into Child Poverty, 17 December 2003, London. Sue Middleton.

Adult Learning Grant Evaluation meeting, 3 March 2004, Sheffield. Presentation to the Department for Education and Skills by Elspeth Pound.

'New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP): First Synthesis Report', 4 March 2004, HM Treasury, London. Presentation by Bruce Stafford.

'New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP): First Synthesis Report', 5 March 2004, Sheffield. Presentation to researchers and policy makers by Bruce Stafford.

## Events Attended, Presentations and Visitors to CRSP

NDDP Evaluation Meeting, Department for Work and Pensions, 22 April 2004, Sheffield. Findings of the Interim Cost Analysis presented by Abigail Davis and David Greenberg. Attended by Kate Legge, Katherine Hill, Bruce Stafford, Laura Adelman and Karen Kellard.

### Training Courses

Media Training Day, Economic Social Research Council, 15 October 2003, London. Attended by Liz Sutton and Antonia Ivaldi.

'Using Focus Groups in Qualitative Research', National Centre for Social Research, 19-20 November 2003, London. Attended by Katherine Hill, Liz Sutton and Joanne Rennison.

Data Protection Training, 5 March 2004, Loughborough. Attended by Bruce Stafford.

'Survey Methods in the Real World: Project Management and Survey Ethics', Centre for Applied Social Surveys, University of Southampton, 10-11 March 2004, York. Attended by Kate Legge.

'Introduction to Sampling', Social Research Association, 24 March 2004, London. Attended by Kate Legge and Joanne Rennison.

'Reporting and Presenting Qualitative Data', Social Research Association, 19-20 May 2004, Edinburgh. Attended by Katherine Hill and Yvette Hartfree.

'Effective Chairing Skills', RAGnet Committee Training Day, 17 June 2004, University College, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

'Community of Science, Sources of Research Funding', 14 August 2003, Loughborough University. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

Media Training, Social Research Association, 9 September 2004, London. Attended by Elspeth Pound.

'Introduction to Qualitative Analysis', Social Research Association, 15 September 2004, London. Attended by Yvette Hartfree.

'Listening to Children: Research and Consultation', Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, Edinburgh University, 13 October 2004 – 8 December 2004 (fortnightly). Attended by Liz Sutton.

'Survey Data Analysis 1: Introducing Descriptive and Inferential Statistics', Centre for Applied Social Surveys, 16-18 November 2004, Southampton. Attended by Elspeth Pound and Karen Kellard.

### Other Events

RAGnet Committee Awayday, 20-21 August 2003, Goodenough Club, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

Launch of Research Report, 'Britain's Poorest Children', Save the Children – UK, 2 September 2003, London. Sue Middleton Presenter/co-author.

Unit for the Arts and Offenders Trustees Meeting, 9 September 2003, International Centre for Prison Studies, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

Association of Research Centres in Social Sciences Executive Committee Meeting, 9 September 2003, Tavistock Institute, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

Centre for Research in Social Policy Consultative Committee Meeting, 29 October 2003, Loughborough. Attended by Sue Middleton and Bruce Stafford.

RAGnet Executive Committee Meeting, 12 November 2003, Institute of Education, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

## Events Attended, Presentations and Visitors to CRSP

Unit for the Arts and Offenders Trustees Meeting, 13 January 2004, International Centre for Prison Studies, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

RAGnet Training Sub-committee Meeting, 13 January 2004, Institute of Education, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

Sue Middleton met with Dawn Primarolo, 14 January 2004, HM Treasury.

RAGnet Executive Committee Meeting, 11 February 2004, London Metropolitan University, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

Ethical Advisory Committee, 17 February 2004, Loughborough. Attended by Bruce Stafford.

Meeting with Sir Richard Tilt and Ann Greenshields to discuss the Social Fund, 27 February 2004, Loughborough. Attended by Bruce Stafford, Sue Middleton and Kate Legge.

Presentation on Research on Morbidity in the U.S. by Kalman Rupp, 20 March 2004, HM Treasury, London. Attended by Bruce Stafford.

Joint Nuffield Community Care/CRSP Meeting, 11 April 2004, Loughborough. Attended by Bruce Stafford, Elspeth Pound, Sue Middleton, Line Nyhagen Predelli and Simon Roberts.

Launch of Education Maintenance Allowance, 19 April 2004, London. Sue Middleton attended to advise and support the Secretary of State.

Meetings with the Department for Employment and Social Security, States of Jersey. 29-30 April 2004, Jersey. Attended by Sue Middleton and Simon Roberts.

Department for Work and Pensions Summer School, 4-10 May 2004, King's College, Cambridge. Bruce Stafford Director, Simon Roberts Tutor.

CRSP Awayday, 5 May 2004, Loughborough. Attended by all CRSP staff.

Ethical Advisory Committee Meeting, 6 May 2004, Loughborough. Attended by Bruce Stafford.

RAGnet Advisory Group Meeting, 12 May 2004, Royal Hotel, York. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough, Secretary.

RAGnet Annual General Meeting, 13 May 2004, Royal Hotel, York. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough, Secretary.

Unit for the Arts and Offenders Trustees' Meeting, 20 May 2004, King's College, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

RAGnet Executive Committee Meeting, 16 June 2004, University College, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

'Promoting Better Research Commissioning', Social Research Association Meeting, 30 June 2004, Nuffield Foundation, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

JRF Centenary Lecture given by Chancellor of the Exchequer, 8 July 2004, London. Attended by Sue Middleton.

Association of Research Centres in Social Sciences Executive Committee Meeting, 28 July 2004, Nuffield Foundation, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

Launch of Annual Report of the Social Fund Commissioner, 8 September 2004, London. Attended by Sue Middleton.

Unit for the Arts and Offenders Trustees' Meeting, 15 September 2004, King's College, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

CRSP Consultative Committee Meeting, 29 September 2004, Loughborough. Attended by Bruce Stafford, Sue Middleton. Presentations by Karen Kellard.

## Events Attended, Presentations and Visitors to CRSP

Meeting with Save the Children – UK to discuss minimum income standards, 20 October 2004, London. Attended by Sue Middleton.

Launch of Research Report: 'A lot more than you'd imagine: budget standards for disabled people', Disability Alliance, 21 October 2004, London. Presentation by Noel Smith.

Association of Research Centres in Social Sciences Executive Committee Meeting, 2 November 2004, Tavistock Institute, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

RAGnet Executive Committee Meeting, 10 November 2004, University College, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

Research Directors Meeting, 24 November 2004, Loughborough University. Attended by Bruce Stafford and Sue Middleton.

Unit for the Arts and Offenders Trustees' Awayday, 30 November 2004, King's College, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

Unit for the Arts and Offenders Trustees' Meeting, 14 December 2004, King's College, London. Attended by Nigel Bilsbrough.

### Visitors to CRSP

Abt Associates: Larry Orr

Centre for Academic Practice: Paul Blackmore

Centre of Social Research and Evaluation at the New Zealand Ministry of Social Development: John Jensen

Community Development Foundation: Kevin Harris

Department for Education and Skills (DfES): Charles Ritchie

Department for Work and Pensions: George Roe, Ian Sneade, Kate Callow and Barbara Elliott

Ecotec Research and Consultancy Ltd: Jean Taylor and Vicky Davies

Independent Review Service for the Social Fund: Sir Richard Tilt and Ann Greenshields

Institute for Employment Studies: Nigel Meager

National Institute for Careers Education and Counselling (NICEC): Malcolm Maguire

Nuffield Community Care Unit: Professor Ruth Hancock

National Centre for Social Research: Jon Hales, Jane Lewis

Poverty and Welfare Team, HM Treasury: Helen John, Ilona Blue, Henry Bottomley, Raddiah Binns

Prime Minister's Strategy Unit: Sally McManus, Rannia Leontardi

School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Nottingham: Professor Robert Walker

Social Exclusion Unit: Robert Dryburgh, Nicola Croden

Social Policy Research Unit, University of York: Roy Sainsbury, Patricia Thornton and Anne Corden

Sport Relief UK: Victoria Southwell

University of Maryland, Baltimore County: Professor David Greenberg

Urban Institute: Steve Bell

# Publications and CRSP Working Papers

August 2003-December 2004

## Books

Ashworth, K.R., **Hartfree, Y.F.**, Kazimirski, A., **Legge, K.E.**, Pires, C., Reyes De Beaman, S., Shaw, A. and **Stafford, B.R.**, *New Deal for Disabled People National Extension: First Wave of the First Cohort of the Survey of Registrants*, DWP, November 2003, ISBN 1 84388 243 4.

Cordon, A., Harries, T., **Hill, K.R.**, **Kellard, K.V.**, Lewis, J., Sainsbury, R. and Thornton, P., *New Deal for Disabled People National Extension: Findings from the First Wave of Qualitative Research with Clients, Job Brokers and Jobcentre Plus Staff*, DWP Research Report 169, London, 2003.

Davies, V., **Hartfree, Y.F.**, **Kellard, K.V.** and Taylor, J., *Delivering the Jobcentre Plus Vision. Qualitative Research with Staff and Customers (Phase 3)*, DWP Research Report 222, Sheffield, 2004, ISBN 1 84123 731 0.

**Hartfree, Y.F.**, and Taylor, J., *Deferrals in Jobcentre Plus: Research into Staff Understanding and Application of Deferral Guidance for Non-Jobseekers Allowance Customers*, DWP, 2003, ISBN 1 84388 220 5.

McDonald, S., **Davis, A.A.I.**, and **Stafford, B.R.**, *Report of the Survey of Job Brokers*, DWP Research Report 197, Sheffield, 2004, ISBN 1 84388 308 2.

**Middleton, S.**, Maguire, S., Ashworth, K.R., **Legge, K.E.**, Allen, T. and **Perren, K.**, *The Evaluation of Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots: Three Years Evidence*, DfES, Nottingham, 2004, ISBN 1 84478 153 4.

**Perren, K.**, **Middleton, S.** and Emmerson, C., *Education Maintenance Allowance Transport Pilots – Quantitative Findings from Year 1 and 2 (2000-2001/2001-2002)*, DfES Research Report 471, 2003, ISBN 1 84478 085 6.

Nicaise, I., Groenez, S., Adelman, L.P.A., **Roberts, S.J.M.**, and **Middleton, S.**, *Gaps, traps and springboards in European minimum income systems: A comparative study of 13 EU countries*, Leuven: Hoger Institute voor de Arbeid, 2004.

**Roberts, S.J.M.**, Heaven, C.P., **Hill, K.R.**, Rennison, J.H., **Stafford, B.R.**, Howat, N., Kelly, G., Krishnan, S., Tapp, P. and Thomas, A., *Disability in the workplace: Employers' and service providers' responses to the Disability Discrimination Act 2003 and preparation for 2004 changes*, DWP Research Report 202, Corporate Document Services, Leeds, 2004, ISBN 1 84123 642X.

**Stafford, B.R.**, Ashworth, K.R., **Davis, A.A.I.**, **Hartfree, Y.F.**, **Hill, K.R.**, **Kellard, K.V.**, **Legge, K.E.**, McDonald, S., Reyes De Beaman, S., Aston, J., Atkinson, J., Davis, S. et al., *New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP): First Synthesis Report*, DWP Research Report 199, Sheffield, 2004, ISBN 1 84388 327 9.

## Reviews of Single Academic Books

**Stafford, B.R.**, Review of Regulating Working-Time Transitions in Europe, *Journal of Social Policy*, J. O'Reilly (ed), Vol 33(4), 2004, pp 687-689.

## Conference Contributions

Adelman, L.P.A., **Middleton, S.** and Ashworth, K.R., "Severe Poverty: A Severe Problem? The Extent and Meaning of Severe Child Poverty in Britain", *8th Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference. 'Steps forward for Families: Research, Practice and Policy'*, Melbourne Exhibition Centre, 2003.

# Publications and CRSP Working Papers

August 2003-December 2004

Adelman, L.P.A., and **Middleton, S.**, "Social Exclusion in Childhood: Why and How it Should be Measured", *Australian Social Policy Conference 2003, 'Social Inclusion'*, University of New South Wales, Sydney.

**Hartfree, Y.F.**, "Moving Between Paid Work and Full-Time Caring", *Work, Employment and Society Conference 2004*, Manchester.

**Legge, K.E., Stafford, B.R.** and **Hill, K.R.**, "Choice in public services: Evidence from the New Deal for Disabled People", *37th Annual Social Policy Association Conference*, Nottingham, June 2004.

Maguire, S., and Rennison, J.H., "Two Years On: The Destinations of Young People Who Are NEET at 16.", *International Conference 'Widening Participation: Research, Policy and Practice'*, Warwick, 2004.

**Middleton, S.** and Adelman, L.P.A., "Possible Dimensions of Social Exclusion in Childhood: Evidence from 'Britain's Poorest Children.'", *Presentation at Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion*, 2004.

**Middleton, S.**, and Adelman, L.P.A., "Poverty and Social Exclusion in Childhood: More of the same or something different?", *International Conference on Child Research*, Dusseldorf, 2004.

**Smith, N.D.**, "Disabled people's costs of living (1)", *Fringe Meeting at Labour Party Conference*, Brighton, 2004.

**Smith, N.D.**, "Disabled people's costs of living (2), A Lot More Than You'd Imagine", *Disability Allowance Conference*, London, 2004.

## Edited Works: Contributions

Arber, S., Price, D., Davidson, K. and **Perren, K.**, "Re-examining gender and marital status: Material well-being and social involvement", in *Gender and Ageing: Changing Roles and Relationships*, Open University, Buckingham, 2003, pp 148-167, ISBN 0 33521 3129 7.

**Middleton, S.** and Adelman, L.P.A., "Social Exclusion in Childhood: More of the same or something different?", in *Kindheitsforschung und kommunale Praxis - praxisnahe Erkenntnisse aus der aktuellen Kindheitsforschung. (Child Research and Municipal Practice - Practical insights from current child research.)*, Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, Wiesbaden, 2004.

**Smith, N.D.**, Lister, M.R.A., **Middleton, S.** and **Cox, L.A.M.**, "Young People Talk about Citizenship: Empirical Perspectives on Theoretical and Political Debates", *Citizenship Studies*, Vol 7(2), pp 33-54.

**Smith, N.D.**, Lister, M.R.A., **Middleton, S.** and **Cox, L.A.M.**, "Young People and Citizenship", in *Youth Policy and Social Inclusion*, Routledge, London, 2004, pp 33-54.

**Smith, N.D.**, Lister, M.R.A. and **Middleton, S.**, "Longitudinal Qualitative Methodology", in *Understanding Research Methods for Social Policy*, the Policy Press, Bristol, 2004.

**Stafford, B.R.**, and **Middleton, S.**, "Managing Policy Researchers", in *Understanding Research for Social Policy*, The Policy Press, Bristol, 2004, pp 339-341, ISBN 1 86134 403 1.

## Journal Papers

Cebulla, A.J., **Smith, N.D.** and **Sutton, E.A.**, "Returning to Normality: Substance Users' Work Histories and Perceptions of Work During and After Recovery". *British Journal of Social Work*, Vol 34(7), 2004, pp 1045-1054.

# Publications and CRSP Working Papers

August 2003-December 2004

**Middleton, S.** and Adelman, L.P.A., "Britain's Poorest Children: What are the implications for anti-poverty policies?", in *Poverty Alliance Journal*, 2004.

**Perren, K.**, Arber, S. and Davidson, K., "Neighbouring in later life: The influence of Socio-economic Resources, Gender and Household Composition on Neighbourly Relationships", in *Sociology: Journal of the British Sociological Society*, Vol 38(5), pp 959-978.

**Smith, N.D.**, "Cross-Sectional Profiling and Longitudinal Analysis: Research Notes on Analysis in the Longitudinal Study 'Negotiating Transitions to Citizenship'", in *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, Vol 63, 2003, pp 273-277.

**Smith, N.D.**, "The Costs of Disability", *Disability Rights Bulletin*, Winter 2003, pp 24-25.

**Smith, N.D.**, "Disabled people's additional expenses: the cost of an equitable life", in *Disability Rights Bulletin*, Winter 2004.

## Official Reports

Cebulla, A.J., Heaver, C.P., **Smith, N.D.** and **Sutton, E.A.**, *Drug and alcohol use as barriers to employment: final report*, DWP, 2004.

**Middleton, S.**, "*Minutes of Oral Evidence*" in *Child Poverty*, Second Report, House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee Enquiry into Child Poverty, Session 2003-2004, 2003.

**Middleton, S.**, *Memorandum to the Select Committee's Enquiry into Child Poverty*, CRSP 2443, Centre for Research in Social Policy, 2003.

**Middleton, S.**, *Written Evidence in Child Poverty in the UK*, House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee into Child Poverty, First Report of Session 2003-2004, 2003.

**Pound, E.**, **Middleton, S.** and Maguire, M., *Assessment of take-up in the first year of the Adult Learning Grant*, DfES, 2004.

**Pound, E.**, **Middleton, S.**, Ashton-Brooks, K. and Maguire, M., *A qualitative investigation into the first year (pilot) implementation of the Adult Learning Grant*, DfES, 2004.

**Smith, N.D.**, **Middleton, S.** and Ashton-Brooks, K., *Disabled people's costs of living: more than you would think*, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2004.

**Stafford, B.R.**, Anderson T. and Woodland, S., *Claiming Housing Benefit in the Private Rented Sector*, *Local Housing Allowance Report No 3*, DWP, 2004.

**Sutton, E.A.**, **Smith, N.D.**, Cebulla, A.J. and Heaver, C.P., *Drug and alcohol used as barriers to employment: review of the literature*, DfES, 2004.

## Working Papers

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