spru | Social Policy
Research Unit

Annual Report
2007/08

THE UNIVERSITY of York

Annual Report **2007/08**

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Introduction by the Director

"We entered twenty researchers to the Department of Social Policy and Social Work's submission, and were delighted with a ranking in the top ten per cent in the UK. The Panel specifically highlighted the strength of SPRU's research."

I am delighted this year to present the first report from the new, enlarged SPRU. Between our last report and this one, which covers two years, SPRU has undergone significant change. In 2007, we began the process of merging with the Social Work Research and Development Unit (SWRDU), which had worked alongside SPRU for many years. A newsletter in Spring 2008 outlined progress and in September 2008 our successful conference on children's research, at which Estelle Morris gave the opening address (see page 6), signalled the final stage of the merger. Large-scale change of this sort is always challenging; however the reports of activity included here are testimony to the way in which colleagues rose to the challenge while working as hard as ever. My thanks go to them all. The four research teams that now constitute SPRU have retained their distinct focus, but we are reaping the benefits of a single administrative and support structure and opportunities for cross-team working on children and young people

"colleagues rose to the challenge while working as hard as ever"

Since the beginning of 2007, we have worked on 48 research projects, supported by a wide range of funders. As always, this work informs policy and practice development, while also contributing to academic life through the quality of our publications and presentations.

The results of the Research Assessment Exercise underline our academic quality. We entered twenty researchers to the Department of Social Policy and Social Work's submission, and were delighted with a ranking in the top ten per cent in the UK. The Panel specifically highlighted the strength of SPRU's research. We now have our eyes on the next research quality exercise, in whatever form that will take. Since the last report, we have published 68 articles in high quality, refereed journals. Alongside this stream of articles are many other types of dissemination that help our policy and practice audiences make the most of our research.

Two developments since the last report deserve particular mention. First, SPRU's Children and Families team has become involved in the large Department of Children, Schools and Families initiative, *Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children's and Young People's Services* (otherwise known as C4EO). This is a partnership of four core organisations: National Children's Bureau, National Foundation for Educational Research, Research in Practice and the Social Care Institute for Excellence. Four strategic partners bring additional expertise and influence: the Family and Parenting Institute; Improvement and Development Agency; Institute of Education; and the National Youth Agency. SPRU is involved as a delivery partner, providing specialist services in the disability theme of the Centre's work.

Another national achievement was SPRU's acceptance as a founding member of the School for Social Care Research, the second national centre of research excellence to be established within the National Institute for Health Research. The aim of the School is to improve the evidence base for practice in adult social care. We will be working with other leading academic centres of adult social care research in England to undertake primary research. This will cover the delivery of social care by professional and non-professional staff working in both statutory and independent sectors. It will encourage research by social care professionals as well as academics, and the active involvement of service users and their carers. We are delighted to be involved at the beginning of this significant new commitment to social care research.

Other distinctions during the period of this report include Roy Sainsbury, Jonathan Bradshaw and Hilary Arksey's appointments as specialist advisors to different House of Commons Select Committees (see page 9). I am also pleased to report Roy's promotion to a Personal Chair - a well-deserved acknowledgement of his excellent research on welfare and employment policy here at SPRU.

The short reports of research projects give a flavour of the diversity of our work, but I would like to emphasize here some overarching issues that characterise our work.

“our commitment to exploring different approaches and new areas”

The first is our commitment to exploring different approaches and new areas. For example, two projects described here use conversation analysis techniques to understand what happens in interactions between job seekers and those who advise them (page 25). Projects on stress and coping in staff who work in paediatric oncology take us into not only a new research area - workforce issues - but also new techniques in psychometrics (page 20). Similarly, using randomised controlled trials to explore the effectiveness of interventions for young people in and on the edges of care brings new designs and methods to our social work research (page 13).

“the increasing need to tackle complex problems using multi- or cross-disciplinary approaches”

The second issue is the increasing need to tackle complex problems using multi- or cross-disciplinary approaches. SPRU's strong partnerships and collaborations signal our involvement in these approaches. Projects reported here involve research collaborations within the University of York - with the Departments of Health Sciences, Language and Linguistic Science, and Sociology, and with the Centre of Criminal Justice, Economics and Psychology, the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, and the York Health Economics Consortium - and with other universities, including Durham, Leeds, Kent, London School of Economics, Loughborough, Manchester, Newcastle and Oxford. We have also carried out joint work with the Institute for Employment Studies, Policy Studies Institute, Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Vilans Centre in Utrecht. Practice-oriented partners include the Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust, the Children's Society and the NSPCC.

“we turn research evidence into tools that can direct practice”

Thirdly, we turn research evidence into tools that can direct practice. Our systematic reviews on parental mental health problems have informed joint guidance developed by the Social Care Institute for Excellence and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) (page 20). The project on continuity of care for people with long-term neurological conditions will develop an evidence-based benchmarking tool to help health providers assess their progress in delivering integrated services (page 38). Similarly, the project on neglected adolescents will use research evidence to develop two guides - one for multi-disciplinary practitioner teams and the other for young people themselves - that will increase awareness and enable young people to seek help (page 14).

None of this work would be possible without the support of funders and their commitment to using research evidence to influence policy and practice. These include: the Big Lottery; Cabinet Office; CLIC Sargent; Department for Children, Schools and Families; Department for Communities and Local Government; Department of Health; Department for Work and Pensions; Economic and Social Research Council; European Union; Joseph Rowntree Foundation; NIHR Service Delivery and Organisation R&D Programme; the Social Care Institute for Excellence; Youth Justice Board and others. We thank them all.

I hope that you enjoy reading about our work here at SPRU during 2007-8 and encourage you all to visit our website for the latest news on our research endeavours: www.york.ac.uk/spru

Gillian Parker
Director

SPRU CONFERENCE

Children, Families and Well-being - Researching the Future

Senior policy-makers in the areas of health, social care, and living standards, research funding bodies, senior representatives of the voluntary sector and experienced researchers were invited to SPRU in September 2008 to discuss the future of where research on children's and young people's health, care and well-being might go over the next ten years.

Changes in policy responsibility (and therefore policy-related research funding) and the changing delivery structures for children's and young people's services had prompted a need for some stocktaking and horizon scanning. When people gathered at SPRU there was lively debate and information exchange on the priorities for the way ahead.

Estelle Morris gave an excellent opening talk on the relationship between research and policy and the need to convey research messages clearly and simply to the public in order to facilitate change on a wide level. Short accounts from York experts about the current evidence base relating to children, young people and their families followed. Tricia Sloper spoke on children's disability and health issues, Jonathan Bradshaw on poverty and well-being and Nina Biehal gave an overview of issues around vulnerable and looked-after children.

The afternoon consisted of discussion, in smaller groups, about what we will need to know in the future. The discussion was centred around the five *Every Child Matters* outcomes for children and young people.

Conference delegates during a break in the proceedings.

The Right Honourable Estelle Morris giving the opening speech

The ideas and thoughts of the separate groups were captured and relayed back to the participants in a chaired panel session held at the end of the seminar and a lively debate with the audience ensued. The panel consisted of Kate Billingham, Julie Jones, Roy Sainsbury, Carolyn Davies and Jane Lewis.

Professor Hilary Graham gave an excellent summation of the issues raised during the panel session to close the conference.

Many of our friends and colleagues stayed for a drinks reception to celebrate the successful merger of SPRU and the Social Work Research and Development Unit which had prompted the desire for the conference. Children's research at SPRU is now strengthened and broadened by the addition of the fourth team: the Children and Young People's Social Work Team.

The conference report, containing transcripts from the speeches and notes from the discussions at the conference, is available from:

http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/news/Conf08.html

Professor Sir Al Aynsley Green visits SPRU

SPRU was delighted to welcome Professor Sir Al Aynsley Green when he came to receive an honorary degree at the University of York.

Lady Rosemary, Professor Sir Al Aynsley Green and Gillian Parker

Sir Al and his wife, Lady Rosemary, came to the unit for coffee after the ceremony and stayed to chat to researchers from SPRU and other units, here at York, involved in the care of children. SPRU nominated Sir Al for his tireless and extensive work with children, protecting their rights and championing their participation in decisions made about their life.

Professor Sir Al Aynsley Green became the first Children's Commissioner in England in March 2005. In this role, he acts as an independent voice for children and young people, and champions their interests and brings their concerns and views to the national arena. Prior to this, he was National Clinical Director ('Tsar') for Children at the Department of Health, as well as Nuffield Professor of Child Health at Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Institute of Child Health, University College Hospital.

SPRU's director Gillian Parker said "We were very happy to nominate Sir Al for this honour and really enjoyed his visit to the unit and the stimulating conversations that took place on that day. It was a pleasure to celebrate all he has achieved for children in this country and to discuss priorities for the future."

SPRU's involvement with Sir Al is a long-standing one, beginning when he led the development of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (NSF), an important set of policies and standards to improve services for children. Professor Tricia Sloper and Dr Bryony Beresford, from SPRU, were heavily involved in the development of the NSF, as members of the External Working Group on Disabled Children. This group developed Standard 8 on disabled children and young people and those with complex health needs.
They were also members of the Research Group which collected and reviewed evidence that underpins the whole of the NSF. This evidence drew from much research undertaken at York.

A key issue in the NSF is children's and young people's participation in decisions that affect them, both decisions about their own care and treatment and decisions about service development. This has been a key theme of research at York in both of the SPRU research teams with a focus on children.

Sir Al Aynsley Green talking to Mary Renfrew, Director of the Mother and Infant Research Unit

Collaboration has continued since he became Children's Commissioner; Professor Aynsley-Green arranged meetings with a few universities where there were key researchers. York was one of these and he met with staff to discuss their work, and future links between the university and his office. Since then, he has commissioned staff in SPRU and SWRDU* to undertake reviews of evidence to inform the work of the Office of the Children's Commissioner.

* SWRDU is now the Children and Young People's Social Work Team in SPRU.

The National Evaluation of the Individual Budget Pilot Projects (IBSEN)

ibsen
Individual Budgets Evaluation Network

Individual budgets (IBs) were proposed in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit (2005) report *Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People* and are central to the aim of 'modernising' English adult social care.

IBs involve new methods of allocating resources to individuals; transparency over the amount available to fund an individual's support and care; and the integration of multiple funding streams, to cut down on duplicate assessments and enhance outcome-related flexibilities.

Although IBs build on the experiences of direct payments, they can be deployed in different ways, including care-managed and provider-managed accounts and payments to third parties and trusts.

IBs were piloted in 13 local authorities between 2006 and 2008. The IBSEN evaluation is one of the few robust, randomised controlled trials conducted in adult social care. The evaluation also provided a wealth of evidence on the challenges of implementing IBs, including devising sustainable resource allocation systems; managing financial and adult protection risks; overcoming regulatory and accountability barriers to integrating funding streams; and integrating new IB processes with existing statutory obligations and departmental processes, such as establishing eligibility for adult social care and assessing user charges. Fieldwork with front-line staff documented the transformation of professional roles and culture demanded by IBs. It was too early for major changes in patterns of service use, but service providers already reported some changes in user demand and exposure to new risks.

IBs appeared to be cost-effective in relation to social care outcomes - they produced better outcomes for the same or less resource. However, there were differences between user groups in relation to reported quality of care, psychological well-being and control over daily life. The benefits of IBs for older people were particularly poor. A linked study has subsequently investigated the impact of IBs on carers of adult service users.

The Government has already announced the roll-out of Personal Budgets (involving just social care resources) as the centrepiece of a three-year transformation of English adult social care. DH has provided additional financial support for the widespread dissemination of the IBSEN evaluation, through conferences and seminars for professional, managerial and policy audiences, to help inform the transformation process.

The final report and summaries are available to download from the following webpage. Further publications from the project are also listed.

http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/summs/ibsen.php

Select Committees - special advisory roles

Roy Sainsbury

In 2007 I was asked to apply for the temporary post of Specialist Adviser to the Select Committee on Work and Pensions for its inquiry into 'benefit simplification'. After careful security vetting (I had to tick a Yes or No box saying whether I was a terrorist) I got the job. What followed was an intense three months. I attended sittings of the Committee where the MPs from across the political spectrum interrogated a succession of witnesses, advised the Committee on what to ask, and commented on various drafts of their report. It was an exhausting but thoroughly enjoyable experience. I relished the grilling of the Government Minister when the MPs became increasingly exasperated at his polished circumlocution. I marvelled when the Committee spent nearly an hour agonising over the costs of flights to California (to get the best value for the taxpayer). The decision to recommend a radical reform of the benefit system to achieve simplification (and get best value for benefit claimants) was easy in comparison. Overall I came away from the experience hugely impressed with the Committee's ability to tackle such a complex topic in such a short time, and with the Committee staff's talent for keeping them under control.

House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee, *Benefits Simplification: Seventh Report of the Session 2006-7: Volume 1*, 26 July 2007, HC 463-I, 2006-07

Available online at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmworpen/463/463i.pdf

Hilary Arksey

In 2008, I was privileged to work as one of two special advisers to the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee (together with Professor Sue Yeandle, from the University of Leeds). I use the term 'privilege' advisedly as - despite all the tight deadlines and additional work - it did feel like a privilege to be working in the lofty halls of Westminster.

The Select Committee was undertaking an inquiry into the Government's approach to (unpaid) carers looking after sick, disabled or older people. Our role was to comment on reports, advise on questions for witnesses (including Ministers) called to give oral evidence and to offer suggestions for fact-finding visits to relevant organisations in Australia and Harrogate (we did suggest Sunderland, but that was ruled out!).

There were certain procedures we had to follow, which at times could be frustrating. For example, we were not allowed to intervene during the oral evidence sessions and it could be hard sometimes not to interrupt with follow-up questions, or to ask for something to be further elaborated or clarified.

I was impressed with the way the Committee members engaged with the issues and debates around carers' issues, not to mention the complexities of welfare benefits for carers. Their levels of interest were high, reflecting the fact that frequently they saw local constituents with care-giving responsibilities at their regular 'surgeries'.

However, the key question is what difference to policy for carers is the report *Valuing and Supporting Carers* likely to make? The Government's response has just been published; the Committee described it as 'generally positive', but expressed concern about the absence of an immediate plan and timetable for reform of carers' benefits. That is disappointing, but not unexpected. All I can say is that we two special advisers did our best to push for change sooner rather than later.

House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee, *Valuing and Supporting Carers: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2007-08: First Special Report of Session 2008-09*, 19 December 2008, HC105 2008-09

Available online at:

http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.com/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmworpen/105/105.pdf

The Social Policy Research Unit (SPRU) is a research centre based at the University of York. Since it was established in 1973, it has become recognised as one of the leading centres for research in social policy in the UK. SPRU has an international reputation for excellence in research in key areas of social policy, especially children, disability, social work, health and social care, poverty, social security, family and employment.

Research within the Unit is organised around four research teams, each of which is led by a Research Director:

Children and Young People's Social Work Team

- led by Professor Nina Biehal

Children and Families Team

- led by Professor Tricia Sloper

Welfare and Employment Team

- led by Professor Roy Sainsbury

Adults, Older People and Carers Team

- led by Professor Caroline Glendinning

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Social Policy Research Unit
Director: Professor Gillian Parker

Adults, Older People & Carers
Research Director:
Professor Caroline Glendinning

Children & Families
Research Director:
Professor Patricia Sloper

Welfare and Employment
Research Director:
Professor Roy Sainsbury

Children & Young People’s Social Work
Research Director:
Professor Nina Biehal

The Children and Young People's Social Work Team is led by Professor Nina Biehal. Its research focuses on looked-after children, leaving care, preventive work with teenagers, safeguarding/child protection, young offenders and other vulnerable groups of young people.

Children and Young People's Social Work Team

Recent work has included exploratory studies to map new populations and needs, research on outcomes for children and young people in and on the edge of care, evaluations of the effectiveness of services for vulnerable children, research reviews and the preparation of research overviews for the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The Team's current work includes a longitudinal study comparing the outcomes of long-term foster care with adoption from care, which builds on our earlier programme of work on foster care. This study also focuses on a more recent service development, special guardianship. A new study of foster care for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, beginning in 2009, will take forward this stream of work. Ongoing studies of abuse and neglect and work on transitions from care placements build on our work on looked-after children and vulnerable adolescents, as do our current studies of services for young offenders.

The Team has close links, involving collaboration on some studies, with the national children's charities: Action for Children; British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF); Barnardos; the Children's Society and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).

Academic co-ordination of the Quality Protects Research Initiative

Completed Project
Department for Children, Schools and Families
January 2001 to December 2008
Mike Stein

The Quality Protects (QP) programme aimed to support local authorities in transforming their children's services. There were four main elements to the QP programme:

- eleven defined national objectives, with linked sub-objectives and performance indicators
- management action plans and linked progress reports
- a key role for councillors, acting as 'corporate parents', in delivering the programme
- a five-year children's services special grant.

Running alongside the QP programme has been the research initiative. Its overall aim has been to examine the impact of the QP programme on the quality of services for children and young people.

The main task during the last year has been to write the overview of the research studies. The research studies reviewed explored key issues for vulnerable children, young people and their families, including:

- movement in the care system, stability and well-being
- reuniting children in care with their birth families
- kinship care with relatives and friends
- child protection, domestic violence and parental substance misuse
- educating very vulnerable young people
- advocacy services for young people
- the participation of disabled young people

The overview identifies important questions for those with strategic, operational and practice responsibilities, as well as examples of 'promoting quality' and the implications for integrated working. In conclusion, it draws out the key messages for policy and practice in developing quality children's services.

The overview, *Quality Matters in Children's Services: messages from research*, is due to be published by Jessica Kinsley in April 2009.

Permanent placements study: adoption, long-term foster care and special guardianship

Ongoing Project
Department for Children, School and Families, Adoption Research Initiative
October 2004 to February 2009
Nina Biehal, Jim Wade, Jo Dixon, Sarah Ellison, Ian Sinclair, Andrew Richards

This study draws on the team's earlier work on foster care to investigate four types of permanent placement: adoption by strangers, adoption by foster carers, long-term foster care and special guardianship. It has two components:

- an outcome study comparing adoption by strangers, adoption by foster carers and long-term foster care in seven local authorities
- a study of the implementation of special guardianship in eight local authorities.

Both components of the study include an analysis of national and local policy and incorporate the use of both postal questionnaires and interviews with children and their carers.

Comparing the outcomes of three types of permanent placement: adoption by strangers, adoption by foster carers and long-term foster care

The aim of the study is to compare these three types of permanent placement for looked-after children and to investigate the outcomes for children placed in each of these settings. This longitudinal study is following up children who were in foster care in 1998/1999 and who, three years later, were still settled in the same foster placement or had been adopted (either by a stranger or by their foster carer). The sample included 196 children.

Implementation of special guardianship

The Special Guardianship (SG) component of the study began in July 2007.

The aims of this component of the study are to:

- describe the different approaches taken by local authorities and identify issues of policy and procedure that have arisen over the first two years of implementation
- investigate the characteristics, circumstances and motivations of those who have taken up the SG option
- describe the experiences of those seeking SG
- compare the characteristics and circumstances of these children with those of children in the other three types of permanent placement investigated in the first component of the study.

The Care Placements Evaluation (CaPE): evaluation of Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care in England (MTFCE)

Ongoing Project
Department for Children, Schools and Families
December 2004 to April 2010
Nina Biehal, Jo Dixon, Elizabeth Sinclair and Ian Sinclair (in collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry, University of Manchester)

Building on the team's programme of work on foster care, the CaPE study is evaluating Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care in England (MTFCE). This model of treatment foster care has been developed and tested by the Oregon Social Learning Centre in the USA. It is being piloted by the Department for Children, Schools and Families in 18 English local authorities for use with older children with complex needs who are looked after by those authorities.

The study has two components: a small randomised controlled trial embedded within a larger quasi-experimental study. The aim of the project is to compare outcomes for two groups of young people with complex needs aged 10-16 years:

- those who enter treatment foster care placements
- those who enter the other types of care placement usually available to this group of young people, including both foster and residential care.

Outcomes for the children are assessed at one-year follow-up. The primary outcomes of interest are child mental health and general social functioning, but a number of secondary outcomes are also being assessed, including placement stability, behaviour and participation in education.

Evaluation of the Youth Justice Board's Intensive Fostering Scheme

Completed Project

Youth Justice Board

November 2005 to December 2008

Nina Biehal, Sarah Ellison, Catherine Randerson, Andrew Richards.

This project has evaluated the Intensive Fostering programme for young offenders at risk of custody, which has been piloted by the Youth Justice Board in three areas of England. Like its companion programme (MTFCE) (currently being piloted by the Department for Children, Schools and Families), Intensive Fostering is modelled on the evidence-based intervention Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care, which has been developed and tested by the Oregon Social Learning Centre in the USA.

This study evaluated the effectiveness of Intensive Fostering in reducing reconviction by one-year follow-up. Outcomes for young people in Intensive Fostering placements were compared to those for a matched group entering custody and then discharged to the community. The aims of the study were:

- to examine whether placement in Intensive Fostering is more successful in reducing reoffending than the alternative sentences that this group of young people would otherwise receive, namely custody or a place on an Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP)
- to examine whether placement in Intensive Fostering is associated with improvements in aspects of functioning which may help to prevent future offending, including general social functioning, emotional and behavioural difficulties and engagement with education, training or employment.

The primary outcome measures for the evaluation were reconviction, time to reconviction, frequency and gravity of offences for which reconvicted and entry to custody. Secondary outcomes included stability of accommodation, participation in education, employment or training and peer relationships. Mental health outcomes were evaluated by Catherine Kay and Jonathan Green at the University of Manchester.

The final report for this study was submitted to the Youth Justice Board in December 2008.

Prevention Cohort Study

Ongoing Project

Youth Justice Board

September 2006 to December 2009

Sarah Ellison in collaboration with the Centre for Criminal Justice Economics and Psychology, University of York

This study is evaluating a range of preventive programmes delivered by Youth Offending Teams (YOT), including:

- Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP)
- Youth Inclusion and Support Panel (YISP)
- parenting programmes
- Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) or Individual Support Orders (ISO).

The research aims to explore the relationship between elements of practice and outcomes across the programmes. It does not aim to evaluate the impact of the programmes as such: evaluations have already been conducted of each of them individually. Rather, the study explores the relationship between elements of practice and outcomes across the programmes. Working in eight local authority areas, the study is using a mix of quantitative and qualitative research methods including anonymised tracking through YOT databases and interviews with children, young people, carers and YOT staff involved in the programmes.

It builds on our existing programme of work on adolescents 'on the edge of care' and on our evaluation of intensive fostering for young offenders.

Neglected adolescents: a review of the research literature and the preparation of a guide for multi-disciplinary teams and a guide for young people

Ongoing Project

Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health, funded under the Safeguarding Children Research Initiative

September 2006 to March 2009

Mike Stein and Leslie Hicks, in collaboration with Gwyther Rees (The Children's Society) and Sarah Gorin (NSPCC)

The study addresses the 'neglect of neglect' among adolescents. A three-stage study with linked outputs is being carried out. This includes:

- a review of the national and international research on neglect in relation to adolescents

- focus group discussions with multi-disciplinary teams, recruited through the Local Safeguarding Children Boards in two authorities. Materials from this element and the review are being used to inform the preparation of a guide for those who work with young people. This covers the recognition of neglect and the possible courses of action to be taken by multi-disciplinary team members working together
- focus group discussions with young people, recruited through NSPCC participation projects. Materials from this element and the review are being used to prepare a young person's guide to neglect. This guide will aim to increase young people's awareness of neglect, so they will be better informed about it and be able to seek help at an early stage.

It is intended that the planned outputs from the research will contribute to more effective interventions to identify and respond to neglect among adolescents. In this way, the three outputs will complement current 'Safeguarding' policy, and promote early intervention, multi-agency working and young people's participation, leading to improved outcomes, consistent with the *Every Child Matters* framework.

Outcomes for children placed for reasons of abuse or neglect: the consequences of staying in care or returning home

Ongoing Project

Department for Children, Schools and Families, Safeguarding Children Research Initiative

June 2006 to July 2009

Jim Wade, Nicola Farrelly, Nina Biehal

This project is part of a wider Government research initiative on safeguarding children. The study is focusing on children first placed for reasons of abuse or neglect, and comparing outcomes for those who remain looked after with those who return to their families over an average period of three years. We want to understand how decisions for them to remain looked after or return home are reached, the factors that are taken into account when reaching these judgements, and the consequences of these decisions for children some time later with respect to their safety, stability and in relation to a range of psychosocial outcomes.

The study builds on our recent study 'Patterns and explanations of placement stability and change' and is following up the same children who participated in that study (a total of 3,872 children). The study has a number of phases:

- a follow-up census study of all children, drawing on data contained in local authority information systems. This compares pathways for a large sample of children who have experienced abuse or neglect to those looked after for other reasons [n=3,872]
- a survey of 154 of these children first placed for reasons of abuse or neglect. This involved:
    - an analysis of social work case files to understand how decisions to stay in care or return home were made and supported

    - follow-up questionnaires to each child's current or most recent social worker and school teacher to assess outcomes up to three years later
- Finally, interviews have been conducted with a small sample of children and birth parents to understand the experiences of children and families and their perceptions of agency support.

Safeguarding young people: exploring access to protective services and agency responses to young people (aged 11-17) who are maltreated

Ongoing Project

The Big Lottery

January 2007 to December 2009

Mike Stein in collaboration with Gwyther Rees (The Children's Society), Sarah Gorin (NSPCC)

Young people aged 11 and above are just as likely to be on the child protection register as younger children, and research has highlighted the need for age-specific approaches to child maltreatment. However, in the UK this issue has so far received little attention, and the very little research which has been carried out suggests that older children and young people - those aged 11-17 - are less likely to get a 'child protection' response. We do not know what influences practitioners when making decisions about

referring young people and about what happens when referrals are made. We also know very little about how young people access child protection services.

This research project addresses these issues by exploring current attitudes, practice and policy in relation to the maltreatment of young people. The focus of the research is on initial access to children's services. The main components of the study include:

- a review of the international research literature to identify different approaches to defining maltreatment issues for young people and models of practice
- a study of policy and guidance, including the views of senior policy makers and managers
- a study of attitudes to, and individual definitions, of maltreatment amongst professionals working with young people
- a study of practice within children's services and referring agencies in relation to potential child protection cases involving young people.

Commissioning, delivery and perceptions of emergency accommodation for young runaways

Ongoing Project

Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), Youth Research Team

November 2008 to June 2009

Gwyther Rees, Jim Wade

This project is part of the DCSF Young Runaways Action Plan. The aim of the project is to generate a clear and authoritative set of recommendations which will help local authorities and other key stakeholders to develop solutions that will meet the emergency accommodation needs of young runaways.

The project covers England, Wales and Scotland and involves three strands:

- Strand 1 consists of:
  - key informant interviews in 12 geographical areas
  - a questionnaire-based survey of key stakeholders in all remaining areas
  - national key informant interviews.
- Strand 2 consists of in-depth interviews with young people who have experience of running away.
- Strand 3 will consist of a series of stakeholder consultation events in Wales, Scotland and each Government region of England, plus focus group discussions with young people.

A final report on the project will be submitted to the DCSF in June 2009.

Transitions to adulthood of young people leaving public care international research group (16 countries)

Ongoing Project

Department for Children, Schools and Families

2003 onwards

Coordinators; Mike Stein; Harriet Ward and Emily Munro (Loughborough University)

A growing body of international research findings has revealed the poor outcomes for looked-after children, in comparison to children who have not been in care, especially in relation to their education, health and well-being. These findings have also shown the high risk of social exclusion of young people making the transition from care to adulthood: they were far more likely than young people who had not been in care to have poorer educational qualifications, be younger parents, be homeless, and have higher levels of unemployment, offending behaviour and mental health problems. In 2003, a seminar brought together, for the first time, researchers from Europe, the Middle East, Canada and the United States, to begin to explore in depth the issues underpinning these research findings. Between 2003 and 2008 representatives from 16 countries have met and their work has contributed to the first comparative publication in the field (Stein and Munro, eds., 2008) which includes:

- a comprehensive description of young people's transitions from care to adulthood in 16 different countries
- an analysis of four cross cutting themes: different welfare regimes; legal frameworks, policy frameworks; and the use of secondary data
- transitions from care to adulthood: key messages from research for policy and practice
- the identification of the major sources of further reading for each country.

Publications

Munro, E. and Stein, M. (2008) Young people's transitions from care to adulthood: cross national perspectives, *CCFR Evidence*, 13, Centre for Child and Family Research, Loughborough University, Loughborough.

Stein, M. and Munro, E. (eds.) (2008), *Young People's Transitions from Care to Adulthood: International research and practice*, Jessica Kingsley, London.

Stein, M. and Munro, E. (2008) The transition to adulthood for young people leaving public care: international comparisons and perspectives, *Care Matters: Transforming Lives - Improving Outcomes Conference, 7-9 July 2008, Keble College, Oxford, UK: Digest of Papers,* pp. 289-92.

Stein, M. and Munro. E (2008) The transition to adulthood for young people leaving public care: developing an international research group and the challenges of comparative work, in C. Canali, T. Vecciato and J. Whittaker (eds.), *Assessing the Evidence-base of Interventions for Vulnerable Children and their Families*, Fondazione Emmanuela Zancan, Padova, Italy, pp. 177-179.

Munro, E., Stein, M. and Ward, H. (2005) Comparing how different social, political and legal frameworks support or inhibit transitions from public care to independence in Europe, Israel, Canada and the United States, *International Journal of Child & Family Welfare*, 8, 4, 191-201.

Researching youth mentoring - building theory and building evidence seminar series

Completed Project

Economic and Social Research Council

February 2006 to December 2007

Mike Stein; Kate Philip, Janet Shucksmith (University of Aberdeen); Helen Colley (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Background

Significant numbers of new policy initiatives focused on 'vulnerable' or socially excluded young people have been based on the notion of mentoring - matching the young person with a single volunteer or worker who will help them to achieve their potential. The design of these interventions has often copied American models established to provide youngsters with role models in making successful transitions out of childhood. Such schemes, though intuitively appealing, are often poorly evaluated: we do not know if they work, or - if they work - what it is about the complex process of mentoring that makes them effective. This seminar series has examined how 'mentoring' has been translated into policy initiatives in various fields. This has included an exploration of the evidence of effectiveness, as well as the theoretical frameworks which underpin the notion of mentoring, with the aim of offering a sounder theoretical base for the concept. The seminar series has been held at the Universities of York, Manchester, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, and has explored:

- youth mentoring in UK social policy
- youth mentoring and social capital
- youth mentoring, families and relationships
- youth mentoring, resilience and social identity.

The final report was submitted to the ESRC in 2008.

Seminar papers can be found on:
www.abdn.ac.uk/rowangroup/activities

The Children and Families Team is led by Professor Tricia Sloper. The main focus of the team's work is on support relating to illness and disability in children and younger adults, including the roles of the many different agencies involved with chronically ill or disabled people.

Children and Families

We are particularly interested in how such support takes account of the family context, and the ways that carers and others in the family respond to and are affected by the care needs of the ill or disabled person. The issue of multi-agency working is central to this, and we have investigated the factors within multi-agency services that lead to better outcomes for disabled children and their families. The transition from child to adult services is often problematic for disabled young people and a number of our current projects are exploring this to identify what helps to promote good practice.

In the past, work on the needs of disabled children and their families has largely concentrated on the accounts of adults, particularly parents. Recognising this gap in knowledge, we strive to ensure that our research includes the views of children and young people about their needs and experiences and the support they receive from services.

The effectiveness and costs of behavioural approaches to the management of sleep and behaviour problems among disabled children

Ongoing project

Centre for Excellence in Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services

August 2008 to March 2011

Bryony Beresford, Tricia Sloper, Susan Clarke; Jennifer Beecham (Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent)

Little is known about the effectiveness of many interventions for disabled children and their families. However, there is some evidence on the effectiveness of interventions to manage sleep or behaviour problems. This indicates that such interventions can be effective in resolving or ameliorating the difficulty, and that this can have positive benefits in other areas of the child and family's life. Despite this many families report unmet needs for help with sleep and/or behaviour problems. This project consists of two linked and concurrent streams of work on sleep and behaviour problems. It will investigate the effectiveness and costs of:

- early identification and intervention for sleep problems among disabled children
- different modes of delivering behaviour management interventions to parents of disabled children.

Rapid reviews of evidence are currently being carried out on the effectiveness of sleep interventions and tools to detect and assess sleep problems; and the effectiveness of behavioural approaches to behaviour management interventions.

This project will then map services delivering sleep or behaviour problem interventions which are based on what are understood to be effective forms of such interventions.

Twelve services will be selected for further primary research, in which the researchers will work with the practitioners to develop systems by which standard measures will be routinely administered to families by practitioners. Evidence on the effectiveness and costs of sleep and behaviour interventions will be obtained from:

- standard measures of sleep or behaviour, parental stress and parenting confidence administered at baseline, immediately and three months post-intervention
- collection of costs data from services and families
- interviews with practitioners, parents and children.

Evaluation of a national specialist mental health service for Deaf children

Completed project

Department of Health

December 2005 to September 2008

Bryony Beresford, Veronica Greco, Susan Clarke; Lesley Jones (Hull York Medical School), Hilary Sutherland (freelance researcher)

Deaf children are approximately 1.5 times more likely to develop mental health problems than their hearing peers. Clearly deaf children require access to the same range of mental health services as their hearing counterparts. However, they also have a range of special needs that ordinary mental health services cannot meet.

Prior to 2004 the only specialist inpatient and outpatient mental health service for deaf children in England was in London. In 2004 the National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group (NSCAG) of the Department of Health sought to extend this service and improve access by providing three years 'pilot' funding for two further specialist teams.

The aims of this project were to chart the development of the two new teams and evaluate the service.

Changes in access to the service and descriptive data on the population using the service were obtained from analysis of data routinely collected by the services. The outcomes and experiences of using the service were explored using standardised mental health assessment tools and qualitative interviews with the children and their parents. These had been collected at the time of referral and on discharge or at six to eight months post-referral. Staff from the specialist teams were interviewed on two occasions to capture their views of providing the service and changes and developments in the way the service was provided. Finally, key referrers were interviewed and all referrers completed a survey on their views and experiences of the service.

Publications

A British Sign Language version of the research findings is available from:
http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/bsl.html

Beresford, B., Greco, V., Clarke, S. and Sutherland, H. (2008) An evaluation of specialist mental health services for deaf children, *Research Works*, 2008-2, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Beresford, B., Greco, V., Clarke, S. and Sutherland, H. (2008) *An Evaluation of Specialist Mental Health Services for Deaf Children and Young People*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Greco, V., Beresford, B. and Sutherland, H. (in press) Deaf children and young people's experiences of using specialist mental health services, *Children & Society*, (Advanced Access, published online on 14 October 2008).

Literature review and staff consultation on stress and coping in staff working in paediatric oncology

Completed project

CLIC Sargent

December 2006 to July 2007

Bryony Beresford, Tricia Sloper, Suzanne Mukherjee

Compared to other groups of staff working in the health service, staff working in oncology settings have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to stress, psychological difficulties, emotional exhaustion and burnout. Staff support has been identified by CLIC Sargent (the UK 's leading children's cancer charity) as a priority area. CLIC Sargent aims to develop models of staff support which are evidence-based but, in contrast to adult oncology, there is little evidence about stress, coping and support among staff working in paediatric oncology.

This project was a partnership between researchers in SPRU and CLIC Sargent. The aims of the project were to:

- establish what is known about stress and coping in staff working in paediatric oncology settings, and compare this to evidence on stress and coping in adult oncology settings
- identify gaps in the research evidence
- consult staff about issues for future research
- identify methods used to research this topic.

The project involved conducting a scoping review of the literature; consultation with doctors, social work and nursing staff who work in paediatric oncology; and working with CLIC Sargent staff and representatives from the professional groups to develop a proposal for an empirical study of staff stress and support in paediatric oncology. This new project will begin in SPRU in February 2009.

Research reviews on prevalence, detection and interventions in parental mental health and child welfare

Completed project

Social Care Institute for Excellence

October 2006 to April 2008

Bryony Beresford, Gillian Parker, Susan Clarke, Kate Gridley, Rachel Pitman, Gemma Spiers; Kate Light (Centre for Reviews and Dissemination)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) commissioned a series of systematic reviews in the area of parental* mental health and child welfare. The questions addressed by the reviews were:

- What do we know about the numbers and types of parental mental health problems in the UK?
- What systems, tools and opportunities are there in services for children, adults and families, in both the UK and elsewhere, for detecting parental mental health problems? Who uses these, where and how?
- How accessible and acceptable are services or interventions that support parents, children and families when a parent has a mental health problem, in both the UK and elsewhere?
- Based on evidence from the UK and elsewhere, what outcomes do these types of services or interventions have for parents, children and families?

The reviews were part of a larger SCIE project, the aim of which was to publish practice guidelines on how mental health services (both for adults and for adolescents and children) and local authority children and family services can plan, deliver and evaluate their service to support parents with mental health problems and their children. The guidelines project was a partnership between the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), their National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, and SCIE's Parental Mental Health and Child Welfare Network. SCIE and NICE have used the results of the reviews to inform the guidelines.

Publications

Beresford, B., Clarke, S., Gridley, K., Parker, G., Pitman, R., Spiers, G., Light, K. (2008) *Technical Report for SCIE Research Review on Access, Acceptability and Outcomes of Services/Interventions to Support Parents with Mental Health Problems and their Families*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Parker, G and Beresford, B. (2008) *Protocol for SCIE Research Review on Access, Acceptability and Outcomes of*

Services/Interventions to Support Parents with Mental Health Problems and their Families, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Parker, G. and Beresford, B. (2008) *Protocol for SCIE Systematic Review on the Prevalence, Incidence and Detection of Parental Mental Health Problems*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Parker, G., Beresford, B., Clarke, S., Gridley, K., Pitman, R., Spiers, G., Light, K. (2008) *Research Reviews on Prevalence, Detection and Interventions in Parental Mental Health and Child Welfare*: *Summary report*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Parker, G., Beresford, B., Clarke, S., Gridley, K., Pitman, R., Spiers, G., Light, K. (2008) *Technical Report for SCIE Research Review on the Prevalence and Incidence of Parental Mental Health Problems and the Detection, Screening and Reporting of Parental Mental Health Problems*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

* Parents are defined as mothers, fathers, adoptive parents, legal guardians, foster parents, and all adults with a primary caring responsibility for a dependent child, whether resident or non-resident.

Evaluating models of care closer to home for children and young people who are ill

Ongoing project

National Institute for Health Research

April 2007 to December 2009

Gillian Parker, Gemma Spiers, Kate Gridley, Suzanne Mukherjee; Karl Atkin, Yvonne Birks (Department of Health Sciences), Karin Lowson (York Health Economics Consortium)

Since the 1950s, children, their families and campaigning organisations have argued that care for children and young people who are ill should, whenever possible, be provided outside hospital. There have been various attempts to develop 'care closer to home', but progress has been slow. While the National Service Framework for Children emphasises the importance of providing care closer to home for children and young people who are ill, the extent to which these services are available is unknown. The purpose of this study is to examine if and how these services are delivered, whilst also identifying examples of good practice and ways in which service delivery can be improved.

There are four stages to the project:

- the updating and extending of an earlier systematic review of paediatric home care
- a review of the descriptive literature on 'close to home' models of care in the UK for children and young people who are ill
- a national postal survey to identify services 'close to home' for ill children and young people. The survey has gathered information about services' functions and about how they are organised and delivered. Following this we are carrying out a number of case studies to explore implications for services and service users of providing care closer to home for children and young people
- modelling of the impact of providing care close to home on hospital paediatric acute activity and health service costs. This stage will examine the costs and effectiveness of different models of care close to home, using standard economic impact assessment techniques.

Models of multi-agency services for transition to adult services for disabled young people and those with complex health needs: Impact and costs

Ongoing project

Department of Health National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services Research Initiative

March 2007 to June 2009

Gillian Parker, Gemma Spiers, Kate Gridley, Suzanne Mukherjee, Tricia Sloper, Susan Clarke, Anita Franklin, Nicola Moran; Jennifer Beecham (Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent)

Research indicates that for most young people with disabilities or complex health needs the process of transition from child to adult services is problematic. Current policy developments and the growth of multi-agency working may lead to improvements in this situation. However, there is little research identifying the components of models of good practice in transition services or the costs of such services.

The aims of the project are to:

- investigate arrangements across local authority areas (LAs) in England for multi-agency planning of and actual transfer from child to adult services for young people with disabilities or complex health needs
- compare the implementation and operation of different models of transition services
- assess outcomes for parents and young people of different models of transition services
- investigate sources of funding and costs of different models of transition services.

A survey of all local authorities in England has been carried out to investigate arrangements for multi-agency transition from child to adult services for young people with disabilities or complex health needs.

Five case study areas have been selected representing different models of transition services and a range of demographic variables. Selection focused on services that have transition workers or teams to co-ordinate the services for the young person and multi-agency partnerships. Interviews are being undertaken with managers and staff in these areas to investigate the process of establishing partnerships and setting up and operating the service.

The effectiveness of the services in providing co-ordinated care and meeting young people's and parents' needs will be investigated through questionnaires to all young people and their parents receiving the service, and interviews with a sub-sample of 30-40 young people and their parents. Cost-related analyses will provide descriptive results on costs of such services.

Transition to adult services of disabled young people leaving 'out of authority' residential schools

Completed project

Department of Health Policy Research Programme

February to October 2008

Bryony Beresford and Judy Cavet (freelance researcher)

Little was previously known about the transitions of young people leaving residential schools which are outside of their home authority. This was a small exploratory study of local authority practice with regard to how the transitions from residential schools of pupils of school leaving age are planned for and managed, the barriers to smooth transition planning and positive outcomes of transitions to adult services and leaving school. Telephone interviews with key practitioners in ten local authorities were used to explore: current practice, key issues for future research and the feasibility of carrying out larger-scale research on the outcomes of transition for this particular group of young disabled people.

A report was submitted to the Department of Health in 2008.

Housing and disabled children: policy and practice development work

Completed project

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

April 2007 - December 2008

Bryony Beresford

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is currently engaged in a programme of policy and practice development work around the issue of housing and disabled children. This involves working at national, regional and local levels to inform policy, raise awareness, and improve practice in this area. Bryony Beresford acted as a consultant to this programme of work. She wrote reviews on policy and research evidence and, with Dr Dave Rhodes in the Centre for Housing Policy, conducted secondary analysis of government data sets to provide regional evidence on the housing circumstances and needs of families with disabled children.

Publications

Beresford, B. with Rhodes, D. (2008) Housing and Disabled Children, *Round-up: Reviewing the Evidence*, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York.

Beresford, B. (2006) *Housing and disabled children: a review of policy levers and opportunities*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Evaluation of the BIG Lottery/BHF Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme

Completed project

Big Lottery Fund

July 2005 to December 2008

Janet Heaton with Bob Lewin, Corinna Petre and Stephanie Prady (BHF Care and Education Research Group, Department of Health Sciences)

In March 2004, the Big Lottery Fund launched a £4.7 million Cardiac Rehabilitation (CR) Programme, supported by the British Heart Foundation (BHF). The aims of the CR Programme were: to increase the uptake of CR services, particularly among hard-to-reach groups of people who were low users of existing services; and to drive sustainable improvements in the quality of services on offer to patients. Thirty-six centres were funded in England to develop new, or extend existing, CR services from early 2005 for a period of three years. Funding was awarded to these centres to increase the number and/or range of programmes on offer, for example, to provide more exercise classes and/or home-based programmes such as 'Road to Recovery', in order to improve access to and uptake of CR.

The Big Lottery Fund also commissioned an evaluation of the Programme, which was awarded to a joint bid from the BHF Care and Education Research Group and the Social Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of York. The evaluation was designed to examine how far the 36 CR programmes met their aims, and to identify the factors that helped and hindered success, using mixed methods. It involved a survey of all the programmes and interviews with patients, their relatives and staff from eight case study sites.

The final report was submitted to the Big Lottery in December 2008.

Publications

Heaton, J., Petre, C., and Lewin, B. (2006) *Evaluation of Big Lottery Fund/British Heart Foundation Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme: First annual report*, Big Lottery Fund, London.

Heaton, J., Petre, C., and Lewin, B. (2007) *Evaluation of Big Lottery Fund/British Heart Foundation Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme: Second annual report*, Big Lottery Fund, London.

The Welfare and Employment Team is led by Professor Roy Sainsbury. Its research focuses on poverty, income maintenance and employment, particularly in connection with families and children, sick and disabled people, and older workers and pensioners.

Welfare and Employment

The main streams of work being undertaken by the researchers within the Team are: the living standards of children and families; social security and the labour market, especially welfare to work policies aimed at people on disability benefits and other groups on the margins of employment; employment policies for sick and disabled people; older workers; financial effects of bereavement; and the administration and delivery of benefits and tax credits. The Team has a long track record of international comparative research.

The Team has expertise in both quantitative and qualitative research methods and contributes to the continuing development of social research methodology, for example in longitudinal qualitative analysis.

Claimants' experiences of changes in circumstances and the effect of recovering overpayments

Completed project
Department for Work and Pensions
March 2006 - June 2008
Roy Sainsbury, Jacqueline Davidson, Annie Irvine

Whilst fraud and error losses across all benefits have been falling over a number of years. To date there has been greater success in reducing the amount of fraud losses compared with those resulting from error. To inform their strategy to reduce error further, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) commissioned SPRU to carry out qualitative research to explore how benefit claimants experience changes in circumstances that affect entitlement to benefit.

The objectives of the overall study were focused on:

- how claimants experience changes in circumstances
- experiences of reporting changes
- claimants' knowledge and perceptions about reporting changes in circumstances
- claimants' sources of knowledge.

In the first stage of the research, focus groups were carried out with recipients of a number of means-tested benefits.

The second stage of the research was qualitative and longitudinal in nature. Over a period of nine months, 50 participants took part in a series of depth interviews exploring their experiences of changes in circumstances whilst in receipt of the following benefits:

- income support
- jobseeker's allowance
- pension credit
- housing benefit

The third stage of the research explored specifically how people experienced changes to their circumstances whilst in receipt of standard housing benefit. This phase was also qualitative and longitudinal in nature. Over a period of four months, 20 participants took part in a series of depth interviews exploring their experiences of changes in circumstances. The final reports offered suggestions for the development of policy ideas that might lead to more, and more timely and accurate, reporting of relevant changes in circumstances.

Publications

Davidson, J. and Sainsbury, R. (2008) *Reporting Changes in Circumstances: Tackling error in the Housing Benefit system - standard Housing Benefit cases*, Department for Work and Pensions Research Report, 523, Corporate Document Services, Leeds.

Irvine, A., Davidson, J. and Sainsbury, R. (2008) *Reporting Changes in Circumstances: Tackling error in the benefit system*, Department for Work and Pensions Research Report, No. 497, Corporate Document Services, Leeds.

Routes onto Incapacity Benefit

Completed project
Department for Work and Pensions
October 2004 to February 2008
Roy Sainsbury, Peter Kemp (now of Oxford University), Jacqueline Davidson, with IPSOS-MORI

Little is known about the routes by which people become recipients of an incapacity benefit. Administrative data showed that many claimants were unemployed before claiming Incapacity Benefit (IB) rather than in paid work.

In order to understand the processes leading up to a claim for Incapacity Benefit, the research sought a qualitative understanding of the circumstances of claimants in the period leading up to claiming: whether their employment and benefit histories influenced the decision to claim, and the roles played by key actors such as health professionals, Jobcentre Plus staff, other advisers, and family and friends. Once different routes onto Incapacity Benefit had been identified the aim was then to quantify these in the wider population of new IB claimants.

In the first stage of the study, qualitative interviews were carried out in 2005 with 60 recent claimants of Incapacity Benefit from areas of high, average and low rates of Incapacity Benefit claims. Follow-up interviews were carried out after around six months to investigate people's exits from Incapacity Benefit in relation to their routes on to the benefit. The second stage of research was a large-scale survey of nearly 2,000 new recipients of Incapacity Benefit. A pilot phase was completed in August 2006. Mainstage fieldwork was completed in Autumn 2006. A follow-up survey was conducted six months later with 801 people.

Findings contributed to a greater understanding of the factors associated with claiming Incapacity Benefit and subsequently remaining or leaving Incapacity Benefit, and informed developments in disability and Welfare to Work policies.

Publications

Davidson, J. and Kemp, P. A. (2008) Sickness benefits in a polarised labour market, *Benefits*, 16, 3, 225-233.

Kemp, P.A. and Davidson, J. (2008) *Routes onto Incapacity Benefit: Findings from a follow-up survey of recent claimants*, Department for Work and Pensions Research Report, No. 516, Corporate Document Services, Leeds.

Kemp, P.A. and Davidson, J. (2008) *Routes onto Incapacity Benefit: Findings from a survey of recent claimants*, Department for Work and Pensions Research Report, No. 469, Corporate Document Services, Leeds.

Davidson, J. (2006) From work to incapacity benefits: ill health, skills, stress and insecurity, *Benefits*, 14, 3, 191-98.

Sainsbury, R. and Davidson, J. (2006) *Routes onto Incapacity Benefits: Findings from qualitative research*, Department for Work and Pensions Research Report, No. 350, Corporate Document Services, Leeds.

A conversation analysis study of work-focused interviews

Ongoing project
Department for Work and Pensions
March 2007 to June 2009
Roy Sainsbury and Annie Irvine; Paul Drew and Merran Toerien (Department of Sociology); John Local (Department of Language and Linguistic Science)

Work-focused interviews are meetings between claimants of social security benefits and front-line Jobcentre Plus staff known as Personal Advisers. These meetings are intended to focus on the claimant's needs in order to move towards and into work. Previous research has indicated that the quality of the relationship and the nature of interactions between the Personal Adviser and the claimant are key factors in the claimant experience and outcomes. However, so far this has only been established through retrospective qualitative interviews.

This project uses the technique of Conversation Analysis to look at what happens during the work-focused interview interaction itself. Conversation Analysis looks in fine detail at interactions at the level of 'turns in talk' to identify patterns, for example, whether there are particular sequences of talk or tones taken that can lead to the success or breakdown of the interaction. The project aims to enhance understanding of what makes an effective adviser. Findings will contribute to future training of Personal Advisers.

Research questions include:

- How do Personal Advisers manage the structure, style and content of the interview?
- How do they introduce the notion of work and encourage a positive attitude towards work among claimants?
- How might the different parties' agendas compete and how is this negotiated?

During 2007, over 200 video recordings of work-focused interviews were made involving claimants of Jobseekers Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and lone parent Income Support. A series of internal working papers has been produced during 2008 and a final report will be published in 2009.

An exploratory comparison of the interactions between advisers and younger and older benefits claimants during work focused interviews

Ongoing project
Department for Work and Pensions
October 2008 to May 2009
Roy Sainsbury and Annie Irvine; Paul Drew and Merran Toerien (Department of Sociology)

The gap between the age at which people leave the labour force and overall life expectancy is increasing, meaning that there is a growing period of dependency on pensions and, in turn, growing costs to employers and state pension providers. Against this context, the UK government is reviewing welfare, pensions and labour market policies with the aim of stimulating the economic and social inclusion of older people and has been seeking to encourage individuals to stay in work longer. However, there is currently limited information about provision of Department for Work and Pensions/ Jobcentre Plus services for the 50-69 age group, especially from the client's perspective.

This exploratory study aims to contribute to knowledge about the provision for and experiences of older people who are out of employment. It will provide insight into whether there are differences in the content and structure of interactions between Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisers and younger claimants (aged 49 and below) and older claimants (aged 50 and above) during Work Focused Interviews (WFIs). The research will contribute to informing the development of Extending Working Lives strategies and policy, and establishing a baseline of older customers' experience of service provision.

Analysis will involve a qualitative exploration of a corpus of audio and video recordings of WFIs taking place in Jobcentre Plus offices, using the methodology of Conversation Analysis. The study draws upon data collected for a larger study exploring interactional styles across a range of WFI types (see entry for *A conversation analysis study of work-focused interviews*).

A project report will be published in 2009.

Mental health and employment

Completed project
Department for Work and Pensions
February 2007 to June 2008
Roy Sainsbury, Anne Corden, Annie Irvine, Wendy Mitchell; Jane Aston, Nigel Meager, Sally Wilson, Ceri Williams, Alice Sinclair (Institute of Employment Studies) Chris Jacobs (freelance researcher)

Incapacity Benefit claimants make up the largest group of economically inactive people of working age in Britain and almost 40 per cent are on Incapacity Benefit because of mental health conditions. Previous research has shown that once on Incapacity Benefit this group is less likely to return to work and more likely to experience detrimental effects to well-being in terms of financial circumstances and general health.

The two main aims of this project were:

- to further our understanding of the decision making of employees who experience mental health conditions and move onto Incapacity Benefit, or who return to work after a period on Incapacity Benefit
- to investigate the perspectives of employers on recruiting and employing people with mental health conditions.

The study involved in-depth qualitative interviews with 30 recent claimants of Incapacity Benefit, 30 people recently returned to work after a spell on benefit due to a mental health condition, and 52 individuals working in management, occupational health or other relevant roles drawn from 40 employing organisations.

Publication
Sainsbury, R., Irvine, A., Aston, J., Wilson, S., Williams, C. and Sinclair, A. (2008) *Mental Health and Employment*, Department for Work and Pensions Research Report, No. 513, Corporate Document Services, Leeds.

Managing mental health and employment

Completed project
Department for Work and Pensions
November 2007 to September 2008
Department for Work and Pensions
Roy Sainsbury, Anne Corden, Annie Irvine

Mental health is currently a key area of policy focus, with concerns about both the social and economic impacts of mental health problems. Recent years have seen a growing number of initiatives from within government and charitable and business sectors to raise awareness about mental health problems and to assist people who experience mental health problems to return to employment. However, there remains a gap in understanding about what helps people, especially those with common mental health problems, to manage in work and to retain employment.

Following a research project on transitions into and out of work for people who had claimed incapacity benefit because of mental ill health (see entry for *Mental health and employment*), this exploratory study investigated the experiences of people who have stayed in employment while managing a mental health condition.

The main aim of this study was to gain understanding of the experiences of people with mental health conditions in continuous work, to understand how they manage their conditions and what (if any) forms of support they use.

The primary data for the study came from in-depth qualitative interviews with 38 people who had been in continuous employment for at least the past year and who considered themselves to have a mental health condition. The study focused on the experiences of people in mainstream 'open' employment, rather than supported employment interventions, and did not include people who were self-employed.

Publication
Irvine, A. (2008) *Managing Mental Health and Employment*, Department for Work and Pensions Research Report, 537, Corporate Document Services, Leeds.

Financial implications of death of a partner

Completed project
Economic and Social Research Council
June 2006 to September 2008
Anne Corden, Michael Hirst and Katharine Nice

This study explored the financial and economic implications of bereavement for a surviving spouse or partner and their household, using an integrated mixed methods, prospective design. A quantitative component comprised longitudinal analysis of the British Household Panel Survey and a qualitative component involved personal interviews with people at different life stages whose partner died recently.

The study showed how people's economic circumstances change when a partner dies; why some people face financial difficulties; whether these were transitory or long-lasting, and effects on other bereavement outcomes such as social inclusion and experience of grief.

The research contributes to debate about personal responsibility for financial affairs; has implications for institutional arrangements covering benefits, pensions, housing finance and legal matters; and informs the development of bereavement support and financial advice services.

Publications
Corden, A., Hirst, M. and Nice, K. (2008) *Financial Implications of Death of a Partner*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Corden, A. and Hirst, M. (2008) Implementing a mixed methods approach to explore the financial implications of death of a life partner, *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, 2, 3, 208-220.

Evaluation of the employment advisers in GP surgeries pilot

Completed project
Department for Work and Pensions
July 2006 to December 2007
Roy Sainsbury, Anne Corden, Katharine Nice in collaboration with the National Centre for Social Research

As part of the Government's policy to help people who have health conditions remain in, or return to, work a new initiative was set up in 2006 to place employment advisers in GP surgeries. The pilot covered six areas of Great Britain. Under the pilot arrangements people of working age visiting a GP surgery (or medical centre) were offered advice by an employment adviser from Jobcentre Plus.

In some areas the advisers worked alongside a health practitioner seconded from the NHS. Contact was through self-referral or referral from a GP or health worker. The pilot was open to all working age patients but particularly appropriate for people receiving Statutory Sick Pay or Incapacity Benefit.

Evaluation of the initiative comprised a telephone survey of patients who saw an adviser, a qualitative follow up of a sub-sample of survey respondents nine months later, and depth interviews with the key actors (GPs, Employment Advisers, practice managers, practice nurses and other staff). Follow-up interviews were carried out with GPs in late 2007.

The evaluation concluded that the model of placing employment advisers in GP surgeries was practicable as a means of connecting people with employment and other support services. GPs in the study were enthusiastic and positive about the service. Having direct and easy access to an employment and social security expert allowed them to support their patients in newer and more constructive ways than previously.

Publication

Sainsbury, R., Nice, K., Nevill, C., Wood, M., Dixon, J. and Mitchell, M. (2008) *The Pathways Advisory Service: Placing employment advisers in GP surgeries*, Department for Work and Pensions Research Report, No. 494, Corporate Document Services, Leeds.

Incapacity Benefit Pilot - Pathways to Work

Completed project

Department for Work and Pensions

September 2003 to December 2008

Roy Sainsbury, Anne Corden, Annie Irvine, Katharine Nice in collaboration with the Policy Studies Institute, National Centre for Social Research and the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

The Incapacity Benefit Pilot (also known as the 'Pathways to Work' Pilot) commenced in October 2003 in seven locations in Great Britain and was expanded to a further 14 areas in 2006. The aim of the pilot was to extend help to Incapacity Benefit claimants from Jobcentre Plus offices in order to encourage and facilitate a return to employment. Innovations included:

- introduction of specialist personal advisers
- series of up to six work-focused interviews
- access to health condition management
- financial help through the Return To Work Credit.

The wider evaluation of the pilot included surveys, analysis of administrative data, a cost benefit analysis and a qualitative process evaluation element (to which SPRU contributed). The design of the qualitative evaluation comprised a number of studies of different aspects of the pilot including:

- the experiences of incapacity benefits recipients (a longitudinal study)
- the work of Incapacity Benefit Personal Advisers
- the impact of the Return to Work Credit
- the workings of the health condition management programmes
- the effect of benefit sanctions on people who do not attend work-focused interviews
- the role and impact of the Job Preparation Premium
- the experiences of people with mental health problems
- relationships between Pathways to Work advisers and external provider organisations.

In 2007 the Department for Work and Pensions announced the national roll-out of the Pathways programme to be completed by the autumn of 2008. A new programme of evaluation research is being developed to which SPRU will contribute (see entry for Provider-led Pathways: Early Implementation Study).

Publications

Nice, K., Irvine, A. and Sainsbury, R. (2008) *Pathways to Work from Incapacity Benefits: A study of experience and use of the Job Preparation Premium*, Department for Work

and Pensions Research Report, No. 474, Corporate Document Services, Leeds.

Nice, K., Irvine, A. and Sainsbury, R. (2009) *Pathways to Work from Incapacity Benefits: A study of referral practices and liaison between Jobcentre Plus advisers and service providers*, No. 555, Corporate Document Services, Leeds.

Nice, K. (2009) *Pathways to Work from Incapacity Benefits: A review of research findings on referral practices and liaison with service providers*, Department for Work and Pensions Working Paper, No. 57, Corporate Document Services, Leeds.

Provider-led Pathways: early implementation study

Ongoing project

Department for Work and Pensions

March 2008 to April 2009

Roy Sainsbury, Anne Corden, Jacqueline Davidson, Katharine Nice in collaboration with the Policy Studies Institute and National Centre for Social Research

Following a pilot from 2003 until 2007 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) announced that its Pathways to Work programme would be extended to the whole country by the autumn of 2008. In the pilot areas Pathways was delivered by Jobcentre Plus. However in the new areas covered by the national roll-out contracts are being let to external organisations in the private and voluntary sectors to provide Pathways services. This is a major policy innovation that is now known as Provider-led Pathways.

Under Provider-led Pathways arrangements, new incapacity benefits recipients are required to attend a first work-focused interview with a Personal Adviser at Jobcentre Plus. Thereafter, responsibility for conducting further work-focused interviews and offering employment-related support is held by contracted provider organisations.

DWP has contracted SPRU (in collaboration with the Policy Studies Institute and National Centre for Social Research) to conduct research into the early implementation of Provider-led Pathways. This will provide feedback which will inform further policy development and implementation plans. This *Early Implementation Study* is qualitative and will include individual and group interviews with:

- incapacity benefits claimants
- front-line and management staff in external provider organisations
- Personal Advisers, Pathways managers and contract managers in Jobcentre Plus and DWP.

Fieldwork commenced in June 2008 and continued throughout the year. A final report will be submitted to DWP in April 2009.

A minimum income standard for Britain

Completed project

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

May 2006 to January 2008

Jonathan Bradshaw, Linda Cusworth; Nina Oldfield (Family Budget Unit); Sue Middleton, Karen Kellard, Noel Smith, Abigail Davis (Loughborough University)

Current debates about reducing or ending poverty in Britain suffer from the absence of a socially agreed, empirically based minimum income standard (MIS). This research sought to answer the question:

What level of income is needed to allow an acceptable standard of living in Britain?

The aim of the research was to develop a minimum income standard blending the best elements of the two main methodologies that have been used to develop budget standards in Britain in recent years. The standard specifies an income sufficient to reach a basic standard of living: that social policy should aspire to for everyone. The standard is rooted in social consensus about the goods and services that everyone in modern Britain should be able to afford, while at the same time drawing on expert knowledge about basic living requirements and actual expenditure patterns.

The research establishes a minimum income standard for each type of family. These can then be used as benchmarks for benefits, tax credits, foster care allowances, affordability of housing, minimum/'living' wages, income-based charges and penalties, and many other purposes. It also tests the validity of existing equivalence scales - implied in benefits and used in research on income poverty.

The findings have direct policy relevance by contributing to debates about poverty in Britain and, hence, informing the development of policy designed to combat it.

A website was created which contains Working Papers and a Ready Reckoner which can be used to estimate the income required to meet a MIS: www.minimumincomestandard.org

Publications

Bradshaw, J. (2008) Who is fuel poor? *Poverty*, 131, 9-11.

Bradshaw, J., Middleton, S., Davis, A., Oldfield, N., Smith, N., Cusworth, L. and Williams, J. (2008) *A Minimum Income Standard for Britain: What people think*, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York.

Bradshaw, J. (2008) The costs of necessities, in Strelitz, J. and Lister, R. (eds.) *Why Money Matters: Family Income, poverty and children's lives*, London: Save the Children.

Developing a local index of child well-being

Completed project

Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister/Department for Communities and Local Government

April 2006 to January 2008

Jonathan Bradshaw, Michael Noble (University of Oxford)

National initiatives to tackle child poverty and social exclusion have become increasingly concentrated at small area level, for example Sure Start, the Neighbourhood Nurseries Initiative, New Deal for Communities, Health ActionZones and Priority Estates.

The index will be used by the policy and research community to identify: which local areas are the highest priority for action to raise child well-being; and the extent to which area based initiatives as well as main stream services at local and national level are focusing on the well-being of children in those areas.

The project aim was to develop an index of child well-being at the level of Lower Layer Super Output Areas for England which is the current geography for the Indices of Deprivation 2004 and the geographical basis for the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. Summaries have been produced at both District and County levels. Domains covered were:

- income poverty
- education
- crime
- health
- environment
- housing
- child protection.

The project was in two stages:

- a feasibility stage where an assessment was be made of the data available. This stage ended with the production of a blue print report
- the second stage was the building of the index.

The full index is available from: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/zip/1126236.zip

Publications

Bradshaw, J., Bloor, K., Huby, M., Rhodes, D., Sinclair, I., Gibbs, I., Noble, M., McLennan, D. and Wilkinson, K. (2009) *Local Index of Child Well-being: Summary report*, Department for Communities and Local Government, London.

Bradshaw, J., Noble, M., Bloor, K., Huby, M., McLennan, D., Rhodes, D., Sinclair, I. and Wilkinson, K. (in press) A child well-being index at small area level in England, *Child Indicators Research*, (Available online from November 2008).

Understanding social exclusion across the lifecourse: Youth and young adulthood

Completed project
Social Exclusion Task Force, Cabinet Office
December 2007 to July 2008
Jonathan Bradshaw, Linda Cusworth; Bob Coles (Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of York)

There is evidence that young people in the UK are still at considerable risk of social exclusion, not least because the UK has the highest teenage fertility rate in the EU and continuing worries about the high level of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). The Social Exclusion Task Force Action Plan stated that policy should focus on those who face the most extreme forms of social exclusion. The SE Task Force needed evidence in order to better understand who the most excluded young people are and what drives their social exclusion. Two main questions are answered in this project:

- Who experiences social exclusion
    - of what kind?
    - how do disadvantages overlap?
    - how long do they last ?
- What drives social exclusion, including ‘drivers’ that are not measurable in survey data?

A further stage of the research looked at:

- How long experiences of disadvantage last and how often these experiences recur
- How different combinations of disadvantage and problems behave over time
- What events trigger experiences of social exclusion
- What are the key drivers of social exclusion.

The young people in this study were 16-24 year olds. The project used secondary analysis of existing survey data and included a review element for groups not covered by the surveys (for example care leavers or the homeless) and on issues like the drivers of social exclusion. The surveys used were:

- Family Resources Survey
- British Household Panel Survey

The final report was submitted to the Cabinet Office in 2008.

UK expert on National Action Plans for Social Inclusion

Completed project
European Union
2003 to December 2008
Jonathan Bradshaw; Fran Bennett (University of Oxford)

At the Lisbon summit in 2000, the European Council agreed to adopt an 'open method of coordination' in order to make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty and social exclusion by 2010. Member states adopted common objectives at the Nice European Council and all member states drew up National Action Plans against poverty and social exclusion (NAPs/inclusion).

Early in 2003, the European Commission established a group of non-government experts responsible for providing an independent critical review of member states' NAPs/inclusion. The UK experts Jonathan Bradshaw and Fran Bennett have been producing reports on the UK NAPs since 2003. The current agreement is that three reports per year are produced. Not all of these are put into the public domain.

Details of the network of non-governmental experts and some of the reports are available from these websites:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/social_inclusion/naps_rep_en.htm

http://www.peer-review-social-inclusion.eu/network-of-independent-experts/

Publications
The reports are web-only documents. They are all available via links from this web page:

www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/summs/naps.html

Bradshaw, J. and Bennett, F. (2006) *Trends, Recent Developments, Active Inclusion and Minimum Resources*, European Commission, Directorate General of Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Luxembourg.

Bradshaw, J. and Bennett, F., with Maynard, M. (2006) *"Feeding in" and "Feeding out", and Integrating Immigrants and Ethnic Minorities: A study of national policies, European Commission*, Directorate General of Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Luxembourg.

Bradshaw, J. and Bennett, F. (2007) *Tackling Child Poverty and Promoting the Social Inclusion of Children: A study of national policies*, European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Luxembourg.

Bradshaw, J. and Bennett, F. (2007) Trends, Recent Developments, *"Feeding in" and "Feeding Out": A study of national policies*, European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Luxembourg.

International comparative paper on policies relating to child well-being

Completed project

UNICEF UK

October to November 2007

Jonathan Bradshaw, Linda Cusworth

UNICEF's Report Card 7 on Child Well-Being invited debate by bringing together the best of currently available data to present an overview of the state of childhood in the richest countries of the world. The UK came bottom of the league table on child well-being. Following on from the publication of this report, UNICEF UK identified the need for a short piece of work to compare the policies of more 'child friendly' countries with those of the UK and highlight where the Government could learn from other governments. This research included a number of countries that did well in the league table and are comparable to the UK in terms of demographics and government structures: Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Spain, Ireland, and Germany. These were in the top two-thirds of the league table, and generally did well in the 'family and peer relationships' and 'subjective well-being' dimensions, which relate most to the research focus.

Aims were to:

- identify government policies in other countries which have led to positive changes for children and young people
- outline the policies that are working well in countries that came top of the league but are absent in the UK
- highlight where UNICEF and the UK Government can learn from the policy experience of other countries
- inform the 'child well-being' policy and campaigns work of UNICEF UK.

A questionnaire was given to a number of informants in the countries concerned. These informants include UNICEF's national committees, and contacts used by the researchers in previous comparative work. This was to maximise the response, and allow a certain degree of triangulation.

Publication

Cusworth, L. and Bradshaw, J. (2009) *A Comparison of Policies Designed to Enhance Child Well-Being*, Social Policy Research Unit, York.

Working beyond state pension age: The impact of work-family life history and income

Ongoing project

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

May 2007 to August 2010

Naomi Finch

Extending working life beyond state pension age is an important way to supplement income in later life. Research suggests that inequalities over the life course, especially those related to the gender division of labour, continue into old age to influence need, capacity, and desire to extend working life. But the picture is complicated, with evidence that income interacts with work-family life history to influence working beyond state pension age.

The study examines:

- The relationship between individuals' lifetime work and family history and working beyond state pension age
- How income interacts with work-family life history to influence the likelihood that an individual works beyond state pension age.

Using the first 15 waves of the British Household Panel Study, the study explores how work-family life history increases or decreases the likelihood of working beyond state pension age and whether life history predicts working after state pension age. It also examines how work-family history interacts with income to influence extending working life, and whether the relationship is different according to gender. The research will facilitate more effective policy with regard to shaping incentives for working beyond state pension age.

The Adults, Older People and Carers Team is led by Professor Caroline Glendinning. Research carried out within the Team focuses on social care funding, policies and practice relating to adults and older people with disabilities or long-term illnesses and their families.

Adults, Older People and Carers

Current research carried out within the Team is funded by the Department of Health (DH); the NHS Service Delivery and Organisation Research and Development Programme; and the European Commission.

A major research theme within the team is the impact of new opportunities for users of services to exercise choice and control over their support and other arrangements. This theme is at the core of SPRU's DH-funded research programme. The DH programme includes a qualitative longitudinal Panel Study investigating disabled and older people's experiences of choice, control and independence; as well as research into providers' capacity to respond to increased opportunities for user choice.

User choice and control was also central to the national evaluation of the Individual Budget Pilot projects (IBSEN), in which SPRU was heavily involved along with two other leading social care research units. A linked project also investigated the impact of Individual Budgets on carers. Similar developments in other countries are an on-going area of research interest: a recent EC-funded study has been conducted in collaboration with the Vilans Centre of Expertise, Utrecht, and during 2008 Dr Hilary Arksey made extensive links with family and informal care researchers in New Zealand.

New developments during 2008 have built on SPRU's earlier work on outcomes-focused services to investigate the longer-term impacts of home care reablement services in adult social care.

Department of Health Programme, 2006-2010:

Choice and independence across the lifecourse

Ongoing research programme
Department of Health, Policy Research Programme
January 2006 to December 2010
Programme leader: Caroline Glendinning;
Hilary Arksey, Kate Baxter, Bryony Beresford, Jan Heaton, Wendy Mitchell, Parvaneh Rabiee, Tricia Sloper

Extending choice for the users of public services is at the heart of government policy. In 2005 a raft of policy proposals was announced aimed at increasing choice and control by users of social care services. Subsequent developments have extended these ambitions, including the piloting of Individual Budgets (IBs) and the roll-out of personal budgets across the whole of English adult social care services. Reflecting the focus of SPRU's previous Department of Health (DH) funded research programme, social care services are now tasked with achieving personalised outcomes for users, improving independence and quality of life.

These policies have prompted academic debates about consumerism and choice in publicly-funded welfare services. Some argue that increased choice is consistent with rising expectations in individualistic, post-modern societies; others question whether theories and practices developed in the context of private consumption are applicable to the public sector and whether risks should be transferred from public bodies to individual users. These debates underpin the DH research programme.

SPRU's DH-funded research programme focuses on the experiences of choice and personalisation by disabled young people, adults and older people; the information and other support needed to exercise choice; the consequences of making choices; and the responses of social care markets to increased opportunities for individual purchasing. Both the concept and the practice of choice may be highly problematic for many people. For example, there may be very few opportunities for choice over scarce specialist services, while changing needs may require repeated choices about services and support arrangements.

The programme addresses the following questions:

- What kinds of choices over social care and related services are important to disabled and ill young people, adults and older people and their families/carers, and why; how do these choices vary between different groups; and how do choices relate to concepts of independence?
- What opportunities do disabled and chronically ill young people, adults and older people and their families/carers have to make choices that are important to them; what information and other support is needed to facilitate choice?
- What roles do carers play in supporting choice and what are the implications for their own choices and quality of life?
- What are the consequences of choice on the part of disabled and chronically ill young people, adults and older people and their families/carers?
- How do service providers respond to increased opportunities for user choice?

The Programme includes:

- **A qualitative longitudinal panel study - ongoing**

  This study forms the core of the programme. It will examine the realities of choice in the context of changing circumstances, whether arising from changes in illness or disability or from other social transitions. It will enable us to examine the consequences of past choices, including the responses of service providers, and the impact on perceived independence. (page 34)
- Individual budgets: impact and outcomes for carers (page 35)
- Financing long-term care: lessons from other countries (page 36)
- Transition to adult services of disabled young people leaving 'out of authority' residential schools (page 22)

Completed projects in the DH programme

- **Scoping studies**

  Three scoping studies have critically appraised existing research in order to: identify gaps in evidence; contribute to theoretical debate and conceptual frameworks relating to choices about social care and related services; and inform the empirical studies carried out within the programme:

  - Understanding the dynamics of decision-making and choice about social care and related services. (http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/summs/DHP dynamics.php)
  - Welfare consumerism, disability and social care (http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/summs/DHP consumerism.php)

  Complementary to the DH Programme:

  - Examining the dynamics of choice: the context of informal care (http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/summs/ anniversary.php)
- Access to information about social care - response to recommendation from the Better Regulation Task Force (http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/summs/DHPinfo.php)
- Review of research on risk and social care (http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/summs/DH Prisk.php)
- Domiciliary care agencies' responses to increased user choice: perceived threats, barriers and opportunities from a changing market (page 35)

Other research projects that complement the DH Programme

- National Evaluation of Individual Budgets Pilot Projects (IBSEN) (page 34)

- Investigating the longer-term effects of home care reablement services (retrospective longitudinal study) (page 37)
- Home care re-ablement services: investigating the longer-term impacts (prospective longitudinal study) (page 37)

Choice and change: extending choice and control over the lifecourse - a qualitative longitudinal panel study

Ongoing project

Department of Health, Policy Research Programme

May 2006 to December 2010

Caroline Glendinning, Tricia Sloper, Hilary Arksey, Kate Baxter, Jan Heaton, Wendy Mitchell, Parvaneh Rabiee

This panel study forms the core of the Department of Health Programme. It examines the realities of choice in the context of changing circumstances, whether arising from changes in illness or disability or from other social transitions. It will enable us to examine the consequences of past choices, including the responses of service providers, and the impacts on perceived independence.

The study involves three groups of people likely to experience changes over time in their support needs:

- young people with deteriorating conditions and their parents
- adults and older people with fluctuating support needs
- adults and older people experiencing the sudden onset of disability.

Respondents are interviewed at regular intervals over three years. Complementary interviews are also carried out with key professionals and/or family members who are heavily involved in specific recent choices. As well as tracking changes in individual circumstances and responses to these, cross-cutting themes will examine issues such as:

- the role of carers in supporting choice
- the perceived response of service providers to user choice
- the impact of choices on independence.

Fieldwork for the panel study began during 2007.

National evaluation of the Individual Budgets Pilot projects - The IBSEN project

Completed project

Department of Health

September 2005 to September 2009

Caroline Glendinning, Nicola Moran, Parvaneh Rabiee; David Challis, Sally Jacobs & Mark Wilberforce (Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU), University of Manchester); Martin Knapp & Jose-Luis Fernandez (PSSRU, London School of Economics); Ann Netten & Karen Jones (PSSRU, University of Kent); Jill Manthorpe & Martin Stevens (Social Care Workforce Research Unit, King's College London)

Individual budgets (IBs) are at the heart of government policy for improving choice and control for people needing social care in England. They were piloted in 13 local authorities between 2006 and 2008. A rigorous, comprehensive evaluation examined whether IBs offer a better way of supporting disabled adults and older people than conventional methods of resource allocation and service delivery.

The evaluation included a randomised controlled trial, in which outcome interviews were conducted with IB users and a comparison group after six months. Data on levels and costs of services used by both groups was compared. Other strands of the evaluation included in-depth interviews with IB users about their experiences of support planning; interviews with senior managers, first tier managers and front-line staff in social care about their experiences of implementation; and interviews with service providers and people responsible for other funding streams contributing to IBs.

The report of the evaluation was launched by the Minister for Adult Social Care in October 2008 (see page 8).

Publications

Glendinning, C., Challis, D., Fernandez, J., Jacobs, S., Jones, K., Knapp, M., Manthorpe, J., Moran, N., Netten, A., Stevens, M., Wilberforce, M. (2008) *Evaluation of the Individual Budgets Pilot Programme: Final Report*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Glendinning, C., Challis, D., Fernandez, J., Jacobs, S., Jones, K., Knapp, M., Manthorpe, J., Moran, N., Netten, A., Stevens, M., Wilberforce, M. (2008) *Evaluation of the Individual Budgets Pilot Programme: Summary report*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Glendinning, C., Challis, D., Fernandez, J., Jacobs, S., Jones, K., Knapp, M., Manthorpe, J., Moran, N., Netten, A., Stevens, M., Wilberforce, M. (2008) The national evaluation of the Individual Budgets Pilot Programme, *Research Findings*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Glendinning, C., Challis, D., Fernandez, J., Jacobs, S., Jones, K., Knapp, M., Manthorpe, J., Moran, N., Netten, A., Stevens, M., Wilberforce, M. (2008) The national evaluation of the Individual Budgets Pilot Programme: Experiences and implications for care coordinators and managers, *Research Findings*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Manthorpe, J., Jacobs, S., Rapaport, J., Challis, D., Netten, A., Glendinning, C., Stevens, M., Wilberforce, M., Knapp, M. and Harris, J. (in press) Training for change: early days of Individual Budgets and the implications for social work and care management practice: a qualitative study of the views of trainers, *British Journal of Social Work,* (Available online from on March 7th 2008).

Manthorpe, J., Stevens, M., Rapaport, J., Harris, J., Jacobs, S., Challis, D., Netten, A., Knapp, M., Wilberforce, M. and Glendinning, C. (in press) Safeguarding and system change:

early perceptions of the implications for adult protection services of the English Individual Budgets Pilots: a qualitative study, *British Journal of Social Work*, (Available online from March 26, 2008).

Rabiee, P., Moran, N. and Glendinning, C. (in press) Individual Budgets: lessons from early users' experiences, *British Journal of Social Work*, (Available online from March 2008).

Challis, D., [et al.] inc. Glendinning, C., and Wilberforce, M. (2007) *Individual Budgets Evaluation: A summary of early findings*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Glendinning, C., Challis, D., Fernandez, J.-L., Jones, K., Knapp, M., Manthorpe, J., Netten, A., Stevens, M. and Wilberforce, M. (2007) Evaluating the individual budget pilot projects, *Journal of Care Services Management*, 1, 2, 123-8.
Stevens, M. and Glendinning, C. (2006) Individual budgets: on the launch pad, *Journal of Integrated Care*, 14, 6, 23-31.

The Individual Budgets Pilot projects: impact and outcomes for carers

Completed project

Department of Health, Policy Research Programme

January 2007 to October 2008

Caroline Glendinning, Hilary Arksey, Parvaneh Rabiee, Nicola Moran; Ann Netten, Karen Jones (Personal Social Services Research Unit, Kent)

Individual Budgets (IBs) aim to give greater choice and control to users of adult social care services. Although IBs were initially implemented without reference to the separate needs and rights of informal and family carers, IBs could be expected to affect carers as well as the service users they are supporting. This study investigated how IBs, as implemented in the pilot sites, were tailored to and affected carers in terms of costs and outcomes.

The study aimed to identify the impact and outcomes of IBs on informal carers. Specific questions addressed by the research are:

- What changes occur in the levels and types of support provided by informal carers following the award of an IB?
- Are any patterns identifiable in these changes, for example, among particular groups of carers or among carers supporting particular groups of service users?
- Do IBs affect the quality of life of carers, compared with carers (and service users) receiving conventional services? If so, in what ways and for which groups of carers?

This study was linked to the main evaluation of the IB Pilot projects (IBSEN), which was designed as a randomised controlled trial. Carers of service users who had consented to take part in the main IBSEN study were identified and invited to take part in this follow-up study. The study involved:

- Structured interviews with 129 carers of service users in the IB and comparison groups
- Semi-structured interviews with a separate sample of 24 carers of IB users
- Telephone interviews with lead officers responsible for carers services
- Reanalysing data relating to carers extracted from interviews with IB lead officers as part of the main IBSEN study.

Publication

Glendinning, C., Arksey, H., Jones, K., Moran, N., Netten, A., Rabiee, P. (2009) *Individual Budgets Pilot Projects: Impact and outcomes for carers*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Domiciliary care agencies' responses to increased user choice: perceived threats, barriers and opportunities from a changing market

Completed project

Department of Health, Policy Research Programme

January 2007 to March 2008

Kate Baxter, Caroline Glendinning, Susan Clarke; Ian Greener (University of Durham)

The rationale for this project was the changing face of the consumer side of the social care market. Traditionally, local authorities have acted as proxy purchasers for service users through their care management and commissioning systems. These systems were undergoing change as more responsibility for choosing care packages was being devolved to individuals. This study looked at the impact on domiciliary care agencies of these changes.

The aim of this study was to examine, from the perspective of domiciliary care agencies, the perceived threats of, barriers to and opportunities for responding to increases in user choice exercised through mechanisms other than normal social services contractual arrangements. Alternative mechanisms include direct payments, individual budgets and private purchase. We examined also how any barriers could be overcome and opportunities realised.

The study included both quantitative and qualitative elements. Quantitative analysis of existing survey data helped to refine the research questions, and inform the study sample and subsequent interviews. The main focus of the study was a qualitative investigation of domiciliary care agency perceptions of threats, opportunities and barriers to becoming more responsive within a changing market place. Data were collected through one-off, in-depth interviews with managers of 32 domiciliary care agencies based in four local authorities, and with the commissioning managers from those authorities.

Publications

Baxter K. (2008) Personal budgets - opportunities, risks and mixed perceptions, *Homecarer*, November 2008, pages 8-9.

Baxter, K., Glendinning, C., Clarke, S. and Greener, I. (2008) *Domiciliary Care Agency Responses to Increased User Choice:*

Perceived threats, barriers and opportunities from a changing market, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Care provision within families and its socio-economic impact on care providers

Completed project

European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

March 2008 to December 2008

Hilary Arksey, Caroline Glendinning, Nicola Moran; Marjolein Morée, Henk Nies, Frits Tjadens (Vilans Expertise Centre on Long-Term Care, Utrecht)

The aims of the study were to identify research evidence on:

- the prevalence of and socio-economic consequences for, carers of older people and of other groups of disabled people, with a focus on heavily-involved carers and including recent and anticipated trends
- Good practice measures aimed at mitigating the adverse socio-economic effects of care-giving on the households of family carers.

The study also aimed to identify gaps in available evidence, problems in synthesising data from different countries and opportunities for improving the range, quality and consistency of data collected across European Union (EU) member states.

The study drew on a wide range of published data, both from EU-wide studies and research conducted within individual member states. Problems were identified in comparing data from different sources; different definitions of carers and levels of involvement in care-giving were used; and most data focused on carers of older people. Data from newer member states was very patchy. Many good practice measures were identified but lacked robust evidence of their effectiveness and some had restricted transferability. Consistent, comprehensive research evidence on carers of all age groups is needed.

A draft report was delivered to the European Commission in December 2008.

Evaluating Caring with Confidence

Ongoing project

Department of Health

June 2008 to May 2011

Hilary Arksey; Sue Yeandle, Cinnamon Bennett, Lisa Buckner, Gary Fry, Kara Jarrold (University of Leeds)

Caring with Confidence* (previously known as the Expert Carers Programme) is a newly implemented policy initiative for unpaid carers of chronically sick, disabled or older people aimed at making a positive difference to the lives of carers and those they support. Carers aged 18 years and above living in England can access 'training' modules via face-to-face sessions, self-study packs or online resources. Caring with Confidence sessions are intended; and to help carers build on their strengths as a carer; to give carers the opportunity to share experiences and learn from others in similar situations; to give carers useful information and ideas about care-giving; and to help carers decide what they might like to change about their caring role.

Working alongside the national team responsible for delivering the Caring with Confidence programme, training providers and carers, the research team aims to:

- evaluate the national team's management of the Caring with Confidence programme
- understand what works, under what circumstances for which groups of carers
- identify longer term impacts on carers' lives.

The evaluation will adopt a mixed-methods approach, including qualitative interviews with key informants, documentary analysis and observational techniques. Case studies will be used to understand what design, styles and delivery of training work best for different groups of carers. Training providers will be purposively selected to represent a range of organisation types, geographical spread and training media. Data collection will comprise: interviews with key personnel; a survey of carers at three points in time to try to determine the longer term effects of participating in sessions; and (where appropriate) a survey of care recipients to collect their views about their carer's involvement in the programme.

*www.caringwithconfidence.net

Financing long-term care: lessons from other countries

Completed project

Department of Health

April to December 2008

Caroline Glendinning, Nicola Moran

The Department of Health is conducting a review of care and support arrangements for adults and older people. The review will lead to a Green Paper to be published in 2009. This study documents and analyses recent debates and reforms in the funding and organisation of long-term care in other countries. The experiences of other countries can help to inform the current English review by:

- opening up for debate a range of principles to underpin reform
- indicating possible constraints on implementation.

Of particular interest are:

- reforms aimed at securing the long-term sustainability of funding arrangements in the context of projected increases in demand as populations age
- the impacts of changes aimed at increasing user choice over service providers and/or service content.

The study uses published English language policy and research evidence. It involves collaboration with specially recruited expert informants to access materials unavailable in English and fill identified gaps in the published English language material. The study focuses particularly on Germany, The Netherlands, Denmark, Australia and Japan; these countries have all recently made changes in the organisation and/or funding of care and debates about future reforms are in some cases still on-going.

Linked work
Other comparative work on the funding and organisation of long-term care carried out during 2008 has included contributing to a Monograph on reforming social care in England published by the Smith Institute; and collaboration with Professor David Bell, University of Stirling, on a paper for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on the lessons from other countries for reform in England.

A report was submitted to the Department of Health in January 2009.

Linked publications
Glendinning, C. (2008) Achieving successful reform: lessons from overseas, in N. Churchill (ed.), *Advancing Opportunity: Older people and social care*, The Smith Institute, London, pp. 122-131.

Glendinning, C. and Bell, D. (2008) Rethinking social care and support: What can England learn from other countries? *Viewpoint*, 2335, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York.

Investigating the longer-term effects of home care reablement services (retrospective longitudinal study)

Completed project

Department of Health (Care Services Efficiency Delivery Directorate)

June to September 2007

Hilary Arksey, Caroline Glendinning; Liz Newbronner, Martin Baxter, Ruth Chamberlain and Jane Maddison (Acton Shapiro)

Many local authorities have reconfigured their in-house home help services to provide short-term interventions aimed at helping users acquire skills, confidence and equipment for independent living. Existing evidence shows significant reductions in needs for home care support following a period of reablement, compared with assessed levels of need on 'entry' to the service. However, there is no evidence on the longer-term duration of such reductions, or on the factors that might lead to subsequent increases in service use.

This study used routine local authority service activity data to examine changes in the subsequent use of social care services following a period of home care reablement. Four authorities took part, two with 'hospital discharge' services and two with 'intake' services. Data on individuals' use of social care services following home care reablement was analysed to provide descriptive statistics documenting the changes in use of social care services up to 24 months following 'discharge'.

Semi-structured interviews were also carried out in each site with the home care reablement service manager and a care management team leader about the operation of the service and the factors perceived to affect the outcomes and duration of the benefits of reablement.

There is an in-depth, follow-on study to this project - see opposite.

Publications
Glendinning, C. and Newbronner, E. (2008) The effectiveness of home care reablement - developing the evidence base, *Journal of Integrated Care*, 16, 4, 32-39.

Newbronner, L., Baxter, M., Chamberlain, R., Maddison, J., Arksey, H. and Glendinning, C. (2007) *Research into the Longer Term Effects/Impacts of Re-ablement Services*, Homecare Re-ablement Workstream, Care Services Efficiency Delivery Programme, London.

Home care re-ablement services: investigating the longer-term impacts (prospective longitudinal study)

Ongoing project

Department of Health

April 2008 to September 2010

Caroline Glendinning, Hilary Arksey, Kate Baxter and Parvaneh Rabiee; Julien Forder, Lesley Curtis and Karen Jones (Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent)

Adult social care services are increasingly developing specialist home care re-ablement teams that work intensively with new service users to increase their skills, confidence, and ability to live independently. Our previous research, in the project Investigating the longer-term effects of home care reablement services (retrospective longitudinal study), suggests that the benefits of home care re-ablement may be significant and sustained, possibly delaying subsequent needs for services by up to two years.

This study aims to:

- examine the immediate and longer-term effects of home care re-ablement
- identify factors affecting the level and duration of benefits for users of home care re-ablement services
- describe the content and costs of home care re-ablement services and their relationships to service outcomes
- identify any impacts on, and savings in, the use of social care and other services that can be set against the costs of re-ablement services.

The study will follow users of home care re-ablement services in five different local authorities and compare their outcomes and use of services over the following year with service users in four other localities without home care re-ablement services in place. In addition, it will include an investigation of the skill mix and activities of home care re-ablement teams, to identify those features that appear to contribute to optimum outcomes for the service users. The research design will use both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

Person - and carer-centred respite care for people with dementia: developing methods of evaluating the effectiveness of different models

Completed project

NIHR Service Delivery and Organisation programme

March 2006 to September 2008

Hilary Arksey; John Bond, Claire Bamford, Marie Poole, Catherine Kirkley, Lynne Corner (Newcastle University); Julian Hughes (Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust)

Respite care is a key service designed to support people with dementia and their carers. A fundamental priority for all breaks services is to provide care that is person-centred (focuses on the needs of the person with dementia) and carer-centred (focuses on the needs of the unpaid carer). The issue of how to evaluate these concepts is under-researched and available tools have a number of limitations. Developing tools to assess person- and carer-centredness offers a new approach to evaluating respite care, as well as having the potential to improve quality and effectiveness.

The study aimed to:

- identify the range of models of respite care and describe how these are implemented in practice
- develop an understanding of person- and carer-centred care and how it is operationalised in different models of respite care from the perspectives of people with dementia, carers and service providers
- iteratively develop and test practical tool(s) for evaluating person- and carer-centred care.

The study employed a mixed-methods design and included the perspectives of a range of stakeholders.

The final report was submitted to the funders in November 2008.

Publication

Arksey, H. and Bamford, C. (2007) Respite care for people with dementia: the range of models for getting a break, *Journal of Dementia Care*, 15, 3, 37-9.

Integrated services for people with long-term neurological conditions: an evaluation of the National Service Framework

Ongoing project

NIHR Service Delivery and Organisation programme

May 2006 to September 2009

Gillian Parker, Sylvia Bernard, Fiona Aspinal, Kate Gridley

The National Service Framework (NSF) for Long-Term Neurological Conditions (LTNCs) encourages service providers to integrate specialist and non-specialist services within the health service, social services, the voluntary or independent sectors and other services. However, there is little guidance about what helps organisations to do this, or about how to judge whether they have achieved it.

The aims were to:

- identify which models of service provision work well in delivering continuity of care from the perspectives of service users and the professionals who deliver them
- identify what helps or hinders integrated services
- design a national benchmarking system, based on these factors.

A scoping exercise and rapid review of evidence on best models of integrated service provision for LTNCs, how to achieve them, and their impact, were undertaken to identify issues that could be further explored in in-depth case studies. Case studies were undertaken in six neurology 'service systems' to identify the key indicators of good quality, integrated service provision and understand its impact on service users and their families or carers, and professionals. The information from these two stages will be used to develop benchmarks to assess the type, quality and impact of integrated services in local areas. The benchmarks will then be used to assess the development of integrated services nationally as the NSF is implemented.

Publication

Bernard, S., Aspinal, F., Gridley, K. and Parker, G. (2008) Integrated policy making in England for adults with long-term neurological conditions (LTNCs): some preliminary findings from a scoping study, *International Journal of Integrated Care*, 8, 3, 1-8.

Unit Information

Widespread and effective dissemination of the results of our research is central to SPRU's purpose. Our work often communicates the needs and desires of hard-to-reach groups in society and as such makes a distinctive contribution to policy and practice. To these ends we write and disseminate research reports, summary findings and good practice guides in accessible formats.

We also engage in academic debate via articles in peer-reviewed journals, chapters in academic books and by presenting our work at relevant conferences. We arrange a series of public seminars on topical subjects with eminent external speakers.

SPRU invests heavily in the training of its staff to help them achieve their full potential. As well as their research work our staff are engaged in many external activities, such as peer-reviewing articles for prominent journals in the field. These activities enhance their role in the social policy community.

SPRU Staff

Director

Professor Gillian Parker

Adults, Older People and Carers Team

Research Director - Professor Caroline Glendinning
Hilary Arksey
Fiona Aspinal
Kate Baxter
Sylvia Bernard
Kate Gridley
Parvaneh Rabiee
PhD Student - Alison Allam

Children and Families Team

Research Director - Professor Patricia Sloper
Bryony Beresford
Susan Clarke
Janet Heaton
Wendy Mitchell
Nicola Moran
Suzanne Mukherjee
Gemma Spiers
PhD Student - Julie Bruce
PhD Student - Jo Nicholson

Children and Young People's Social Work Team

Research Director - Professor Nina Biehal
Jo Dixon
Sarah Ellison
Visiting Associate - Gwyther Rees
Elizabeth Sinclair
Emeritus Professor - Ian Sinclair
Research Professor - Mike Stein
Jim Wade

Social Security and Living Standards Team

Research Director- Professor Roy Sainsbury
Research Director - Professor Jonathan Bradshaw
Anne Corden
Linda Cusworth
Jacqueline Davidson
Annie Irvine
Katharine Nice

Support Staff Team

Unit Manager - Jeanette Whalley
Administrative Assistant - Helen Adcock
Information Assistant - Ruth Dowling
Research Support Administrator - Teresa Frank
Finance Officer - Simon Johnson
Project Administrator - Michelle Maynard
Project Administrator - Lisa Southwood
PA to the Director - Rachel Peña
Information Officer - Rachel Pitman
Office Manager - Sally Pulleyn
Research Support Administrator - Dawn Rowley

SPRU Seminars

SPRU Seminar Series 2008 - Independence, inter-dependence and dependence: what do these concepts mean? What do we want?

Disabled people: independence, integration or inclusion?

Dr Colin Barnes, Director of the Centre for Disability Studies, University of Leeds

Independence, inter-dependence and dependence: the experiences of young people with chronic illnesses

Dr Janet McDonagh, Institute of Child Health, Birmingham Children's Hospital

Dependency versus responsibility: social policy's ethical dilemma?

Dr Hartley Dean, Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics

How useful are the concepts of independence, inter-dependence and dependence for understanding parent-practitioner relationships in the care of children with leukaemia?

Dr Bridget Young, Population, Community and Behavioural Sciences, Liverpool University

Penalising Poverty: Benefit Sanctions in the Conditional Welfare Systems of Australia and the UK

Dr Tony Eardley, Senior Research Fellow, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Australia

Communities and careers in academic research: findings of the UK KNOWING project

Dr Lisa Garforth from the School of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Leeds

The goal for young people leaving state care - from social care to social capital

Professor John Pinkerton, Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Queen's University, Belfast

Independent living: what does it mean; what is its place in current government policy; and is it achievable?

Dr Jenny Morris, Independent Research Consultant

The changing policy context for voluntary action in England: some implications for research?

Professor Pete Alcock, Head of School of Social Sciences, University of Birmingham

Longitudinal Insights: Critial and Fateful Moments in Biographical Accounts of Lived Lives

Professor Janet Holland, Co-Director of the Families and Social Capital ESRC Research Group, South Bank University

SPRU Seminar Series 2007 - Risk and Society

Iconic Inquiries: Disasters, Blame and the Rise of Risk in Health and Social Care

Professor Andy Alaszewski, Director of Health Service Studies, University of Kent, Canterbury

Engaging Whom and for What Ends? Learning from Biotechnology and Nanotechnology Developments in the UK

Professor Alan Petersen, Professor in Sociology, Law and Social Science, University of Plymouth

Descending the Risk Escalator: Balancing Safety with Autonomy for Forensic Mental Health Service Users

Professor Bob Heyman, Associate Dean for Research, Health Care Research Unit, St. Bartholomew School of Nursing and Midwifery, City University Institute of Health Science

Risk and Preventative Policy in Child Welfare

Dr Eileen Munro, Reader in Social Policy, Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics

Risk, Care Settings and Older People with Dementia: Issues and Dilemmas

Professor Robin Means, Faculty of Health and Social Care, University of West of England

The Shifting Sands of Uncertainty: Risk construction and BSE/vCJD

Professor Matthias Beck, Chair in Public Sector Management and Dr Beth Kewell, Lecturer in Public Sector Management, the York Management School, University of York

The Dignity of Risk: Risk Management for Disabled Children and a Life Worth Living

Janet Morrison, Consultant and Trainer, Disabled Children and Associate Trainer for the National Children's Bureau

Thrills and Spills: Young People's Perceptions of Risk in Relation to Sexual Behaviour

Professor Nicky Stanley, Faculty of Health, Department of Social Work, University of Central Lancashire

Risk and Ageing Populations: An International Perspective

Professor Charlotte Clarke - Chairperson, Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Professions (NMAP)

Telephone, Face-to-Face or Self-Completion Surveys: Horses for Courses

Professor Peter Lynn - Professor of Survey Methodology, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex

Editorial Boards, peer reviewing and external positions 2007-2008

Editorial Boards

Hilary Arksey
Journal of Social Policy

Kate Baxter
Journal of Social Policy and Society

Nina Biehal
Child and Family Social Work
Children and Youth Services Review

Jonathan Bradshaw
Journal of Child Indicators Research
International Social Security Review

Jacqueline Davidson
Benefits - the journal of poverty and social justice

Jo Dixon
Journal of Child and Family Social Work

Caroline Glendinning
Journal of Social Policy
Journal of Social Policy and Society

Annie Irvine
Book Reviews Editor for the Social Research Association's quarterly newsletter *SRA News*

Nicola Moran
Journal of Social Policy

Gillian Parker
Associate Editor, *Journal of Health Services Research and Policy*
Health and Social Care in the Community

Parvaneh Rabiee
Disability and Society

Roy Sainsbury
Benefits - the journal of poverty and social justice
Journal of Social Security Law

Ian Sinclair
Journal of Social Work

Patricia Sloper
Child: Care, Health and Development

Mike Stein
Book Series Editor, *Quality Matters in Children's Services*, Jessica Kingsley Publishers
Joint Editor, *Quality Protects Research Briefings*

Peer Reviewing

Adoption and Fostering

Ageing & Society

American Journal of Orthopsychiatry

Australian Social Work

Benefits - the journal of poverty and social justice

British Journal of Social Work

British Medical Journal - BMJ

Child: Care, Health & Development

Child and Family Social Work

Children and Society

Children and Youth Services Review

Current Sociology

Disability and Society

European Societies

European Journal of Social Policy

Health and Social Care in the Community

Health Policy

International Journal of Aging & Human Development

International Social Security Review

Journal of Child Indicators Research

Journal of Health Services Research and Policy

Journal of Social Policy

Primary Health Care Research & Development

Psichothema

Psycho-Oncology

Qualitative Inquiry

Qualitative Research in Organisations and Management: An International Journal

Qualitative Social Work

Social Policy and Society

Social Policy and Administration

Social Research Association News

Social Science & Medicine

Social Work & Social Sciences Review

Sociology of Health and Illness

Therapeutic Communities

External Advisory Positions and Activities

Hilary Arksey

Member, UK Mental Health Research Network Advisory Group for FACTOR (Family/friends And Carers Together in Research)

Trustee, Scarborough and Ryedale Carers Resource

Bryony Beresford

Member, working group for Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health's Communication Skills Training Project

Member, Disability Thematic Advisory Group, Centre for Excellence in Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO)

Member, expert advisory panel to National Institute for Health Research, Service and Delivery Organisation, Research and Development Programme funded project: 'Promoting partnerships with children and adolescents in medicine-taking'

Member, CHILLI (children with life-limiting illnesses) Research Group

Member, Childhood Cancer and Leukaemia Group's Psychosocial Group

Consultant, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Policy and Practice

Development Programme on Housing & Disabled Children

Proposal refereeing

National Institute for Health Research, Research for Patient Benefit Programme

Final report refereeing

Department for Education and Skills

Nina Biehal

Member, British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) Research Group Advisory Committee

Member, International Association for Outcome-Based Evaluation and Research in Family and Children's Services

Member, European Research Network on Foster Care

Research Advisor, Department for Children, Schools and Families Advisory Group for Supporting Families of Young People Entering Public Care: European Models Project

PhD examiner, University of Bristol

Jonathan Bradshaw

Special Advisor, House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee

Honorary Director, Family Budget Unit

Honorary Visiting Professorial Fellow, University of Oxford

Honorary Research Fellow, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

Chair, Management Committee North Yorkshire Welfare Benefits Unit

Board member, Foundation for International Studies in Social Security

Board member, Research Committee International Social Security Association

Board member, the International Society for Child Indicators

UK Expert, European Union Group of Experts on the National Action Plans for Social Inclusion

Trustee, Dartington Social Research Unit

Consultant, UNICEF Regional Office in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

Member, Task Force 3 of the Marmot Commission Review of Health Inequalities

External examiner

University College Dublin

University of Bristol

University of Newcastle

University of Oxford

Anne Corden

Research methods consultant, Oxfam UK

Proposal refereeing

Economic and Social Research Council

The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research

Jacqueline Davidson

Expert Advisor to the Institute for Public Policy Research on Public Service Reform in the North East

Jo Dixon

Member, Expert Panel on 'Barriers to Employment and Training for Young People Leaving Care' chaired by Lords Minister for the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Baroness Morgan

Caroline Glendinning

Chair, Social Policy Association

Trustee, Thalidomide Trust

Member, Reference Group, 'Developing a Preference Weighted Measure of Social Care Outcomes'

Editorial Advisory Board, Policy Press

Member, ESRC Research Evaluation Committee

Member, Joseph Rowntree Foundation Independent Living Single Programme Committee

Proposal refereeing

Economic and Social Research Council

Final report refereeing

Department of Health

Michael Hirst

Trustee, Carers UK

Member, Partners' Council, Social Care Institute for Excellence

Member, Expect Health Advisory Board, 'Quality of life of patients and carers project'.

Proposal refereeing

The Nuffield Foundation

The Prostate Cancer Charity

Janet Heaton

Rapporteur for Economic and Social Research Council

Nicola Moran

Member, St Anne's Community Services Board

Gillian Parker

Member, Multiple Sclerosis Society Research Strategy Working Group

Member, Advisory Group for National Institute for Health Research, Service and Delivery Organisation, Research and Development Programme funded research on 'Workforce Flexibility' and 'Costs and Outcomes of Older People's Services, University of Sheffield

Member, Joseph Rowntree Foundation Advisory Group on 'Flexible Skill Mix in Care Homes'

Final report refereeing

National Institute for Health Research, Service and Delivery Organisation, Research and Development Programme

Proposal refereeing

Nuffield Foundation

University of Cheshire Gladstone Fellowship Proposal

Help the Aged

Department of Health

Research commissioning

Member, Department of Health Commissioning and Advisory Group for Research on the Expert Carer Programme

Member, Economic and Social Research Council Large Grants Panel

Member, Commissioning Panel for Economic and Social Research Council Public Services Programme

Roy Sainsbury

Specialist Adviser, House of Commons Select Committee on Work and Pensions

Member, Round Table Discussion Group on Welfare Reform Green Paper with Secretary of State

Treasurer and member of the Board of Governors, Foundation for International Studies on Social Security

Member, Joseph Rowntree Foundation Project Advisory Board on 'Poverty and service delivery: benefits, tax credits and employment services'

Member, Institute of Public Policy Research Social Policy Advisory Board

Institute of Public Policy Research Project Advisory Board on 'Innovations in the role the personal adviser in welfare delivery'

Judge, Annual Award for Best Article 2008 Socio-Legal Studies Association

Proposal refereeing

Economic and Social Research Council

Nuffield Foundation

Ian Sinclair

Member, Department for Education and Skills White Paper Placements Working Group (Chair Lord Laming)

Member, Department for Children, Schools and Families, Children's Research Liaison Group

Member, Nuffield Child Protection and Family Justice Group

Member, Advisory Board of English and Romanian Adoptees Study

Member, Visiting panel to Dartington Research Unit

Member, Expert Advisory Group to Thomas Coram Research Unit 'Review and scoping study on earlier intervention with children with additional needs'

Advisory Group for Fostering Network.

Expert Evidence

Select Committee Enquiry on Looked After Children

Foresight Project on Mental Capital and Well-being

Joint NICE/SCIE committee on the 'Physical and emotional health and well-being of looked after children and young people'

Final report refereeing

Welsh Office

Northern Ireland Office

Nuffield

Department for Education and Skills/Department for Children, Schools and Families

Cochrane Review

PhD examiner

University of Leicester

University of London

Patricia Sloper

Member, National Children's Bureau Meeting Medical Needs in Education Project Advisory Group

Member, National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease (NACC) Social, Psychological and Health Services Research Awards Committee

Member, York NHS Local Research Ethics Committee

Research Advisor to Care Coordination Network UK

Member, Childhood Cancer and Leukaemia Group Psychosocial Working Group

Member, CHILLI (Children with Life-limiting Illnesses) Research Group

Member, Disability Theme Group for Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO)

Member, Strategy Board for Institute of Effective Education

Proposals/ reports refereeing

Economic and Social Research Council

Department of Health

Cancer Research UK

Candlelighters

National Institute for Health Research

Child Cancer Foundation

National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease

Mike Stein

Joint Co-ordinator, Transitions from Care to Adulthood International Research Group (16 countries)

Academic advisor, Department of Health/Department for Children, Schools and Families, Quality Protects Research Initiative

Member, the Department for Children, Schools and Families Research Liaison Group

Member, Serious Case Reviews Advisory Group

Chair, Project Advisory Group for 'Relationship Matters', National Children's Bureau and Relate partnership project

Member, Department for Children, Schools and Families Research Advisory Group, 'Case Management and Outcomes for Neglected Children'

Member, Cabinet Office Roundtable Discussion groups; 'Third Sector and Care Leavers' and 'Social Mobility for Care Leavers'

PhD examiner, Queen's University, Belfast

Jim Wade

Member, International network of leaving care researchers

Consultant, The Children's Society

SPRU Publications

Journal Articles

2008

Arksey, H. and Glendinning, C. (2008) Combining work and care: carers' decision-making in the context of competing policy pressures, *Social Policy and Administration*, 42, 1, 1-18.

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Bernard, S., Aspinal, F., Gridley, K. and Parker, G. (2008) Integrated policy making in England for adults with long-term neurological conditions (LTNCs): some preliminary findings from a scoping study, *International Journal of Integrated Care*, 8, 3, 1-8.

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spru | Social Policy Research Unit

Social Policy Research Unit
University of York
Heslington
York YO10 5DD
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1904 321950
Fax: +44 (0)1904 321953
E-mail: spru@york.ac.uk
Website: www.york.ac.uk/spru

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