

Annual Report

2009



THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES

FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION

2009

THE UNIVERSITY *of York*

 | Social Policy
Research Unit

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Introduction by the Director

The highlight of 2009 for SPRU was, without doubt, the award of a Queen's Anniversary Prize, in recognition of the unit's longstanding commitment to high quality research that influences policy to improve vulnerable people's lives.



The award recognises the hard work and dedication of many people over many years. SPRU started as a small team working on a single research project in 1973, and the foresight and dedication of its Founding Director Professor Jonathan Bradshaw and his successor, Professor Sally Baldwin, laid the foundation for its success today.

As part of putting together the submission for the Prize, we received letters of support from around the world. These referred, among other things, to the 'immense contribution to scholarship and collaboration' that SPRU has made, to its 'truly excellent research ... designed from the outset to have impact on some of the most intractable and complex social problems' and to our international lead in 'boundary-crossing, policy-relevant, theoretically-informed research and knowledge brokerage in understudied and marginalized fields'. We were delighted that the rigorous and anonymous process of appraisal by the Queen's Anniversary Trust and its academic and lay assessors came to the same conclusion.

The national recognition that the Queen's Anniversary Prize gives is a timely boost to support us in our aim of making a positive difference, in the real world, to people's lives. A career in applied research can be challenging, with many demands on our time, energy and personal resources. It is always welcome to have this external scrutiny and acknowledgement of all that SPRU has achieved.

An excellent example of how we use research knowledge to influence local and national practice is highlighted in this year's report where we describe how our work on care leavers has led to the development of a programme to help young people leaving care develop their skills through work placements. The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has held up the programme as a blueprint for employers nationally. The leaving care work also influenced a University of York support package to help those leaving care when they come to study here. This initiative led to the award to the University of a Quality Mark from the Frank Buttle Trust.

This year saw additional recognition of SPRU's long-standing contribution to high-quality research in social care when it

became a founding member of the School for Social Care Research - a National Institute of Health Research initiative to develop the evidence base for social care practice. The School will both commission and carry out primary research, and SPRU starts its first project for the School - on the needs of people with very complex, long-term conditions - in 2010.

Despite the chill economic wind, we continue to compete successfully for research funding and have had another productive year, working on 39 different projects and contributing to two international research networks. Funders include the Departments of Health, of Work and Pensions, and of Children, Schools and Families, Youth Justice Board, Centre for Excellence in Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services, National Institute for Health Research, Economic and Social Research Council, Cancer Research UK, The Children's Society, Nuffield Foundation, Big Lottery, Social Care Institute of Excellence, and a range of European funders, including the European Commission. We also have three PhD students in the unit, two with ESRC CASE studentships, and one supported by the Sally Baldwin Fellowship. Our thanks go to all of those who support our work.

We were saddened in July 2009 by the sudden death of Sandra Hutton. Sandra worked in SPRU from 1980 to 2002 and was a talented and creative researcher who contributed much to our knowledge of the impact of social policies on some of the most vulnerable groups of people. She was also a delightful colleague with a wicked sense of humour.

Finally, I want to signal the retirement of Professor Tricia Sloper. Tricia joined SPRU in 1995 and has led the Children and Families team with a sure hand. She has contributed much in so many different areas of research on children and young people that it is difficult to choose what to highlight here. However, I believe that her work on children's participation in services and in research will have a lasting impact. It has transformed the way that we think about children as service users and as research participants, and has influenced practice in health and social care settings and the conduct of research. Although technically retired, Tricia remains involved in SPRU work and I am sure that we will be using her advice for many years to come. We wish her the very best in her new life and give her our heartfelt thanks.

Gillian Parker
Director

Royal recognition for SPRU's research

This year has seen SPRU's work recognised in a special way when it was announced in November that we had won the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education.

Introduced following the 40th Anniversary of the Queen's reign in 1992, the prizes rank alongside the Queen's Awards for Industry. They are given biennially for 'work of exceptional quality and of broad benefit either nationally or internationally'.



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The prize is in recognition of over 35 years of research influencing policy and practice. Research which has led to change in the delivery of services to people experiencing poverty, ageing, disability, chronic illness, unemployment, family crisis, abuse or neglect.

Professor Gillian Parker said: "We are honoured and extremely pleased by the

award of the Queen's Anniversary Prize. It recognises the hard work of many people over many years. SPRU started as a small team working on a single research project in 1973. The foresight and dedication of its Founding Director Professor Jonathan Bradshaw and his successor, Professor Sally Baldwin, laid the foundation for its success today."

One example of how SPRU's work has influenced change during this time includes its research into the financial impact of the death of a child with a life-threatening or life-limiting condition which revealed that families could face a drop in



Professor Gillian Parker, receiving the certificate from the Duke of Edinburgh and Professor Brian Cantor, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of York, receiving the medal from Her Majesty the Queen.

income of up to 72 per cent when the child died. As a result, Child Benefit was extended for up to eight weeks after the death of a child.

The Unit's work on vulnerable groups of children and young people at risk has provided new knowledge about young runaways and missing young people. This work resulted in the establishment of the first refuge for children in Glasgow, a National Service Framework for runaways and new national guidance from the Department of Health.

SPRU has led the way in developing methods that enable disabled and older people and children to participate actively in research. It has achieved a national and international reputation for applied research. SPRU has provided a model for similar research groups in other countries and trained policy makers, practitioners and researchers from the UK and abroad.

The University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Cantor, said: "For more than three decades, SPRU has been a force for good in influencing improvements in the way society supports some of its most vulnerable members. It has achieved this through scholarship and expertise of the highest quality, and it is rightly recognised as being among the finest research units of its type in the world. SPRU has helped to cement the University of York's worldwide reputation as a centre of excellence in the study of the social sciences."



Left to right: Gillian Parker holding the QAP medal, Roy Sainsbury, Gemma Spiers, Katharine Weston, Ala Sirriyeh, Jo Nicholson, Kate Gridley, Brian Cantor.

SPRU's work in the community with care leavers

This year saw the fruition of a couple of projects which have been close to the heart of Jo Dixon, a researcher in the Children and Young People's Social Work Team. They both involve helping care leavers in the crucial move from care to the workplace and further education.



Jo Dixon

The first is a pioneering project that supports care leavers in York. Called Starting Blocks, it helps young people leaving care to develop their skills by providing work placements tailored to their needs. It was set up by the charity York Cares with partner organisations Aviva, City of York Council, University of York and York Marriott Hotel.

Starting Blocks has been so successful that it was held up by the Government as a blueprint for employers nationwide to follow when Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, launched the new From Care2Work programme in July 2009. From Care2Work is the Government's national employment support programme for care leavers.

The transition to independent living and employment can be a hugely difficult one for young people in care who have had disrupted lives and education. This is why they need extra support at the time of transition to work. As part of the scheme, care leavers spend one month on placement and receive a reference at the end. They are supported by volunteers trained as mentors from the host companies who meet the young person beforehand, monitor their progress and conduct an exit interview.

One care leaver who has taken part said: "Starting Blocks has helped me to find out about jobs I would and wouldn't be keen on in the future. I met lots of new people and I got to learn lots of new skills."

York Cares is an employee-volunteering charity, based at the University of York, which inspires employers, employees and

communities to tackle key social issues together. The organisation led a working group of business managers, social workers and Jo Dixon, a researcher at the University's Social Policy Research Unit, to develop the Starting Blocks model.

Frank Buttle Trust Quality Mark for Care Leavers in Higher Education

The second initiative for care leavers, in which Jo was involved, created a support package that would help care leavers studying at The University of York. This initiative led to the award of the Quality Mark for Care Leavers in Higher Education by the Frank Buttle Trust. The award recognises the efforts the University makes to smooth the way for care leavers to gain access to degree courses.

A cross-University working group, which included administrative and academic staff and student representatives, was set up to review and monitor progress in support services for care leavers studying at York. The group devised a support package to address three areas - accommodation, emotional support and financial assistance - where care leavers may need particular help.

Year-round accommodation is a key issue for care leavers and independent students who have been living in transitional Foyer housing. At York, they have the option to extend standard 38 week lets to 52 weeks, if necessary. Care leavers are not required to pay the £200 booking fee for accommodation, and are also able to access the Rent Guarantee scheme.

Emotional support is available through the University's existing welfare framework or by working with a designated member of staff.

The University offers financial support in the form of a special Start-up Bursary of £500 or Foyer Grant of £500, and care leavers receive priority in seeking help from the Access to Learning Fund. Care leavers are also likely to qualify for a maximum Undergraduate Bursary of £1,436 per annum.

In the last decade, SPRU has been at the forefront of leaving care research. Research has consistently shown that young people who have lived in care face considerable challenges both in and after care, and subsequently too few enter higher education, despite their potential. Jo highlighted the importance of universities supporting care leavers to access and succeed in higher education. The Quality Mark demonstrates the commitment of the University of York to this.



Launch of the School for Social Care Research

2009 saw the launch of the new School for Social Care Research, funded by the National Institute for Health Research. The School's mission is to develop the evidence base for adult social care practice in England by commissioning and conducting world-class research.

SPRU was delighted to become one of the School's founding members and will be a major contributor to its research programme. The School will conduct primary research as well as commissioning work from other specialist academics, departments and organisations. The School's other founding members are the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Kent, King's College London and Manchester University.

Professor Caroline Glendinning, Assistant Director of SPRU, is a member of the Executive Group and Associate Director of the new School. She said: "It is great news that SPRU's long-standing reputation for conducting and disseminating research in adult social care has been recognised through its membership of the School."

"We have an ageing society with more people with complex support needs, and there is increased emphasis on choice and personalised care. But as funding becomes tighter, it is essential that practice developments are underpinned by clear evidence of what works, for different groups of service users."



SSCR Executive: Anji Mehta, Ann Netten, Jim Mansell, David Challis, Caroline Glendinning, (front) Gill Hastings, Martin Knapp, Jill Manthorpe

SPRU will be starting a SSCR research project looking into the needs of people with severe and complex conditions in April 2010. People with complex and severe needs are a small proportion of all adult social care service users, but they are growing in number and present challenges to service commissioners and providers, because they often need specialist services co-ordinated between a wide range of providers. The scoping study will identify key features of the service and support arrangements desired by different groups of adults and older people with severe and complex



Professor Caroline Glendinning, Assistant Director of SPRU

conditions. It will also seek out evidence of initiatives that have these desired features and could be used as examples of 'good practice'. The study will cover the different levels of service commissioning, operational organisation and front-line delivery.

As the School's research programme gets underway, the consultation, debate and dissemination activities are also beginning with the SSCR's first annual conference being held in London. It will be on 30th March 2010 at the London School of Economics and Political Science. The conference will address key themes for adult social care practice in England. It will be open to all, with a small registration fee. Further details are available at www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk.

SPRU Seminar series

The 2009 SPRU Seminar Series has been a resounding success, receiving excellent feedback from audiences at every event.

The series, which hosted eminent speakers from many UK Universities, explored the concept of 'wellbeing' in policy and practice, and attracted large audiences from across academic disciplines at the University of York as well as stakeholders from external organisations.

The Director's Choice Seminar, a new addition to the long-running annual seminar series, was given by Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby from the University of Kent in his presentation Opportunity and Solidarity. The seminar was followed by a reception at which the audience was able to engage in lively debate with Professor Taylor-Gooby and colleagues from many disciplines.



Peter Taylor-Gooby and Gillian Parker before the talk



Peter Taylor-Gooby talking with researchers at the reception



Gillian Parker, Michael O'Higgins and Maria Goddard

The unit is proud of the success of this year's series; it has increased opportunities for debating key social policy issues, sharing knowledge, and developing links with academic partners. Such opportunities will continue for the 2010 series on People, Policy & Personalisation: Critical Perspectives, an interesting and timely topic beginning in February 2010.

During the year we also hosted a joint event with the Centre for Health Economics where we welcomed Dr Michael O'Higgins, the Chairman of the Audit Commission, to talk at a special invited lecture on Thursday 3rd December 2009 in York. Dr O'Higgins gave a talk on Scrutiny, Targets and Improving Public Services which highlighted the important role targets have played in stimulating improvement in public services over the past decade. He also touched more widely on other factors that stimulate improvement. During his talk he introduced the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) which released its first results on Wednesday 9th December 2009. The CAA is a new way of assessing local public services in England. It examines how well councils and other public bodies, working together, meet the needs of the people they serve. Dr O'Higgins also introduced the new website called 'Oneplace' where people can go to interrogate the CAA results to find out more about the functioning of the services in their area.

This was an interesting and engaging talk which prompted some lively discussion from the invited audience of academics, University officials, local politicians, local Government and NHS officials and representatives from the voluntary sector across the Yorkshire and Humberside Region. The talk was followed by a dinner at Heslington Hall.

SPRU Seminar Series 2009

Wellness, Wellbeing and Welfare: Critical Perspectives

Changing childhood? Every Child Matters, integrated working and new forms of professionalism

Professor Nick Frost, Leeds Metropolitan University

Do Individual Budgets promote the wellbeing of older people?

Professor Jill Manthorpe, King's College London

Wellbeing and older people: reflections on the experience of social relations and engagement in later life

Professor John Bond, University of Newcastle

Adult poverty and child wellbeing

Professor Robert Walker, University of Oxford

Dysfunctional societies: why inequality matters

Professor Richard Wilkinson, University of Nottingham

The third sector, public participation and public service reform: tensions in the governance of modernised welfare provision

Dr Graham Martin, University of Nottingham

Promoting mental health and managing mental ill health in the workplace - what do we know about what works?

Dr Bob Grove, The Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health

Mental health: multiple perspectives, multiple challenges

Professor Martin Knapp, Personal Social Services Research Unit at the London School of Economics and Political Science

Director's Choice Seminar

Opportunity and Solidarity

Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby, University of Kent

Experiences of conducting longitudinal research in palliative care: measurement change and aspects to consider

Professor Irene Higginson, University College London

Our thanks to the dedicated team at SPRU who organised the seminar series: Fiona Aspinall, Gemma Spiers, Lisa Southwood; and to Wendy Mitchell who nurtured the series for many years previously.



Fiona Aspinall



Gemma Spiers



Lisa Southwood



Wendy Mitchell

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 Dr Bryony Beresford

Welfare and Employment Team

- led by Professor Roy Sainsbury

Adults, Older People and Carers Team

- led by Professor Caroline Glendinning



The Children and Families Team is led by Dr Bryony Beresford. It's main focus is applied policy and practice research relating to the health and social welfare of children and young people with disabilities and/or chronic or life-limiting illnesses and their families, including service delivery and organisation issues.



Children and Families

Research projects during 2009

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 13 | Transition to adult services and adulthood for young people with autistic spectrum conditions | 15 | Participation of parents with disabled children in service development |
| 13 | The 'Life in Paediatric Oncology Project' (LIPOP): Development and validation of a measure of work-related stressors and rewards | 15 | Evaluating models of care closer to home for children and young people who are ill |
| 14 | A review of evidence on disabled children and young people's access to positive and inclusive activities | 16 | Models of multi-agency services for transition to adult services for disabled young people and those with complex health needs: Impact and costs |
| 14 | The effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and costs of behavioural approaches to the management of sleep and behaviour problems among disabled children | | |
| 15 | Decisions about technological support for children and young people with degenerative conditions | | |

Transition to adult services and adulthood for young people with autistic spectrum conditions

Ongoing project
Department of Health

November 2009 to January 2012

Nicola Moran, Patricia Sloper, Wendy Mitchell, Linda Cusworth; Jennifer Beecham (Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent)

There is some evidence from research that for many young people with autistic spectrum conditions (ASC) 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 which can identify the components of models of good practice in transition services or the costs of such services for young people with ASC and their families. This study will:

- investigate the roles of multi-agency transition services in relation to young people with ASC, and the arrangements that are in place for co-ordinating services for young people with and without learning disabilities
- explore young people's and parents' experiences of planning for transition and making the transition from children's to adults' services
- explore the costs and outcomes for young people of the transition process
- identify aspects of good practice in this area of work – what works, how does it work?
- investigate sources of funding and costs of different models of transition services.

Case studies will examine in depth the differing models of transition services in five areas, identifying factors within the models contributing to greater or lesser effectiveness. Interviews will be undertaken with managers and staff to explore the organisation and operation of transition services and staff views of the effectiveness of the services. Questionnaires to all young people with ASC and their parents who are receiving, or have received, transition services, will focus on amount of service use, satisfaction with the services, processes of care and met and unmet needs. In order to explore views of the services in more depth, interviews will be carried out with a sub-sample of young people with ASC and their parents. Cost-related analyses will provide descriptive results on costs of such services.

This research will identify the components of good practice that are associated with more positive experiences for young people and their parents. This will inform standards of good practice in services for young people with ASC and their families at transition.

The 'Life in Paediatric Oncology Project' (LIPOP): Development and validation of a measure of work-related stressors and rewards

Ongoing project
Cancer Research UK

February 2009 to August 2010

Suzanne Mukherjee, Bryony Beresford; Alan Tennant (University of Leeds)

Research on adult oncology staff indicates the risk of burnout and psychiatric morbidity, with some evidence of a rise in recent years. These findings have implications for sickness absence, job retention, and quality of care to patients. Whether or not these findings can be generalised to staff working in paediatric and adolescent oncology is questionable, since the needs of children are different from adults, as are the skills required by staff who care for them. In addition, children experience different malignancies and more dose-intensive therapies.

Evidence regarding paediatric and adolescent oncology staff is very limited, consisting predominantly of exploratory research on the stressors experienced by nursing staff and one (non-UK) study of psychiatric morbidity among nurses. There is, therefore, a need for further research on this topic and this requires a measure of work-related stressors and rewards so that factors which increase or decrease the risk for burnout and psychiatric difficulties can be understood.

The purpose of this project is to develop a measure of the work-related stressors and rewards experienced by staff working in multi-disciplinary teams in paediatric and adolescent oncology treatment centres (doctors, nurses, social workers, play specialists and youth workers). No such tool currently exists. In addition to being useful for future research investigating burnout, such a measure could be used in clinical practice to facilitate early identification of, and interventions for, staff at risk of burnout and psychological distress. Evidence from this research will also contribute to current debates on how best to improve the health and well-being of the NHS workforce.

Publication

Mukherjee, S., Beresford, B., Glaser, A. and Sloper, P. (2009) Burnout, psychiatric morbidity, and work-related sources of stress in paediatric oncology staff: a review of the literature, *Psycho-Oncology*, 18, 10, 1019-1028.

A review of evidence on disabled children and young people's access to positive and inclusive activities

Ongoing project

National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) for the Centre for Excellence in Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO)

January 2009 to October 2010

Bryony Beresford, Susan Clarke; Rachel Borthwick (Acton Shapiro)

This is a rapid review of evidence on improving disabled children and young people's access to positive and inclusive activities. It addresses four questions:

- What evidence is there of practice in children's centres, extended schools and youth services in fully including disabled children and young people?
- What do disabled children and young people think about the positive activities on offer (including access to physical activities) in their area and how can their awareness of activities on offer be increased?
- What support is needed for children and young people to access inclusive activities?
- What evidence is there that improving access to positive activities improves the well-being of disabled children and young people?

A scoping review conducted by NFER was a key resource for this review. The review and a summary were published in July 2009. These will be updated, and additional material providing examples of 'validated good practice' inserted, with the final version being published towards the end of 2010. This review is one of three being conducted regarding disabled children and young people for the disability theme of the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO). The reviews are being used to inform and support evidence based changes and improvements within children's services.

Publication

Beresford, B. and Clarke, S. (2009) *Improving the wellbeing of disabled children and young people through improving access to positive and inclusive activities*. Disability Research Review, 2, Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO), London.

The effectiveness, cost-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 (C4EO)

August 2008 to March 2011

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

This project is investigating the effectiveness and costs of:

- interventions to help parents of disabled children better manage their child's sleep problems
- interventions to help parents of disabled children better manage their child's behaviour problems.

It will also produce evidence on parents' experiences of receiving an intervention, professionals' experiences of delivering an intervention, the factors which affect maintenance and generalisation of skills, and positive changes achieved by an intervention.

The project consists of two main phases. First, rapid reviews of evidence have been conducted on:

- the effectiveness of behavioural approaches to managing sleep problems in disabled children
- the effectiveness of parent training in behavioural approaches to managing behaviour problems among disabled children.

The second, and main, phase of the research is investigating the effectiveness, costs and cost-effectiveness of four sleep and four behaviour interventions currently being delivered to parents of disabled children by statutory agencies or voluntary sector organisations. A controlled trial design is being used. Evidence on the effectiveness of sleep and behaviour interventions will be obtained from the following sources:

- standardised measures of sleep/behaviour, parenting confidence and ratings of parent-set goals/outcomes administered at baseline, post intervention and three months follow-up (further follow-up will be possible in some cases)
- collection of costs data from services and families
- interviews with practitioners and parents.

Sleep and behaviour problems are common and persistent in disabled children. They can have a severe impact on their quality of life and that of their parents and other family members. This project will produce much needed evidence on how best to support parents as they seek to manage these difficulties.

Publications

Beresford, B. (2009) *The Effectiveness of Behavioural Interventions Which Involve Parents in the Management of Behaviour Problems Among Disabled Children: A rapid review*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

McDaid, C. and Sloper, P. (2009) *Evidence on Effectiveness of Behavioural Interventions to Help Parents Manage Sleep Problems in Young Disabled Children: A rapid review*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Decisions about technological support for children and young people with degenerative conditions

Ongoing project

Economic and Social Research Council, CASE Studentship and Martin House Children's Hospice

October 2007 to December 2010

Jo Nicholson

This qualitative study is examining decision-making for children and young people with degenerative conditions for whom life-sustaining technology is able to compensate for the partial failure or loss of a body function, and thus prolong life. Having completed in-depth interviews with parents and young people who have made a decision about technological support, more specifically artificial nutrition and assisted ventilation, the study is now seeking the views of key professionals identified by families in the study. Underpinned by the model of shared decision-making, the study will explore the exchange and utilisation of information, and the processes of participation and deliberation. The study also aims to identify good practice in information giving and support for decision-making.

Participation of parents with disabled children in service development

Ongoing project

Economic and Social Research Council, CASE Studentship and Contact A Family

January 2007 to January 2011

Julie Bruce

This study is investigating the occurrence and effects of parental participation in the development of services for disabled children. A survey mapping participation practice across the UK and in-depth qualitative interviews with parents, service staff and managers have been used to explore this issue. The study intends to identify the factors which support and promote good practice, factors which are barriers to the process and outcomes of parents' effective participation.

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 May 2010

Gillian Parker, Gemma Spiers, Kate Gridley, Suzanne Mukherjee, Jan Heaton, Linda Cusworth; Karl Atkin, Yvonne Birks (Department of Health Sciences); Karin Lowson, Diane Wright (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 five 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 of acute trusts and Primary Care Trusts to identify services 'close to home' for ill children and young people. The survey has gathered information about the extent and range of care closer to home provision, and about how they are organised and delivered.
- case studies in four Primary Care Trusts in England to explore implications for services and service users of providing care closer to home for children and young people. Data collection for the case studies is currently ongoing.
- modelling the impact of providing care close to home on hospital paediatric acute activity and health service costs. This stage is examining the costs and effectiveness of different models of care 'close to home', using standard economic impact assessment techniques.

The findings from this study will help to inform future policy and practice on the balance between hospital-based and community-based care for children and young people who are ill. This has implications for both the quality and accessibility of care received by families and the costs associated with inpatient activity.

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

Completed project

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

March 2007 to June 2009

Tricia Sloper, Susan Clarke, Linda Cusworth, 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 were 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 was carried out to investigate arrangements for multi-agency transition from child to adult services for young people with disabilities or complex health needs.

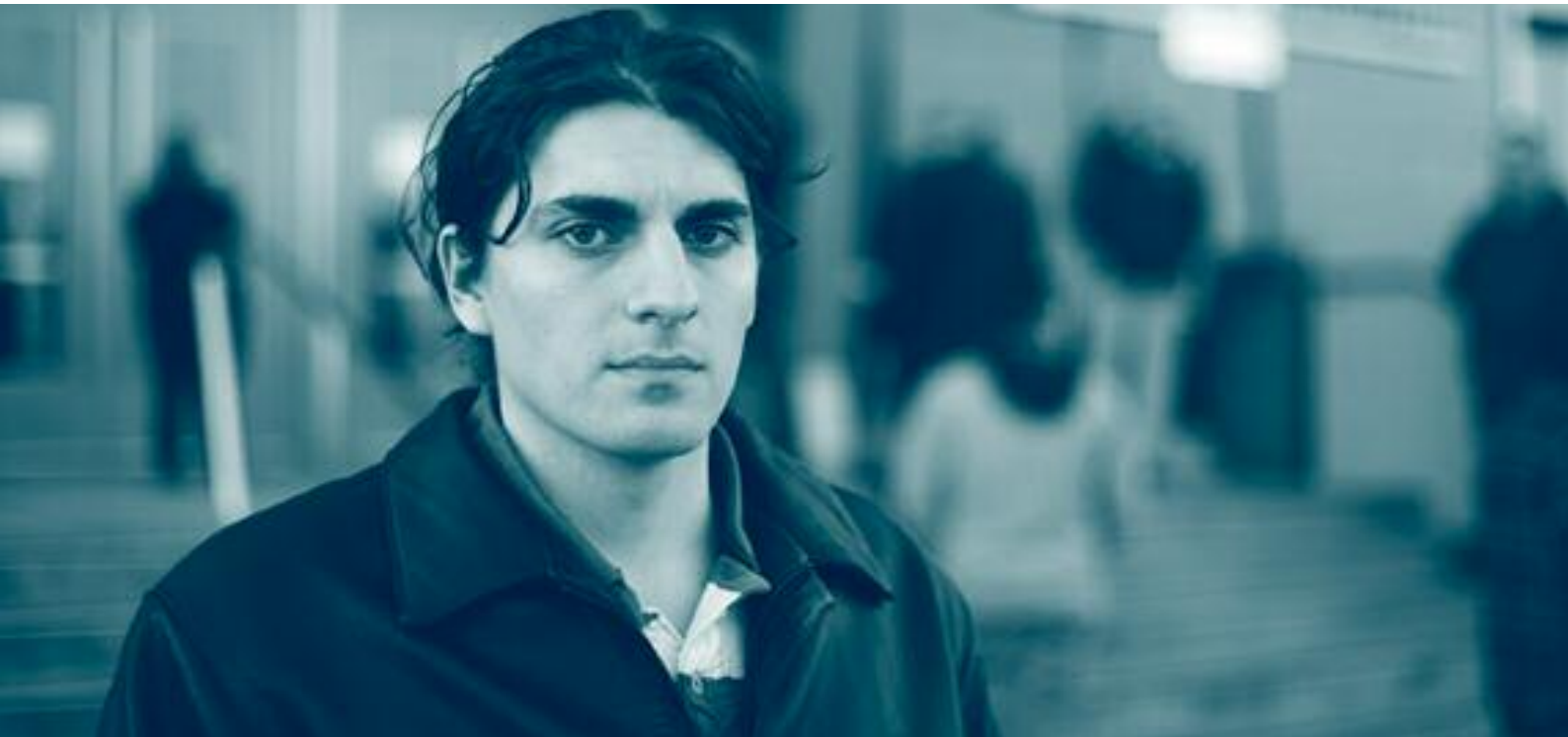
Five case study areas were selected, representing different models of transition services and a range of demographic variables. Selection focused on services that had transition workers or teams to co-ordinate the services for the young person and multi-agency partnerships. Interviews were undertaken 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 was investigated through questionnaires to all young people and their parents receiving the service, and interviews with a sub-sample of young people and their parents. Cost-related analyses provided descriptive results on the costs of such services.

The report of the findings will be available in 2010. The findings should inform standards of good practice in services for disabled young people and their families at transition.

Publication

Sloper, P., Beecham, J., Clarke, S., Franklin, A., Moran, N. and Cusworth, L. (forthcoming) *Models of Multi-agency Services for Transition to Adult Services for Disabled Young People and Those with Complex Health Needs: Impact and costs*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

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

Research projects during 2009

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 18 | Single working age benefit qualitative research | 20 | An exploratory comparison of the interactions between advisers and younger and older benefits claimants during work focused interviews |
| 18 | A qualitative study of employers' recruitment decisions: small and medium sized enterprises | 21 | Water affordability in England and Wales |
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Single working age benefit qualitative research

Ongoing project

Department for Work and Pensions

September 2009 to March 2010

Roy Sainsbury and Katharine Nice

There is widespread acceptance that the social security system is complex. Some argue that it is too complex and therefore has become dysfunctional in relation to welfare to work policy. Others suggest that complexity is an inevitable and necessary consequence of the diversity in people's lives. However, even among those who take the latter perspective, the idea that some simplification of the benefit system is desirable is accepted.

One idea for simplification that goes beyond incremental improvements is the single working age benefit that merges Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support and Incapacity Benefit. While this has been discussed in government policy documents, the views of two key groups of people - benefit recipients and front-line staff who deliver benefits and employment services - has not been researched. This study uses qualitative research methods to take a first step in filling this gap in our knowledge, and addresses a number of policy questions, including:

- Is there support for moving towards a single working age benefit?
- Would it reduce uncertainties about entitlement and about trying work?
- Would people's diverse needs be met by a single working age benefit?

At the time of writing, the fieldwork for the project has been completed. Separate focus groups of benefit recipients and benefit and employment advisers were held in November and December 2009 in four locations in Great Britain. A draft report to the Department for Work and Pensions is due at the end of February 2010.

The research was commissioned specifically to inform policy decisions about the next stages of the current government's welfare reform agenda. It will also be of interest and use to the main opposition parties ahead of a general election in 2010, both of which have discussed the possibility of radical benefit reform in policy documents in the last year or so.

A qualitative study of employers' recruitment decisions: small and medium- sized enterprises

Ongoing project

Department for Work and Pensions

August 2009 to August 2010

Roy Sainsbury and Jacqueline Davidson

This study explores the factors which influence the decision-making processes in small and medium-sized firms' recruitment decisions. Small and medium firms are prevalent in the UK economy yet little is known about their recruitment processes. This is at a time when raising the employment rates of disabled people and other disadvantaged groups is a key government priority.

Much research on decision-making processes is generated from retrospective accounts. By targeting specific job vacancies as they arise in two local labour markets, the project employs an innovative methodology in which employers' decision-making processes can be mapped before and after a successful candidate has been selected. Methods include a literature review, face-to-face interviews and workshops with 30 employers in small and medium enterprises.

The findings of the research will be used to inform the Department for Work and Pensions' policy for supporting and engaging with small and medium enterprises in their recruitment of disabled people.

How to measure extreme poverty in the European Union

Ongoing project

European Commission

August 2009 to September 2010

Jonathan Bradshaw, Emese Mayhew

Since the expansion of the European Union (EU), the problems of accurately measuring poverty rates have intensified. The Commission is now exploring ways to reflect better the most extreme forms of poverty as they persist across the EU.

The purpose of the study is to investigate and to discuss the feasibility of meaningful and agreeable concepts, definitions and ways to measure extreme poverty at EU level. The research will include:

- a critical review of approaches to measuring extreme poverty
- secondary data analysis of the European Union Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC) will test out some indicators of extreme poverty
- a review of extreme poverty thresholds in use in member states, using national informants
- comparative analysis of the level of social assistance schemes in the existing EU countries using model family methods.

The project aims to provide the EU with a range of options for measuring extreme poverty across the disparate economies of the current and accession states. The measure finally chosen

from these options will help the EU in its commitment to fight against poverty and social exclusion within its borders. Common indicators and measures are needed to measure progress in this policy aim across all countries concerned.

Presentations and papers are available on:

<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/summs/extreme.html>

Mode effects in qualitative interviews: a comparison of semi-structured face-to-face and telephone interviews using conversation analysis

Ongoing project

Economic and Social Research Council

July 2009 to June 2010

Annie Irvine and Roy Sainsbury; Paul Drew (Department of Sociology)

The two principal options for conducting semi-structured qualitative research interviews are face-to-face or by telephone. A range of pragmatic and ethical arguments have been presented in the literature as to why one or other of these two modes might be preferable. However, the ways in which the spoken interaction and resulting data are affected by qualitative interview mode have not been robustly or systematically investigated to any significant extent.

This study's aim is to increase knowledge about how interview mode (telephone or face-to-face) influences the structure and content of qualitative interview interactions, and to consider the implications of any differences for the data that is thereby generated. The study uses the method of Conversation Analysis. Conversation Analysis (CA) concerns itself with identifying the strategies that individuals use to accomplish 'social actions' through talk. CA also examines the interactional consequences of selecting one strategy or format over another. This is pursued through the detailed examination of collections of audio and transcribed data, to identify recurring patterns and structures in the interactions. CA offers a method for systematically examining and comparing the interactional patterns that emerge in telephone and face-to-face interviews.

The research draws on an existing set of qualitative interviews collected for a recent SPRU study which explored the experiences of people who had sustained paid employment throughout a period of mental ill health. The project has a primarily methodological focus. The findings will have importance to qualitative researchers across a range of disciplines and may have wider relevance to other professions and industries that use semi-structured interview approaches in their dealings with clients or customers.

Qualitative research on the impact of Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance

Completed project

Department for Work and Pensions

February 2009 to December 2009

Roy Sainsbury, Anne Corden, Annie Irvine, Susan Clarke

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Attendance Allowance (AA) were introduced in 1992 as non-means-tested benefits to contribute to meeting the extra costs of disability. DLA can be claimed by people under 65 years old, including children, on the basis of their care and mobility needs. AA can be claimed by people aged over 65 years and is assessed on the basis of their care needs only.

The Department for Work and Pensions is currently undertaking a policy review of DLA and AA and is particularly interested in understanding more about the impact that these benefits have on people's lives. The Social Policy Research Unit was commissioned to conduct research:

- to contribute to greater understanding of the use and impact of DLA and AA
- to increase understanding of the difference made to people's lives by DLA and AA
- to inform development of questions that might be used in any further quantitative investigation.

Methods

- six group discussions with professionals and advisers in touch with people who claim or might claim DLA and AA
- qualitative face-to-face interviews with 15 working age DLA recipients; parents of 15 children in receipt of DLA, and 15 recipients of AA.
- a desk-based review of questions in existing surveys about the use of DLA and AA.

Fieldwork was completed in autumn 2009 and a draft report was submitted to DWP in December 2009. The report presents empirical findings about the difference the benefits made to people in the study group. The findings will inform the government policy review of disability and carers' benefits, and the funding of long-term care for elderly people. Findings will also inform the design of any further government research on the impact of DLA and AA, and contribute to methodological developments and debate about different ways of seeking information from elderly and disabled people.

Publication

Corden, A., Sainsbury, R., Irvine, A. and Clarke, S. (forthcoming) *The Impact of Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance - findings from exploratory qualitative research*, HMSO, Norwich

Qualitative study of the Condition Management Programme under Provider-led Pathways to Work

Completed project

Department for Work and Pensions

January 2009 to December 2009

Katharine Nice, Jacqueline Davidson, Roy Sainsbury in collaboration with the National Centre for Social Research

The Pathways to Work programme was started as a pilot in seven areas in 2003. It aimed to provide help to recipients of Incapacity Benefit to move towards and into paid employment. Part of the package of interventions available to Pathways advisers was the Condition Management Programme (CMP). CMP was intended to help people understand and manage their physical or mental health conditions so that they could undertake some work-related activity or return to work. The programme was delivered in partnership with the NHS and staffed by NHS health professionals.

In October 2008 the final national roll out of the Pathways programme was begun. Importantly, in areas not already covered by existing provision from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Jobcentre Plus, Pathways is being delivered by organisations in the private and third sectors – known as Provider-led Pathways. Each provider organisation is contractually obliged to offer a Condition Management Programme as part of its range of services.

This project, commissioned by DWP, used qualitative methods to gather data on the structure, organisation and delivery of CMP under Provider-led Pathways, from the perspectives of CMP users and staff of provider organisations. Included in the study group were areas where CMP was delivered in-house by Pathways providers and those where CMP was contracted out.

This study contributes to understanding about the diversity between Condition Management Programmes delivered in different locations, about aspects of effective practice, and about the ways in which CMP can make an impact on participants.

A draft report was submitted to DWP in December 2009.

Publication

Nice, K. and Davidson, J. (forthcoming) *Provider-led Pathways: Experiences and views of Condition Management Programmes*, HMSO, Norwich

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

Completed project

Department for Work and Pensions

October 2008 to December 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. This means 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 encouraging individuals to stay in work longer. However, there is currently limited information about provision of Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus (JCP) services for the 50-69 age group. Additionally, evidence from evaluations of JCP programmes indicates that older people (aged 50+) do not fare as well from some back-to-work programmes as their younger counterparts (aged below 50).

This study aimed to contribute to our knowledge about the provision for and experiences of older people who are out of employment. It provided insight into whether there are differences in the content and structure of interactions between JCP Personal Advisers and younger claimants compared to interactions with older claimants, during work focused interviews (WFIs). The research contributed to the development of the Extending Working Lives strategies and policy.

The study used the method of Conversation Analysis and involved a qualitative exploration of a corpus of audio and video recordings of WFIs taking place in Jobcentre Plus offices.

Publication

Irvine, A., Sainsbury, R., Drew, P. and Toerien, M. (forthcoming) *An Exploratory Comparison of the Interactions Between Advisers and Younger and Older Clients During Work Focused Interviews*, Leeds, Corporate Document Services.

Water affordability in England and Wales

Completed project

Consumer Council for Water

June 2008 to March 2009

Carolyn Snell, Jonathan Bradshaw

The burden of increasing energy prices on poorer households is acknowledged by both policy makers and academics. Policies to ensure that households are still able to use sufficient energy have been developed alongside measures that encourage energy efficiency (with both cost and environmental benefits). However water costs have been rising in real terms without any special measures to mitigate them. This increase is the result of tightening legislation and water scarcity, and this trend is expected to continue.

Consumer Council for Water commissioned us to assess mechanisms within the tax and benefits system that might enable equitable access to water supplies by those defined as water poor. This research consisted of two elements: first, a review of existing knowledge on water poverty, including an overview of existing forms of help for those struggling to pay water bills. The second part of this research focused on an analysis of the Family Resources Survey (FRS) to investigate the extent of water poverty in England and Wales, and the characteristics of households in water poverty. It also considers the possibility of using a mechanism within the tax and benefits system to address this.

Publications

Snell, C. and Bradshaw, J. (2009) *Water affordability in England and Wales*, Consumer Council for Water, Birmingham.

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

Provider-led Pathways: early implementation study

Completed project

Department for Work and Pensions

March 2008 to April 2009

Katharine Nice, Jacqueline Davidson, Roy Sainsbury, Anne Corden 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 Benefit/Employment and Support Allowance 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.

In collaboration with the Policy Studies Institute and the National Centre for Social Research, SPRU conducted qualitative research into the early implementation of Provider-led Pathways. This provided information (from the perspective of Jobcentre Plus staff, Pathways provider staff and claimants) about the implementation and delivery of the programme so far, to inform further policy development and implementation plans. In particular the study identified ways in which the programme was working well, a number of 'teething problems' that might be expected to fade over time, and some problems that might require changes to policy or guidance.

Publication

Nice, K., Davidson, J. and Sainsbury, R. (2009) *Provider-led Pathways: Experiences and views of early implementation*, Department for Work and Pensions Research Report, No. 595, HMSO, Norwich.

A conversation analysis study of work focused interviews

Completed project

Department for Work and Pensions

March 2007 to December 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, to date this has only been established through retrospective interviews.

This project used the method of Conversation Analysis to look at what happens during the work focused interview interaction itself. During 2007, over 200 video recordings of work focused interviews were made involving claimants of Jobseekers Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Lone parent Income Support. Using the techniques of Conversation Analysis, the study looked in fine detail at interactions at the level of 'turns at talk' to identify whether there were particular styles, approaches or sequences of talk that lead to the success or breakdown of the adviser-claimant interaction.

The project has enhanced understanding of the content and structure of work focused interviews and what makes for effective advisory practice in moving people closer to work during these conversations. Findings have been presented to a range of Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus stakeholders and will contribute to developing future training for Personal Advisers.

Publication

Drew, P., Toerien, M., Irvine, A. and Sainsbury, R. (forthcoming) *A Study of Language and Communication Between Advisers and Claimants in Work-Focused Interviews*, Leeds, Corporate Document Services.

The subjective well-being of children

Completed project

The Children's Society

January 2007 to December 2009

Jonathan Bradshaw, Antonia Keung; Gwyther Rees, Haridhan Goswami (Children's Society)

The recent growth of interest in subjective well-being is partly due to a recognition that existing social and economic indicators do not fully capture what matters for the quality of people's lives. Beyond a certain level, ongoing economic progress in Western nations has not been matched by corresponding increases in the well-being of the population. Child well-being is really at the heart of domestic social policy in the UK and especially the Every Child Matters framework. However the science is more advanced for some domains of well-being than others. Subjective well-being is one of the least developed and contains a good deal of conceptual and empirical confusion.

Since 2007 SPRU and the Children's Society have been collaborating in a study of the subjective well-being of children in England. This began with secondary analysis of a survey undertaken by the Children's Society in 2005. Drawing on that experience a new school-based survey and questionnaire were designed. In 2008, 7,000 children aged 10, 12 and 14 took part in this survey. The survey was designed to measure the well-being of children in England and form the base line survey for future surveys. The Children's Society will be undertaking surveys every two years in an effort to monitor child well-being. The questionnaire is entirely devoted to exploring subjective well-being and it is hoped that it will contribute to establishing valid and reliable scales that could be used in future surveys.

During 2009 we have been analysing the results. They were the subject of a seminar organised by the Children's Society in June 2009 and will be launched publicly at a conference in January 2010. A report will be also be made available.

This study is part of an ongoing research programme which will make a significant contribution to understanding what affects young people's well-being, and will also monitor changes in well-being over time. The initial report provides a short introduction to some of the main topics covered by the survey. It will be followed by a series of more detailed reports over the next year.

Publications

Rees, G., Bradshaw, J., Goswami, H. and Keung, A. (2010) *Understanding Young People's Well-Being: A national survey of young people's well-being*, The Children's Society, London.

Bradshaw, J. (2009) Child well-being in comparative perspective, *Children Australia*, 34, 1, 5-15.

Bradshaw, J., Keung, A., Rees, G. and Goswami, H. (forthcoming) Explaining variations in the subjective well-being of children – macro and micro approaches, *Journal of Children and Adolescence*.

Bradshaw, J., Keung, A., Rees, G. and Goswami, H. (forthcoming) The subjective well-being of children, in McAuley, C. and Rose, W. (eds) *Child Well-being – Towards a better understanding of children's lives*, Jessica Kingsley, London.

UK expert on National Action Plans for Social Inclusion

Ongoing project

European Commission

January 2003 onwards

Jonathan Bradshaw; Fran Bennett (University of Oxford)

In 2003 we were asked by the European Union to perform the role of UK National Experts for the Network of Independent Experts on Social Inclusion. The Network was established to provide an independent report on the National Action Plans for Social Inclusion. These are prepared by the member states every two years. This process is part of the Open Method of Coordination which was established by the European Commission following the Lisbon Council in 2000.

Every year we write three 'Semester Reports' for the Commission and a coordinating team writes a synthesis report. In 2009 we wrote three reports:

- Bradshaw, J. and Bennett, F. (2009) *Minimum Income Schemes in the United Kingdom. A review of National Policies*
- United Kingdom: Homelessness and Housing Exclusion - Summary and review of responses to the Member States questionnaire on homelessness and housing exclusion (Nicholas Pleace, Suzanne Fitzpatrick & Steve Wilcox, Centre for Housing Policy University of York).
- Impact of the economic and financial crisis on poverty and social exclusion in the UK.

Publications

Not all the reports are published but most are made available by the EU on this website:

<http://www.peer-review-social-inclusion.eu/network-of-independent-experts/policy-assessment-activities>

Latest report

Bradshaw, J. and Bennett, F. (2009) *Minimum Income Schemes in the United Kingdom: A Study of National Policy, Second Semester Report of the Network of Social Inclusion Experts*, European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Luxembourg.

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



Adults, Older People and Carers

Research projects during 2009

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 24 | Department of Health Research Programme: Choice and independence across the lifecourse | 27 | Combining choice, quality and equity in social services – European Union Peer Review |
| 25 | Choice and change: extending choice and control over the lifecourse - a qualitative longitudinal panel study | 28 | Continuity of care synthesis and conceptual analysis of the NIHR, Service and Delivery Organisation programme's research |
| 25 | Personal budgets: learning from experiences of older people and people with mental health problems | 28 | National evaluation of Caring with Confidence |
| 25 | National evaluation of the Personal Health Budget Pilot Projects | 29 | Home care re-ablement services: investigating the longer-term impacts (prospective longitudinal study) |
| 26 | Reforms in long-term care policies in European Union countries | 29 | Reforming long-term care: recent lessons from other countries |
| 26 | Scoping review of research on interventions to support carers | 30 | Integrated services for people with long-term neurological conditions: an evaluation of the National Service Framework |
| 27 | Exploring the effects of the economic slowdown on adult social care | 30 | The meaning of independence for older people |

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

Increasing choice for 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 and include the piloting of Individual Budgets (IBs); the roll-out of personal budgets across English adult social care services; and the piloting of personal health budgets (PHBs) in the NHS. Reflecting the focus of SPRU's previous Department of Health (DH) funded research programme, social and healthcare services now aim to achieve personalised outcomes for users as well as improve independence and quality of life.

These policies have prompted debates about consumerism and choice in welfare services. Some argue that increased choice is a necessary response to changing expectations in post-modern societies; others question the transfers of private consumption practices to the public sector and of risk from public bodies to individual users. These debates underpin SPRU's Department of Health funded research programme.

The 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 provider markets to increased opportunities for individualised commissioning or purchasing. The programme addresses the following questions:

- What kinds of choices over social care and other 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 the different groups? How do choices relate to experiences of independence and well-being?
- 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 are 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?

SPRU's DH programme funding includes an important responsive element that allows additional research that is urgently required by DH policy makers to be commissioned at short notice.

Ongoing projects within SPRU's DH programme:

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

This study forms the core of the DH programme. It examines the realities of exercising choice in the context of changing circumstances, whether these arise from changes in illness or disability or from other social transitions. This includes investigating the consequences of past choices; the roles of family and professionals in making choices; the responses of service providers, and the impacts of choices on experiences of independence and well-being (page 25)

- Home care re-ablement services: investigating the longer-term impacts (prospective longitudinal study) (page 28)
- Scoping Review on carers research (page 26)

Completed projects within SPRU's 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.](#)
- [Welfare consumerism, disability and social care](#)

Complementary to the DH Programme:

- [Examining the dynamics of choice: the context of informal care](#)

- [Access to information about social care - response to recommendation from the Better Regulation Task Force](#)
- [Review of research on risk and social care](#)
- [Domiciliary care agencies' responses to increased user choice: perceived threats, barriers and opportunities from a changing market](#)
- [Individual budgets: impact and outcomes for carers](#)
- Reforming long-term care: recent lessons from other countries (page 29)
- [Transition to adult services of disabled young people leaving 'out of authority' residential schools](#)

Other research projects that complement SPRU's DH Programme:

- [National Evaluation of Individual Budgets Pilot Projects \(IBSEN\)](#)
- [Investigating the longer-term effects of home care reablement services \(retrospective longitudinal study\)](#)
- National evaluation of Personal Health Budget Pilot Projects (page 25)
- [Care provision within families and its socio-economic impact on care providers](#)

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 experiences of choices about services in the context of changing circumstances, whether arising from changes in illness or disability or from other social transitions. It also examines the consequences of past choices, including the responses of service providers, and the impacts on perceived independence and quality of life.

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 a subsample of 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
- perceived responses of service providers to user choice
- impact of choices on independence.

Fieldwork for the panel study began during 2007, with the last round of interviews taking place in autumn 2009. A series of papers and a final report will be produced during 2010.

Personal Budgets: learning from experiences of older people and people with mental health problems

Ongoing project

Social Care Institute for Excellence

November 2009 to November 2010

Hilary Arksey, Caroline Glendinning; Liz Newbrunner, Ruth Chamberlain, Chris Bartlett, Kate Bosanquet (ActonShapiro); Sue Bott, Bernd Sass (National Centre for Independent Living)

Personal budgets are at the core of current developments in adult social care policy and practice. They offer greater choice and control to people needing social care, by specifying the resources available and allowing individual support needs to be met flexibly from a wide range of sources. However, some groups, particularly older people, appear to derive fewer benefits from personal budgets than others.

The project involves primary research into the experiences of older people and people with mental health problems, and their respective carers, in planning for and using personal budgets. This research evidence will be used to develop learning materials and other support for good practice. The project has three phases:

- search of research and other relevant literature, and interviews with representatives from key national organisations, to identify examples of good practice
- case study work in up to eight local authorities, to examine front-line practice and the experiences of personal budget holders and carers
- development of learning resources.

Service users will be actively involved in all stages of the project, including conducting interviews with personal budget holders and carers.

By identifying good practice from the experiences of personal budget holders and using these experiences as the basis of learning materials for front-line staff and others, the project will help local authorities to develop appropriate arrangements for assessment, support planning and on-going budget management, to maximise the benefits of personal budgets for these groups.

National Evaluation of the Personal Health Budget Pilot Projects

Ongoing project

Department of Health

November 2009 to October 2012

Caroline Glendinning; Julien Forder, Karen Jones, James Caiels, Karen Windle (Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent); Paul Dolan, Dominic King (Imperial, London)

Personal Health Budgets (PHBs) make transparent the resources available for an individual's care and give patients choice over how best to achieve desired health-related outcomes. For the first time in the NHS, PHBs may be taken in the form of cash payments rather than services. PHBs are being piloted in 70 English Primary Care Trusts from 2009. The evaluation aims to establish whether PHBs lead to better health and social care outcomes, compared with conventional services. The evaluation will examine:

- processes of implementing PHBs
- impacts of PHBs on different groups of patients and carers
- cost-effectiveness of PHBs, compared to conventional services
- impacts of PHBs on healthcare professionals, NHS organisations and the wider health and social care systems.

The evaluation has a quasi-experimental design; clinical and experiential outcomes for specific groups of patients receiving PHBs will be compared with those using standard healthcare.

SPRU's role is to conduct and analyse semi-structured interviews with subsamples of PHB holders. These happen at three months, to assess experiences of planning how to use a

PHB and again at nine months, to assess longer-term outcomes. Patients to be included are those:

- receiving NHS Continuing Care
- with diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, long-term neurological conditions and mental health problems
- suffering from stroke.

Semi-structured interviews will also be conducted with PHB holders using maternity services and with carers of people who received PHBs for end-of-life care.

PHBs represent a major change to NHS practice. The evaluation will determine whether PHBs should replace or supplement traditional ways of allocating resources and delivering health care. The evaluation will also inform decisions on the wider implementation of PHBs beyond the pilots.

Reforms in long-term care policies in European Union countries

Ongoing project

National Research Centre of SPI-CGIL (Italian Pensioners' Trade Union)

November 2009 to December 2010

Caroline Glendinning, SPRU, England, Costanzo Ranci, Polytechnic of Milan, Italy (co-convenor), Emmanuele Pavolini, University of Macerata, Italy (co-convenor), August Österle, Institute for Social Policy, Vienna University of Economics, Austria, Viola Burau, University of Aarhus, Denmark, Claude Martin, French School of Public Health and University of Rennes, France, Blanche LeBihan, French School of Public Health and University of Rennes, France, Hanne Marlene Dahl, University of Roskilde, Denmark, Hildegard Theobald, University of Vechta, Germany, Marta Szebehely, Department of Social Work, University of Stockholm, Sweden, Barbara daRoit, University of Utrecht, Netherlands, Gregorio Rodríguez-Cabrero, University de Alcalá de Henares, Spain

In response to the twin pressures of demographic ageing and the reduced availability of family care, many EU countries have reformed arrangements for long-term care over the past 15 years. This study aims to:

- describe changes in long-term care policies in nine Western European countries over the past two decades
- examine how far reforms lead to a convergence between models originally developed in very diverse institutional and economic contexts.

Each participating researcher will contribute a report on reforms in her/his own country, written to a common structure, but emphasising unique national features where relevant. All participating researchers will contribute to a concluding comparative chapter.

Developing appropriate and sustainable long-term care arrangements is a major challenge for all welfare states; many have hitherto not provided adequate coverage for the new risk of dependency. The study will contribute to the

development of theoretical approaches to comparative social policy. It will also add to the understanding of the recent changes in the contexts of common demographic, social and economic pressures.

Scoping review of research on interventions to support carers

Completed project

Department of Health

August 2009 to January 2010

Gillian Parker, Hilary Arksey

Policy and research interest in carers – those who provide support, on an unpaid basis, to sick, disabled or older people to enable them to live in their own homes – has grown in importance over the past 30 years. Since the first UK review of evidence on carers in 1985, the national and international body of research literature has grown substantially. It now covers data on, inter alia, the prevalence of care-giving; the impact and outcomes of caring, for people with care-giving responsibilities; issues related to combining paid work and care; and the effectiveness of support and services for carers. Since 1995, the UK Government has introduced legislation and policy measures aimed specifically at carers, as well as setting up a cross-departmental Standing Commission on Carers. The revised 2008 national strategy contains the Government's ten-year vision for carers.

The aim of the scoping review is to provide the Department of Health with an overview of the current evidence base relating to the outcomes and cost-effectiveness of support for carers of adults and older people. Specific objectives of the proposed study are:

- to undertake a scoping review of existing literature reviews, including systematic reviews, on support and interventions for carers
- to map out the extent, range and nature of the identified reviews on support and interventions for carers
- to summarise the main findings of the identified reviews
- to identify gaps and weaknesses in the evidence base.

The scoping review covers national and international literature reviews published since 2000 and written in English.

The findings will inform the work of the Standing Commission on Carers. They are intended to inform policy and practice, as well as identifying areas where research on the effectiveness of interventions to support carers is required.

Publication

Parker, G. and Arksey, H. (forthcoming) *A Scoping Review of Evidence on the Effectiveness of Interventions to Support Carers*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Exploring the effects of the economic slowdown on adult social care

Completed project

Local Government Association (LGA); Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS)

March 2009 to November 2009

Caroline Glendinning; Ruth Chamberlain, Jacqueline Curtis, Diana Sanderson, Liz Newbronner (Acton Shapiro)

This small-scale study aimed to explore the effects of the economic downturn on social care and support services, and the consequent impacts on service users. It complemented other research undertaken by LGA/ADASS.

The study was undertaken in four local authority areas, selected to reflect a range of demographic and socio-economic characteristics. It involved:

- interviews with local authority officers and a range of service providers in each local authority
- interviews with national bodies representing service users, to provide a wider context
- review of recent institutional reports, conference and working papers that are not published commercially and other relevant reports.

The study contributes to knowledge about the effects of the economic downturn on the commissioners, providers and users of local authority-funded adult social care. It will advance future debates about levels of funding for this sector. A draft report was delivered to the LGA in November 2009 and a final report will be published during 2010.

Combining choice, quality and equity in social services – European Union Peer Review

Completed project

European Commission

December 2008 to June 2009

Caroline Glendinning

Peer Reviews are a key instrument in the European Commission's 'Open Method of Coordination' – the sharing of experiences and learning between Member States in areas where the Commission has no formal legal powers. Peer Reviews enable open discussion on social protection and social inclusion policies in different EU Member States and facilitate mutual learning between them.

This consultancy project examined the approaches of Denmark and other EU countries to choice, quality and equity in social services for older and disabled people. Other countries participating in the Peer Review were Estonia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Spain, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Each country was represented by delegates from social welfare ministries, service provider organizations and/or policy academics.

The topic was chosen by Denmark, which also hosted the Peer Review meeting. Since 2002, Denmark has introduced user choice into home care services. This means that new, independent providers compete with municipal services. At the same time Denmark has introduced measures to safeguard service quality and increase the professionalism of care workers. This has the aim of improving job satisfaction, staff retention and avoiding future shortages of care workers.

As the expert academic advisor, Professor Glendinning prepared an initial background report which set out relevant EU policies; described recent developments in Denmark; and drew on wider literature to raise questions for discussion. The other participating countries contributed summaries of their own recent national developments. These documents were the basis for a full day's meeting in Copenhagen, after which a synthesis report was prepared and submitted to the European Commission.

The Peer Review process provided the opportunity for shared learning and debate about the tensions between choice and equity. A major priority, particularly for newer Member States, was ensuring basic levels of service provision across the country.

Publication

Glendinning, C. (2009) *Combining Choice, Quality and Equity in Social Services Provision: Synthesis report, Denmark*, European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Luxembourg.

Continuity of care: synthesis and conceptual analysis of the NIHR, Service and Delivery Organisation Programme's research

Completed project

National Institute of Health Research Service and Delivery Organisation Programme

November 2008 to May 2009

Gillian Parker, Anne Corden and Janet Heaton

Following a scoping exercise in 2000, the National Institute of Health Research Service and Delivery Organisation (SDO) Research & Development Programme commissioned a comprehensive programme on 'continuity of care'. It included six empirical research projects and three review projects. An initial review of progress was published in June 2007 and SPRU was commissioned to complete this process.

The review was desk-based, and carried out systematically, adopting qualitative methods of synthesis for the results of the SDO programme. All outputs from the completed projects were read, and material extracted into a framework for analysis. We used a meta-ethnographic approach to explore what is continuity of care. Narrative synthesis brought together findings on what influences continuity of care and what outcomes it leads to. Descriptive synthesis addressed how continuity of care had been measured.

We found commonalities in the definitions of continuity of care, and that these had commonalities with *Freeman's* original and extended models. Our analysis showed that the patient experience of continuity of care did not necessarily mirror that of professionals, and threw into focus the need to know more about the contribution and experience of carers. We found little robust evidence about what the outcomes of continuity of care might be.

Implications for policy and practice include understanding that continuity is co-constructed among professionals, service users and carers, and there is unlikely to be a single, identifiable way of delivering it. Different service users give different weights to the components of continuity, and these probably vary over time. It is the discussions between professionals and service users about needs, and about what is achievable in addressing them, that will deliver a sense of experienced continuity.

Publication

Parker, G., Corden, A. and Heaton, J. (2010) *Synthesis and Conceptual Analysis of the SDO Programme's Research on Continuity of Care*, National Institute for Health Research Evaluations, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre, Southampton.

National Evaluation of Caring with Confidence

Ongoing project

Department of Health

June 2008 to May 2011

Hilary Arksey; Sue Yeandle, Claudia Bara, Cinnamon Bennett, Lisa Buckner, Chrissy Buse, Gary Fry, Kara Jarrold, Anna Laycock, (University of Leeds)

Caring with Confidence* aims to make a positive difference to the lives of unpaid carers of chronically sick, disabled or older people and those they support. Carers aged 18 years and over living in England can access training modules via group face-to-face sessions, self-study packs or online resources. Caring with Confidence sessions are intended to:

- help carers build on their strengths as a carer
- give carers the opportunity to share experiences and learn from others in similar situations
- give carers useful information and ideas about care-giving
- 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 is undertaking an evaluation of the way the Programme has been set up. It will look at the Programme's impact as a source of support to carers in England, and the effects of the Programme as perceived by both carers and the providers delivering it.

The evaluation has adopted a mixed-methods approach. This includes three surveys at different points in time of carers who have taken part in Caring with Confidence sessions. The longitudinal survey work is designed to shed light on the longer-term effects of the Programme. In addition, in-depth case study work with a number of training providers is being undertaken. Providers have been selected to represent a range of organisation types, geographical spread and training media. The case studies are intended to determine what design, styles and delivery of training work best for different groups of carers. Where appropriate, care recipients will be asked for their views about the impact of the Programme on the person looking after them.

The final report will provide a robust evidence base for decision-making about the way Caring with Confidence should be developed and focused in the future. This should have a positive impact on the lives of all carers within the Programme.

*www.caringwithconfidence.net (previously known as the Expert Carers Programme)

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, Parvaneh Rabiee and Alison Wilde; Julien Forder, Lesley Curtis and Karen Jones (Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent)

English local authorities 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. Previous research suggests the benefits of 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
- describe the content and costs of home care re-ablement and the 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 follows users of home care re-ablement services in five different local authorities. It compares their outcomes and use of services for up to a year, with service users in five other localities without re-ablement services. It includes examination of the organisation and activities of home care re-ablement teams in order to identify the features that appear to contribute to optimum outcomes for service users. The research design uses both quantitative and qualitative methods.

The study will provide robust evidence on the costs, benefits and organisation of home care re-ablement that will be valuable to local authorities planning to develop these services.

Two interim reports were produced during 2009. Final reports will be published in 2010.

Publications

Jones, K., Baxter, K., Curtis, L., Arksey, H., Forder, J., Glendinning, C., and Rabiee, P. (2009) *The Short-term Outcomes and Costs of Home Care Re-ablement Services: Interim report*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Rabiee, P., Glendinning, C., Arksey, H., Baxter, K., Jones, K., Forder, J. and Curtis, L. (2009) *The Organisation and Content of Home Care Re-ablement Services: Interim report*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

Reforming long-term care: recent lessons from other countries

Completed project

Department of Health Policy Research Programme

April 2008 to March 2009

Caroline Glendinning, Nicola Moran

During 2009 the Department of Health in England published a Green Paper setting out strategic options for the future funding and delivery of adult social care. There were lessons that could be learned from the experiences of other countries to inform the English review. This small project was commissioned to inform the Green Paper options.

Drawing on the experience of six countries (Austria, Netherlands, Australia, Japan, Germany and Denmark) the study critically examined:

- recent and current reforms in the funding and/or allocation of resources for care of older and/or younger disabled people that aimed to improve the sustainability of existing arrangements
- evidence on the impact of cash or voucher-based arrangements in generating a supply of responsive, high quality care options to meet users' needs and preferences.

The implications and lessons for reform in England were then considered.

The researchers drew on available published literature. This was supplemented with information from selected social policy academics in the countries concerned who accessed materials unavailable in English; filled identified gaps in the published literature and provided updates on current debates. The report of the project was cited in the 2009 Green Paper *Shaping the Future of Care Together*.

Publication

Glendinning, C. and Moran, N. (2009) *Reforming Long-term Care: Recent lessons from other countries*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

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 January 2010

Gillian Parker, Sylvia Bernard, Fiona Aspinall, 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. They also sought to understand its impact on service users and their families or carers, and professionals.

The information from these two stages was used to develop benchmarks to assess the type, quality and impact of integrated services in local areas. A baseline benchmarking survey was undertaken in summer 2009.

The research will help inform policy makers and commissioners about the barriers and facilitators in providing integrated services and the types of services valued by service users. The benchmarks can be used to assess the development of integrated services nationally as the NSF is implemented.

Publication

Bernard, S., Aspinall, 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.

The meaning of independence for older people

Ongoing project

Sally Baldwin Studentship - SPRU

January 2008 to April 2011

Alison Allam

This is a PhD study funded by the Sally Baldwin Studentship. Taking a qualitative approach, this study aims to develop an understanding into the meaning and perceptions of independence for older people.

As part of this study a scoping literature review and a review of relevant policy have been completed. Drawing upon these findings, the next stage will involve empirical research using semi-structured interviews with older people, and the subsequent analysis of these interviews will adhere to the principles of grounded theory.

The aim of these interviews is to gain an insight into older people's subjective views of independence. At a wider level this research aims to contribute to the ongoing conceptual and policy debates surrounding independence and ageing.

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



Children and Young People's Social Work

Research projects during 2009

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 32 | Allegations of abuse by foster carers: research review | | guide for multi-disciplinary teams and a guide for young people |
| 32 | Increasing the number of care leavers in 'settled, safe accommodation' | 35 | Prevention Cohort Study |
| 32 | Fostering unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children | 35 | Outcomes for children placed for reasons of abuse or neglect: the consequences of staying in care or returning home |
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| 34 | Neglected adolescents: a review of the research literature and the preparation of a | | |

Allegations of abuse by foster carers: research review

Ongoing project

The Nuffield Foundation

October 2009 to April 2010

Nina Biehal in partnership with The Fostering Network

Since the 1980s there has been growing concern about allegations of abuse by foster carers among foster carers, social work professionals and policy makers. Such allegations are upsetting for foster carers, can lead to the removal of children from their care and may result in some carers giving up fostering. Unsubstantiated allegations therefore create immense stress for both children and carers, may cause placement disruption and may reduce the already limited supply of foster carers. In cases where such allegations are substantiated, the implications are even more serious.

Despite the importance of this issue, there is little awareness in the policy, practice and academic communities of the research evidence that exists. Although much has been written about abuse in residential care, there appears to be rather less known about abuse in foster care.

The aims of the review will be to assess the current evidence on the:

- prevalence and nature of allegations of maltreatment by foster carers and their families
- prevalence and nature of substantiated maltreatment by foster carers and their families
- agency responses to allegations of abuse
- experiences of foster carers subject to allegations of maltreatment.

Only studies assessed as meeting predefined quality criteria will be included in the review.

The aim of this review is to identify and synthesise the evidence both on allegations of abuse by foster carers and on substantiated abuse by carers. It will draw attention to the need to improve practice in order to better safeguard children in foster care and better support foster carers who are subject to an allegation.

Increasing the number of care leavers in 'settled, safe accommodation'

Ongoing project

Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO)

July 2009 to December 2010

Mike Stein

For most young people today, being in 'settled, safe accommodation' of their choice represents an important landmark during their journey to adulthood. However, for young people leaving care, achieving this goal may be more difficult than for other young people. They may feel they

have been forced to leave care before they are ready, often at just 16-17 years of age, whereas most young people leave their family home in their mid-twenties. Some young care leavers are also likely to be living in unsuitable accommodation, move frequently and become homeless. Being in 'settled, safe accommodation' also has to be considered in the context of connected and reinforcing pathways to adulthood, such as: entering further and higher education or training; finding satisfying employment; and, achieving good health and a positive sense of well-being. For all these pathways there is evidence of care leavers being disadvantaged in comparison to other young people.

Completed work includes:

- a research review of the best research evidence about how to increase the levels of care leavers in 'settled, safe accommodation', including UK and international literature
- the presentation of the findings at regional knowledge workshops and progression events aimed at children's services and service users.

Work during 2010 will include the preparation of a full knowledge review with updated research findings, examples of validated local practice and the views of service users, providers and experts in the field.

This research will provide the best available evidence for those involved in implementing policy and overseeing change at a local level, in order to increase the numbers of young people leaving care in 'settled, safe accommodation'.

Publication

Stein, M., data annexe by Morris, M. (2009) *Increasing the Number of Care Leavers in 'Settled, Safe Accommodation'*, Vulnerable/Looked-after Children Research Review, 3, Centre for Excellence in Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO), London.

Fostering unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children

Ongoing project

The Big Lottery Fund

June 2009 to December 2011

Jim Wade, Ala Sirriyeh; John Simmonds (British Association of Adoption and Fostering); Ravi Kohli (University of Bedfordshire)

The Big Lottery has funded the British Association of Adoption and Fostering (BAAF), in partnership with Universities of York and Bedfordshire, to carry out research into the fostering experiences of unaccompanied children and their foster carers. The study will describe these experiences, identify specific features of the fostering task in the context of the broad resettlement needs of these children, appraise the support provided to placements by children's services and assess the factors that facilitate or constrain the making of placements for this group of children.

The project will take place in three contrasting local councils and will involve a number of phases:

- A census study will provide a profile of all unaccompanied children looked after in these councils on a given census date and identify the full range of placements in use.
- A postal survey will be conducted with all foster carers who, over a one year period, had provided a placement to an unaccompanied child. The survey will provide information on the characteristics and history of the child in their care, an assessment of the child's progress, the background and fostering experience of carers, their perceptions of key aspects of the fostering role and their experiences of training and support provided by children's services.
- A case study sample of up to 30 children will be selected and interviews will be conducted with them and their foster carers to provide a deeper understanding of their experiences, progress and support.
- Alongside this work, a policy study will be conducted in each area involving practitioner focus groups, key informant interviews and analysis of relevant documents.

The findings will be used to prepare practice guidance to support the development of effective fostering policies and practice with unaccompanied children.

Commissioning, delivery and perceptions of emergency accommodation for young runaways

Completed project

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

November 2008 to November 2009

Gwyther Rees (The Children's Society); Jim Wade

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

The project covered England, Wales and Scotland and involved three strands:

- Strand 1 consisted 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 consisted of in-depth interviews with young people who have experience of running away.
- Strand 3 consisted of a series of stakeholder consultation events in Wales, Scotland and each Government region of England, plus focus group discussions with young people.

Publication

Rees, G., Franks, M., Medforth, R. and Wade, J. (2009) *Commissioning, Delivery and Perceptions of Emergency Accommodation for Young Runaways*, Department for

Children, Schools and Families Research Report, DCSF-RR181, Department for Children, Schools and Families, London.

Implementation of special guardianship

Completed project

Department for Children, School and Families, Adoption Research Initiative

July 2007 to February 2009

Jim Wade, Jo Dixon and Andrew Richards

A special guardianship (SG) order provides legal permanence for those children for whom adoption is not appropriate, and gives a special guardian clear responsibility for all aspects of caring for the child and for taking decisions to do with his or her upbringing. Although the order does not legally sever the child's relationship with his or her birth parent(s), the special guardian may exercise parental responsibility to the exclusion of all others with parental responsibility (apart from another special guardian). Children formerly 'in care' cease to be so and local authorities cease to have direct powers of intervention, other than those arising from their broader safeguarding duties. Local authorities do, however, have a duty to make provision for a range of services to support people affected by special guardianship.

From a research perspective, very little is known about how special guardianship is working out in practice. This research, commissioned as part of a wider study of permanent placements for children, had four principal aims:

- 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 special guardianship option
- describe the experiences of those seeking special guardianship
- 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 study will provide DCSF and local authorities with information about who is taking up special guardianship, the background and circumstances of applicants and children and, accordingly, about the forms of immediate and longer-term support that may be required to sustain special guardianship families. This information will help local authorities to estimate and plan the development of special guardianship services.

Publication

Wade, J., Dixon, J. and Richards, A. (2009) *Implementing special guardianship, Research Brief*, DCSF-RBX-09-17, Department for Children, Schools and Families, London.

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 Fund

January 2007 to June 2010

Mike Stein; 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.

Each of these four areas is currently in progress and the final report will be completed by June 2010.

It is intended that this study will contribute to a greater awareness in policy and practice of the specific needs and related responses in safeguarding young people aged 11-17.

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

Completed 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; Gwyther Rees (The Children's Society); Sarah Gorin (NSPCC)

The study addressed the 'neglect of neglect' among adolescents. It consisted of a three-stage study with linked outputs. This included:

- 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 have been used to inform the preparation of a multi-agency guide for those who work with young people, due to be launched in January 2010. 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 have been used to prepare a young person's guide to neglect, due to be launched in January 2010. 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.

Publication

Stein, M., Rhys, G., Hicks, L. and Gorin, S. (2009) Neglected adolescents: Literature review, Research Brief, DCSF-RBX-09-04, Department for Children, Schools and Families, London.

Prevention Cohort Study

Ongoing project

Youth Justice Board

September 2006 to March 2009

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

The Youth Justice Board has previously commissioned separate evaluations of its two major prevention programmes, the Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP) and the Youth Inclusion and Support Panel (YISP). These programmes have different priorities, participants and outcomes. The principal aim of this study is to look at these programmes in the round, in order to explore the associations and relationships between the young people, practitioner assessments of their offending risk, the contents of interventions received, their outcomes and their associated costs.

Working in eight local authority areas, the study is using a mix of quantitative and qualitative research methods, including anonymised tracking through Youth Offending Teams' (YOT) databases and interviews with children, young people, carers and YOT staff involved in the programmes. There is also a significant policy element to the study, gathering local and national contextual data from programme and service managers.

The study is designed to make a key contribution to the Youth Justice Board's overall Prevention Strategy, in the light of the growing recognition of the value of prevention work as a whole. 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.

Outcomes for children placed in care 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 February 2010

Jim Wade, Nicola Farrelly, Nina Biehal, Ian Sinclair

This project is part of a wider Government research initiative on safeguarding children. The study is focusing on children first placed in care for reasons of abuse or neglect. It compares 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 149 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.

The study will contribute evidence to support assessment, planning and decision-making where the reunification of maltreated children with their families is being considered. Evidence on how these children fare in comparison to those who remain in the care system will help local authorities to assess the range of support and services that may be needed to improve the prospects for successful reunion.

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 July 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.

Previous evaluation of MTFC has been undertaken in the USA and has focused on groups of children and young people that were different in important ways to those in the current study. This evaluation will provide valuable information to policy makers and practitioners on the outcomes of MTFC when implemented:

- with older children and young people in the care system, a group for whom it has not previously been evaluated
- in an English context.

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

Completed project

Department for Children, School and Families,

Adoption Research Initiative

October 2004 to February 2009

Nina Biehal, Sarah Ellison, Ian Sinclair

This study draws on the team's earlier work on foster care to investigate three types of permanent placement: adoption by strangers, adoption by foster carers and long-term foster care.

The aim of the study was to compare these three types of permanent placement for children in care and to investigate the outcomes for children placed in each of these settings. This longitudinal study followed 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 who were surveyed by means of a postal questionnaire to their carers/adoptive parents and current/last social worker. In-depth interviews were also conducted with 37 children and their foster carers or adoptive parents. This study assessed the uses and outcomes of long-term foster care, adoption by carers and adoption by strangers, comparing:

- placement stability
- children's psychosocial functioning and educational progress
- planning for permanence, including factors which promote or inhibit the use of adoption
- the nature of contact with birth families
- children and carers' perceptions of permanence, belonging and contact
- local policy on permanence for children in care.

The study provides valuable, comparative data on three alternative permanent placements which will help to guide policy and practice on planning for and supporting permanent placements and on improving outcomes for children in care.

Publications

Biehal, N., Ellison, S., Baker, C. and Sinclair, I. (2009) [Characteristics, outcomes and meanings of three types of permanent placement - adoption by strangers, adoption by carers and long-term foster care](#), *Research Brief*, DCSF-RBX-09-11, Department for Children, Schools and Families, London.

Nina Biehal, Sarah Ellison, Claire Baker and Ian Sinclair (forthcoming) *Belonging and Permanence. Long-term outcomes in foster care and adoption*, British Association of Adoption and Fostering, London.

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

Ongoing project

Department for Children, Schools and Families (start-up funding)

2003 onwards

Co-ordinators: 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 met and their work contributed to the first comparative publication in the field (Stein and Munro, eds., 2008). In 2009, the group met at the University of Oviedo, Spain and disseminated their work to senior Spanish policy makers. Major work planned for 2010 includes a special edition of *Children and Youth Services Review*, containing international research papers on transitions from care to adulthood.

It is intended that sharing international research, policy and practice in respect of young people during their journey from care to adulthood, will contribute to a substantial comparative evidence base to underpin improvements in outcomes for this very vulnerable group of young people.

Publications

Stein, M. (2009) Promoting the resilience of young people leaving care: messages from research in Lerch, V. (ed.) *Preparation for Independent Living*, SOS Children's Villages International, pp. 8-11.

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.

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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.

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.



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Benefits: the journal of poverty and social justice

British Journal of Learning Disabilities

British Journal of Social Work

British Medical Journal

Child and Family Social Work

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Health Expectations

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Journal of Child Indicators Research

Journal of Palliative Care

Journal of Refugee Studies

Journal of Social Policy

Journal of Social Security Law

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'The Development of Neglect Training
Resources' research project

SPRU Publications

Journal Articles

2009

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Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

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Rabiee, P., Glendinning, C., Arksey, H., Baxter, K., Jones, K., Forder, J. and Curtis, L. (2009) *The Organisation and Content of Home Care Re-ablement Services: Interim report*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York.

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Contributions to books 2009

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Bradshaw, J. (2009) An international perspective on child benefit packages, in Kamerman, S., Phipps, S. and Ben-Arieh, A. (eds.) *From Child Welfare to Child Well-being: An international perspective on knowledge in the service of policy making*, Springer, Dordrecht, pp. 293-307.

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Davidson, J. (2009) Sanctions for non-recovery of child maintenance in the United Kingdom, in I. Curry-Sumner and C. Skinner (eds.) *Persistent Problems, Finding Solutions: Child maintenance in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom*, Wolf Legal, Nijmegen, pp. 69-82.

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Glendinning, C. (2009) The consumer in social care, in R. Simmons, M. Powell and I. Greener (eds.), *The Consumer in Public Services*, The Policy Press, Bristol, pp. 177-196.

Glendinning, C. and Igl, G. (2009) Long-term care in Germany and the UK, in A. Walker and G. Naegele (eds.), *Social Policy in Ageing Societies: Britain and Germany compared*, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, pp. 202-232.

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Sinclair, I. and Wilson, K. (2009) Foster care in England, in G. Schofield and J. Simmonds (eds.), *The Child Placement Handbook: Research, policy and practice*, British Association for Adoption & Fostering, London, pp. 120-138.

Sinclair, I. and Wilson, K. (2009) Matches and mismatches: the contribution of carers and children to the success of foster placements, in M. Courtney and J. Thoburn (eds.), *Children in State Care*, Ashgate, Farnham, pp. 147-160.

Stein, M. (2009) Promoting resilience: messages from research, in D. Hart (ed.), *Managing Transitions from Secure Settings*, National Children's Bureau, London, pp. 44-48.

Stein, M. (2009) Promoting the resilience of young people leaving care: messages from research, in V. Lerch ... [et al.] (eds.), *Preparation for Independent Living*, SOS Children's Villages International, Innsbruck, pp. 8-11.

Stein, M. (2009) Young people leaving care, in G. Schofield and J. Simmonds (eds.), *The Child Placement Handbook: Research, policy and practice*, British Association for Adoption & Fostering, London, pp. 420-438.

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Dissemination

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