

Small Expectations: Learning to be Poor?

Over one-third of British children are living in poverty. Yet, comparatively little is known about the effect this has on their understanding of the economic world, their behaviour and beliefs, or their aspirations. This study describes the immediate effects of growing up in poor families. It draws on evidence from the 'Small Fortunes' survey¹ of the lifestyles and living standards of children and was supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. This nationally representative survey has produced a wealth of new information about how children live their lives in 1990s Britain.

Children's knowledge and experience of both the financial circumstances of their immediate family and of the wider economic world is likely to affect their own economic futures. These issues are explored from children's own perspectives. An interviewer-administered questionnaire was completed with 435 children over the age of five years. The children were asked a range of questions designed to:

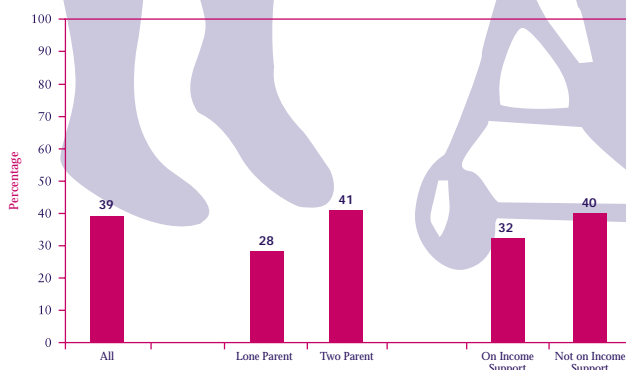
- Explore the extent to which children are able to learn financial management strategies through having control over their own money
- Assess how and what children learn about their family's economic position within society
- Examine what effect living in poverty has on children's beliefs, behaviour and aspirations.

The following are some of the key findings:

Children and their own money

- Children living in lone-parent families and families claiming Income Support had less experience of handling money than did other children; they were less likely to receive regular pocket money and were less likely to have part-time jobs (see Figure 1).
- Of children who did have part-time jobs, those living in lone-parent and Income Support families worked for longer hours and for lower rates of pay than did other children.

Figure 1 Which children have part-time jobs?



¹Middleton, S., Ashworth, K., and Braithwaite, I. (1997). 'Small Fortunes: Spending on Children, Childhood Poverty and Parental Sacrifice'. York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Learning about their family's economic position

- Children living in Income Support and lone-parent families were continually being reminded of how little money their family had.
- More children living in lone-parent or Income Support families said they were frequently told their family could not afford what they wanted than were others.

Effects of living in poverty

- Beliefs
Significantly more children from Income Support and lone-parent families worried that their families did not have enough money to live off than children from other families (see Figure 2).
- Behaviour
Many children living in Income Support and lone-parent families had learnt at a young age not to ask for things that they wanted.
- Aspirations
Children living in Income Support and lone-parent families had lower career aspirations than others.

Figure 2 Children's opinions of income inadequacy



The research team involved Julia Loumidis and Sue Middleton.

This research was published in March 1999. Shropshire, J. and Middleton, S., (1999) 'Small Expectations: Learning to be Poor'. York: York Publishing Ltd.

Julia Loumidis

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Walking for Health

The British Heart Foundation and the Countryside Commission, in partnership, wished to develop schemes to increase the health and fitness of sedentary people by promoting regular and brisk walking within local communities. Demonstration schemes were to build on a range of existing projects in order to test different approaches to walking for health.

Research was commissioned to:

- identify the types of projects that would be suitable for the new demonstration schemes, and
- produce practical guidelines for potential local demonstration schemes.

The objectives were: to establish what measures would motivate people to walk for leisure and as a mode of transport; to develop guidelines that related directly to the target audiences; and to make practical and good value suggestions.

The research was carried out by a collaborative team from the university, comprised of CRSP and research groups in the Department of Physical Education, Sports Science and Recreation Management. CRSP's task was to use focus group discussions to explore attitudes to walking among the target groups.

Focus Groups

Eleven focus groups, with a total of 73 participants, were held in a Midland's city and a town serving a rural hinterland.

Group members reflected the target groups for the study:

- young mothers
- older women
- young and older men
- men and women from minority ethnic groups.

Physical activity

Participants remembered their childhood as a time of freedom and open-air activity. Nearly all engaged in sports at school. Sex and age-related differences emerged: for example, adolescent self-consciousness and social pressures were more inhibiting to women, and some had unhappy memories of sport at school; and men were more likely to participate in organised sports beyond school age. Older people described the loss of vigour and poor health they associated with the passing years.

Respondents thought that physical activity should be fun, reasonably safe and predictable. They felt it was best conducted in a clean and pleasant setting. It should not be lonely or boring but should fit in with everyday life, be pleasurable and offer sound exercise, ranging from gentle to strenuous. Finally, some emphasised that it should not offend religious or cultural expectations.

People who did not own a car thought their ordinary lives included sufficient physical activity.

Walking

Walking in everyday life was generally done for the purpose of going somewhere rather than for other reasons. However, a few walked for exercise or to relieve stress. For some, walking for pleasure was only done on holiday.

Walking was routine only for those who did not own a car. Young men and women, with full and demanding lives, used their cars habitually. In contrast, the older respondents were more inclined to walk for pleasure and safe exercise, and for the social and psychological health they gained from being in the open air and out of the house.

Acceptance of the need for exercise to aid and maintain health was well-established, but respondents disagreed on whether walking should count as exercise.

Younger men and women thought they would not walk for its own sake, but as part of another activity. They would only think of walking for pleasure on holiday, in aesthetically pleasing surroundings.

Barriers to walking

Respondents mentioned various barriers to walking. All groups referred to pollution of the environment including poor air conditions, particularly in the city, and dirt from dogs and rubbish.

The older men and all the women feared public places in case they were attacked. They would not go out after dark or alone to certain areas. They would avoid the city or town centre, particularly late in the evening. Older people also referred to the physical demands of walking.

Even some of the younger men would avoid particular places, but their main barrier to walking was lack of time. They associated walking with moving slowly and boredom, and appeared to see walking as old fashioned and a sign that they did not have a car. African-Caribbean men found crowds, which prevented them from moving fast, the only barrier to walking.

The Asian women all mentioned fear of racist attacks; their husbands would not allow them to go out because of the perceived dangers. Muslim women were also inhibited by religious and cultural rules: they felt self-conscious out alone in the streets and believed they would be looked down on within the community for inappropriate behaviour.

Respondents all saw good reasons to overcome the barriers because exercise was to be welcomed and some exercise was better than none. They accepted that walking was available, cheap, could be built into everyday life and gave a psychological and physical lift. Some wanted more information about the advantages of walking. They were not always confident that they, themselves, could be tempted to walk more.

Overcoming the barriers

If walking schemes are to be successful these issues must be tackled. They should take different forms according to the cultural, age and other characteristics of the target group:

- safe and pollution-free environments
- linking walking with attractive and interesting places and purposeful activity
- information about the health-related value of walking
- the image of walking.

The study was carried out by Jill Vincent and Julia Loumidis. It is available as: *Motivating Sedentary People to Walk*. CRSP345, August 1998.

Jill Vincent

Food Projects and How They Work

The Government programme to reduce health and social inequalities in Britain encourages communities to develop sustainable initiatives to address local problems. Local food projects are examples of such initiatives, although to date there has been little systematic research on how they work. The aim of this study, which was funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, was to explore the factors that help or hinder the development of community food projects. It draws on the experiences and lessons learned from 25 projects to give all those involved a better understanding of how these projects work, as well as what they can realistically be expected to achieve.

Community Food Projects

In practice food projects are about more than just food. They function best when nutritional advice, cooking skills or food provision are placed in a context or setting with which people can identify. For this reason they include many activities, operate in a range of environments from inner city estates to small towns and villages, and bring together a mix of professionals and local people.

This study found that there is no single formula which can guarantee the success of a food project or that can prescribe which type of project works in any given situation. Food projects are specific to the communities in which they are based and no one type or structure of project appears to be more successful than another.

Projects go through a number of stages in their development and the factors listed in Table 1 appear to determine sustainability.

Table 1 Factors affecting the sustainability of food projects

<i>Facilitate</i>	<i>Hinder</i>
Reconciling different agendas	Opposing agendas
Funding	Instability of funding
Community support	Meeting limited needs
Professional support	Lack of support
Credibility	Changing agendas
Shared ownership	Exclusively owned
Dynamic worker	
Responsiveness	

Reconciling different agendas

Many factors interact as individuals and organisations attempt to reconcile different responsibilities, objectives and agendas. Local food projects work best when all involved, professionals and local people, feel that their concerns are being addressed. Many projects have explicit aims and objectives about things other than food and how these non-food aims are reconciled with nutritional issues is important in determining project success and sustainability.

Funding

Secure funding is a critical factor in determining whether a project is sustainable. This study suggests that local food projects need two types of funding. Money to help them set up and funding to cover running costs. Both are equally important but many projects find funding for running costs very difficult to obtain. As a result, projects have to constantly change and reinvent themselves so that they qualify again for set-up funding. Some projects are trapped in this cycle; this is not only time consuming but hinders the natural development of the project. Local community projects take time to

set up and to become established. Many projects feel that it is only as their funding is running out that they really 'get going' and work well. While it is important that there should be funding available to new projects, existing projects continue to need financial support. The challenge to the current system is to find a way to reward success by continuing some level of funding rather than penalise it by stopping or reducing financial support.

Community support

For any project to be sustainable it must genuinely involve local people. This involvement has to go beyond them being just recipients, to their being active participants whose views and concerns are incorporated into the project. Local people must be regarded as equal partners who bring expertise and experience that are fundamental to the success of the project. Involving local communities should start at the planning stage, when decisions are being made about what type of project is required.

Professional support

Professionals can play a number of different roles in food projects, all of which require trust and good working relationships with local people and other professionals. In order to establish good rapport professionals need time, resources and authority to invest in a project. Flexibility is critical in the way professionals interpret their and others' roles and in the activities they and the projects undertake.

Furthermore, community based work seldom happens quickly, nor to order. Working constructively with communities takes time, trust and may require new skills. These elements have to be incorporated into professionals' job descriptions. Professionals also need realistic targets (at national and local levels) and timetables that enable a flexible approach.

Credibility

A project has to be seen as plausible in terms of ideas and activities, structure and organisation, by all those who come in contact with it. Without such credibility it will lack support and fail to obtain funding.

Shared ownership

Where project ownership is exclusive those in control are less likely to respond positively to the needs and ideas of the wider group. This can have a long term impact on project sustainability. For example, projects 'owned' by an individual or clique almost invariably experience personality clashes.

Dynamic individual(s)

In most projects, one or more dynamic individual(s) are crucial to the project because they generate enthusiasm and support. In some instances this is enough to compensate for the absence of other factors. These individuals can either be professionals and/or community members.

Responsiveness

If projects are to maintain interest and support they have to be responsive to the changing agendas and needs of users, volunteers and professionals. This means ensuring that the activities provided address local needs, and that all those involved with the project, volunteers and professionals, have the skills they require.

Networking or building partnerships

Local networks provide opportunities for regular, practical support tailored to local issues and needs. The links tend to be between projects of similar types (e.g. food co-ops, community cafés) or

between projects attached to common institutions (for example, run by health visitors). National networks were mostly used by professionals, either for specific training or to be able to contact other projects of a similar nature.

Measuring success

The social gains at individual and community levels are not separate from nutritional objectives but are intrinsic to their achievement. Food projects can help to overcome social isolation, give people a sense of worth and increase a sense of well being. They can also help in raising levels of skills and training, enable individuals to take more control of their own health and welfare, as well as promoting healthier eating. Such projects contribute to raising the social capital of a community. These aspects of community food projects are easily overlooked.

An important finding from this study is that food projects should not be judged solely on whether they can produce changes in nutrition or health outcomes measured over the long-term - such as changes in blood vitamin levels, or reductions in mortality, important though these are. Rather, they should also be seen as contributing to changes in short-term nutrition indicators, such as skills and confidence to use a wider range of foodstuffs than

before, or to improved food purchasing or eating patterns through access to cheaper food.

Conclusion

Local food projects have great potential for improving the lives of all those who participate in them. At the most basic level, food projects help address problems of physical and economic access to food. In many places the poorest have to pay high(er) prices for even basic foodstuffs because good shops are few and far between, and good quality fresh foods become unaffordable luxuries. The reality is that people have to pay bills and rent before buying fruit. Local food projects offer the chance of obtaining good food at low cost: whether ready prepared, as in food provision or cafes; raw ingredients through food co-ops or gardens; or improving skills and confidence to try new foods or dishes through 'cook & eat' sessions.

This study was conducted by researchers from Kings College London (Pauline McGlone and Michael Nelson), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (Elizabeth Dowler) and the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University (Barbara Dobson).

Select Visit to CRSP

The Social Security Select Committee of the House of Commons visited the Centre for Research in Social Policy en mass on 28 April to learn more about the Centre's research and to discuss its implications for national policy.

The visitation was led by Archy Kirkwood MP, Chair of the Committee and included:

Karen Buck Regent's Park and Kensington North (Labour)
Edward Leigh Gainsborough (Conservative)
Chris Pond Gravesham (Labour),

Barbara Dobson discussed her work on the costs of bringing up disabled children and Dr Julia Loumidis talked about the impact of poverty on children's management of money and aspirations. (The Joseph Rowntree Foundation funds both of these research projects.) Dr Bruce Stafford reported on the public's attitudes towards National Insurance and was invited to submit a memorandum to the current enquiry by the Select Committee. Professor Robert Walker summarised the policy implications arising from CRSP's many projects on the effectiveness of the Government's welfare to work strategy.

Robert Walker

together with staff from the House of Commons Library and the Department of Social Security. The committee was welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Walker, Director of CRSP, said: *The visit is very significant. It reflects the public importance of CRSP's research and its impact on the policy process. It helps to raise the profile of Loughborough University as one of the foremost centres of policy research and teaching in Britain. It is also good for the morale and commitment of staff to realise that their research is not only at the forefront of academic enquiry but also at the heart of the political and policy debate.*



Security in Old Age: the Government's Green Paper on Pensions

The Government's Green Paper *A New Contract for Welfare: Partnership in Pensions (1998)* addresses the issue of how society and individuals can make provision for old age. The issues tackled are complex, difficult and demand long-term planning horizons.

Central to the Green Paper is the notion that there should be *security* in old age. This is to be attained by assuring a decent income stream in retirement by means of a minimum income guarantee (MIG) and the new state second pension, and by improved regulation of private sector pension schemes. Ensuring security means everyone meeting their responsibilities. Indeed, the Green Paper refers to a 'New Insurance Contract', between the individual, the state and the private sector.

Related to this is the notion of fairness. The Green Paper seeks a funding system that shares responsibility between the State and the individual; and in considering the balance between the two wants a system that is affordable for the public sector both now and in the future. It is acknowledged that more of the cost of old age is to be shifted from the state to the individual. Fairness is also seen as meaning that the report's recommendations do not penalise those saving for pensions.

The proposals also seek to establish a safety-net for those on the lowest incomes, and focuses on those on middle or modest incomes, (£9,000 - £18,500 a year).

Criticisms of Existing Arrangements

In examining existing pension arrangements the Green Paper argues that:

- they provide no security for those who cannot save, with a third of pensioners at risk of poverty;
- they do not provide suitable saving and pension opportunities to most carers and disabled people outside of the labour market;
- they do not encourage more saving among those who can afford it - in particular, there is a gap in the market for second pensions for those earning £9,000-£18,500 p.a.;
- they fail to provide adequately for those who can save, because for various reasons the numbers in occupational pension schemes may have peaked;
- pensions products have not adapted to changes in the labour markets, such as more self-employment; and
- there are problems with personal pensions, namely, high charges and mis-selling.

Proposals

The Green Paper's main proposals are:

- For current pensioners the introduction of a minimum income guarantee (MIG), which comprises the basic state pension and means-tested Income Support. MIG is designed to provide a '*decent*' income for pensioners. There is a commitment in the Green Paper to increase MIG as resources allow.
- The replacement of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS), which is a second-level pension available to employees, with the State Second Pension (SSP). The introduction of SSP will be phased; initially it will be earnings related and in about five years it becomes a flat rate pension. The SSP is targeted at the low paid - those earning enough to pay National Insurance contributions (£66 per week) and up to £9,000 p.a.. The pension is relatively generous; those earning less than £9,000 p.a. will be assumed to earn this amount,

and the rate of benefit will be double that of someone in SERPS earning £9,000.

- The introduction of stakeholder pensions, which are to be low cost, flexible and secure schemes aimed at those on modest incomes (£9,000-£18,500 p.a.). Financial incentives will be used to encourage individuals on middle incomes to opt-out of SSP into a stakeholder pension (or another private sector scheme). Employers will have to offer a stakeholder pension where there is no occupational pension and contributions can be collected via the payroll, but employers will not have to make a contribution.
- Improved regulation of pension schemes.
- Provision of better information to savers, including annual pension statements, so that people can decide whether to save more for their retirement.

Discussion

In its proposals the Green Paper retains a basic social insurance model: the basic state pension and the new SSP are to be funded by National Insurance contributions; although employees can contract out of SSP and join a private sector pension scheme. One shortcoming is that people outside of the labour market or in very low paid jobs - predominately women - may not pay or be credited with sufficient contributions to earn a full state pension.

Also problematic is whether the Green Paper adequately addresses the public's lack of trust in private pension provision. It seeks to rebuild public trust through improved regulations. However, the Government may have under-estimated the cost to providers - and hence to users - of regulation, and the strength of the public's distrust of private sector provision. Concerns about, for instance, the cost of policies, high administrative charges, the Maxwell and BCCI affairs, and pensions mis-selling underpin this distrust and might undermine the expansion of stakeholder pensions.

Ministers have sought to provide solutions that are affordable in public expenditure terms. However, the objective of affordability is often in tension with other objectives, such as providing a decent income for those unable to save. Moreover, public sector resources are probably not available to meet (rising) public expectations about standards of living in retirement. Some people may respond to this with increased saving, others will choose not to save further and some will feel a sense of betrayal that their expectations for security in retirement are not being met. It also means that changing people's perceptions of their responsibilities for providing for their security in old age is a critical part of the government's welfare programme.

The Green Paper's proposals are redistributive. The MIG and the flat rate SSP benefit those on low and modest incomes. However, the amount of 'clear water' between those in receipt of the MIG and those with a basic state pension and SSP is ill-defined. Pensioners not in receipt of a full SSP, for instance, may find that they still have to claim Income Support. Similarly, those who initially retire just above the threshold for Income Support may find that as the real value of the MIG increases they become eligible for social assistance.

The Government have produced a series of reforms that have won broad support from many commentators and vested interests. Their challenge will be maintaining that consensus when the detail of, for instance, stakeholder pensions, is announced.

Bruce Stafford

The Prince's Trust Volunteers Programme

Report of an evaluation commissioned by The Prince's Trust

The Prince's Trust - Volunteers aims to provide a high quality, personal development programme. It enables teams of young people, from diverse backgrounds, to work in the community and gives them the incentive to continue to make a contribution of lasting impact on themselves and on their communities.

The programme is designed to develop confidence and motivation and enhance personal skills and employability. It is delivered by a network of partner organisations across the UK. The programme options are a 12 week course for unemployed and a four week course for employed young people, and a 26 week course as part of New Deal.

Research Method

The study examined the outcomes for the young people taking part, the benefits to local communities, and the process of delivery of the programme and how it gained its effects.

Five case study teams were studied in depth: team leaders and members were interviewed individually, on two occasions; and a focus group was held at the end of the programme. Hosts to community projects, team challenges and individual placements were consulted about their experiences.

The financial value of the work of the volunteers was calculated using the Volunteer Investment and Value Audit (VIVA) method.

The teams and team programmes

The 12 week programme includes: team-building exercises; a residential week of outdoor activities; a community project and a team challenge; individual work placements; and a final presentation. Unemployed volunteers complete the 12 week course while employed members normally do the four week course. Members plan, prepare and resource their community-based activities; they also maintain individual records of achievement as the basis for qualifications.

Volunteer team members are a mixture of unemployed and employed people. In the case study teams, all 16 employed members completed the course, and so did 37 of the 48 unemployed young people who joined.

Team members' experiences

At first, the appeal was the development of personal skills. Team members valued their diversity of background and experience. They noted two difficulties: the withdrawal of employed members on modular courses; and people who lacked commitment and did not pull their weight. Team leaders earned almost universal loyalty and respect.

Team members learned a range of practical and personal skills; they worked more successfully as a team when they carried out their community projects and shared a collective goal and responsibility for achieving it. They continued to learn skills in their individual placements, particularly in relating to other people. Some members had little tolerance for routine or boring tasks. At the finish, teams thought the residential and community-based activities were the highlights: they referred to the fun, hard work

and satisfaction gained from achievement, and the unity and pulling together of the team. The disappointments centred on practical failures, make-weight placements, employed members attending on a modular basis, and unpunctual and uncommitted team members. Monitoring individual progress was valued because it led to qualifications, but it was irksome to some.

Team leaders

The role of the team leader is crucial and demanding. Training and support are changing to reflect this. The main issues for team leaders were: recruiting and maintaining a mixed team; sustaining motivation, commitment and shared working; providing individual support; setting the right pace; and treading a fine line between leading and facilitating. Support for team leaders differed among the partner organisations.

Benefits for the community

Teams made a tangible contribution through building, landscaping and painting projects. Host organisations valued the work. Most, though not all, of the individual placements were complimented for bringing a welcome, extra pair of willing hands and a freshness of attitude. Time-keeping and tackling routine tasks were occasional problems.

The financial value of volunteers' work

The work done during each team's community project, individual placements and team challenge was recorded and a financial value calculated by applying appropriate hourly wage rates according to the tasks undertaken. The value achieved by the case study teams was between £6,000 and £10,000. The 'average' person value for a team member was just under £850. Adding a nominal hourly rate for fund-raising brings this to £955.

Scaling up to divisional and national values shows that the value of the work done by all Prince's Trust - Volunteers' teams in the UK during the year 1997-98 was more than £6.5 million. This rises to nearly £7.5 million if a notional value for the time spent fund raising is included.

Conclusions

The young people did achieve a range of personal outcomes, practical and social skills and formal qualifications, as they hoped. Time-keeping and tackling routine tasks remained a problem for some. Local organisations and communities benefited from the teams' work.

All the elements of the programme contribute to the outcomes, including the routine and 'boring' bits. High value is gained from the team mix and the team leaders' contribution.

The respondents raised the following issues: the importance of mixed teams; managing uncommitted members; and the high level of support needed by some members. For team leaders, the difficulties associated with recruiting highly disillusioned and negative young people were outweighed by the success the programme can achieve with them.

The study was carried out by Jill Vincent, Katherine Gaskin and Judith Unell. Katherine and Judith are Associate Researchers at CRSP. The complete report is available as The Prince's Trust - Volunteers Programme, CRSP329. An edited version "Just Get On With It", is published by The Prince's Trust, 1999.

Jill Vincent

Poverty Lines for Households in Jersey

For some years CRSP has been developing a new methodology for establishing minimum budgetary needs. The method is a variation on conventional budget standards which involve the construction, mainly by experts, of baskets of goods and services necessary for particular household types to reach a pre-determined standard of living. Our method involves bringing together groups of ordinary people living in the circumstances for which a budget standard is to be compiled to act as their own budget standards committees. In other words, groups of lone parents discuss, negotiate and reach a consensus about a minimum essential basket of goods and services for a lone parent, pensioners compile budget standards for a pensioner and so on.¹ Groups are professionally recruited and carefully selected to ensure that people from a range of social and economic backgrounds are included.

The research has a number of phases. First, each group develops and agrees a 'case study' of the person for whom they are drawing up a budget standard. This includes assumptions about the person's lifestyle, such as the size and type of their accommodation, the number and ages of any children in the family, and so on. Secondly, the 'task' groups draw up agreed lists of essential goods and services, through a process of discussion and negotiation. These lists are then costed by researchers, at outlets agreed by the groups, to produce draft minimum budget standards. 'Check back' groups discuss the uncosted lists; reach agreement on any outstanding issues; test the strength of the agreement, or consensus; and explore the financial implications of the budget standard for society. The lists are then adjusted and recosted to produce a final consensually agreed minimum budget standard.

A total of 35 group discussions were held in Jersey to produce agreed poverty lines for the following household types:

- Single pensioners living alone;
- Couple pensioners;
- Couples of working age with no children;
- Couples of working age with dependent children;
- Lone parents with dependent children;

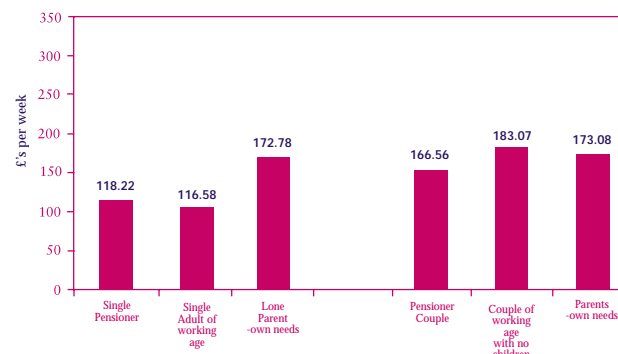
The advantage of the method is that it moves away from the opinions of politicians, civil servants, academics or professionals about what is essential, to take account of the actual expenditure choices and judgements that are made in real life by people as they manage their budgets. This means that the resulting poverty lines are much more likely to be accepted by the population as a whole and, therefore, policy initiatives arising from them might have a greater chance of public approval.

As part of their contribution to the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, the States of Jersey commissioned CRSP to use the 'poverty lines' method to produce minimum essential budget standards for all household types living in Jersey. Whilst Jersey has a reputation for being a wealthy Island, pockets of relative poverty persist. However only limited data were available about living standards on the Island and, in particular, about the minimum income required to achieve an acceptable standard of living. Policy makers were therefore limited in the progress that could be made towards eradicating poverty.

¹ Further details of the methodology can be found in Middleton, S. (1998) 'Agreeing Poverty Lines: The development of consensual budget standards methodology'. CRSP 2223. Loughborough: Loughborough University.

Examples of poverty lines for a range of family types living in Jersey are shown in Figure 1. These are before housing costs are taken into consideration, since the housing situation in Jersey is too complex to summarise in an article of this length.

Figure 1 Examples of Poverty Lines for Jersey



The minimum budgets are remarkably similar, given that they were drawn up by separate groups of individuals. Such differences as have emerged are in directions that might have been anticipated. For couples there is only a nine per cent difference between the largest budget, for couples of working age with no children, and the smallest, for pensioner couples. This difference is largely attributable to the larger budgets to allow some limited participation in activities outside the home which were agreed by the groups representing couples of working age. The poverty line for a lone parent is very close to that for two parents. This suggests that, at least in Jersey, the savings to be made by having only one parent in the household, rather than two, are very small. With the exception of lone parents, the budget standards for single householders are also very similar, the budget for a single adult of working age being slightly less than for a single pensioner. It seems that all groups were working to a similar understanding of what is a minimum standard of living in Jersey.

Table 1

Household Budgetary Requirements in Jersey	
Single Pensioner	£118.22
Single adult of working age	£116.58
Lone parent -own needs	£172.78
Pensioner couple	£166.56
Couple of working age with no children	£183.07
Parents -own needs	£173.08

The States of Jersey are now working with the budget standards to investigate what adjustments need to be made to welfare provision on the Island. At CRSP we hope in the near future to be able to extend the methodology to produce consensually agreed poverty lines for families on the British mainland. At a time of major reforms in welfare provision perhaps the moment has come to re-assess the basis on which benefit levels are set. Consensually agreed poverty lines would have much to offer to such a process.

The research team included Sue Middleton, Karen Kellard, Sue Maguire, and Julia Loumidis.

CRSP News Update

New Projects

Since our last Briefings, CRSP has received funding for the following research projects:

- Evaluation of Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots
- The Causes of Long-term Rise in Welfare Benefit Reciprocity
- Improving Housing and Council Tax Benefit Administration
- Secondary Analysis of a MORI Telephone Survey of Housing Benefit Administration
- Unemployment and the Insurance Compensation Principle in UK and Germany

Staff Matters

CRSP said goodbye to Alison Smith, Research Assistant who left at the end of February to take-up a Research Fellow post at the Policy Studies Institute and also Adrienne Miles who completed a Student Placement from Bath University.

Two students from Bath University, Denise Goodwin and Emma Cornwell started their one year student placement with CRSP in August.

Sue Maguire will continue to work for CRSP following completion of maternity cover for Karen Kellard.

Congratulations

Congratulations are due to Karl Ashworth and Pam Pinot de Moira who married on 29th May, Dr Julia Shropshire and Dr Konstantine Loumidis who married on 5th June and last but not least Nigel Bilsbrough and Joy Green on 28th August.

Beacon Council

The interim report for the Beacon Council study on the administration of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit has been published on the Web at

<http://www.local.detr.gov.uk/research/publ15.doc>

Housing Benefit

A study of Housing Benefit payments to tenants of supported accommodation in Britain and conducted by the Centre's Social Security Unit was published by the Department of Social Security in July. Research Report No 93 available from Keith Watson at the Department of Social Security, 0171 962 8557, £31.50.

Ending Child Poverty

Popular Welfare for the 21st Century

Edited by Robert Walker

On 18 March 1999, Tony Blair, the British Prime Minister, delivered the Beveridge Lecture which committed his government to abolishing child poverty within 20 years and laid out his vision of a welfare state for the 21st Century.

The present-day welfare state, he concluded, is not fitted for the modern world. Indeed, it is seen by some to be the social problem rather than a solution to social needs. Blair's vision, grounded in a particular conception of social justice, is perhaps as challenging as the blueprint laid down by Beveridge.



This publication of Blair's Beveridge Lecture, alongside the views and advice of some of Britain's foremost policy analysts and commentators on welfare reform, is a stimulus to critical debate about the future of welfare.

Available from: Biblios Publishers Distribution Services Ltd.
Tel: 01403 710851. ISBN 1 86134 199 7. £15.99

Jobseeker's Allowance

CRSP was commissioned by The Department for Education and Employment to investigate the causes of persistent and long-term unemployment among particular groups. The analysis was based on a re-examination of the data collected in connection with the evaluation of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). The evidence is drawn from a representative national survey of almost 5,000 people who were unemployed in June 1995 before the introduction of JSA. The reports published were:

- Unemployment and Jobseeking: The Experience of People with Disabilities
- Unemployment and Jobseeking: The Experience of Claimants who Study Part-time
- Unemployment and Jobseeking: The Experience of Claimants who work Part-time
- Unemployment and Jobseeking: The Experience of Ethnic Minorities
- Unemployment and Jobseeking: The Experience of Claimants who Sign-on by Post

All the above are available from The Department for Education and Employment Research Report Series, Tel: 0845 60 222 60, Fax: 0845 60 333 60 priced £4.95 each.

Negotiating Transitions to Citizenship

Fieldwork for this exciting study - part of the Economic and Social Research Council's national research programme, 'Youth, Citizenship and Social Change' - began last April in Leicester. The aims of the study are to deepen our understanding of young people's perceptions of the meanings of citizenship, of their own development as citizens, and of what constitutes a 'successful' transition to citizenship. Special focus will be given to political participation (broadly defined) and work (paid and unpaid). One hundred and twenty young people, aged between sixteen and twenty-two, will be researched over three years using a range of qualitative methods. The project represents a collaboration between CRSP and the Department of Social Policy at Loughborough University. For further details please contact Noel Smith on (01509) 223677.

CRSP is an autonomous research centre based in the Social Sciences Department of Loughborough University. The Centre was founded in 1983 by Professor Adrian Webb. Professor Robert Walker became Director in 1990.

For further information about the research papers described here, to order **Working Papers**, to receive back issues of **Briefings** or our latest **Annual Report**, or to be added to the CRSP mailing list, please contact:
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