

COMPLETED PROJECT LIST

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN SOCIAL POLICY

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The research and evaluation studies included in this list are allocated to five themes:

- ❖ Children, Youth and the Life-course
- ❖ Equality, Diversity and Citizenship
- ❖ Health, Social Care and Wellbeing
- ❖ Poverty and Social Exclusion
- ❖ Work and Welfare

Britain's Poorest Children: Phase 2

Following an earlier study of Britain's Poorest by CRSP, Save the Children Fund (UK) commissioned the Centre to update the analysis of severe and persistent child poverty in the UK. The earlier study used two data sets: the Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey of 1999; and the first nine waves (1991-1999) of the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS). Three further waves of the BHPS have since become available, making it possible to update the earlier analysis. The update focused on selected key aspects based on the findings of the earlier analysis that attracted most policy interest or needed more policy action.

The second phase of Britain's Poorest Children focused on the experience of severe and persistent child poverty in the UK during the period 1994-2002. The analysis started with an examination of trends in childhood experience of severe and non-severe poverty between 1994 and 2002, with particular reference to changes after 1997, when new policies were introduced to address the problem of child poverty in the UK. This was followed by an examination of characteristics of children in severe and persistent poverty with particular reference to employment and benefit receipt of adult household members and family type and composition. The final analysis focused on the experience of persistent and severe poverty in childhood and household as well as young people's social exclusion.

Sponsor: Save the Children Fund, UK
Theme: Children, Youth and the Life-course
Start date: January 2005
Completion date: November 2005

Evaluation of Education Maintenance Allowance

CRSP led the consortium that evaluated the Education Maintenance Allowance. Other members of the consortium were:

- o Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick;
- o Institute for Fiscal Studies; and
- o National Centre for Social Research.

There were four main elements of the evaluation:

1 Evaluation of Education Maintenance Allowance

Despite very significant increases in the percentages of young people remaining in full-time education post-16 years, participation rates remain below the levels of other European countries. The present government wishes to increase further post-16 participation, particularly among young people from poorer families who are most likely to leave education. A means-tested Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) of up to £30 per week, payable to young people aged 16 to 18 years, was piloted in a number of relatively deprived urban and rural areas. Eligible young people can also receive bonuses for retention and achievement. There were four variants of EMA tested in ten areas. A longitudinal evaluation employing both quantitative and qualitative methods measured the impact of EMA pilot provision.

2 Evaluation of Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots: Leeds and London

The project provided an evaluation of EMA in Leeds and four Inner London boroughs, where there are different eligibility criteria for EMA than in the other ten EMA areas. Local education authority and Careers Services data were used to provide a limited statistical evaluation of EMA in these areas. Qualitative work was undertaken with education providers to provide insights into their perspectives on the EMA scheme.

3 Evaluation of Education Maintenance Allowance Extension Pilots

In September 2000, childcare pilots and extension pilots to the Education Maintenance Allowance were introduced which were to be piloted for three years with the aim of raising participation, retention and achievement in post-compulsory education for teenage parents, young people who are homeless and young people with disabilities. The main objective of this qualitative work was to evaluate the particular needs of these vulnerable groups in relation to education and, specifically, whether the childcare allowances and extensions to EMA eligibility rules provide the flexibility required to enable these young people to participate in post-compulsory education.

4 Evaluation of Education Maintenance Allowance Transport Pilots

The cost of transport was one of the main factors identified in a 1999 report from the Social Exclusion Unit as a barrier to post-16 participation in education. EMA Transport pilots are extensions to the existing EMA pilots described above. The transport pilots began in five areas, two urban and three rural, in September 2000. Two models were tested: a pure transport allowance and a 'hybrid' that mixes weekly cash payments with a transport element. The methodology is similar to that for the main EMA (project 1) but included additional work with transport providers at the local and national level.

Sponsor: Department for Education and Skills

Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion

Start date: April 1999

Completion date: 2005

Sure Start Loughborough East

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

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

Sponsor: Sure Start Loughborough East

Theme: Children, Youth and the Life-course

Start date: February 2004

Completion date: April 2004

Navigating the E-society: The Dynamics of Participation and Exclusion

This two year research project followed a sample of 100 households, selected purposively to represent a range of family types, life stages, income levels and ethnicities, as they navigate the shifting opportunities presented by established and emerging digital communication and information technologies.

Website: <http://www.newtechnologyandyou.net/>

Sponsor: Economic and Social Research Council

Theme: Children, Youth and the Life-course

Start date: May 2003

Completion date: June 2005

Jobcentre Plus: Qualitative Research with Staff and Customers (Phase III)

A third phase of qualitative research with staff and customers was commissioned by DWP in April 2003. The research re-visited six of the case study areas from the Phase II research as well as three new offices. As in previous phases, interviews were conducted with a range of Jobcentre Plus staff and customers to explore the extent to which offices were delivering the policy vision and the extent to which offices visited in Phase II had made progress. Some specific aspects of the delivery of Jobcentre Plus were also explored in more depth.

Sponsor: Department of Work and Pensions

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: April 2003

Completion date: October 2003

Jobcentre Plus – Personal Adviser Training

The aim of this project was to conduct further analysis of data collected in previous research (Jobcentre Plus: Early Qualitative Research with Staff and Customers – Phase II) to assist the Jobcentre Plus Adviser Learning and Development Team in developing tools for use in Personal Adviser training. There were three main elements to the research:

1. Further analysis of interview transcripts with Personal Advisers (PAs), to provide more detail and examples of the barriers that hinder PAs in conducting work-focused interviews.
2. Further analysis of interview transcripts with customers, to develop a number of 'typical' case studies – lone parents, carers and customers with health problems – that PAs would be likely to come into contact with.
3. Collation of observation records of work-focused interviews, to illustrate the different approaches used by PAs when conducting work-focused interviews.

Sponsor: Department of Work and Pensions

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: March 2003

Completion date: April 2003

Developing Budget Standards for Disabled People

The Centre for Research in Social Policy, with the support of the Disability Alliance and the Disability Benefits Consortium carried out research to investigate the costs of disability in adulthood. The project explored the additional financial, practical and social costs of disability from the perspective of disabled people themselves. The aims of this study were to develop consensual budget standards for disabled people living in different circumstances and with differing types of impairment; to generate sufficient information to provide detailed explanations of the rationale underlying the budget standards; and to provide local and national government and disability organisations with a baseline of minimum needs for disabled people so as to inform policy-making in the provision of both benefits and services.

Sponsor: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Theme: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing

Start date: March 2003

Completion date: February 2004

Modern Forms of Marriage

'Modern Forms of Marriage' was a feasibility study, which sought to explore why some marriages last and others do not. The study involved eight focus groups with married men and women to discuss their views on and experiences of marriage. All participants were first-time married and were selected according to the duration of their marriage. The aim of the research was to ascertain the key factor that participants attributed to lasting marriage, and how perceptions and experiences changed with the length of individuals' own marriage.

Sponsor: Care for the Family

Theme: Children, Youth and the Life-course

Start date: January 2003

Completion date: May 2003

Deferrals in Jobcentre Plus

Commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions, the aim of this project was to explore staff understanding and practice in making deferrals and waivers in Jobcentre Plus Contact Centres and Public Offices, following the issue of new guidance in April 2002. The research involved in-depth interviews with staff and customers in four Jobcentre Plus Pathfinder areas. The research was carried out in conjunction with ECOTEC Research and Consulting Limited.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: January 2003

Completion date: June 2003

Setting up and Co-ordination of the European Monitoring Centre on Social Security for Migrant Workers

The national social security schemes of the member countries of the European Union have been co-ordinated to ensure that people moving within the EU do not lose their social security rights. Over time the co-ordinating rules have become complex and difficult to interpret as new countries have joined and as new forms of social protection and new modes of financing have been introduced. At the time preparations were under way to reform and simplify the regulations. The role of the Observatory is to provide the European Commission with systematic, reliable, up-to-date information on the application of the regulations in each of the EU member countries. The Observatory, which is under the direct supervision of the European Commission, is co-ordinated by the Max Planck Institut fur Auslandsches und Internationales Socialrecht in Munich and consists of national 'experts' from each of the member countries. CRSP is the UK 'expert'.

Sponsor: European Commission

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: January 2003

Completion date: December 2003

Employers and Service Providers' Responses to the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) in 2003

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 includes provisions to tackle discrimination by employers and service providers against disabled people. This research used case studies and a telephone survey of employers and service providers to assess their reactions to existing and forthcoming requirements of the Act. The study was funded by DWP and was conducted in conjunction with BMRB.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions
Theme: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing
Start date: November 2002
Completion date: September 2003

Employers Pension Provision Survey 2003

The Employers Pension Provision study was the fourth in a series of employer surveys identifying the extent and type of pension provision by employers for their employees, covering occupational, stakeholder and private pensions. The representative survey of some 2,000 employers was conducted by BMRB, CRSP undertook the analysis of the survey data.

Sponsor: DWP via British Market Research Bureau (BMRB)
Theme: Work and Welfare
Start date: November 2002
Completion date: October 2003

Meta-Analysis of US Welfare-to-Work Programmes (Governance 2)

Governance 2 extended the work completed under Governance 1, adding further cases to our database and extending its coverage to include indicators of the impact of US welfare-to-work interventions on the children of programme participants. Further meta-analysis of intervention impact data for sub-groups (e.g. programme participants with or without recent employment experience) was undertaken alongside a repeated analysis of all programmes in the expanded database and of impacts on children. The project was carried out jointly with the University of Maryland Baltimore County (USA).

Sponsor: US Dept of Health & Human Services (DHHS) via University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)
Theme: Work and Welfare
Start date: September 2002
Completion date: January 2004

Saffron Sure Start Evaluation

The Government's Sure Start programme aims to improve the health and well-being of families and children before and from birth. Saffron Under 8s Forum commissioned CRSP to work with them to develop an evaluation framework or 'tool-kit'. This can then be used by stakeholders (including project workers and participants) to monitor and evaluate progress and outcomes and feed into the on-going development of the local programme.

Sponsor: Saffron Under 8s Forum
Theme: Children, Youth and the Life-course
Start date: August 2002
Completion date: October 2002

Drugs and Alcohol Misuse as Barriers to Employment

The research, which was commissioned by the Department for Work & Pensions, aimed to improve understanding of the problem drugs and alcohol addictions pose to job-search, and gaining and retaining employment amongst working age benefit clients. It sought to draw together existing evidence and to generate better insight into the types and the needs of support services for people with substance abuse problems. The research consisted of two stages:

- i) A literature review and secondary analysis of the General Household Survey and the British Crime Survey; and
- ii) Qualitative research with Jobcentre staff, representatives from organisations involved in supporting people with substance abuse problems, and clients.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions
Theme: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing
Start date: July 2002
Completion date: November 2002

Preliminary Research to Investigate the Additional Needs of Disabled People

The aim of this 12 week study was to investigate how best to examine the additional financial costs faced by individuals as a result of their impairments. In doing this the project explored other needs that would have to be met if disabled people are to participate fully in society.

The project examined two specific issues:

1. how to identify and recruit disabled people as well as exploring the composition of the focus groups convened for this study; and
2. how best to identify and calculate the additional costs.

The project consisted of two main components. A short literature review explored typologies of needs and methods for assisting disabled people to participate in research. This was supplemented by consulting with a number of experts to ensure that all relevant issues had been addressed. In light of the findings from this first phase, eight focus groups were conducted with disabled people to explore the level and nature of additional costs experienced by disabled people. A maximum of six individual interviews were conducted to

ensure that the views of disabled people who were not able to participate in the focus groups were also included.

Sponsor: Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Theme: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing
Start date: May 2002
Completion date: September 2002

The Poorest of the Poor

Save the Children UK commissioned CRSP to investigate two aspects of severe child poverty in Britain. The first explored the extent to which different dimensions of child poverty and child social exclusion overlap, using the Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey of Britain. The second analysed the British Household Panel Survey to see what could be learnt about the persistence of severe child poverty in Britain. These elements combined to enhance the currently limited knowledge of which children are the most likely to be the poorest in Britain.

Sponsor: Save the Children UK
Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion
Start date: March 2002
Completion date: March 2003

Jobcentre Plus: Early Qualitative Research with Staff and Customers (Phase II)

Following on from earlier work conducted for the Department for Work and Pensions and the Employment Service to explore the 'bedding in' of Jobcentre Plus Pathfinder offices, a second phase of qualitative research was conducted six months later. The five original Phase I case study areas were re-visited as were three new case study areas. The aims of the research were to: assess whether Jobcentre Plus Pathfinder offices were delivering to policy intent; assess the extent to which they had moved closer to policy intent since Phase I; and to inform the next stages of Jobcentre Plus roll out. As in Phase I of the research, semi-structured interviews were conducted with a wide range of staff and customers which included lone parents, carers and sick or disabled customers. Focus groups were held with Jobseeker's Allowance customers and non-participative observations were also conducted. The research was carried out in conjunction with ECOTEC Research and Consulting Limited.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions
Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion
Start date: February 2002
Completion date: September 2002

Early Qualitative Evaluation of Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus forms part of the Department for Work and Pensions. It brings together the Employment Service and parts of the Benefits Agency which provides services for people of working age. Approximately 50 Jobcentre Plus pathfinder offices, as well as Work Focused Interview sites were introduced from October 2001, and from April 2002 Jobcentre Plus rolled out nationally, to replace existing Jobcentres.

This qualitative research, which was commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions and the Employment Service aimed to assess whether Jobcentre Plus pathfinders and work focused interview extension sites are delivering to policy intent and to inform the next stages of the Jobcentre Plus roll-out. The research, which covered five case study areas, includes observations and semi-structured interviews with staff and qualitative interviews with sick and disabled people, carers, lone parents and unemployed people. The research was carried out in conjunction with ECOTEC Research and Consulting.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions

Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion

Start date: November 2001

Completion date: January 2002

Analogue to Digital Television Switchover: Human Aspects of Adoption

The Government is committed to the switchover from analogue to digital television signals between 2006 and 2010, on condition that everyone who currently can get the main terrestrial channels in analogue form can receive them on digital systems, and that 95 per cent of consumers have access (including financial access) to digital equipment.

The project was funded by the Department of Trade and Industry. It included an outline scoping study, which aimed to identify major stakeholders and their primary concerns pertinent to the switchover.

The project was led by Professor Leela Damodaran (School of Human Factors) and included experts on marketing, design and social inclusion issues from Loughborough University. Within CRSP, Karen Kellard and Liz Sutton were involved in reviewing 'stakeholder' issues with particular emphasis on identifying the social impacts of the proposed analogue to digital switchover, particularly on potentially vulnerable or disadvantaged groups.

Sponsor: Department of Trade and Industry

Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion

Start date: September 2001

Completion date: January 2002

2001 ESF Leavers' Survey

At its simplest, the policy problem that the European Social Fund (ESF) is designed to address is unemployment. More specifically, it aims to improve the employability of individuals, the competitiveness of businesses and, ultimately, ensure the continued economic success of the EU and its member states. In the main, the fund is channelled into locally designed and managed projects which provide support and training for individuals and, in some cases, employers. To be eligible for ESF funding, projects must have in place match funding from some other source and must be able to demonstrate that the project will add value to existing provision. There is also a strong social inclusion element to ESF, as it seeks to ensure that support is targeted to those who face the most difficulty in accessing and participating in the labour market or certain sectors of it. The 2001 ESF Leavers' Survey used beneficiaries' reports of their experiences and subsequent outcomes to evaluate the effectiveness of the training and support provided through ESF-funded programmes.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: September 2001

Completion date: December 2002

Self-employment as a Route Off Benefit

Active labour market policies have provided opportunities for jobseekers to enter self-employment. The Department for Work and Pensions commissioned CRSP to review what was known about self-employment as a sustained route off benefit. There were three strands to this research: a systematic review of the relevant literature; qualitative interviews with Employment Service Personal Advisors and providers of the self-employment option within New Deal; and exploration of the New Deal evaluation databases and the British Household Panel Survey data.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: September 2001

Completion date: March 2002

Review of the Effectiveness of In-work Support Programmes for Long-term Unemployed Workers

The Department for Education and Skills commissioned CRSP to conduct a review of in-work support programmes for long-term unemployed people in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and other OECD countries. The review provided a comparative analysis of these programmes, and of their effectiveness in helping workers to retain employment, including the impact of different types of in-work support on different client groups. The research included a systematic review of available literature as well as case study visits and interviews.

Sponsor: Department for Education and Skills

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: July 2001

Completion date: February 2002

Assessing the Coverage Gap

Assessing the coverage gap identified which groups were excluded from social security coverage and examined the factors leading to exclusion, and the trajectories and impact of relevant policies and programmes in fifteen countries around the world illustrating contrasting situations and models of social security. The countries selected for study were: Australia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, India, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Tanzania, Thailand, UK, Uruguay and the USA.

The analysis covered pension provision (old age, disability and survivors) and statutory health care, whether public, private, compulsory or voluntary.

The study aimed to expose gaps in coverage and inadequacies in protection in order to evaluate the challenges that lie ahead. The findings of the research were presented to an international conference in Vancouver.

Sponsor: The International Social Security Association (ISSA)

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: June 2001

Completion date: May 2002

Flexicurity

CRSP contributed to a major investigation of the 'fit' of Germany's social security system in the light of increasing labour market flexibility. The project was commissioned by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Qualifications and Technology of the *Land* of North-Rhine Westphalia. Besides Britain, the project included expert contributions from the Netherlands, Denmark, and Switzerland. The analysis of Britain's social security system, conducted by CRSP, focused especially on the interaction between welfare-to-work programmes and labour market flexibility.

Sponsor: Wirtschafts-und Sozialwissenschaftliches Institut of the Hans-Böckler Stiftung

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: April 2001

Completion date: June 2001

Saffron Youth Audit

This project was to provide base lining evidence of the circumstances, experiences and needs of young people aged 14 to 20 years living in a Single Regeneration Budget area of Leicester. A survey of young people collected information on young people's activities and community involvement, as well as on their perceptions of the area and its needs. Focus groups explored these issues in greater depth.

Sponsor: Leicester City Council

Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion

Start date: December 2000

Completion date: March 2001

Establishing Household Budgetary Requirements for People with Disabilities in Jersey

Following on from previous research, which established minimum budget standards for all family types, this project aimed to establish minimum budget standards for people with disabilities. The research used the 'consensual budget standards' methodology developed by CRSP. Groups of people (or when appropriate their carers) each with a particular type and severity of disability (hearing impairment, sight impairment, learning difficulties or physical impairment) acted as their own budget standards committees, negotiating a consensus about the additional items and activities which were essential for a disabled person living in Jersey.

Sponsor: Employment and Social Security Department, States of Jersey
Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion
Start date: November 2000
Completion date: January 2001

Housing Benefit and the Appeals Service

This project was commissioned by the, then, Department of Social Security to look at current Housing Benefit appeal activity in local authorities. This project aimed to provide information on the level and type of appeals activity in a range of local authorities, to identify good practice for the transition of appeals activity from local authorities to the Appeals Service, and to design questions for an Omnibus survey. The research involved case studies and an analysis of Review Board case-papers.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions
Theme: Work and Welfare
Start date: July 2000
Completion date: October 2000

Welfare to Work: A Case for Evidence based Policy Making

The New Labour Government has transferred and adopted U.S. welfare policies. The research explored the value of evidence based research methods as tools for social policy makers. Systematic review and meta-analysis were applied to the research evidence to determine the factors associated with the successful implementation of welfare to work strategies. The project was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council as part of its Future of Governance Programme.

Sponsor: Economic and Social Research Council
Theme: Work and Welfare
Start date: May 2000
Completion date: April 2002

Traps and Springboards in European Minimum Income Standards

This project focused on the interactions between access to/exclusion from minimum income and other social rights, mainly social security and employment. The key question was under what conditions the activation of minimum protection schemes produced the best results in terms of 'inclusion'. A comparison of four main types of social protection systems was made: Nordic (Denmark), British, Bismarckian (Belgium) and Southern European (Greece). The project aimed to produce new insights and recommendations to improve access to minimum protection and activation policies.

Sponsor: European Union and The Belgian Government

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: February 2000

Completion date: February 2001

Employment Sustainability

There is concern that a significant proportion of people experiencing unemployment do so repeatedly, with intermittent spells of work between (work which is often poorly paid and of poor quality, with limited prospects for progression). This research, commissioned by the Department for Education and Employment, examined the concept of 'employment sustainability' to stimulate ideas for policy development. The project sought to identify factors that may contribute to, or hinder, sustainable employment. The findings of the research aimed to assist the design, assessment and evaluation of labour market policies to help unemployed people to remain in work. The research comprised three main elements: a literature review, qualitative interviews with key agents and an exploration of existing data sets.

Sponsor: Department for Education and Skills

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: September 1999

Completion date: February 2000

Prospects of Part-time Work

The previous Government introduced a number of work incentive measures. This was the second phase of a two stage study examining the impact of the Back to Work Bonus on encouraging unemployed and lone parent benefit recipients into part-time work whilst claiming unemployment related benefits. The study utilised administrative data taken from the Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support Quarterly Statistical Series, and survey data taken from the evaluation of the Jobseeker's Allowance.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: March 1999

Completion date: July 1999

Negotiating Transitions to Citizenship

This was a study of the contrasting experiences of three cohorts of young people aged 16 to 24 years who are 'successful' or 'unsuccessful' in relation to education and/or the labour market as they make the transition to full adult 'citizenship' in its widest sense. The project used a qualitative longitudinal cohort methodology, which involved repeat in-depth interviews with young people on an annual basis. Focus groups were used to allow young people themselves to be involved in the content of the research. The project was part of the ESRC's Youth Citizenship and Social Change Programme.

Sponsor: Economic and Social Research Council

Theme: Children, Youth and the Life-course

Start date: October 1998

Completion date: September 2001

Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey of Britain

Reductions in poverty and social exclusion are central to the present Government's policy, yet empirical evidence about the extent, nature and experience of poverty and social exclusion is limited. This nationally representative survey refined and developed measures of poverty and social exclusion that can be used to assist policy makers in their search for solutions. The research builds on the earlier seminal 'Breadline Britain' surveys of poverty that took place in the 1980s and early 1990s. This project was carried out in conjunction with the Universities of York and Bristol and was funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Sponsor: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion

Start date: December 1997

Completion date: September 1998

Evaluation of a Collaborative Approach to Improving Eating Habits and Nutritional Status in the Saffron Lane Area of Leicester

In this three year study funded by the National Lotteries Charities Board, CRSP worked with the Linwood Centre Community Association and a Family Nutrition worker on a community development and nutrition project. The aim of the project was to explore the value of this approach in developing a model of dietetic intervention to improve nutritional status and well being. The research used a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods from within an action-oriented approach.

Website: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/ss/centres/crsp/sfhp/SFHPHOME.HTM>

Sponsor: National Lottery Charities Board

Theme: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing

Start date: May 1997

Completion date: May 2000

The Costs of Childhood Disability

The benefits system acknowledges that people with disabilities face additional financial costs arising from their disability, yet little is known about the nature and magnitude of such costs, particularly for disabled children. This study, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, explored the additional costs incurred by parents bringing up a child with a severe disability. The study developed a minimum budget standard for severely disabled children using 'consensual budget standards' methodology: a method developed in CRSP. This method, which can broadly be described as combining 'citizens jury' and focus group methodology, brought together groups of parents who discussed, negotiated and agreed a minimum budget standard for severely disabled children. Detailed information was also collected from expenditure diaries about parents' spending patterns on their disabled children.

Sponsor: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion

Start date: September 1996

Completion date: February 1998