

PROJECT LIST

2005 - present

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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

Experiences of Low Income in Later Life

CRSP was commissioned by Age UK to conduct a qualitative research project which aims to gain a detailed understanding of older people's experiences of living on a low income. This provided evidence to inform Age UK's campaign work on reducing pensioner poverty and will be used to guide further research. The study aimed to illuminate the decisions and choices that older people may face in managing their finances and the practical and emotional impact of living in constrained circumstances. The research explored through individual interviews and focus groups key aspects of living on a low income from older people's own perspectives and experiences.

Sponsor: Age UK
Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion
Start date: March 2011
Completion date: October 2011

Sustainable Income Standards: towards a greener minimum?

The Minimum Income Standard (MIS), is the household income required in the UK to meet a minimum acceptable standard of living as defined by members of the public, is gaining widespread acceptance. Yet global pressure to cut emissions brings into question the sustainability of existing or rising living standards enjoyed by richer economies. Developing a more sustainable minimum can be seen as part of the picture of how we may change our overall consumption patterns. There are plenty of opportunities to consume more sustainably, but do ordinary people in Britain feel that these are compatible with a minimum acceptable standard of living?

As the UK endeavours to reduce carbon emissions to at least 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050, the research will play a part in informing policy and practice, by identifying which kinds of changes in minimum household consumption are likely to make a difference to meeting environmental goals, and starting to explore with the public whether such changes are compatible with maintaining a minimum acceptable standard of living.

This research aims

- To identify areas of households budgets where new approaches to minimum consumption levels could reduce carbon emissions and bring other environmental benefits.

- To explore with members of the public the extent to which such changes are compatible with maintaining a socially acceptable minimum living standard.

Sponsor: Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion
Start date: January 2011
Estimated completion date: October 2011

Men, money management and debt

Funded by the Money Advice Trust, this project builds on research on credit and debt recently undertaken by CRSP, in order specifically to:

- explore 'triggers' into debt for men on low-middle incomes;
- explore male patterns of domestic 'money management';
- explore male definitions of problematic debt and the strategies they use in dealing with it;
- explore men's attitudes towards (and where possible, experience of) debt/financial advice services;
- understand the barriers to seeking advice and how advice agencies can make their services more appealing to men at the earliest opportunity.

The study used in-depth interviews with 20 men, from couple and lone male households with and without children, and will conduct focused secondary analysis of female participants in the Credit and Debt study for comparative purposes.

Sponsor: Money Advice Trust
Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion
Start date: April 2010
Completion date: July 2010

Literature Review to Inform the Future Digitisation of Jobcentre Plus Service Delivery

Jobcentre Plus aims to increase the range of services that are delivered online and encourage its customers to migrate to this channel. CRSP has been commissioned to undertake a literature review that evaluates UK and international texts relating to:

- customers'/clients' appetite for online use and potential resource obstacles;
- future projections of internet access and technological developments; and
- best practice in online service delivery in both the public and private sphere.

A key aspect of the review is an assessment of the extent to which particular changes may have differential impacts on – or raise different issues for – different parts of their customer base: for example, lone parents, disabled people, people from minority ethnic populations.

Sponsor: Jobcentre Plus
Theme: Work and Welfare
Start date: February 2010
Projected completion date: May 2010

Experience of using the Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS)

As part of promoting greater independence and well-being in later life, the government wants to make sure that everyone who is entitled to certain benefits actually receives them, and that they are delivered in the most effective way. At present, not all of those who are entitled to benefits for older people are claiming them. This research is looking at what kind of events in people's lives may prompt contact with the Pensions, Disability

and Carers Service (PDCS), and what people's experience of service delivery has been. The PDCS hopes this research will help them to make the process easier and more effective for its customers in the future.

Sponsor: Pensions, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS),
Department for Work and Pensions
Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion
Start date: February 2010
Projected completion date: July 2010

Tenants and Advisors Early Experiences of the Local Housing Allowance and Money Management

CRSP has been commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions to explore (qualitatively) tenants' and advisors' early experiences of the LHA national roll out, with a particular focus on issues arising from the direct payment of LHA to tenants and how tenants manage their LHA money. This research forms part of a wider two year review to monitor the impact of LHA at a national level.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions
Theme: Work and Welfare
Start date: June 2009
Completion date: March 2010

Review of the Child Material Deprivation Items in the Family Resources Survey: Qualitative Element (MIS Necessities)

The Department for Work and Pensions commissioned CRSP to investigate what items parents consider are essential necessities for families with children in Britain. Drawing on the methodology used in the MIS study, this qualitative research is designed to help update the government's measure of deprivation in families with children. It has informed the design of a large-scale survey (the ONS Omnibus Survey) asking members of the public which items they think that every family in Britain should be able to afford if they want them, whose results in turn will be applied in future Family Resources Surveys to measure how many families lack a selection of items that the public considers to be necessities.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions
Theme: Children, Youth and the Life-course
Start date: June 2009
Projected completion date: December 2009

Minimum Income Standards: Rural costs

In 2008 CRSP launched the findings of a major piece of research aimed at exploring what people thought was needed in order to have a minimum acceptable standard of living. This research was primarily undertaken in towns and cities, but included limited research in rural areas, which highlighted that there may be additional or different costs for those living in rural or remote locations. As a result of this research, the Commission for Rural Communities has commissioned CRSP to explore these additional costs.

Sponsor: Commission for Rural Communities
Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion
Start date: May 2009
Projected completion date: July 2010

Mobilizing Identities: The Shape and Reality of Middle and Junior Managers' Working Lives

The aim of the research is to chart the work of middle and junior healthcare managers; including identity work and to produce an ethnography of the lived experience of middle and junior management within the distinctive organisational context of the NHS. It will explore the identities (goals, values, motivations, beliefs and interactions styles) of middle and junior healthcare managers to see how these are constructed and how they shape the performance of roles. The project also investigate how such managers leverage their identities to create success, establish trust and broker alliances to exert influence in different and various spheres of their working lives and to see in what ways they use their identities to take forward organisational, group and personal goals. Lastly, it will determine the influence of managerial identities on organisational processes and outcomes; including what constitutes an effective manager.

Sponsor: National Institute for Health Research

Theme: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing

Start date: April 2009

Projected completion date: March 2012

Evaluation of the Right2BCared4 Pilot

The Right2BCared4 initiative is based on the principle that cared-for young people aged 16-18 should have a greater say in the decision-making process preceding their exit from care and that they should not be expected to leave care until they reach the age of 18. A three year pilot, funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, began in October 2007 involving approximately 1,100 young people from 11 local authorities.

An evaluation of the pilot is being undertaken by the Centre for Child and Family Research and the Centre for Research in Social Policy (both at Loughborough University) in conjunction with the National Care Advisory Service, Catch 22. The findings from this evaluative study will provide information on the effectiveness of Right2BCared4 and whether the scheme has helped care leavers achieve better outcomes. CRSP is involved in the quantitative elements of this mixed-method study. This includes the design of a survey of cared-for young people, and the subsequent analysis, as well as the analysis of management information data provided by local authorities.

Sponsor: Department for Schools, Children and Families

Theme: Children, Families and the Life-course

Start date: November 2008

Projected completion date: July 2010

A Minimum Income Standard for Northern Ireland

The original MIS research was designed to produce a minimum income standard for Britain that did not account for possible variations in Northern Ireland. Research in Northern Ireland investigated the extent to which different budget levels are appropriate there.

This project did not aim to replicate the methodology used for the MIS for Britain.

Sponsor: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion

Start date: January 2009

Completion date: September 2009

Process and Impact Evaluation of Accessibility Planning

CRSP, in partnership with Atkins, have been commissioned by the Department for Transport to evaluate the process and impact of Accessibility Planning. This is a process that aims to promote social inclusion by helping people from disadvantaged groups or areas access jobs and essential services. The evaluation will take a holistic view of Accessibility Planning and will involve considering the processes by which Accessibility Planning is implemented but also the impact that Accessibility Planning policy has had on the work of local authorities and wider partners, and on individuals and communities.

Sponsor: Department for Transport
Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion
Start date: December 2008
Projected completion date: March 2012

The Impact and 'True Value' of Culture and Sport in Crime Reduction

CRSP is working in partnership with ECOTEC Research & Consulting and the University of Huddersfield to conduct a national research project to investigate the impact of cultural and sporting interventions in crime reduction. The objectives of the research are to explore *how* culture and sport contributes to crime reduction, what *impact* this has, and to develop an *evaluation framework* that can be used by projects and services in the future. The research is being conducted in three stages:

- o Stage One - A Rapid Evidence Assessment of the literature around the subject;
- o Stage Two - Case study research; and
- o Stage Three - Development of a cost-benefit model.

Sponsor: Round Seven Beacon Authorities
Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion
Start date: September 2008
Completion date: June 2009

The Children's Market: characteristics, trend and strategies

As part of its ongoing commitments under the Children's Plan, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport commissioned an independent assessment of evidence relating to the impact of the commercial world on children's wellbeing. The assessment examined children's commercial world in the broadest sense, and was not limited to a focus on advertising. It took account of the beneficial aspects of children's engagement with commercial activities, as well as potentially problematic outcomes. CRSP and the Department of Social Sciences have been commissioned to undertake a review of the marketing and advertising industries' strategies towards children and young people.

Sponsor: Department for Children, Schools and Families
and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport
Theme: Children, Youth and the Life-course
Start date: July 2008
Completion date: September 2008

Disadvantage and Road User Safety

It is well established that more people are injured on the road in disadvantaged areas than in other areas. For example, in order to meet its target of halving the number of children killed or injured in road accidents, the Government is prioritising a focus on reducing accidents in disadvantaged areas and among children from different social and ethnic groups. What is less clear is why such risks are more pronounced for disadvantaged groups. The Department for Transport has commissioned CRSP, in partnership with AECOM, to undertake a major study to investigate accidents in disadvantaged areas and so inform strategies to improve road user safety. The research started in March 2008 and finished in 2010. The findings will be published in January 2011. CRSP was responsible for the community research in 6 case study areas. The study used a variety of methods including, group discussions, interviews, observations and social network analysis in order to fully explore the relationship between road safety and disadvantage.

The findings show that children and young people living in disadvantaged areas appear to be at greater risk of road injury because they live in more hazardous environments with high density housing, close proximity to high volumes of traffic and high levels of on street parking. They also have lifestyles with higher levels of exposure to traffic risk as they are more likely to walk and have less access to safe play spaces and supervised facilities. This means that there are fewer alternatives to the street as places to socialise and play outside the home. Children and young people also live in environments with greater levels of hazardous and illegal driving behaviour with an absence of consistent visible enforcement. The risk of road accidents is exacerbated by having to contend with navigating unsafe and run down environments on a daily basis.

Sponsor: Department for Transport
Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion
Start date: March 2008
Completion date: 2010

Accessibility Planning Evaluation: scoping work

In a very tangible way, social exclusion is mediated by ‘accessibility’ – that is, by people’s opportunities to access employment, education, healthcare, affordable healthy food, and social and cultural networks. As part of Local Transport Plans, local authorities have planned strategies to improve the opportunities for those most at risk of accessibility-related social exclusion. As this accessibility planning is put into action, the Department for Transport will be evaluating how it is happening (process evaluation) and what difference it is making to people’s lives (impact evaluation). To ensure the best design for this evaluation, CRSP and Atkins were commissioned to examine early developments in accessibility planning and existing relevant evidence, and to develop options for the research methodology.

Sponsor: Department for Transport
Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion
Start date: March 2008
Completion date: May 2008

Where Does The Money Go? Credit and debt today

The extent of personal debt in the UK and its impacts are key policy issues. However, there is a lack of in-depth understanding of the interaction between debt and income – and specifically poverty – over time. A dynamic approach is needed to unpack these complex inter-relationships, examining the interplay between debt and poverty over time.

Although policy acknowledges the association between low income and debt, the link between debt and poverty has not been explored in depth or from a dynamic perspective. This project will provide new insights into how debt is defined and experienced over time by households on low incomes, thereby informing policy aimed at reducing the numbers of over-indebted people and supporting those who experience over-indebtedness and financial crisis. The study will also inform financial inclusion policy through contributing to an understanding of the strategies that are adopted by households in financial difficulties.

Sponsor: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion

Start date: March 2008

Projected completion date: November 2009

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the New Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB)

CRSP, in partnership with the Centre for Child and Family Research (CCFR), undertook an evaluation of the effectiveness of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) in England. They explored the structures and processes adopted by LSCBs to fulfil their core functions. They also examined whether these new structures and processes had overcome identified weaknesses of Area Child Protection Committees (ACPCs) and promoted inter-agency co-operation. The research is designed to contribute to the development of LSCBs by ensuring learning is fed back to national, regional and local policy-makers and implementers. It examined the effectiveness by assessing practice against an evidence base that already exists in the social sciences about strategic partnership working. A mixed method approach was adopted and included: national mapping of LSCBs (web based survey to identify models of practice and organisational structure); interviews with LSCB chairs, strategic partners and practitioners in six case study areas; and social network analysis in two areas in order to explore in detail how partnerships operate at strategic and operational levels and how procedures are put into practice.

The issues covered by this study are central to the current government agenda for children's services, underpinned by the Children Act 2004, to ensure an integrated approach to service provision and that children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted.

Sponsor: Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health

Theme: Children, Youth and the Life-course

Start date: January 2008

Completion date: March 2010

Evaluation of the Older Workers Face-to-face Guidance Pilot

The Government's Green Paper: A New Deal for Welfare: Empowering people to work, included a commitment to increasing employment among people aged 50 and above. As part of the process, the DWP funded a pilot study whereby independent advisors offer guidance to people of older working age about a range of issues related to work and retirement. CRSP was contracted to evaluate this pilot. The study established what information older working people need, and how they can access it, in order to make an informed decision about work and retirement in later life.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: December 2007

Completion date: March 2010

Understanding the Experience of Ethnic Minorities at Loughborough University

Loughborough University commissioned CRSP to undertake a research project into the performance and experiences of ethnic minority students at Loughborough. The University sought to understand whether existing data demonstrated anything about the experience of its applicants and students, and whether ethnic minority students were having less positive experiences at Loughborough than white students. The research approach was both quantitative and qualitative - it drew on existing data available through the University systems and developed a range of focus groups and one-to-one interviews with a wide-range of participants.

Sponsor: Loughborough University

Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion

Start date: March 2007

Completion date: 2008

Tackling the Transport Barriers to Social Exclusion: the potential of individual transport budgets

The Department for Transport commissioned CRSP to undertake a 'think piece' about the potential of using individualised budgets to ensure that people at risk of social exclusion have access to key services and employment and education opportunities. The idea of Individual Travel Budgets (ITBs) was to provide financial assistance for transport directly to individuals as an alternative to transport subsidies and concessions. As apparent from the introduction of Direct Payments for disabled people, for example, individualised budgets can offer service-users greater flexibility and control over service provision. The context of the project is the accessibility agenda and the growing recognition of the central role transport has for social inclusion. The project reflected the DfT's efforts to look at the most innovative policy options to ensure accessibility for everyone. The project provided formative thinking about the potential benefits and challenges of providing ITBs, considered the implications of ITBs for other services and provision, and assessed the possible cost-effectiveness of individualised assistance.

Sponsor: Department for Transport

Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion

Start date: February 2007

Completion date: April 2007

Gendered Citizenship in Multicultural Europe: The Impact of Contemporary Women's Movements (FEMCIT)

Work Package 4: Ethnic and religious citizenship. Intersections between feminism, ethnic identity and religion in a multicultural Europe.

This qualitative study aims to:

- o explore and assess understandings of the impact of minority women's organisations on the anti-violence and anti-racist policies of the majority feminist movements, thereby identifying best practices and poorer practices in terms of policy development at both the nation-state and European level.
- o explore how religious European women define, construct and practice citizenship in their everyday life, thereby identifying and assessing how religious identities and practices may provide resources and barriers to citizenship; and
- o understand how different groups of women (minority and majority feminists and women adhering to different religious traditions) understand and practice citizenship as both national and European citizens, and how they perceive the importance of social identities (ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality) for their citizenship practice.

The data for the project will be collected through the use of qualitative research methods, with in-depth interviews of relevant individuals. Fieldwork will take place in Norway, the United Kingdom and Spain.

The study is divided into 3 strands:

1. Cross-national comparisons of feminist organisations working to eliminate racism and violence against women and their impact on policy making.
2. Cross-national comparisons of progressive and traditional women within different religious traditions.
3. A contested notion of citizenship: what does citizenship mean for women in different communities?

Sponsor: European Commission (Sixth Framework Programme, Priority 7)

Theme: Equality, Diversity and Citizenship

Start date: February 2007

Projected completion date: 2011

National Youth Agency Briefing Papers

The National Youth Agency (NYA) commissioned a series of five briefing papers on the Every Child Matters core outcomes for children and young people - one for each theme. The five outcomes are: to be healthy; to be safe; to enjoy and achieve; to make a positive contribution and; to achieve economic wellbeing.

CRSP, drawing on the expertise of Professor Alan France, was responsible for writing two of the papers. These papers focus on making a positive contribution and staying safe strands of Every Child Matters. The papers provided an overview of relevant government policy, drew on academic research evidence and considered the contribution youth work made to delivering services for young people across the local authority. The papers were also used to raise awareness of youth work.

Sponsor: National Youth Agency

Theme: Children, Youth and the Life-course

Start date: September 2006

Completion date: 2007

Labour Market Impact of New Tax Credits

This project examined the impact of Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Working Tax Credit (WTC) on the labour market participation of women with children, and explored the reasons for non-take-up among the eligible population. More specifically, the study examined the effect of CTC on mothers' employment and the effects of WTC and CTC on their weekly working hours, separately for lone mothers and those in couple families. The project analysed the last three waves of the Families and Children Study 2002-2004, which is a longitudinal survey containing a representative sample of all families with dependent children in Britain. The analysis involved propensity score matching techniques, panel regression, event history modelling, and simple descriptive methods.

The project was directed by Sue Middleton and supported by Yekaterina Chzhen, Professor Phil Robins and Dr Monica Magadi.

Sponsor: Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Theme: Work and Welfare
Start date: August 2006
Completion date: 2007

A Minimum Income Standard for Britain

This project brought together the expertise of CRSP and the Family Budget Unit (FBU) in order to develop a minimum income standard that would allow an acceptable standard of living in Britain for different family types. The research blended the consensual budget standards method pioneered at CRSP, with the FBU expert or 'normative' approach, thus ensuring that the minimum income standards was rooted in social consensus about the goods and services that everyone in modern Britain needed, while at the same time drawing on expert knowledge about basic living requirements and actual expenditure patterns.

The project included an extensive analysis of behavioural data using the Expenditure and Food Survey which helped to set the budgets in the context of how families prioritise resources in real life. It also drew on previous work to derive a model to establish what income would be required to meet the minimum income standard. It also produced a basis for uprating and rebasing the budgets over time.

Sue Middleton and Karen Kellard (now at BMG Research Ltd) developed and refined the Consensual Budget Standards methodology in CRSP during the last ten years. Jonathan Bradshaw re-pioneered the use of budget standards in the UK and is the Director of the Family Budget Unit at the University of York.

Website: www.minimumincomestandard.org
Sponsor: Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion
Start date: May 2006
Completion date: 2008

Link between HIV/AIDS and recent fertility patterns in Kenya

This project examined the possible link between the HIV/AIDS epidemic and recent fertility patterns in Kenya, based on the 2003 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) data. The 2003 KDHS provided a unique opportunity to study the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on affected populations, being the first of the international DHS programme to anonymously link the HIV/AIDS results with key behavioural and demographic factors. Kenya had experienced one of the most dramatic fertility declines in world history, but the decline had surprising, stagnated, and even reversed in some regions of the country. Earlier evidence from the 2003 KDHS showed interesting regional patterns with respect to fertility trends and the HIV/AIDS epidemic, but the relationship between these two remained unclear. The specific objectives of this study were to:

- o examine regional variations in the link between HIV/AIDS and fertility;
- o explore possible mechanisms through which HIV/AIDS influences fertility; and
- o examine the effect of contextual community HIV/AIDS factors on fertility.

The analysis was carried out at the aggregate (regional) level and at individual level and features multilevel analysis, particularly in the investigation of community/district level contextual factors.

Sponsor: MEASURE Evaluation, University of North Carolina

Theme: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing

Start date: October 2005

Completion date: 2006

The Definition of Disability in the Workplace

The research provided a comprehensive, systematic and robust assessment of the debates on the monetary and non-monetary costs and benefits to employers of employing disabled people. DWP commissioned Mathematica to produce a review of the literature, and UK experts were asked to produce chapters for a report and a conference, which was held in Autumn 2005. CRSP were asked to explore the definitions of disability and of incapacity as they apply to the workplace. The definition of disability in particular was contested and different definitions would lead to varying estimates of the numbers of people affected. The chapter by CRSP examined definitions of disability and incapacity that impact upon employers, and their awareness of these definitions especially of disability as outlined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Brief discussions of relevant Jobcentre Plus employment programmes, such as New Deal for Disabled People and Access to Work, and of the disability element of Working Tax Credit were held.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions, sub-contracted by Mathematica

Theme: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing

Start date: July 2005

Completion date: 2006

Examining the Role and Operation of New NDDP Job Brokers

As part of the ongoing evaluation of the New Deal for Disabled People programme, CRSP was commissioned to undertake further research examining Job Broker effectiveness. The research focused on ten Job Brokers in five different geographical areas to attempt to understand why some Job Brokers appeared to be more effective than others, and to identify areas of good practice. This case study approach included qualitative interviews with Jobcentre Plus staff and Job Broker staff in each of the five areas. The research report was published in September 2006.

Sponsor: Department of Work and Pensions

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: June 2005

Completion date: 2006

Evidence Based Review on Mobility – Choices and Barriers for Different Social Groups

CRSP was commissioned by the Department for Transport to conduct an evidence based review of the empirical social research available on mobility choices and barriers for different social groups. The Department for Transport's overarching aim is to provide transport that works for everyone. Transport is a key gateway to helping people access jobs, education, health services, leisure activities and other provision such as food shopping. Factors such as the availability, physical access, affordability, personal safety concerns, poor travel information and variation in travel aspirations can deter people from using transport to access these facilities and services and can thus reinforce social exclusion.

This review provided important policy information about the mobility of different social groups (such as families, older people, disabled people, different minority ethnic and faith groups) and how transport provision and policy impacted upon their choices. The report was published in 2006.

Sponsor: Department for Transport

Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion

Start date: April 2005

Completion date: 2006

Children's Perspectives of Social Difference

This research funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation with support from Save the Children, explored different children's perspectives of their own lives. It compared and contrasted different children's views and experiences of social difference, inequality, social exclusion and inclusion. Forty two children, aged between eight and thirteen, consisting of separate groups of girls and boys, participated in eight small groups. The children were from contrasting backgrounds: 19 lived in a disadvantaged estate and participated in services provided by Save the Children; twenty three children were from an independent, fee-paying, school. There were some key similarities between the children. These included an emphasis on relationships and activities as most important in their lives, and the importance of education, free time, favourite things, and friends and family. None of the children identified themselves as poor or rich. Both groups of children stressed the importance of not being seen as different from their own peer group. 'Poverty' and 'wealth' were considered alien concepts by both groups of children, relating only to 'other' people in extreme

circumstances. However, the children perceived social difference in terms of 'chavs' and 'posh' people. Their perceptions of these groups were predominantly antagonistic in tone. Despite these similarities in views and values, the research found some striking differences in the children's educational experiences and free-time. The research has implications for citizenship education and extended schools, and highlights how important open public space is to less affluent children.

Sponsor: Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Theme: Children, Youth and the Life-course
Start date: April 2005
Completion date: 2007

Ex-Prisoners Study: An Exploratory Investigation into Links Between the Criminal Justice System, Jobcentre Services and the Labour Market

Ex-prisoners are a particularly disadvantaged group in the labour market, experiencing high levels of unemployment, low grade or no qualifications, poor health, especially in relation to substance misuse and personal barriers such as low self-esteem and confidence. This research was an exploratory study that aimed to gain an in-depth understanding of:

- o the attitudes and expectations of prisoners immediately prior to and following their release from prison; and
- o their views on the impact of support services on the decisions they made and experiences following release.

Sponsor: Department of Work and Pensions
Theme: Work and Welfare
Start date: February 2005
Projected completion date: 2008

Planning and Deploying Resources in Later Life: aspirations, attitudes and behaviour – a qualitative study

This project funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation explored how older people used and valued the resources available to them, as well as how they had planned for retirement and were planning for future later life. A central aim of the project was to examine how resources changed over time and how changes in people's later lives impacted on their plans as they moved through retirement. This led to a deeper understanding of the relative importance of financial wealth and other resources at different points in people's post-retirement lives, and according to changing circumstances. A qualitative longitudinal approach was adopted using a panel of respondents aged 65 to 84. The first wave of in-depth interviews took place during Summer/Autumn 2005. Respondents were re-contacted during 2006 to gather a brief update on any changes in circumstances, with follow-up interviews in 2007.

Sponsor: Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Theme: Children, Youth and the Life-course
Start date: January 2005
Projected completion date: 2008

Training and Reporting on European Social Security (trESS)

The trESS network organises training and networks on the European co-ordination of social security schemes in the 25 member Countries. It was funded by the European Commission and implemented by Ghent University in collaboration with independent high profile experts on European Social Security in all the member countries. The aim was to increase the knowledge base on the co-ordination regulation and to build strong networks rooted at national level encompassing public administrations, employers' organisations and trade unions, NGO's, judges, lawyers, and independent experts dealing with implementation in all the 25 member countries. trESS, also identifies and informs the European Commission of problems and challenges at operational level in the member states.

Sponsor: European Commission

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: December 2004

Projected completion date: 2007

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

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 makes substantial amendments to the 1995 Act, building on amendments already made by other legislation since 1999. This study examines public bodies' performance in relation to new provisions introduced on 1 October 2004; and provided a baseline against which to assess the extent to which the duties in the 2005 Act make a positive impact on disability equality. The study was led by CRSP and was carried out in collaboration with British Market Research Bureau.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions

Theme: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing

Start date: November 2004

Completion date: 2005

The Social Fund: Current Role and Future Direction

With the support of Sir Richard Tilt, Social Fund Commissioner, CRSP completed a Joseph Rowntree Foundation funded project exploring the current role and future direction of the Social Fund.

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

This research project explored what contribution the Social Fund makes to the Government objectives of reducing poverty and social exclusion; assessed whether proposals for changes are likely to further these objectives; and produced policy recommendations for reform of the Social Fund based on the experiences, reflections and deliberations of both eligible and non-eligible groups. The research methods used included a literature review, secondary data analysis and focus groups.

Sponsor: Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion
Start date: June 2004
Completion date: 2006

Needs and Resources in Later Life (Quantitative)

This project aimed to inform future social policy by investigating needs and resources in later life. Whilst extensive research has been undertaken on income poverty among older people, less is known about the interplay between needs, resources, aspirations and perceptions of adequacy. The research investigated the interplay between these factors at a point in time and considered how this varies by characteristics such as gender, health status, household composition and age. It questioned whether the association between these factors changes across the later life course and the extent to which variations can be attributed to changes in health status, household composition and income. The project entailed a secondary analysis of a number of large-scale datasets, including the British Household Panel Study, the Expenditure and Food Survey and the Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey of Britain.

Sponsor: Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Theme: Work and Welfare
Start date: June 2004
Completion date: December 2006

A Systematic Review of Poverty Dynamics Research

In recent years, there has been an expansion in the availability of longitudinal data, leading to a wide range of studies exploring poverty dynamics, both in Britain and internationally. However, despite the increased attention to poverty reduction in Britain, and at the international level, it appears that the influence of poverty dynamics research on policy has been relatively weak.

The research applied appropriate systematic review methods to synthesise the best available evidence on the dynamics of poverty and disadvantage, with the aim of helping to move concerns with poverty persistence up the policy agenda, suggest possible policy solutions, and highlight gaps in research.

Sponsor: Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Theme: Poverty and Social Exclusion
Start date: May 2004
Projected completion date: 2007

Risk Perceptions and Responses, and Transitions in the Life Course

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

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

The project comprised a survey of 1400 respondents, and a qualitative study of 30 families, involving an interview with a parent and adult son/daughter in each family.

Sponsor: ESRC

Theme: Children, Youth and the Life-course

Start date: October 2003

Completion date: 2008

Evaluation of the School Sports Co-ordinator Programme

The School Sports Co-ordinator Programme (SSCoP) is a joint initiative of the Department for Education and Skills and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Launched in September 2000, it is aimed at increasing the participation among school age children in sports, improving the standards of performance, and increasing the number of qualified and active coaches. The programme is implemented by Sport England and currently involves approximately 809 schools in England. School Sports co-ordinators are tasked with improving sports provision and sport teaching by creating, at the local level, a network of schools linked, if possible, to specialist sports colleges. The effectiveness of the programme in delivering its policy objectives was evaluated by CRSP jointly with the Institute of Youth Sport, Loughborough University (who led the consortium), and the Centre for Developing and Evaluating Lifelong Learning (CDELL) at the University of Nottingham. The evaluation commenced in 2003 and completed in 2009. The evaluation is funded by Sport England.

Website: www.nopesevaluation.org.uk

Sponsor: Sport England

Theme: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing

Start date: September 2003

Completion date: 2009

Evaluation of the Adult Learning Grant (ALG)

The ALG is a means-tested learning grant designed to support adults studying full-time for their first full level 2 qualification or young adults studying full-time for their first full level 3 qualification. The ALG was introduced in September 2003 and was piloted in ten areas across England. The ALG forms part of the government's Skills Strategy and aims to encourage more adults to gain basic and intermediate level qualifications. The consortium consisted of the Centre for Research in Social Policy, the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) and the National Institute for Careers Education and Counselling (NICEC). The evaluation comprised both qualitative and large-scale quantitative elements. The evaluation completed in 2007.

Sponsor: Department for Education and Skills
Theme: Work and Welfare
Start date: August 2003
Completion date: 2007

Evaluation of the Local Housing Allowance Pathfinder

CRSP was part of a consortium (including the Universities of Birmingham and York and the National Centre for Social Research) which evaluated the Local Housing Allowance after its introduction in nine Pathfinder areas in April 2003. The allowance, which is a replacement for Housing Benefit for the private rented sector, was subsequently rolled out nationwide in April 2008. CRSP had responsibility for the stream of research on claimants and contributed to other research streams including having responsibility for the operational case studies in three of the Pathfinder areas.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions
Theme: Work and Welfare
Start date: August 2003
Completion date: August 2007

Vehicle Safety Standards: Improving Car Crashworthiness

This study evaluated the contribution that Department for Transport initiatives have made to the development and implementation of EU front and side impact regulations and the EuroNCAP consumer test in the context of the UK government's commitment to reduce the number of killed or seriously injured road users by 40 per cent, with an equivalent figure for children of 50 per cent, by 2010. The study was led by the Ergonomics and Safety Research Ltd (ESRI) at Loughborough University and funded by the Department for Transport.

Sponsor: Department for Transport
Theme: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing
Start date: January 2004
Completion date: 2006

Evaluation of the New Opportunities Fund for PE and Sport Initiative

The New Opportunities Fund's PE and Sports Initiative seeks to encourage participation in sport among young people in the United Kingdom. It also aims to achieve wider social objectives by targeting disadvantaged communities and improving sport facilities of schools and community grounds in disadvantaged areas. The evaluation, run over six years, assessed the process of implementation, including partnership building, and the wider impact of the Initiative in 20 case study areas. This project was undertaken jointly with the School of Sport and Exercise Science at Loughborough University.

Website: www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/sses/institutes/iys/nof/index.html

Sponsor: New Opportunity Fund

Theme: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing

Start date: October 2002

Completion date: 2008

New Deal for Disabled People Extensions

This large scale evaluation of the NDDP Job Broker service was commissioned by DWP. It was a formative and summative evaluation involving a blend of qualitative and quantitative methods including case studies, surveys of participants and research with employers. CRSP led the consortium undertaking the evaluation.

Sponsor: Department for Work and Pensions

Theme: Work and Welfare

Start date: June 2001

Completion date: 2007