Demonstrating success – assessing children and young people's practice

Decentralised budgets in England– a Whitehall perspective

Hidden pain – self-injury and people with learning difficulties

Winter 2011

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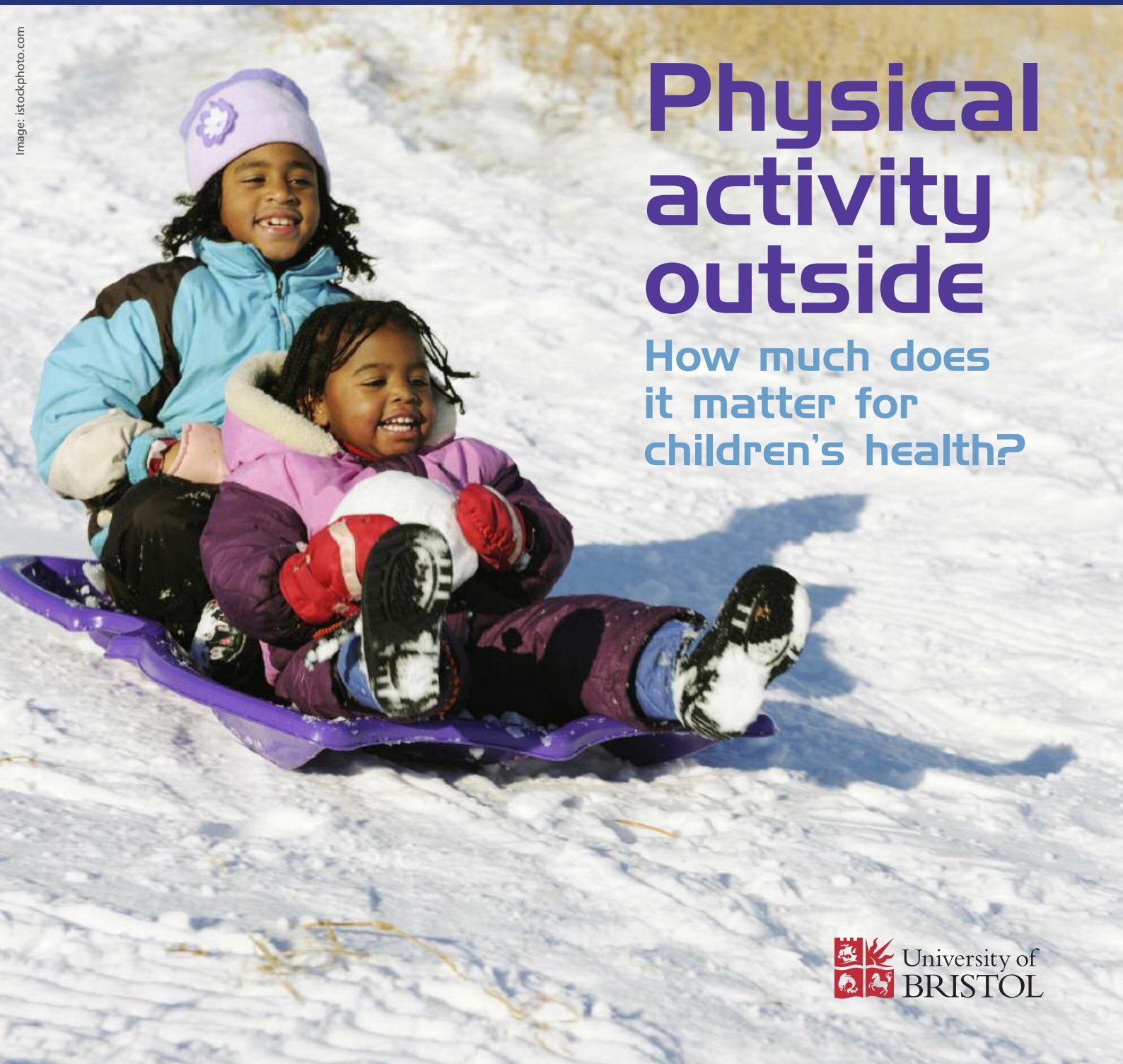
Research from the School for Policy Studies



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Physical activity outside

How much does it matter for children's health?

University of BRISTOL

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Message

from Sarah Payne, Director of Research

Welcome to this edition of PS, the research magazine from the School for Policy Studies at the University of Bristol. Our aim with this biannual publication is to keep you informed about our latest research. This issue gives a vivid illustration of the range of our work. It includes articles on domestic violence and child contact, homelessness among young women, whistleblowing, decentralised budgets, self-injury and people with learning disabilities, and children's physical activity.

The School has recently welcomed two new research groups and this edition of PS features articles about two of their recent projects. The Norah Fry Research Centre is one of the leading centres in the United Kingdom for research into services for people with learning disabilities. Research studies at the Centre are based on a social model of disability, attempting to support disabled people and their families in identifying and tackling the barriers they face. The Centre for Exercise, Nutrition and Health Sciences focuses on physical activity and nutrition, their associations with health across the life span and strategies to prevent and treat disease.

While we already had good links with both these centres through shared research projects, we are particularly pleased that the School has been able to expand in this way, leading to an enhanced research capability and a stronger inter-disciplinary profile.

We don't have space in PS to report on all our current and recently completed research so please visit our website at www.bristol.ac.uk/sps to find out more about our work. We welcome enquiries about potential collaborations and bids and also opportunities for research students.

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Physical activity outside

How much does it matter for children's health?

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'It's not like when I was young when you could just go outside to play on your own ...' is a sentiment you often hear expressed. Data from the UK support the view that the amount of time that children spend outside unsupervised has declined since the 1970s, and it is possible that this has adversely impacted on young people's physical activity and health. The PEACH project (Personal and Environmental Associations with Children's Health) adds new evidence to this debate. PEACH is the only longitudinal study to combine objective measures of location outdoors (measured by personal GPS receivers) and physical activity (measured with accelerometers) alongside children's perceptions in a large sample of young adolescents as they undergo the transition from primary to secondary school.

Dr Angie Page and
Dr Ashley Cooper
Centre for Exercise, Nutrition and Health Sciences

Baseline data from 1300 primary school children in Bristol have shown that children who spend more time outdoors and those who have greater independent mobility (being allowed to go to places without an adult) are more physically active than other children even after accounting for other important influences on physical activity such as level of neighbourhood deprivation, weight status and hours of daylight. Of all the environmental influences we investigated in PEACH, including perceived personal and traffic safety, independent mobility was the only factor related to physical activity in the three main contexts that children are physically active (active play, active travel to school, structured exercise/sport).

The journey to school has been a focus of our previous work and we have shown that active travel to school is associated with higher levels of overall physical activity. We are extending this work by using GPS to investigate where children go to be physically active outdoors. Pilot data in London used this methodology to investigate the journey to school, showing that activity levels during the journey were 2 - 3 times higher than in the school playground when the children arrived at school. In Bristol we have investigated the use of green space after school and shown that children are up to five times more active outside in green space compared to time spent indoors. Whilst potentially important for understanding the role that green space may play in children's physical activity, we also found that only a very small proportion of time outside is actually spent in green space (two per cent of monitored time), the majority of time outdoors being spent in the streets. PEACH is thus already providing important evidence that both the built environment and green space matter for children's physical activity.

PEACH is not only focused on physical activity but also investigates other health behaviours, such as eating and screen viewing, because it is crucial to understand whether these behaviours are linked or have independent effects on children's health. For example, our latest PEACH paper shows that watching TV or playing computer games for more than two hours a day is related to greater psychological difficulties, irrespective of how active the children may be. These data suggest that whilst low levels of screen viewing may not be problematic, we cannot rely on physical activity to 'compensate' for long hours in front of the TV or computer.

The PEACH project is attracting interest from stakeholders and policy makers across a range of sectors including health, transport, energy, education and play. We have contributed to the development of NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) guidelines highlighting the importance of providing opportunities for active play and physical activity, and PEACH dissemination events have brought together different stakeholders which have led to further innovative projects.

"watching TV or playing computer games for more than two hours a day is related to greater psychological difficulties, irrespective of how active the children may be."

The next steps for PEACH will be to focus on our longitudinal data to investigate changes across the transition from primary to secondary school, as this is a time when children's physical activity progressively begins to decline. We hope that we will be able to identify modifiable reasons for this decline that may be addressed in future intervention studies. PEACH investigates behaviours that in the long term may be associated with chronic adult disease, including cancer. The World Cancer Research Fund have been strong supporters of this study and we are very pleased to have recently been awarded further funding for three years to follow up the PEACH participants now they are in the middle of secondary school. This will allow us to collect further data in mid adolescence, a crucial time for development of negative physical activity and dietary behaviours.

For further information and full references see:

www.bristol.ac.uk/enhs/peach

Page, A.S., Cooper, A.R., Griew, P. and Jago, R. 'Children's screen viewing is related to psychological difficulties irrespective of physical activity'. *Pediatrics*. Publication date 11 October 2010.

NICE, *Promoting physical activity, active play and sport for pre-school and school-age children and young people in family, pre-school, school and community settings*, Published January 2009.

Image: istockphoto.com

Demonstrating Success

Assessing children and young people's progress

It has long been recognised that children and young people are more than just learners of academic knowledge and that their wider achievements as individuals who contribute to society should be regarded. There is, however, little consensus on what such wider achievements or capabilities constitute and how they can be assessed or measured. Current measures of 'success' often fail to recognise the skills and behaviours that are less easily measured but may be highly valued by employers.

"I can hold them (constructs) in my head while I'm working, so I'm more aware of the young person's behaviour."

Youth worker

Dr Debbie Watson
Centre for Research in Health and Social Care

Demonstrating Success aims to develop a set of processes to enable professionals to see, judge and monitor young people's achievements across a range of 'social and emotional dispositions and skills' ('SEDS') across age groups (11–25 years), settings (education, social services, youth work, probation, youth justice and health) and all geographical areas in Wales. This project was funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and undertaken in collaboration with Arad Consulting (Cardiff) and Carl Emery from Manchester College.

The SEDS constructs were developed with young people's professionals in two groups (North and South Wales) and with young people over two years. They include:

- interaction
- motivation and taking part
- independence
- respect for others.

The constructs and their properties have been piloted in a variety of ways by 13 organisations across Wales (Sept 2009 - March 2010). SEDS were captured and documented using multi-methods such as observation, participatory approaches and journals. Feedback from these processes has been very positive.

The constructs were praised as being clear. For some the ability to *"hold them in my head while I'm working so I'm more aware of the young person's behaviour"* (youth worker) was a benefit. There was consensus that the approach allowed for greater professional reflection and the opportunity to engage young people in reflecting on their behaviour and progression in a positive manner. The constructs were seen to capture the elusive concept of 'distance travelled' and were deemed flexible for a variety of settings.

The feedback received has enabled us to rewrite the guidance and training. This will be incorporated into a launch of the Demonstrating Success model across Wales expected in early 2011. We hope that organisations will embed this approach into professionals' everyday language and repertoire of skills in their work with children and young people in order to celebrate their social and emotional achievements. This should improve the focus and future outcomes of service provision in Wales.

For further information, see

Watson, D.L. and Emery, C. (2010) From Rhetoric to Reality: the problematic nature and assessment of children and young people's social and emotional learning, *British Educational Research Journal*, 36, 767-786.

www.demonstratingsuccess.co.uk

As well as dealing with the problems that all homeless people face, homeless women face additional risks to their emotional and physical safety both from homeless men and men within the wider community. For many homeless women concerns about their safety are linked to past traumas, drug or alcohol addictions, self-harming, mental health issues and past experiences of domestic and sexual violence. Homelessness may also lead to the loss of their children and of links to the wider family.

Homeless women

How do they experience local services?

Dr Emma Williamson, Dr Lorna Henry and Dr Hilary Abrahams
Centre for Gender and Violence Research

Ailsa Cameron
Centre for Research in Health and Social Care

This mapping study looked at the range of services which cater for homeless women in the Bristol area and how those services were experienced by service users. It included collecting information from service users through in-depth interviews (14), short questionnaires (96), and interviews with key service providers and stakeholders (31).

The final report recommended the creation of an integrated commissioning strategy for services for women at risk of homelessness. Recognising the different ways in which homelessness impacts on men and women is crucial. Providing mixed gender, generic services for homeless men and women will not work if women do not engage with them because of fears for their safety. The report also recommended the need for commissioners to recognise the ways in which inflexible outcome measures can create target distortion where client-focused outcomes are overlooked in the pursuit of funding priorities. For example, whilst commissioners might define positive outcomes as maintaining a secure tenancy or enrolling on a course of training, for many of the women we interviewed short term goals such as not drinking today were achievable goals.

Homeless women were clear throughout the mapping study that they wanted 'someone to talk to'. Providing this contact assisted the building of meaningful relationships with workers which, in turn, gave women the confidence to engage with workers over the length of time needed to address what were often complex and multiple problems. These issues often required the involvement of a number of agencies, which caused confusion for the woman, so we recommended that commissioners and providers look at the idea of 'pivotal cog' key workers to enable greater integration in service delivery where dual diagnosis or other complex issues are involved.

Finally, the research team will be taking this work forward through a longitudinal study to 'track' homeless women through and out of services over time, to enable a better understanding of their needs and the provision of more effective support.

For further information, see:

Henry, L., Abrahams, H., Cameron, A. and Williamson, E. (2010) *Mapping Study of Services for Homeless Women in Bristol*, Bristol: University of Bristol.

www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/genderviolence

Image: istockphoto.com

'Blowing the whistle'

An effective governance strategy?

Whistleblowing first emerged as a distinctly American form of governance. However, increasing numbers of nation states are now incorporating whistleblowing protections into domestic law. In policy terms, the internationalisation of whistleblowing as a regulatory form is located within the growth of 'ethical governance' as espoused by international organisations such as the World Bank, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and World Trade Organisation.

It can also be explained by the dominance of discourses of 'self-regulation'. Organisations increasingly are trusted to monitor their own compliance with legal codes as part of a minimalist regulatory framework, granting a central role to whistleblowers as internal 'antennae' within this framework. Thus, in many nation states, the collective organisations and state regulatory bodies that have traditionally scrutinised organisations have been weakened, on the basis that self regulatory policies, including whistleblowing, will offer the same or better levels of protection and accountability. Is this a reasonable assumption?

Dr Simon Pemberton
Centre for the Study of Poverty and Social Justice, and

Professor Steve Tombs
Liverpool John Moores University

Given the primacy now afforded to whistleblowing as a regulatory strategy, we attempted to evaluate the current 'evidence base' relating to this practice through a 'semi systematic' review of 137 empirical studies. This study was made possible by a British Academy Small Grant (43994). The research sought to answer three key questions in order to understand better the function and limitations of whistleblowers as 'internal antennae' in minimalist regulatory models.

Who blows the whistle?

To date, the vast proportion of whistleblowing studies have focused on identifying a whistleblower personality type, with mixed results.

In contrast to this confused picture, there is clearer evidence of the socio-demographic characteristics of those individuals deterred from blowing the whistle. For example, in deregulated labour markets, younger respondents, female respondents, respondents in lower income groups and non-supervisors were more likely to be deterred from reporting organisational harm. Therefore, it seems unlikely that all workers can act as the 'internal antennae' of a minimalist regulatory framework.

What motivates or deters whistleblowers?

The weight of empirical evidence suggests that the decision to blow the whistle combines a personal ethical stance with a series of situational triggers. Indeed, the decision to report follows a complex process, which is underplayed by the discourses of self-regulation that place an over-reliance on employees being suitably motivated to report organisational harm. We know from the accounts of those who have witnessed corporate/state harms and crimes, in particular, that silence and loyalty receive organisational rewards. Moreover, as the evidence suggests, organisations frequently deploy retaliatory strategies against those who speak out in order to reinforce the values of loyalty championed by organisational cultures. An individual's decision to report will be made within the context of the contemporary organisation, where discourses of accountability and social responsibility conflict with the mantra of employee loyalty. It is not difficult to imagine why the 'internal antennae' may be discouraged from reporting, if they were ever disposed to report in the first place.

What encourages whistleblowing?

Relatively few studies have investigated the relevance of organisational characteristics for whistleblowing. Yet, such studies are of crucial importance to our understanding of the 'organisational spaces' that are either conducive to or militate against this regulatory practice. The following characteristics were identified as facilitating higher levels of internal or external reporting:

- unionised organisations
- regulated industries/sectors
- organisations with clear communication channels, supportive line managers and enabling policies and procedures.

In general, however, there is a failure to analyse systematically the relationships between various organisational characteristics (for example, the level of unionisation, size of company, sector in which it operates) and reporting, and thus research does not identify 'spaces' that facilitate successful reporting. Moreover, there is an absence of sustained comparative study and, therefore, a lack of understanding of the impact of how different legal/regulatory systems and modes of social organisation facilitate or militate against reporting. However, from the existing research base it would appear that neo-liberal minimalist regulatory frameworks run counter to the spaces necessary to facilitate whistleblowing, thereby contradicting current regulatory trends. Rather, unionised and regulated workplaces synonymous with social democratic and corporatist societies would appear to provide greater opportunities to 'blow the whistle'.

In conclusion, whistleblowing as an organisational mechanism and element of a regulatory strategy has gained considerable legitimacy. However, claims for this remain at the level of the normative and are empirically and theoretically under-developed. Consequently, there is, for example, little utilisable work regarding the features which facilitate it in personal, organisational or legal terms. If whistleblowing is to be an effective corporate governance strategy, we need to know more about what makes it possible and how it succeeds.

"... the decision to blow the whistle combines a personal ethical stance with a series of situational triggers."

For further information, see:
Pemberton, S. and Tombs, S. (2008) *Whistleblowing and the Social Control of Organisational Harm*, London, British Academy.

Image: istockphoto.com

"... they wanted someone to talk with and listen to them at times of distress."

Hidden pain?

Self-injury and people with learning disabilities

The existing situation in which a set of behaviours in people with learning disabilities is regarded as 'self-injurious behaviour' and a similar set of behaviours in people without learning disabilities is referred to as 'self-harm' is arbitrary and unhelpful. Its legacy is that problematic behaviour in people with and without learning disabilities has been counted differently, attributed to different causes and managed in different ways.

Dr Pauline Heslop
Norah Fry Research Centre

The *Hidden Pain* research project was the first study of its kind. Its aim was to obtain the views of people with learning disabilities about their self-injury. The project was funded by a Big Lottery Research Grant and conducted by the Norah Fry Research Centre and Bristol Crisis Service for Women from 2006-2009. Twenty-five people with learning disabilities and personal experience of self-injury took part in up to four research interviews each. All were aged 14-65 and lived in the UK in a variety of different circumstances. Three had particularly limited verbal communication and relied on augmentative and alternative communication (using gestures, signing, symbols and word boards) to relate their thoughts and experiences.

The *Hidden Pain* study provided considerable insights into the circumstances, thoughts and feelings of 25 people with learning disabilities who self-injure. In many ways it challenges existing practice in the learning disability field: we suggest that self-injury is something that can be understood, and that for these people its roots lie in the social, psychological and environmental milieu of their lives, rather than in their biological make-up.

A common feature of all participants' self-injury was that it had periods of exacerbation and abeyance that could be generally understood within the context of the person's life.

Participants described a number of key factors leading up to their self-injury, such as being in disempowering circumstances, having a lack of control, being bullied, feeling physically unwell or having physical health issues, or having intrusive thoughts or memories about past traumatic events. Much was underpinned by anxiety and a lack of self-confidence and self-esteem.

Circumstances such as these, that were difficult to deal with, led to the development of quite intense feelings that participants struggled with. Some used strategies to try and delay or stop themselves from self-injuring. Yet when others intervened, these strategies were not usually supported or reinforced; rather a different range of strategies was introduced that participants found unhelpful.

The *Hidden Pain* study led to the development of a range of training and information resources for people with learning disabilities themselves and those supporting them. Underpinning these is the clear message from those concerned that they wanted someone to talk with and listen to them at times of distress. Is that so very difficult to provide?

Heslop, P. & Macaulay, F. (2009) *Hidden pain? Self-injury and people with learning disability.* Bristol Crisis Service for Women, Bristol.

Understanding of domestic violence as a child welfare concern has increased over the last decade due to research evidence and public campaigns to raise awareness of the impact of domestic violence upon children. Despite this, concerns persist regarding the way the family courts deal with domestic violence in contested contact/residence cases following parental separation. In UK social and legal policy, increased importance has also been given to the inclusion of children's perspectives in decision-making that affects them. However, there is virtually no empirical research which analyses in depth how domestic violence and the inclusion of children's perspectives on violence impact on decision-making in private family court proceedings.

Domestic violence and child contact

Are we listening to children?

Dr Gillian Macdonald
Centre for Gender and Violence Research

My research, funded by the ESRC and the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), explored how domestic violence and children's voices were represented in a sample of S7 (Children Act 1989) welfare reports and to what extent these representations appeared to impact upon report recommendations. These reports were prepared by Cafcass for the family courts in contact/residence cases where there were allegations of domestic violence.

Analysis found that domestic violence was explicitly identified in the majority of reports and frequently discussed as a child welfare issue. Furthermore, children's wishes and feelings regarding contact and residence were almost always included in reports. However, children's perspectives on violence were less likely to be included and, if represented, were often lacking in detail. Also, in reports where domestic violence was presented as a serious issue, risks associated with contact with the violent parent (father) regularly disappeared from report recommendations. Whilst children's views about residence and contact appeared to be taken into consideration, children's accounts regarding violence appeared to have minimal or no effect on recommendations. Contact with domestic violence perpetrators, and in some cases fathers who had also physically abused their children, was almost always recommended, whether at the present time or in the future.

Other factors linked to the professional role of Cafcass officers were identified as influential in report writing. Duties relating to 'impartiality', 'agreement-seeking' and 'the preservation of the father-child relationship' appeared to dominate and, consequently, to minimise the impact of information relating to domestic violence, including children's accounts of violence.

These findings indicate that despite improvements in the understanding of domestic violence as a child welfare concern, in policy and in practice, deeply embedded ideologies and values regarding relationships with fathers remain dominant in family court proceedings, effectively marginalising issues of safety relating to contact with a violent father. Until safety is prioritised above the notion that contact is almost always desirable even in cases where the non-resident parent has been violent, this will continue to be the case.

The executive summary for this study will soon be available at: www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/genderviolence

Image: iStockphoto.com

"There has been growing awareness in Whitehall of the need to boost the competitiveness of economically weaker regions ... through decentralisation ..."

Decentralised budgets in England

A Whitehall perspective

The Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government has set out plans to decentralise core functions and budgets to local authorities, front line services and communities. However, recent research has found that there are deep-rooted barriers in the operations of Whitehall that limit the capacity of sub-national actors to control and co-ordinate funding at appropriate spatial scales. Unless Whitehall departments fundamentally transform existing ways of working, the Coalition plans to empower localities are unlikely to be realised.

Dr Sarah Ayres
Centre for Urban Studies

Greater local flexibility and freedom is part of the Coalition's mandate for reforming public services. However, doubts remain about Whitehall's capacity for change and there is a concern that a lack of coherence between Government departments could derail the project. New Labour faced a similar challenge in its attempt to promote ring-fenced and flexible budgets at a regional level. Introduced in 2005, Regional Funding Allocations (RFAs) were intended to enable regions to align their strategies better

and provide an enhanced input into Government policy development and public spending decisions that affect the regions. For the first time, major funding streams for economic development, housing, transport, and, more recently, skills were examined jointly by key partners to promote a more cohesive approach to the long-term management of resources. The scheme was significant because it offered a real opportunity to co-ordinate investment at the sub-national level.

Our research, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, explored the scope and feasibility of the RFA process. Findings indicate that New Labour's tentative attempt to introduce regional budgets reflected the lack of an underlying logic in Whitehall about the future of England post devolution. There has been growing awareness in Whitehall of the need to boost the competitiveness of economically weaker regions and improve service delivery through decentralisation and co-ordinating government tiers. However, like much of New Labour's regional endeavour, RFAs represented 'tinkering at the edges' rather than any fundamental transfer of fiscal autonomy or devolution of power.

The experience of the RFA process offers a cautionary tale for any government looking to promote decentralisation in England. Whitehall's predisposition for centralism reflects a historical desire to enhance the position of ministers and protect departmental budgets and functions. Our findings have, however, identified a number of lessons that might inform future plans to decentralise. First, it is easier for Whitehall to decentralise functions and resources to a governance tier with some form of democratic legitimacy. City regions and so-called multi-area agreements (groupings of local authorities) will need to demonstrate clear lines of accountability, either through city mayors or statutory agreements if Whitehall is to overcome some of the constitutional constraints associated with devolving budgets to the regions. Second, genuine commitment to budgetary discretion and flexibility needs to be secured among all participating departments. Where clear evidence is shown of the potential for improved overall productivity or efficiency savings, then departments must be willing and able to pool budgets.

Third, adequate funds need to be ring-fenced to make a distinct difference to policy implementation at a local level. If sub-regions or localities are to demonstrate competence they need to have the levers at their disposal. The glaring problem in the current economic climate is a severe lack of government funds that will make any transfer of resources hugely challenging. Fourth, it is recognised that national and sub-national priorities need to complement one another. However, localities need to be given the freedom to develop policy solutions tailored to local circumstances. Fifth, mechanisms for dealing with cross-cutting issues in Whitehall need to be improved, if localities are to join up their activities. Finally, sub-national budgets need to be ring-fenced and protected over the short to medium term to demonstrate longevity and government commitment. It is difficult for local actors to invest human and financial resources in schemes that might not survive a change in minister or a new economic cycle.

These suggestions will require a huge change in the operations of Whitehall. At a time when change is most desirable, the unfortunate reality is that departments struggling with financial deficits are likely to become increasingly risk-averse and retreat to established ways of working. Indeed, our research has shown that the prevalence of the Westminster model is strong and enduring.

"The glaring problem in the current economic climate is a severe lack of government funds that will make any transfer of resources hugely challenging"

For further information, see:
www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/regionalism/

News from the School for Policy Studies

New opportunities

On 1 August 2010, the Centre for Exercise, Nutrition and Health Sciences and the Norah Fry Research Centre joined the School for Policy Studies. Both centres have international reputations in their specialist fields. The enlarged School encompasses an unparalleled breadth and depth of expertise in policy-relevant research on children and families; physical activity, health and well-being; and services for vulnerable people.

Professor Alex Marsh, Head of the School, said: "We are very pleased to welcome new colleagues with such a wealth of expertise. The activities of our new centres strongly complement the School's existing work. The enlargement of the School opens up exciting new possibilities for teaching and research. We look forward to a future of making an impact on policy and practice across an even broader range of fields".

Exercise, Nutrition and Health Sciences (ENHS) conducts research on physical activity, nutrition and their associations with health across the life span. The primary areas of focus include biomedical, psychosocial and socio-environmental aspects of physical activity and nutrition. Professor Janice Thompson from ENHS comments: "Our research is focused on two themes: determinants of physical activity and nutrition; and strategies for disease prevention and management. Government agencies are seeking solutions to serious lifestyle related diseases such as obesity, diabetes and mental illness. Our work on determinants underpins our second theme which involves the design, delivery and evaluation of physical activity and dietary interventions and strategies to prevent and treat chronic diseases. Joining the School will facilitate our research and teaching agendas in areas such as childhood obesity, health inequalities, and active, healthful ageing, and this enhances our ability to lead on policy issues in these areas."

The Norah Fry Research Centre has been in existence now for 22 years. Over that time it has achieved both a national and international reputation for its research with disabled people, particularly (though not only) with people with learning difficulties. Until recently it has been a research only centre which has been extremely successful in achieving funding from external sources for its research. Now it includes both a Doctorate in Educational Psychology and a Masters in Inclusive Theory and Practice. Both of these teaching programmes are informed by the ethos of inclusion that guides the Centre in its work. Professor Kelley Johnson states: "The Norah Fry Research Centre has a strong emphasis on using its research to influence policy and practices in relation to disabled people. The recent movement of the Centre to the School for Policy Studies provides opportunities for further developing collaborations with colleagues working in different but related research and policy areas and for contributing to the policy work of the School."

Events

Second Peter Townsend Memorial Conference Measuring Poverty: The State of the Art

One of the many seminal contributions Peter Townsend made to science was a paradigm shift in poverty measurement methodology in the 1968/69 Poverty in the United Kingdom Survey. This free one and half day memorial conference will examine the current state of the art of poverty measurement around the world. Many of the world's leading researchers will explain the latest advances in poverty measurement methodology for policy purposes in their own countries and regions. This conference is being funded by the ESRC as part of a Large Grant on Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK (www.poverty.ac.uk). Each session will include time for discussion.

When: 22-23 January 2011

Where: Merchant Venturer's Building, Woodland Road, Bristol, BS8 1UB

Further information: For free tickets please send an email to: townsend-memorial@bristol.ac.uk

www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/events

Centre for Exercise, Nutrition and Health Sciences Seminar Series

These two seminars are open to all.

Research on physical activity in early childhood

Recent insights and future challenges

When: 9 March 2011, 12pm

Where: Lecture Room, Centre for Sport, Exercise & Health, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol

Speaker: Associate Professor Greet Cardon, Ghent University

Health behaviours, mental health and disease risk in the elderly

When: 18 May 2011, 12pm

Where: Lecture Room, Centre for Sport, Exercise & Health, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol

Speaker: Dr Mark Hamer, UCL

www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/events

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- MPhil/PhD
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- Doctor of Social Sciences (DSocSci Policy Studies)

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