CASE

Centre for Analysis of
Social Exclusion

annual report 2014

CASEreport 88

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Dr Polina Obolenskaya
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Dr Bert Provan
Ms Nicola Serle
Dr Kitty Stewart
Dr Polly Vizard
(Total 7.5 FTE in October 2014)

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Dr Ben Baumberg (Kent)
Dr Jo Blanden (Surrey)
Professor Simon Burgess (Bristol)
Professor Robert Cassen
Dr Moira Dustin (Equality and Diversity Forum)
Dr Martin Evans (UNICEF)
Dr Leon Feinstein (HM Treasury)
Mr Alex Fenton
Dr Ludovica Gambaro (Institute of Education)
Professor Ian Gough
Dr Aaron Grech (Bank of Malta)
Dr James Gregory (Independent Consultant to July)
Mr Bruce Katz (Brookings)
Professor Ruth Lupton (Manchester)
Dr Lindsey Macmillan (Institute of Education)
Ms Liz Richardson (Manchester)
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Professor Rebecca Tunstall (York)
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Professor David Piachaud
Professor Lucinda Platt
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Visitors
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Mr Pieter Cools (Antwerp)
Dr Karen Fisher (University of New South Wales)
Dr Irene Ng (Singapore)
Dr Niels Spierings (Essex)

Research Students
Mr Kenzo Asahi
Ms Kerris Cooper
Mr Jack Cunliffe
Mr Rikki Dean
Ms Eileen Herden (from October)
Mr Bryan Jones (to March)
Ms Elena Mariani
Mr Nick Mathers (from October)
Ms Alice Miles
Ms Marigen Narea
Mrs Kênia Parsons
Mr Ben Richards (to February)
Ms Kate Summers (from October)
Ms Milo Vandemoortele

Research assistants
Ms Alice Belotti
Ms Anne Marie Brady
Ms Kerris Cooper (to January)
Mr Jack Cunliffe
Mr Ben Grubb
Ms Eileen Herden
Mr Ben Richards
Mr Alex Roberts
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Professor Francesca Klug (LSE Human Rights)
Professor David Lewis, Head of LSE Social Policy Department (ex-officio, from October)
Professor David Piachaud (LSE Social Policy Department)
Professor Carol Propper (Bristol University and Imperial College

Contents

Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion

The Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE), established in October 1997 in the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), is a multi-disciplinary research centre exploring various aspects of social disadvantage and the impact of public policy on disadvantage and inequality, particularly from longitudinal and neighbourhood perspectives. Its work programme includes monitoring the performance of the welfare state in the UK, international comparisons of the impact of social policy and social outcomes, analysing patterns of social inequality, including wealth inequality, between groups and over time, developing applications of the capability approach and human rights measurement, and increasingly studying the intersection of climate change policy and social policy – particularly in relation to fuel poverty.

CASE incorporates the research and consultancy group LSE Housing and Communities, which investigates the impact of policies on social housing and other tenures with a particular focus on residents in disadvantaged areas.

CASE is associated with the Department of Social Policy and a number of postgraduate students are members of the Centre. We are always interested in working with high quality PhD students and post-doctoral fellows exploring areas of research of central relevance to our work. CASE also hosts visitors from the UK and overseas, and members of LSE teaching staff on sabbatical leave.

Regular seminars on significant contemporary empirical and theoretical issues are held in the Centre, including the monthly Welfare Policy and Analysis seminar series, which is supported by the Department for Work and Pensions.

We publish a series of CASEpapers and CASEbriefs, discussing and summarising our research. Longer research reports and reports on special events can be found in our occasional CASEreports series. All of our publications, including this Annual Report, can be downloaded from our website, where you can also find links to the data underlying many of the charts and diagrams in our publications.

CASE is part of the Suntory and Toyota International Centres for Economics and Related Disciplines (STICERD). CASE was originally funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and now receives funding from a range of organisations including charitable foundations (for example, Nuffield Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Trust for London), research councils (for example, ESRC), UK government departments, the European Union, a range of Registered Social Landlords, and a number of other charities and organisations in the UK and abroad.

For more information about the Centre and its work, please visit sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case/

2014: The year at a glance

January

We launched three reports from the Social Policy in a Cold climate programme under the title "Education, equity and social mobility".

February

We launched *An Equal Start? Providing quality early education and care for disadvantaged children*, edited by Ludovica Gambaro, Kitty Stewart and Jane Waldfogel and published by Policy Press. The book examines how the UK and seven other OECD countries manage the provision of early education and care.

Ben Richards successfully defended his PhD thesis on national identity, ethnicity and social cohesion and took up a research post at the Social Market Foundation.

March

We marked the publication of *Changing Inequalities and Societal Impacts in Rich Countries*, the two volumes summarising the findings of the GINI project edited by Abigail McKnight and others, with a launch event. The GINI project investigated the long-term impacts of inequalities on social, political, cultural and economic aspects of life in 30 countries.

Bryan Jones successfully defended his PhD thesis on regeneration in the Thames Gateway in Kent and the impact it had on the settled, low income communities around the Ebbsfleet area. Bryan is now working for a health charity.

We also had seminars on the take-up of free school meals by Angus Holford (Essex), austerity statistics by Alex Fenton (CASE visiting fellow) and on how the human development index could be made more sensitive to the position of the worst off by Srijit Mishra (Asia Research Centre, LSE).

April

Thomas Piketty gave a well-attended seminar on his book *Capital in the Twenty-first Century* as part of the Welfare Policy and Analysis Seminar series.

John Hills began work on "Changing inequalities in individual incomes", as part of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation programme to develop an anti-poverty strategy for the UK.

May

A visitor to STICERD, Philippe Van Kerm (CEPS/INSTEAD) gave a seminar on family earnings inequality and partnership patterns in the US, Ruth Hancock (UEA) talked about target efficiency of public support for disabled older people in Britain, and Lucinda Platt, with colleagues from the Institute of Education, presented work on bullying experiences among disabled children and young people.

June

This month saw seminars by Conor d'Arcy (Resolution Foundation) on low pay and the minimum wage, Mike Brewer (Essex) on how the tax system redistributes income, and Sylvia Walby (Lancaster) asking if domestic violence is changing.

LSE Housing and Communities were successful in securing a HEIF grant for their "Energy Plus" programme of research and events.

July

Polly Vizard and Tania Burchardt presented the results from their ESRC secondary data analysis project on older people's experiences of dignity and nutrition in healthcare.

Dr Karen Fisher arrived from the University of New South Wales for a six-month visit, working on disability policy in Australia, and on disability and social policy in China.

LSE Housing and Communities' report on debt and economic resilience in Newham was published (see photo of launch).

September

Polly Vizard was awarded a grant from the Equality and Human Rights Commission on "Populating the measurement framework", as part of the research for their quinquennial review.

Pieter Cools arrived from Antwerp for the first of his visits as part of the ImProve programme.

2014: The year at a glance (continued)

October

We had two seminars in our themed series on unemployment, on overcoming unemployment among young people by Becci Newton and Stefan Speckesser (University of Sussex), and on the effect on real wages by Stephen Machin (UCL). Our visitor for the term, Karen Fisher from the University of New South Wales, gave a seminar on child welfare policy for orphaned children in China.

November

John Hills marked the publication by Policy Press of *Good Times, Bad Times: The welfare myth of them and us,* by giving a public lecture chaired by Julian Le Grand, with discussion from Polly Toynbee and Holly Sutherland.

We had three Social Exclusion Seminars this month, one by Ian Gough on reconciling lower emissions with social equity, Andrea Brandolini (Bank of Italy) talking about multi-dimensional poverty and inequality, and the LSE Housing and Communities team talking about welfare reform and the impact on housing associations, tenants and local communities.

We had a special event, chaired by Tania Burchardt and presented by Lucinda Platt and colleagues from Warwick and the Institute of Education on their work on trajectories and transitions of disabled children and young people.

LSE Housing and Communities started work on an impact assessment of the Rayners Lane regeneration project, funded by Home Group.

December

Marigen Narea and Kenzo Asahi successfully defended their PhD theses on, respectively, the effect of early experiences of maternal or non-maternal care on early child development in Chile, and the causal impacts of better transport accessibility in Chile. Kenzo has now taken up a tenure-track position at Universidad Diego Portales' Institute of Public Policy in Chile.

We had another two seminars in our unemployment series, one by Holly Sutherland and Xavier Jara (Essex) on the implications of an EMU unemployment insurance scheme for supporting incomes, and Lena Levy and Matthew Percival from the CBI talking about making growth work for everyone.

LSE Housing and Communities were successful in their bid for a project on poverty and access to sport for young people, funded by Street Games.

2014: Review of the year

Monitoring social policies and spending, and documenting and investigating inequalities in the distribution of outcomes, locally, nationally and internationally, continued to be our core agenda throughout 2014.

International policies and inequalities

In January, Ludovica Gambaro, Kitty Stewart and Jane Waldfogel published their book *An Equal Start? Providing quality early education and care for disadvantaged children* examining how the UK and seven other OECD countries manage the provision of early education and care. This was followed in March, by the publication of two volumes summarising the findings of the GINI programme, in which CASE was a partner (led by Abigail McKnight). GINI investigated the long-term impacts of inequalities on social, political, cultural and economic aspects of life in 30 countries. The launch event provoked interesting discussion about the prospects for inequality in the coming decades.

The long-term and cross-national perspective was broadened yet further by Thomas Piketty at a seminar we were honoured to host in April (see page 37 for a list of all our events this year). As many readers will know, Piketty's work on wealth inequality spans the developed world and reaches back 2,000 years. The momentum behind paying attention to wealth, alongside more traditional concern with income, is building and we are pleased to have contributed to that with our on-going workstreams on wealth inequality, the impact of inheritance, and social mobility.

Ian Gough's work on climate change and "social sustainability" reminds us that inequalities are not only global and strongly embedded in the past, but also reach into the future (see page 23). The argument in his CASEpaper published in July is that only by returning to the concept of meeting human needs – as opposed to preferences or happiness – can we hope to analyse and reconcile the demands of the present and future.

National policies and inequalities

John Hills' book, *Good Times, Bad Times: the welfare myth of them and us*, was published in November – in time to make it on to a number of Christmas lists we understand! – offering a detailed analysis of who contributes to, and who benefits from, the UK welfare state over different time horizons (see page 19). Two hypothetical families, the wealthy Osbornes and the hard-up Ackroyds, are used as a device throughout the book to illustrate the often surprising net effect of benefits, tax credits, tax reliefs, taxes, and subsidies for people in different circumstances.

The *Social Policy in a Cold Climate* programme continued throughout the year, directed by Ruth Lupton (now at the University of Manchester). Much of the work concentrated on our review of the Coalition's policies, spending and outcomes (see pages 8-12) the bulk of which was launched in January 2015, but analysis of the impact of the Coalition's direct tax and benefit reforms, excluding effects of indirect tax changes, using the microsimulation model Euromod (SPCC working paper 10) was released in advance, including the striking finding that the changes overall were fiscally neutral. This helped to make WP 10 one of the top 10 most downloaded publications from the CASE website this year (14,652 views), despite being published only in November. Outputs from other strands of the programme were also published in the course of the year, including a suite of reports on education, equity and social mobility in January, and the final report of our study of the responses of three London boroughs to funding cuts (SPCC working paper 9).

Alongside SPCC, other CASE projects examined specific aspects of UK welfare policy and outcomes. For example, Polly Vizard analysed patients' experience data on being treated with dignity, and support with eating when needed, confirming that experience of inconsistent support is widespread. Tania Burchardt, Abigail McKnight and Karen Fisher worked on separate projects on aspects of disadvantage experienced by disabled people in the UK and China (see page 13).

Local policies and inequalities

The effects of recession, service and benefit cuts at a local level formed the focus of much of LSE Housing and Communities' work over the year. In July, they published a report on debt and economic resilience in Newham in London. They also concluded a major study of the impact of welfare reform on social housing tenants, based on repeated interviews with 200 tenants in the South West of England (for a resume of this and other projects, see page 21), revealing significant strains on some vulnerable individuals and families but also providing insight into the strategies that people are using to get by.

Arrivals and departures

We were delighted to welcome three new PhD students to CASE this year – Nick Mathers, studying poverty and outcomes for children in Nepal, Kate Summers, working on how people on a low income think about and use social security money, and Eileen Herden, who has been working in LSE Housing and Communities for some time but is now focusing her attention on monetary and in-kind exchanges between friends and extended families in response to hardship, especially in the context of welfare reform.

At the other end of the process, Ben Richards and Bryan Jones were awarded their PhDs and took up research posts at the Social Market Foundation and a health charity respectively. Kênia Parsons, Marigen Narea and Kenzo Asahi submitted their theses towards the end of the calendar year: all three passed subject to making some minor corrections. We were also delighted that Kok Hoe Ng was awarded the Titmuss Prize for the best social policy PhD submitted in 2013/14.

Ellie Suh joined us as a research assistant on equalities and human rights, and we are very pleased to announce that she will be continuing as a PhD student in the Autumn of 2015, with an LSE scholarship. Su Sureka and Liz Vossen were appointed to help with making the data accompanying the Social Policy in a Cold Climate publications available through the casedata.org data explorer.

The intellectual life of the Centre also benefitted from visits of varying lengths from Mr Andrea Brandolini (Bank of Italy), Mr Pieter Cools (Antwerp), Dr Karen Fisher (University of New South Wales), Dr Irene Ng (Singapore) and Dr Niels Spierings (Essex), and we look forward to further collaborations in the future.

Impact

Engaging with policymakers and other non-academic users continued to be a high priority for us this year, greatly assisted by our Knowledge Broker, Bert Provan, and administrator and "Chief Tweeter" Cheryl Conner (see their report on page 25). CASE now has its own You Tube channel and videos are proving a popular way to communicate some of our research, with 8,000 views in 2014. Audio recordings of our events have been listened to 5,000 times, and there were over 972,874 downloads of our publications in the year. In addition, we have endeavoured to respond to policy announcements and other developments in the news by tweeting or blogging to draw attention to relevant CASE work – for example pointing out that contrary to Lord Freud's belief that disabled people should be exempt from the minimum wage, Abigail McKnight and Tania Burchardt's analysis suggested that the introduction of the National Minimum Wage had had a very slight, if any, negative impact on disabled people's employment rates.

With the launch of several further reports from the *Social Policy in a Cold Climate* programme scheduled for before the General Election, 2015 looks set to be another important year for CASE's engagement with public and policy debate.

Tania Burchardt
Deputy Director, CASE

2015: Looking forward to the year ahead

Winter

Launch of the results from our Social Policy in a Cold Climate research programme, *The Coalition's Social Policy Record: Policy, Spending and Outcomes 2010-2015* on 28 January. Researchers from the LSE and Universities of Manchester and York will launch nine new reports including an overview of the Coalition's social policy record and separate papers on taxes and benefits, health, adult social care, under-fives, further and higher education and skills, employment, housing, area regeneration. A further paper on schools will be launched on 10 February, following release of further GCSE results in late January. Each paper contains thorough analysis of policy, spending and trends in outcomes, showing how the Coalition has tackled the fiscal and social policy challenges it faced in 2010.

Does Money in Adulthood Affect Adult Outcomes?, by Kerris Cooper and Kitty Stewart will be published on 26 January by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Spring

John Hills and Polly Vizard are giving an LSE Works lecture on *Changing Patterns of Inequality in the UK* on 12 March.

Inequality: What can be done? by Tony Atkinson, will be published by Harvard University Press, and launched at an event co-hosted by CASE on 30 April.

Making a Difference in Education: What the evidence says, by Robert Cassen, Sandra McNally and Anna Vignoles, will be published by Routledge in April 2015, and launched in the LSE Works series on 6 May.

Summer

Inequality: drivers, impacts and policies, a mini-conference organised by Abigail McKnight and Wiemer Salverda as part of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics annual conference, will be held at the LSE, 2-4 July.

A book based on some of the findings of the Social Policy in a Cold Climate programme will be prepared for submission to Policy Press, including new analysis of the boundaries between public and private provision and financing of welfare.

Autumn

Late 2015 will see a volume on *Social Advantage and Disadvantage*, co-edited by Lucinda Platt and Hartley Dean, and involving a number of CASE researchers, published by Oxford University Press.

Work will begin on a major new project on "Multidimensional child poverty and disadvantage", funded by the Nuffield Foundation, and led by Polly Vizard and Tania Burchardt.

Social Policy in a Cold Climate: The Coalition's Social Policy Record 2010-2015

Ruth Lupton with Tania Burchardt, Amanda Fitzgerald, John Hills, Abigail McKnight, Polina Obolenskaya, Kitty Stewart, Stephanie Thomson, Rebecca Tunstall and Polly Vizard

Our "Social Policy in a Cold Climate" programme is examining the effects of the major economic and political changes in the UK since 2007, particularly their impact on the distribution of wealth, poverty, inequality and social mobility. This year we have focused on analysing the policies and spending decisions of the Coalition government since 2010, and charting the impact on outcomes in so far as they are yet apparent.

- The Coalition made "tackling our record debts" its most urgent task. However, it also aimed to deliver radical reforms to achieve "a stronger society, a smaller state and responsibility in the hands of every citizen".
- Rapid and far reaching reforms were enacted: re-structuring the NHS; expanding the number of Academies; starting to introduce Universal Credit; pension reforms; widening non-state provision, increasing local autonomy and reducing eligibility for services and benefits.
- The Coalition's decisions to offer relative protection to schools, pensions and the NHS meant that its austerity programme was more limited overall than its rhetoric suggested, and was concentrated in particular policy areas. Total public spending fell by 2.6 per cent between 2009/10 and 2014/15. However, "non-protected" services were cut by around one-third.
- Although the Coalition stressed the importance of the "foundation years", real spending per child on early education, childcare and Sure Start services fell by a quarter between 2009/10 and 2012/13 and tax-benefit reforms hit families with children under five harder than any other household type.
- Provision for adult social care users fell 7 per cent per year during the Coalition period to 2013/14.
- Despite a promise that the better-off would carry the burden of austerity, changes to direct taxes, benefits and tax credits (excluding changes to indirect taxes) affected poorer groups most. After initial protection ended, estimates suggest that poverty increased to 2014/15 and will get worse in the next five years.
- It is too early to assess the full effect of the Coalition's structural reforms (such as changes to the school system). Whoever is elected in May 2015 will face many continuing issues including child poverty, unaffordable housing, pressure on the NHS and social care from an ageing population, a regionally unbalanced economy, low wages and insufficient affordable childcare. The "cold climate" for social policy – very high public sector debt and a high deficit – also remains.

Summaries, full reports, and underlying data are all available at casedata.org.uk

RR04: The Coalition's Social Policy Record: **Policy, Spending and Outcomes 2010-2015**

WP11: The Coalition's Record on **Cash Transfers, Poverty and Inequality**

WP12: The Coalition's Record on the **Under Fives**

WP13: The Coalition's Record on S**chools**

WP14: The Coalition's Record on **Further Education, Skills and Access to Higher Education**

WP15: The Coalition's Record on **Employment**

WP16: The Coalition's Record on **Health**

WP17: The Coalition's Record on **Adult Social Care**

WP18: The Coalition's Record on **Housing**

WP19: The Coalition's Record on **Area Regeneration and Neighbourhood Renewal**

WP09: Hard times, new directions? The Impact of **Local Government Spending Cuts** on Three Deprived Neighbourhoods

WP10: Were we really all in it together? The distributional effects of the UK Coalition government's **tax-benefit policy changes**

In the following pages, we highlight findings from two of the policy areas investigated – adult social care, and support for children under five.

The research is funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Nuffield Foundation and Trust for London. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily of the funders.

Supported by

JRF JOSEPH ROWNTREE FOUNDATION

Nuffield Foundation

Trust for London
Tackling poverty and inequality

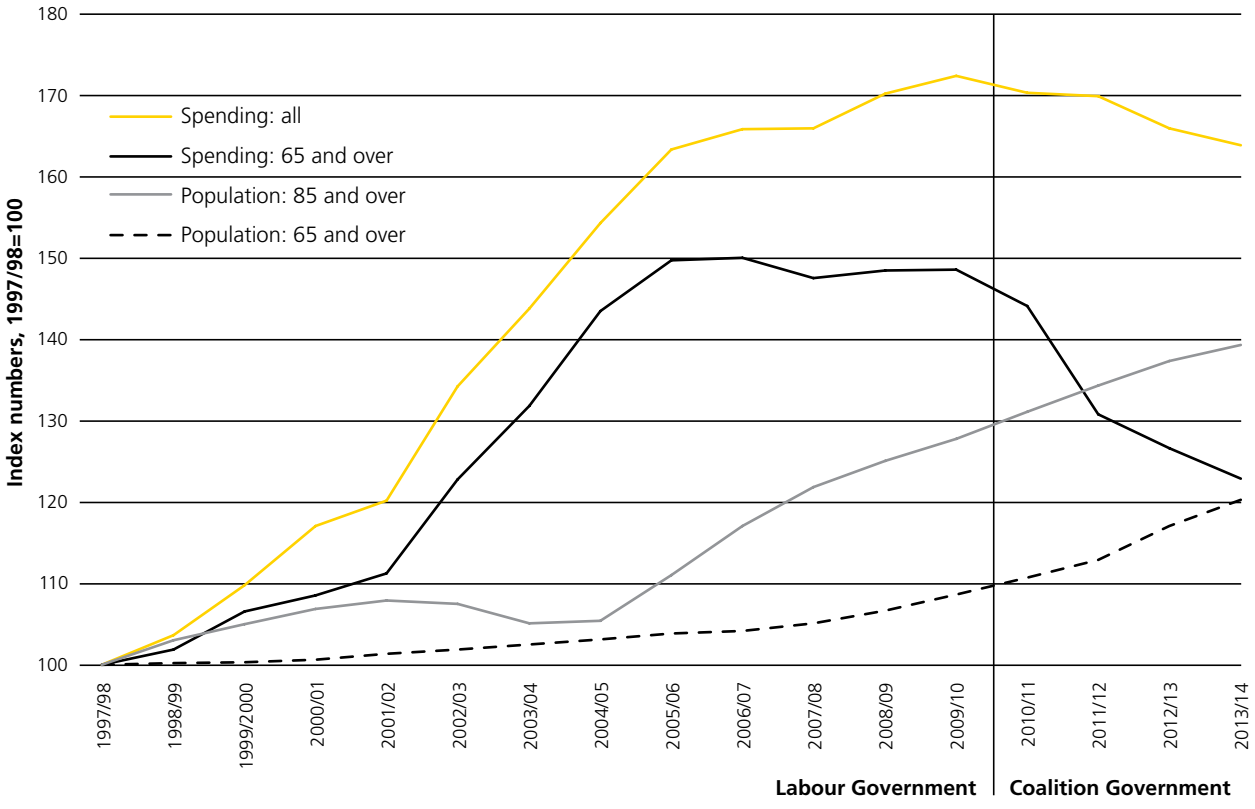
The Coalition's Record on Adult Social Care: Policy, Spending and Outcomes 2010-2015

Tania Burchardt, Polina Obolenskaya and Polly Vizard

Approaching 1.3 million older people and younger disabled and mentally ill adults use social care services in England, and 3.2 million are cared for informally, by their families and friends. How did the Coalition respond to long-term pressures that are putting care services and carers under growing stress?

- The Government legislated to make more people with modest wealth eligible for publicly funded support, by raising the capital threshold used as a means test from £23,250 to £118,000 (from 2016) and introducing a lifetime cap on care costs. However, this cannot be expected to have much impact on continued under-funding for social care as a whole.
- Public spending on social care has failed to keep pace since the mid-2000s with demand for services from growing numbers of older people (Figure 1). Spending cuts imposed by the Coalition intensified the pressure on social services from 2010 onwards.
- Overall spending is projected to have fallen by 13.4 per cent over the Government's five years in office. Already by 2013/14, 17.4 per cent less was being spent on services for older people. By contrast, the number of people aged 65 and over increased by 10.1 per cent over the same period, including an 8.6 per cent increase in the population aged 85 or over.
- The number of people receiving publicly-commissioned adult social care services fell by one-quarter between 2009/10 and 2013/14 from 1.7 million to below 1.3 million (Figure 2). Care at home and other community-based services were hit especially hard, resulting in an average 8 per cent reduction in the number of users each year.

Figure 1: Growth in real net current spending on adult social care, and in the older population, England, 1997/98 to 2013/14



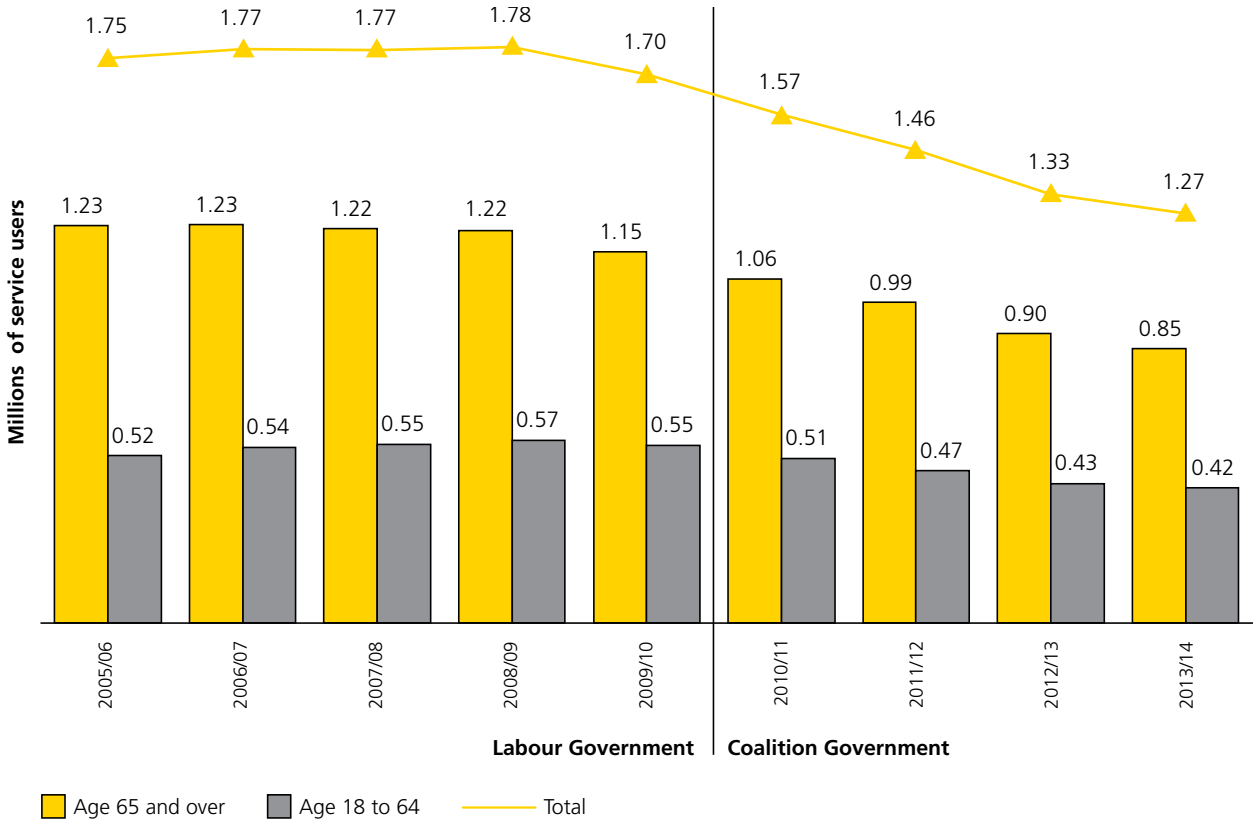
Sources: Personal Social Services Expenditure and Unit Cost in England 2013/14, ONS population estimates.

- The number of people with learning disabilities using community-based services grew slightly, but all other client groups experienced cuts. The number of service users among working-age adults with mental health problems dropped by 37 per cent and the number of physically disabled users aged 65 or over fell by 32 per cent.
- Local services were increasingly targeted on adults assessed as having the most complex needs. The proportion of social care clients being supported for five or fewer hours a week declined from 37 per cent to 28 per cent between 2009/10 and 2013/14. The proportion receiving care for more than ten hours a week increased from 34 per cent to 45 per cent. At the same time, nearly three-quarters of councils now arrange some social care visits as short as 15 minutes.
- Monitoring of care services based on users' perceptions suggests some quality of life outcomes have improved. Nevertheless, statistics on the abuse of vulnerable adults show 37,685 substantiated cases in 2013/14, while Care Quality Commission inspections revealed serious concerns about the quality of care in a fifth of nursing homes and a tenth of residential care homes.

Further Information

The full version of this paper is available at: sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/spcc/WP17.pdf

Figure 2: Falling number of people receiving community-based, residential or nursing care services through local authorities, by age group, 2005/6 to 2013/14, England



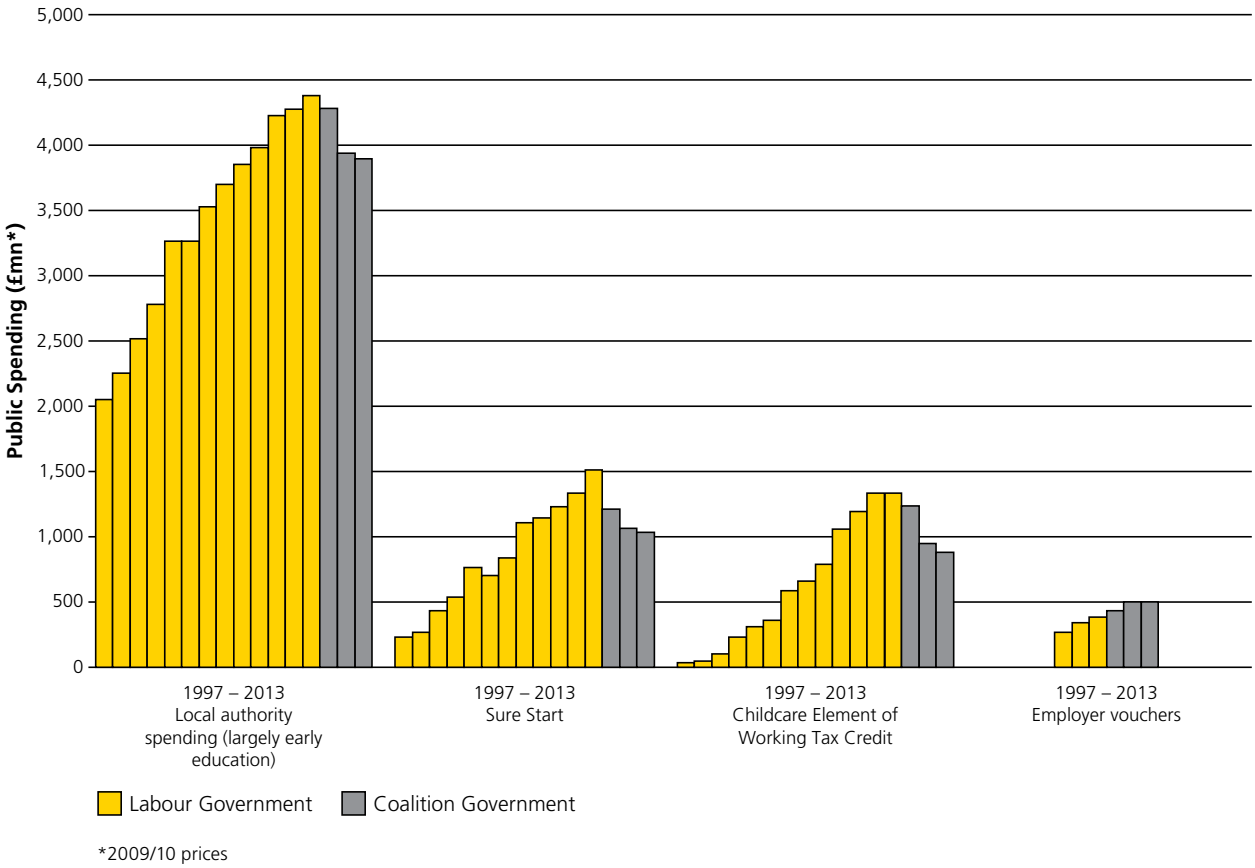
The Coalition's record on the Under Fives: Policy, Spending and Outcomes 2010-2015

Kitty Stewart

The Government's strategy for improving social mobility emphasised the importance of early childhood. Against a backdrop of tightening austerity, what happened in practice to children's services, family incomes and early child development?

- Despite little mention of early childhood in either Coalition party's manifesto, its importance on the political agenda increased following the election. The Government's social mobility strategy identified children's "foundation years" as a key area for securing improvements.
- The Coalition also insisted that by moving away from a narrow focus on income measures and investing in support services for lower-income families it could deliver a more sustainable way to tackle child poverty and improve children's life chances.
- Health visitor numbers increased and the number of places on the Family-Nurse Partnership programme for teenage parents doubled. An Early Intervention Foundation was established, with a remit to promote and disseminate evidence about "what works" to promote healthy child development.
- Substantial cuts to local authority budgets, nevertheless, left early years services vulnerable, while central support for childcare was also reduced (Figure 1). Real spending per child on early education, childcare and Sure Start services fell by a quarter between 2009/10 and 2012/13, from £2,508 to £1,867.

Figure 1: Spending on early education, sure start, and childcare in England



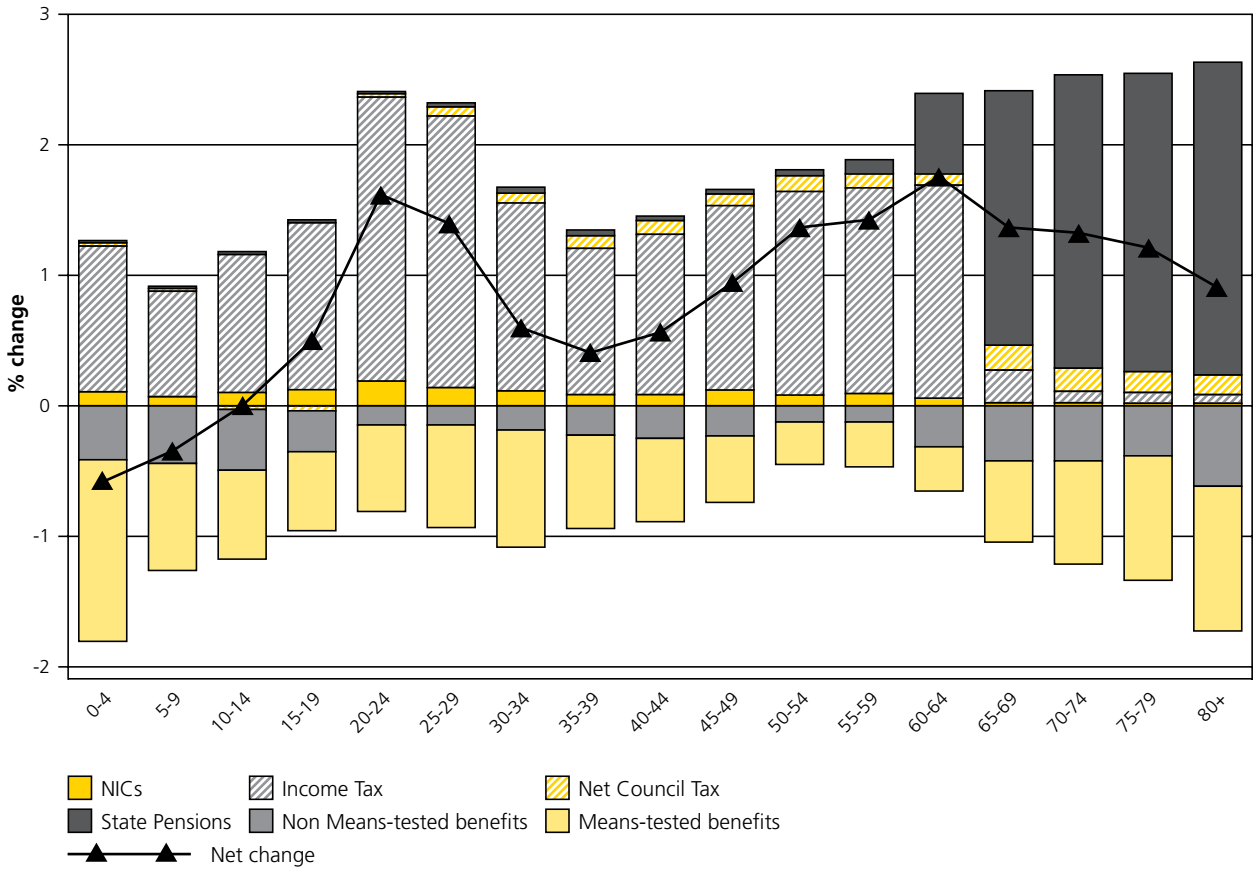
- Tax-benefit reforms hit families with children under five harder than any other household type (Figure 2). Those with a baby were especially affected by the withdrawal of a series of extra benefits during pregnancy and a child's first year.
- Take-up of the free nursery entitlement for three- and four-year-olds rose between 2010 and 2014. Early education places for disadvantaged two-year-olds were also rolled out, though not in the highest quality settings.
- The impact of Coalition policies on children's wellbeing and life chances will take time to emerge fully. Yet the important role that early years services and family income play in child development is well known to policy makers. It is not too soon therefore to raise concerns about the long-term consequences recent spending decisions may have on the current generation of young children.

Further Information

Social Policy in a Cold Climate Working **Paper 12**: The Coalitions Record on the Under Fives.

Figure 2: Under-5s lost more than any other age group from changes to direct taxes and benefits

Percentage change in household disposable income by age group due to policy changes 2010 to 2014/15 (2010 policies uprated to 2014/15 using AEI)



Notes: 2010 policies are as in May. The net change is shown with a 95 per cent confidence interval, calculated using bootstrap. Source: Agostini et al (2105) SPCC working paper 10 (calculations using EUROMOD G1.5).

Child disability policy in China

Karen R Fisher and
Xiaoyuan Shang

Chinese child disability policies were developed in the 1990s before the transition to a market economy. However, in some instances social welfare provision for children with disabilities has developed rapidly over the last decade. Our research explored the experiences of families of children with disabilities in China to understand how policy responded to their needs in terms of the right to life, economic security, child development and social participation. We find that disabled children and their families continue to experience significant discrimination in each of these four domains.

Chinese child disability policies rely on families as the primary source of care and protection. The policies were developed before the 1990s transition to a market economy. National child disability policy is based on the rights of the child, but policy implementation relies on the resources and attitudes in the local community, so support to children and families varies greatly. In the worst cases, families make difficult decisions so their children can receive the support they need. For example, an institution director spoke about a young girl found at a train station. She had already endured major surgery but needed more operations to survive. She overheard the staff organising the surgery and asked, "How much would it cost?" The director said,

"I could imagine how many times the little girl had heard her parents discussing the costs of her operations, and how desperate they were when they were faced with the dilemma of abandoning their beloved child or seeing her die without treatment because they had run out of money and could not afford more operations. I never blame parents who abandon their children with disabilities, after I heard her."

Figure 1: Children with disabilities as a proportion of children aged under 18 years by location in China

Source: Second China National Sample Survey on Disability (SCNSSD 2006) 10 per cent sample
Note: Shaded locations have a higher proportion of children with disabilities than the national average (1.63) and non-shaded have a rate lower than the national average.

We researched the experiences of families of children with disabilities in China to understand how policy implementation is responding to their needs. We analysed the children's data in the 2006 Second China National Sample Survey of Disability (SCNSSD) conducted in April 2006. Additional data from national interviews with families of children with disabilities and relevant officials throughout China and secondary policy data were analysed to understand the national survey findings.

We used the United Nations human rights model of child rights to understand their experiences. China is a signatory to the UN Conventions, but like other countries, research suggests gaps between policy, family experiences and consequent support required to fulfil their children's rights.

Children with disabilities

China has about five million children with disabilities. Children with disabilities are over 6 per cent of all people with disabilities in China. The proportion of children with disabilities averages 1.63 per cent, but varies by location due to local conditions (Figure 1).

Social policy reform

Parts of China have taken steps to address the rights of children with disabilities and to strengthen the agency of families to call on the resources in their community and local government to support them to care for their children. The research found evidence where the social welfare provision for children with disabilities has developed quickly in the past decade. The policy change covered aspects of the lives of children with disabilities across four rights domains: right to life, economic security, child development and social participation.

Right to life

The right to life of children with disabilities is not well protected in China. The research showed that the life or death of children with disabilities almost entirely depended on the attitude and decisions of parents, who were not well supported in that process. For example, one of the research cases was of a child sent to a hospice by her parents when they decided against remedial surgery, because she was born with a congenital health condition and would have disabilities even after surgery. Volunteers from a non-government organisation (NGO) offered to pay for the hospital treatment but her parents would not consent or transfer guardianship. Her situation aroused nationwide internet discussion about principles for protecting the right to life of children with disabilities, with opposing opinions about children's rights and best interests. Policy change around guardianship, professional responsibility for right to life decisions and social interventions to change community attitudes are only slowly emerging.

Right to economic security

Families of children with disabilities were more likely than other families to have a lower standard of living (Table 1). In the absence of income support or government disability support services, families that were already under economic pressure also bore the additional costs of disability support, which they may not be able to afford. Family experiences of the right to economic security have implications for national poverty relief policies. Some policies recognise the additional cost of disabilities, such as free medical support in some cities, but implementation is inconsistent.

Table 1: Living standard and income of households of children with disabilities, per cent

Number of children with disabilities in household	Per cent				Number of children
	Living standard			Household income RMB 1,000+	
	Low	Medium	High		
Total	33.29	44.50	22.21	13.18	58,431
None	31.32	44.80	23.87	13.60	48,473
One	41.38	43.91	14.71	11.35	8,627
Two	50.54	38.43	11.03	10.11	1,197
Three or more	68.66	27.61	3.73	7.27	134

Source: Second China National Sample Survey on Disability (SCNSSD 2006) 10 per cent sample.

Right to child development

The Chinese government is attempting to establish universal health care and free education to children with disabilities. Medical insurance coverage for children is expanding, but complex health interventions are generally only free in the wealthier eastern areas. Although the primary school education policy is inclusive of children with disabilities, in practice, these children were often excluded because of discretionary enrolment, a lack of school resources, facilities and training and a performance measurement system based on test results. Inclusive education policy is not well enforced and only applies to some types of disability. Even when children manage to enrol in school, the orientation of the educational system towards examinations and ranking children at all levels of education marginalises many students with disabilities, who may experience social exclusion and discrimination.

Right to social participation

Finally, the research revealed that policy responses are needed to fulfil the right to social participation of children and families through supporting children, families and communities with resources and information that facilitate inclusive opportunities for children of all ages. Equally, public education about social inclusion and social attitudes towards children with disabilities would contribute to achieving these rights.

Children and their families experienced significant discrimination in the four rights domains. The impact was both direct in terms of poor support for the children and families; and indirect in terms of cumulative pressure on families, which accentuated the social development disadvantages of the children.

Discrimination against children with disabilities is expressly prohibited by Chinese law but without formal support for families, children are placed at risk of serious neglect and a lifetime of social exclusion. The implication for policy development is that a combination of support for families, access to mainstream services and specialist care is required for children with disabilities to experience rights equal to other Chinese children.

Further Information

Full results from the research completed at CASE in 2014 will be available soon in Shang, X. and Fisher, K.R. (in press), *Disability policy in China: Child and Family Experiences*, Routledge, UK.

Karen Fisher and Xiaoyuan Shang at rural foster care village in China

The disability wealth gap: How disadvantage accumulates with the experience of disability

Abigail McKnight

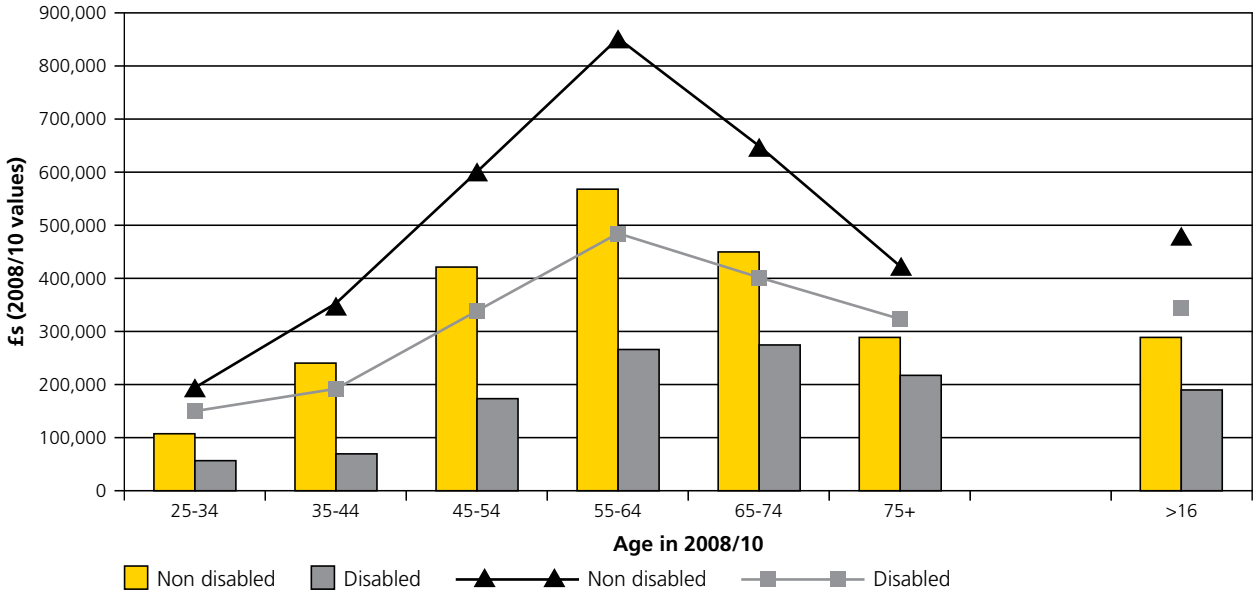
It is well established that on average disabled people and the households in which they live face greater financial disadvantage in terms of income. What is less well understood is how they fare in terms of their wealth status. On behalf of SCOPE we examined the evidence contained in two UK household surveys. The findings from this research identified a large disability wealth penalty that accumulates with the experience of disability.

Average values of household wealth holdings for disabled people in the UK are considerably lower than average values for non-disabled people but even these differences in average values underestimate the disability-penalty. The reason for this is two-fold. Firstly, there is a greater incidence of disability in older age groups who typically, due to lifecycle factors, have higher average levels of wealth than younger people. This inflates the all-age average wealth holdings of disabled people. Secondly, where the onset of disability occurs later in life these people are less disadvantaged as their ability to accumulate assets prior to retirement was more favourable than for people disabled from a younger age. This means that post retirement age, the difference in average wealth holdings between disabled and non-disabled people is much lower than for younger age groups. The combination of higher incidence of disability in older ages and smaller gaps in average wealth holdings between older disabled and non-disabled people reduces the overall average difference between these two groups. This is demonstrated in the statistical analysis which finds that the average difference in household net wealth and financial assets between disabled and non-disabled people increases after controlling for age.

Individuals are motivated to accumulate financial assets for a number of reasons; some are short term and some are long term. We save for luxuries, holidays, to buy a car, to cope with unexpected expenses, a deposit for a house, to smooth income over periods when it is relatively high and relatively low, for our children and for our retirement. When we don't have enough savings to cover these expenditures, or even to cover current expenditure, we turn to credit markets – bank overdrafts, credit cards, bank loans, pay-day-loan companies, credit unions – or family and friends. Financial assets, therefore, play a key role in determining our financial well-being and welfare. Theory and empirical evidence support the notion that asset accumulation and depletion follows a distinct lifecycle pattern; asset levels are generally low in early adult life, gradually increase to reach a peak around the age of retirement and then decline.

Within each age group disabled people were found to live in households with lower average total net wealth than non-disabled people. Figure 1 shows the median (columns) and mean (lines) values of total net household wealth; made up of net financial assets, net housing wealth, physical wealth and private pension wealth. The higher values for average wealth expressed as mean wealth compared to median wealth reflects the fact that a relatively small number of households are very wealthy compared to the "norm".

Figure 1: Average wealth gaps between disabled and non-disabled people



Source: Wealth and Asset Survey 2008/10

Reading notes: Median wealth represents the point at which half the population has higher wealth and half the population has lower wealth; also known as the 50th percentile. Disability status is defined in terms of individuals' self-reported long-term limiting illness or disability.

The figures in this chart demonstrate how a simple comparison of average values of total net wealth for disabled people and non-disabled people understates the true disability wealth penalty. This is because the incidence of disability increases with age and people who become disabled later in life have had greater opportunities to accumulate wealth than people who become disabled earlier in life. This can be seen very clearly in the way the disability wealth gap opens up through the critical wealth accumulative stage of the lifecycle (25-64 years) with the widest gap found in the 55-64 age group. In 2008/10 the gap was £300,000 at the median, while the all-age wealth gap at the median was £100,000.

Another way to illustrate how the disability wealth gap opens up over time is shown in Figure 2. Here we use information from the British Household Panel Study which allows us to track the same individuals over time noting their disability status and the wealth of the households in which they live. We were able to do this at three points in time: 1995, 2000 and 2005. The measure of wealth is not as complete as that shown in Figure 1 as neither private pension wealth nor physical wealth is captured and the coverage of the wealthiest households is not as good. What is shown is a reliable measure of net financial and housing wealth for the vast majority of households.

If we compare age specific median net household wealth in 2005 for people who were disabled ten years earlier we see that this is considerably lower than for people who were not disabled at the same point in time (1995) but this is only part of the story as people who are also known to be disabled in 2000 and 2005 have even lower average net household wealth in 2005. People who experience long term disability are found to have considerably lower wealth, on average, than people with more limited experience of disability and dramatically lower wealth than people who are not disabled. Where this occurs over the critical wealth accumulation stage of the lifecycle, the disability wealth gap is most striking. This accumulation of disadvantage contrasts with an accumulation of advantage among non-disabled people.

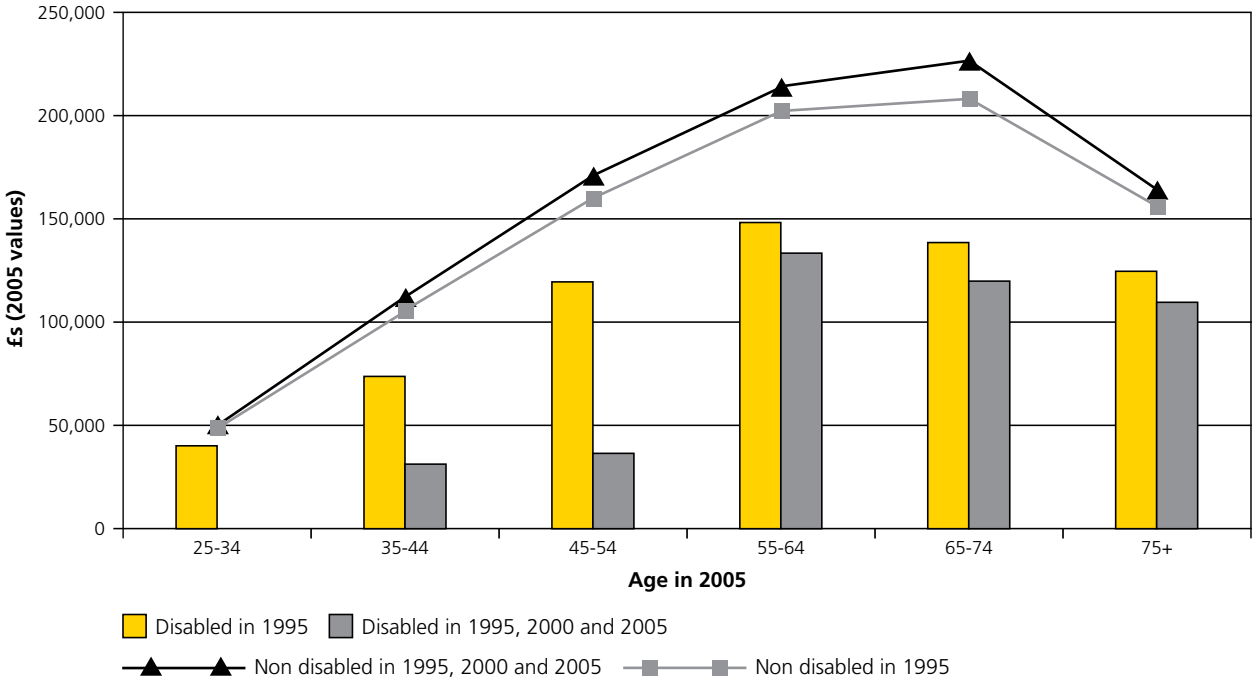
These findings have long run implications for disabled people and their families, particularly for those who experience limiting disability through the critical wealth accumulation stages of the lifecycle and over long periods of time. Inequality in the division of wealth between disabled and non-disabled people drives a wedge between these families in terms of their current financial well-being, their future prospects and those of their children, and their need to be reliant on the State.

Clearly in the development of policy options it is important to consider what drives these differences such as: educational attainment, employment prospects, pay, the current operation of the benefit and tax system, financial products (including access to credit), financial advice and regulation of financial markets and the extra costs of disability.

Further Information

This research was funded by SCOPE. The full research findings can be found in CASEpaper 181, *Disabled People's Financial Histories: Uncovering the Disability Wealth Penalty* by Abigail McKnight.

Figure 2: The wealth penalty is even greater for those who experience long term disability



Source: British Household Panel Study

Constraints on disabled people's participation in leisure and cultural activities

Tania Burchardt

The social model of disability conceptualises the disadvantage experienced by disabled people as the failure of our physical, social and economic arrangements to create a "level playing field" for people with impairments. This idea resonates with the capability approach, which also stresses the extent to which people's freedom to participate in society and to pursue the goals they value may be constrained by institutional and structural barriers. In new analysis of the Life Opportunities Survey, the capability approach is used to shed light on disabled people's participation in leisure and cultural activities in the UK.

The Life Opportunities Survey asks all respondents – disabled and non-disabled – whether "in an ideal world" they would like to participate in a range of leisure and cultural activities (see Box). The question wording is designed to mitigate the effect of "conditioned expectations": the possibility that disabled people will say they don't want to engage in a range of activities because they have learnt from experience how difficult participation can be.

Despite the "licence to dream" granted by the question, responses still show disabled people systematically less likely to express an interest in participating (Figure 1). This holds for each of the eight leisure and cultural activities listed in the Box, even after controlling for age, but impairment status is not itself statistically significant once education, social class and household income are included as explanatory variables.

These systematic differences in who expresses an interest in participating in leisure and cultural activities means one has to interpret carefully the questions that follow on the restrictions faced by those who would like to participate more. Respondents can select as many restrictions as they feel are relevant from a list of 16, which can be categorised as shown in Figure 2. Interestingly, cost and availability of activities feature in a high proportion of responses, both for people with impairments and those without. For people with impairments, access-related restrictions (lack of assistance, difficulties with transport, etc) are next most important, while people without impairments are more likely to cite not having enough time or having caring responsibilities as significant restrictions.

Leisure and cultural activities

- Going on holiday
- Visiting friends
- Spending time with family
- Playing sport
- Charitable or voluntary work
- Going to a museum or place of historic interest (country home, castle etc)
- Going to the theatre, cinema or other arts activity
- Going to the library or archive.

Figure 1: People with impairments say they want to participate in fewer leisure and cultural activities than people without impairments

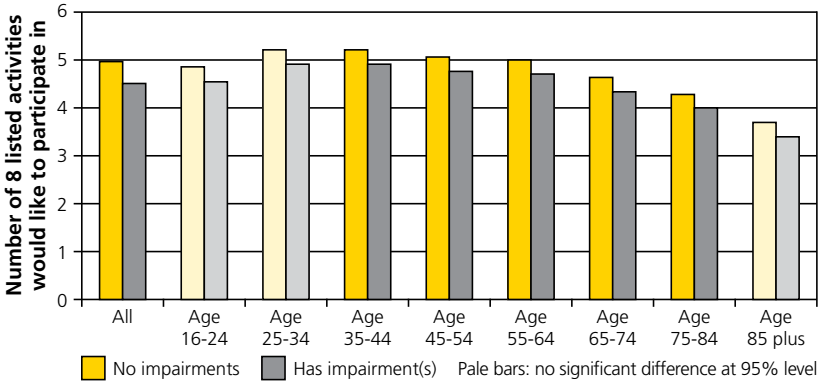
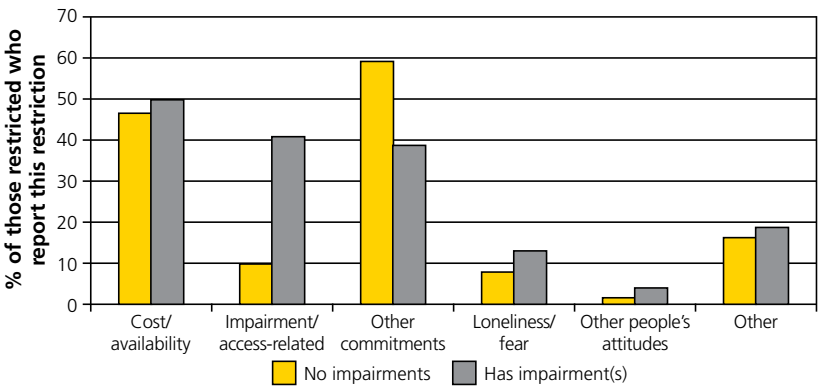


Figure 2: Cost and availability are major restrictions on participation in leisure and cultural activities for people with and without impairments



The results are consistent with what the social model of disability and the capability approach would lead us to expect: disabled people's participation – and non-disabled people's participation for that matter – is restricted by a wide range of economic, social and physical arrangements, that interact with individuals' circumstances and personal characteristics to produce a complex web of constraints.

Further information

This project was funded by a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship, award number MC110753. The Life Opportunities Survey is a longitudinal survey representative of the household population of Great Britain, with sample size of 36,160 respondents aged 16 or over in Wave 1 (years 2009 and 2010). It is run by the Office of National Statistics for the Department for Work and Pensions, and data were made available subject to a Special License by the Data Archive, SN 6653.

The idea that all the spending goes on a welfare-dependent underclass is wrong

John Hills

In November 2014 I published my book, *Good Times, Bad Times: The welfare myth of them and us*. The book explores the debate around "welfare" and the welfare state, which often depicts one group of people benefiting from it all as distinct from the rest who pay in and get nothing back – "skivers" against "strivers". The book suggests that in reality our changing lives are much more complicated, and that the welfare state benefits far more of us, than suggested by such slogans. A version of this article originally appeared on the LSE's British Politics and Policy blog.

25 years ago Granada television and my colleague in LSE's social policy department, Julian Le Grand, came up with a novel way of presenting the effects of social policy. Instead of graphs, tables and talk, they used a TV game show between two families – the Ackroyds, from Salford in Greater Manchester, and the Osbornes, from Alderley Edge in Cheshire – to illustrate who got what out of the welfare state of the time. Which of these stereotypical working-class and middle-class families were the true "Spongers" of the show's title, most "dependent on government" in current formulations, if one could look over their whole lives?

As it happens, the longer-living, university-educated, opera-loving middle-class Osbornes turned out to be the winners, getting more than the working-class Ackroyds. A follow-up programme which I helped with, Beat the Taxman, two years later looked at which family had done best as a share of income out of the tax reforms of the Thatcher years. Perhaps less surprisingly, the Osbornes won that one too.

What was special about these families was that, in the words of the game show host Nicholas Parsons, "we've made them up". A quarter of a century later I've gone back to those families and their (newly invented) children and grandchildren to explore key issues in the current debate about "welfare" and the welfare state.

In my book, *Good Times, Bad Times: The welfare myth of them and us*, I present the results of research over the last decade or more in CASE and elsewhere using large datasets, our own surveys, government statistics, and the results of computer simulations.

But the continuing lives of the Osbornes and the Ackroyds may bring home some of its key points. There are Gary and Denise Ackroyd, whose incomes vary widely from month to month as his hours as a van driver change and her work in a school brings in pay only in term-time, contrasting with the stable and predictable incomes of people like young civil servant Charlotte Osborne (and of many academics).

Over the 2000s, the circumstances of the Osborne parents, Stephen and Henrietta, changed a lot, particularly after Stephen's heart attacks and decision to down-shift his accountancy work, but they still remained in the top 2 per cent of the income distribution. By contrast, the changes in the size of their family and the effects of Jim Ackroyd losing his job in 2006 meant that he and his wife Tracy bounced around the income distribution – close to being in the poorest tenth in two years, but just above the middle by the time they were empty nesters in 2010.

The book also looks at the life chances of the newest grandchildren, George Ackroyd and Edward Osborne, born at the same time in July 2013. If we knew nothing about them apart from where they were born, we would already expect Edward to live nearly four years longer. And although some of the educational gaps have closed in the last decade, the chances are that Edward will be doing better at school from the very start, leave with better qualifications, go to a better university, earn much more and build up a far higher level of wealth. There's nothing predetermined about that, and George Ackroyd might buck the trend – it's just that he starts with the odds against him.

And looking at the recent past, the poorest of the families, lone mother Michelle Ackroyd, working 16 hours a week on a low wage, turns out to have lost 6 per cent of her income from tax credit and benefit cuts and austerity tax rises since May 2010. By contrast the most affluent of the families – Stephen Osborne with £97,000 per year earnings and his wife with £9,000 from her part-time teaching, plus significant investment income – have lost slightly less in weekly cash than Michelle, and only 0.7 per cent of their income.

Twenty-five years on, more than ever, the debate around "welfare" contrasts a stagnant group of people benefiting from it all, while the rest pay in and get nothing back – "skivers" against "strivers"; dishonest scroungers against honest taxpayers; people with their curtains still drawn mid-morning against alarm-clock Britain; undeserving and deserving; them against us. We are always in work, pay our taxes and get nothing from the state. They are a welfare-dependent underclass, pay nothing to the taxman, and get everything from the state.

But we don't need made-up examples to know that arid picture of unchanging lives is wrong. We know from our own experiences, those of our families – and from TV soap operas and nearly every novel – that people's lives and circumstances change, and what we get out and put in changes over our lives.

It remains true that people starting advantaged remain much more likely than others to end up advantaged, and those who start poorer are more likely to end up poorer. But there is considerable variation and uncertainty around such average differences in life trajectories. This does not just include the long-term changes over the life cycle that we all go through, but also other variations and changes, from at one end the rapid variations many people experience in circumstances and need for support from week to week to, at the other end, the factors that affect the life chances of our children and our grandchildren.

As a result of all this variation in circumstances over our lives, most of us get back something at least close to what we pay in towards the welfare state. When we pay in more than we get out, we are helping our parents, our children, ourselves at another time – and ourselves as we might have been if life had not turned out quite so well for us. In that sense, we are all – or nearly all – in it together.

Further Information:

Good Times, Bad Times: The welfare myth of them and us is published by Policy Press (policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781447320036).

Making social policy more climate-friendly

Ian Gough

Effective climate policy must involve three domains, or pillars: carbon pricing, regulation and engagement, and low carbon investment. Here I summarise forthcoming research which explores each of these policy pillars, and considers the central role that social policy will have to play.

Climate change becomes more challenging day by day. Global emissions are rising fast and the world is heading for a temperature rise of 4°C by the end of the century, a scenario that, according to the new IPCC Report, will "increase the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems". This poses new risks for welfare even in the rich UK in coming years, but this article concentrates on more immediate implications for social policy. The UK has a wide range of policies to reduce carbon emissions, but what is their impact on welfare, equality and social justice? What role can social policies play?

Michael Grubb, in his book *Planetary Economics,* identifies three domains or pillars of climate policy: carbon pricing, regulation and engagement, and low carbon investment. All three are necessary but all raise new social dilemmas.

The first policy pillar is to raise the price of carbon to reduce carbon-intensive energy and products and encourage renewable energy. The UK has a complex set of policies here, from "upstream" at the EU level to "downstream" at the household and domestic energy level. These have had a small impact on UK emissions, but entail a distributive dilemma: their impact via household energy bills is regressive and can push more into fuel poverty. It is a fact of life that the necessities of heating and food are emissions-intensive: simply redistributing to the poor could even increase emissions!

Social policy solutions to this dilemma include targeted compensation measures, such as Winter Fuel Payments and the Warm Home Discount. Another is to provide lower income households with targeted energy efficiency programmes, via the Energy Company Obligation. But these are inadequate and are even counter-productive because they raise energy bills further. A more radical policy would be to tackle energy tariffs directly by lowering tariffs on the first block of electricity and gas consumed and raising them for subsequent amounts. It would apply social goals directly to the energy sector.

The second pillar of climate policy is to foster lower carbon consumption. This can be done by influencing behaviour through information and "nudging" – not very effective so far. More important has been government and EU regulations on many goods from fridges to cars, though these are often opposed by business lobbies. But this second pillar raises a different social dilemma: "rebound", or the tendency for consumers to offset carbon savings by more consumption elsewhere. Recent calculations of its extent are not too worrying – an average rebound of around 30 per cent – but it is higher for lower-income households. A more radical way to counter this and bring about effective behaviour change is through community engagement and participation. When carbon is saved through a collective effort it is more lasting.

The third pillar of climate policy is large-scale transformative investment in energy and infrastructure. Part of this will come from the private sector but the public sector would need to play a central planning and financing role. This might seem a long way from most social policy concerns, but it has implications for decarbonising hospitals, schools etc, and for new housing and retrofitting existing housing. However, this raises a fresh social dilemma: potential fiscal competition between the welfare state and the new "environmental state". In a future of slower growth this may add another downward pressure on social expenditure. Radical options here could include developing investments with both a social and carbon dividend, such as a Green New Deal, together with local ownership of renewable energy yielding new income streams. Germany's integrated low carbon programme offers useful lessons here.

In conclusion, an effective and urgent climate policy will have to use all three policy pillars. This will entail effective policy integration, with social policy playing a central role. To avoid new carbon policies undermining existing social programmes, novel experiments are needed. Put another way, in this new environment the traditional goals of social policy – welfare, equity, justice – must be joined by another – sustainability.

Further Information:

"Can growth be green?", *International Journal of Health Services* (forthcoming)

LSE Housing and Communities

Anne Power, Ben Grubb, Eileen Herden, Laura Lane, Bert Provan and Nicola Serle

LSE Housing and Communities undertakes research into how households, neighbourhoods and communities are affected by changes to government policies, economic and social changes. We look "in-depth" at the lived experience of individuals and households, to find out what lies underneath wider trends and how policies are playing out on the ground. This article looks at two major projects we are currently working on: how seven European post-industrial cities are coping with the economic crisis; and work on energy efficiency and fuel poverty.

During 2014 the LSE Housing and Communities research group continued to work on the Housing Plus programme, with support from a knowledge exchange grant from HEIF. This included two "tenant think tanks" for 130 social housing residents at Trafford Hall on welfare reform and its impact on low income communities. Tenants and social landlords responded strongly and are heavily involved in the Housing Plus programme. Joseph Rowntree Foundation published a consolidated report pulling together evidence from these think tanks, together with a survey of housing associations on their response to welfare reform, and findings from the survey of 200 tenants we had undertaken for the South West lobby group – HAILO.

Other research included an evaluation of the Trafford Hall Family Futures; a review of the challenges and lessons for social landlords, ethical developers and local councils undertaking redevelopment schemes with residents in-situ; and an evaluation of the London Borough of Haringey's local scheme which replaced the previous DWP Social Fund. We also launched our report on financial difficulty and debt in Newham, London's poorest borough; prepared seven new European city reports for Fabrique, our French supporters; completed High Rise Hope Revisited, our second stage of research on the Edward Woods estate.

Several new projects are in train for 2015, including a handbook for European cities, based on the seven cities; a long-term evaluation of a retrofit of a high rise estate in Portsmouth; and a project with the University of Ulster on the community impact of housing segregation resulting from the Troubles.

The **European city reports** provide an update on the progress in seven European cities that were previously hit by de-industrialisation, and are now experiencing the effects of the global financial crisis. The reports were commissioned by a French charitable trust who commission research into urban and environmental issues, *Fabrique de la Cité* (linked to the Vinci group). Cities in the UK (Belfast and Sheffield) were compared to others in France (Lille and Saint-Étienne), Italy (Turin), Germany (Leipzig), and Spain (Bilbao) to understand the different ways in which these cities had been hit – particularly the more disadvantaged neighbourhoods. This provided a continuation of the work started in the previous "Phoenix Cities" work[1], which covered the post-industrial period for many of the same cities.

Some themes remain common and central – the importance of Small and Medium Enterprises; the need for a city to "reinvent" itself building on its past industrial heritage updated to a contemporary post-industrial context; and the need to invest in innovative energy saving and green energy generation measures to meet the current and future imperative of tackling climate change. Some other themes remain dispiritingly and tenaciously hard to tackle, particularly ensuring that the new industries and skills can be used to reduce unemployment and poverty in the most deprived neighbourhoods, and the problems of continuing youth unemployment.

Interim findings were presented at a conference in Lille in September, and the final findings and publication will come next year.

Our **Housing Plus programme** uncovered the need to collate accurate information about what makes a real difference in energy use changes to the stock physically and to tenants in changing behaviour and community well-being. A number of social landlords funded a survey of 16 housing associations to pull together some of this information. The experience of social housing tenants was also central to this work, both in relation to tackling tenant fuel poverty and in understanding the way in which tenants can help or hinder the effectiveness of energy efficiency capital investment in their homes. Although English social landlords are often keen to reduce energy costs and consumption, our research illustrated the very wide range of strategic objectives, planning approaches, and monitoring tools used in the sector. This is partly explained by the wide diversity of property types and age of property involved, but it also highlighted a need for more active sharing of good practice and in particular detailed technical evaluations of established and emerging options to reduce consumption. There was also a clearly-emerging focus on understanding tenant behaviour – not to "educate" them on how to use complex heating and insulation technologies, but rather for the social landlords to understand how to re-design the technology to meet tenants' needs, expectations, and daily lives.

[1] Power et al (2010): *Phoenix Cities: The fall and rise of great industrial cities*, Policy Press, Bristol

PhD Spotlight: Do area characteristics influence the likelihood of offending? An investigation using structural equation modelling

Jack Cunliffe

Diverting an adolescent from beginning an offending career is better than subsequent punishment or incarceration. In short, prevention is better than cure. We are all familiar with the phrase "growing up on the wrong side of the tracks", but capturing the effect of area on offending behaviour has proved difficult.

Many of the risk factors associated with adolescent offending are well known[1]. Individual factors such as low self-control, empathy or poor morals are well-researched and correlate with higher offending. Similarly, family factors such as parental discipline, parent/child relations, and parental conflict have also received much attention. Less however is known about "higher" level processes such as school, peer and, particularly, the character of the area in which the child lives. This is despite neighbourhood being consistently linked to a number of poor educational, emotional and health outcomes.

The reason for this is in part due to a lack of suitable data – measuring area processes is a difficult, often resource-intensive task, and selection effects (certain types of people being concentrated in certain types of area) often cloud understanding. But there are also methodological limitations and partial measures of area concepts have been deemed unsuitable, meaning work has not progressed. Despite this, questions about area are routinely included in large-scale national surveys.

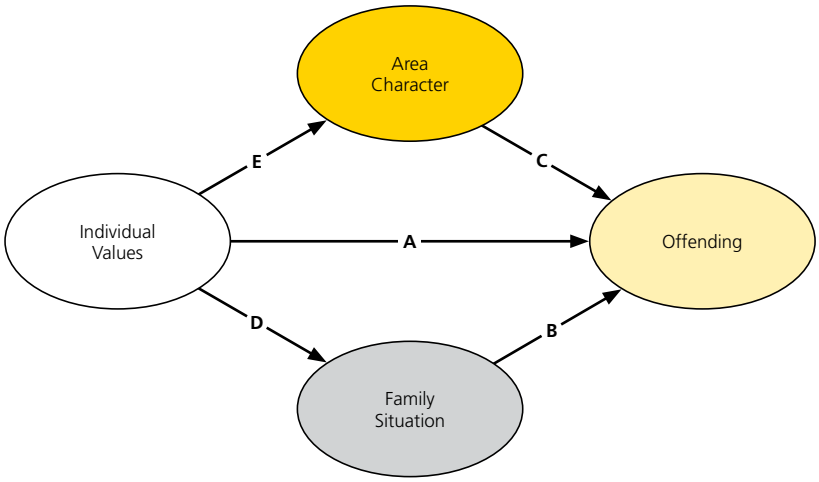
My PhD has two main aims. The first is substantive: to investigate whether and how an individual's perception of their area in terms of "collective efficacy" (a measure of trust and informal social control in the local area) and levels of disorder (mirroring the influential "broken windows"[2] work) act as risk factors for offending.

The second aim is methodological: to demonstrate that theoretically-informed, structural equation modelling can make best use of existing and often under-utilised datasets, particularly cross-national studies such as those typically conducted by large scale organisations or governments. Structural equation modelling (SEM) is an ideal technique as it allows for detailed measurement of concepts to be undertaken, and for the relationships between the measured concepts to be linked.

Offending behaviour is an ideal test bed for such a task as there is a long tradition of empirically tested theoretical arguments. Many of the questions that were used to test these arguments have become common place and reduced versions or slight variants are often included in other datasets. A good example is the Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS). Conducted for the Home Office as a yearly panel between 2003 and 2006, it contains a range of questions on individual attitudes, family circumstance, self-reported offending and area perceptions for those aged 10 to 16[3]. Although the items in the OCJS are limited, the components that can be measured do seem to be those that are most relevant to offending and match the previous definitions.

The theoretically-informed schematic in Figure 1 is the basic shape that an empirical model must reflect. Paths A, B and C represent the effect of different risk factors on self-report offending. Paths D and E derive from developmental criminological theory that identifies individual attitude (a combination of moral viewpoint, self-control or impulsivity and empathy) as a trait that develops and fixes in early childhood and once fixed is (relatively) stable[4]. The pathways D and E represent mediation effects of respondents' perceptions of their family and area. As well as a direct effect of individual values on offending (path A), there is also an indirect effect on offending via their impact on people's perceptions of the "higher level" factors (through the product of paths D with B and E with C).

Figure 1: Theoretical schematic of interrelation of offending risk factors



[1] See, for example, Farrington & Welsh (2006). *Saving children from a life of crime: Early risk factors and effective interventions*.
[2] Wilson and Kelling (1982) Atlantic Article, "Broken Windows: the police and neighbourhood safety"
[3] The OCJS covers ages 10 to 25 but only the younger group is used in the current work.
[4] For a good review see the early chapters of Wright, Tibbetts, & Daigle (2014). *Criminals in the Making*.

Figure 2: Empirical specification of offending risk factors

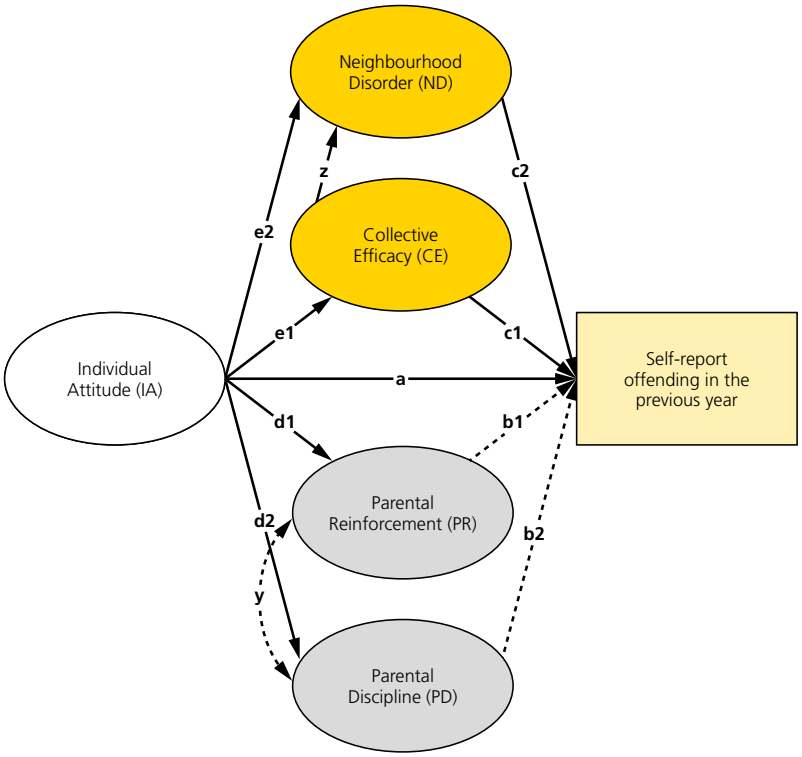


Figure 2 represents this empirical specification. Pictorial presentations such as this are key to SEM; the ovals represent the underlying latent concepts derived via confirmatory factor analysis from manifest survey items (which would typically be displayed in rectangular boxes, though omitted here). Single headed arrows represent regressions and double headed arrows are covariances.

The lower half of the figure represents the respondent's view of parental reinforcement and discipline. These are heavily influenced by their criminogenic propensity (their individual attitude) with the more criminogenic respondents reporting lower reinforcement and less discipline. The association between reinforcement and discipline is explained entirely by individual attitude. However, neither have a significant effect on offending and it appears that family circumstances (measured in this limited, specific way) don't seem to affect self-report offending.

[5] See Sampson (2013) *Great American City*

The top half of the diagram represents a tangled interrelation of the perceptions of area characteristics. Perception of neighbourhood disorder is higher, and collective efficacy is perceived to be lower, among individuals with more criminogenic attitudes. High neighbourhood disorder is typically seen as ameliorated by higher levels of neighbourly trust and informal social control. This founding principle of collective efficacy theory has been a key criticism of the "broken windows" hypothesis[5]. To capture this relationship, neighbourhood disorder is here regressed onto collective efficacy, as represented by the single headed arrow labelled z in figure 2.

Intuitively one would expect people in areas with higher disorder or lower levels of collective efficacy (less trusting neighbourhoods) to offend more. The first two lines of table 1 show that, analysed separately, higher perceptions of disorder do appear to increase self-report offending. But surprisingly lower collective efficacy seems to decrease it (ie, c1 is negative). When these measures are combined this shows (third line of table 1) that area apparently has no effect on offending – but the model allows the tangle to be unpicked.

The final two lines of the table show that controlling for everything else in the model, collective efficacy does not affect offending. A negative perception of neighbourhood disorder, however, does play an important role in governing whether an individual offends beyond just their criminogenic propensity, and lower collective efficacy amplifies this effect.

Once this base model has been established, a range of other factors, such as age, gender, socio-economic status, area deprivation and some limited longitudinal analysis can be included in the analysis and deepen the understanding of these risk factors still further: this is the subject of the later chapters of my work.

Table 1: The extent to which area character mediates the relationship between individual attitudes and offending

Mediation via…	Percentage change in offending
Neighbourhood disorder only (e2*c2)	9.1%**
Collective efficacy only (e1*c1)	-13.2%**
Any area pathway	n/s
Collective efficacy controlling for neighbourhood disorder (e1*c1 + e1*z*c2)	n/s
Neighbourhood disorder controlling for collective efficacy (e2*c2 + e1*z*c2)	19.0%**

** = sig at 99% level. n/s = not significant

Life as a doctoral student in CASE

Rikki Dean and Kate Summers

CASE provides a home for a number of PhD students. Rikki Dean, a third year doctoral student talks to first year PhD student Kate Summers about life at CASE.

Kate: So let's start at the beginning: why did you join CASE?

Rikki: To be honest, I joined for the desk. That may sound trivial but PhD students have their own work station here. Having your own space to work is invaluable and far from universal for PhDs across the School. Now I have been here for three years I know there are also a lot of other benefits though.

Kate: Well what would you say is the biggest benefit of being in CASE?

Rikki: What I most enjoy about being in CASE is feeling part of a thriving academic community. I know the senior academics in CASE by first name and they're always open to discussing new ideas. And it is not just the academics that are full of ideas; I recently went to talk to Cheryl [Conner] about an administrative issue and came away with some new ideas about where to recruit participants.

CASE does quite a lot to foster such a community. We have two seminar series with leading speakers – we recently had Thomas Piketty, for instance. We have regular researchers meetings and a PhD group to discuss our own work and new ideas in the field of social policy. There are also lots of opportunities for PhD students to get involved in other research going on in CASE, for instance; I'm currently working on a project on social exclusion amongst young people with Moira Wallace, who is a visiting fellow here. There is a social side too. We have a termly CASE meal, and we have a regular book club which brings together great literature with great cheese.

Kate: Would you say your work has benefitted from being a part of CASE?

Rikki: My work is perhaps atypical of CASE's core research as it has a philosophical bent – my PhD explores approaches to public participation in social policy decision making, and how these ideas are influenced by more general theories about democracy and public administration. Still, one of the things I like about CASE is that it's a broad church, so I have benefitted from long water-cooler conversations with Amanda [Fitzgerald] about Foucault and governmentality and with Jack [Cunliffe] about "reverse factor analysis".

I recently published a CASE working paper, *Beyond Radicalism and Resignation: The Competing Logics for Public Participation in Policy Decisions*, which details my theoretical approach, and currently I'm in the process of analysing my empirical work – a combination of Q method and qualitative interviews. I think my affiliation with CASE was a substantial benefit in recruiting policy elites to participate in my project, due to CASE's good reputation with policy-makers in Whitehall and beyond.

Kate: It sounds like you have enjoyed your time at CASE so far. How would you sum up your experience in one sentence?

Rikki: In a sentence: came for the desk, found a community.

Cheryl Conner and Bert Provan

CASE publications and research extended their reach and impact throughout the year. Several reports and papers attracted considerable attention, assisted by an ever-increasing range of media through which our work is being promoted.

What made the news?

Three examples show the continuing and increasing reach of CASE's work. Following Lord Freud's widely-reported recent remark that some disabled people are not "worth" the National Minimum Wage (NMW), a topical blog explaining past CASE research by Tania Burchardt and Abigail McKnight was published with a link to the paper which received 290 hits from 14 October 2014.

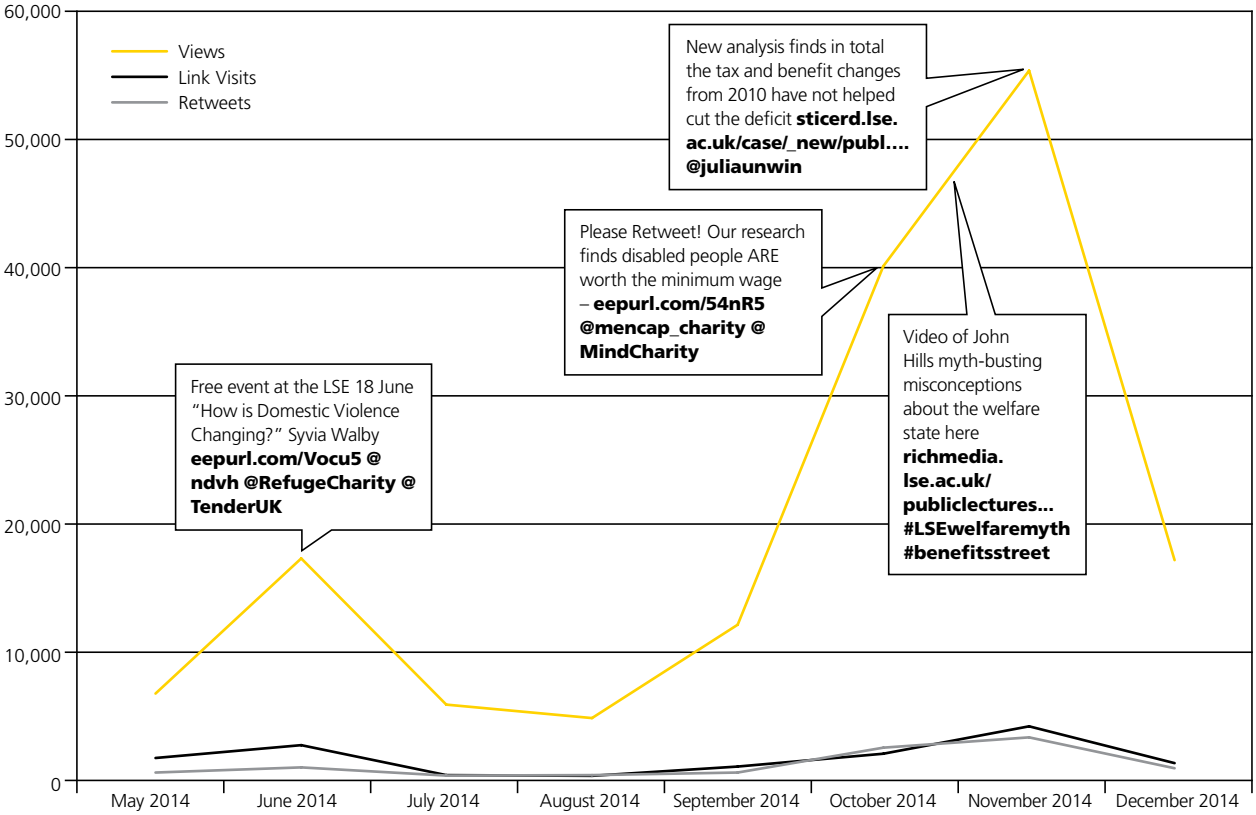
"*Good times, bad times – the welfare myth of them and us*", a new book by John Hills demonstrated the extent to which all households, including particularly rich ones, benefit from the welfare state. This gained considerable attention including a blog on *The Guardian*'s online front page and coverage in the *Huffington Post* and the *New Statesman*. A review by Danny Dorling in the *Times Higher Education*'s book of the week feature described it as "An academic book for everyone… every bit as revealing as an episode of *The Wire*". More recently, John was interviewed on BBC Radio 2's Jeremy Vine show and took part in a lively Q&A with members of the public which can be listened to here: sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/seminarpapers/media/jeremyvine.mp3

In November *The Observer* ran a front page headline story on the impact of the coalition tax and benefit policies based on a joint CASE/University of Essex paper, provoking a response from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander. Although published late in the year the piece features in CASE's top ten most downloaded publications of the year with 14,652 views.

Extending our reach

Downloads of publications are a stable means by which people engage with the work of CASE – and there were a staggering 44,621 downloads of the Social Policy in a Cold Climate Coalition papers (one of the main areas of work in 2014) within two weeks of their launch on 28 January 2015. Other activities also help bring these papers to the attention of a wide public.

Twitter helps to promote high profile events and the launch of publications and blogs



One of these is twitter, and the diagram below about LSE CASE twitter activity shows part of the story in relation to the publications above.

We also have the CASE You Tube channel, which attracted over 7,000 viewers last year:

An introduction to the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion 2,325 views

Does money affect children's outcomes? 2,021

LSE Housing and Communities team 1,829

Quality of life in Europe: Social inequalities 500 views

Good Times Bad Times: the welfare myth of them and us 680 views

This is in addition to the people who viewed CASE videos from the LSE website, where just under 5,500 more viewers visited the sites showing overview videos of CASE work. These were presentations by John Hills, Laura Lane, Tania Burchardt, and Kitty Stewart, on key areas of the Centre's work.

In addition to this, where possible audio recordings are made at the Social Exclusion and the Welfare Policy Analysis seminars and are available to stream online. In 2014 just under 5,000 people tuned in to the seminars through these audio recordings.

Moving Forward

Continuing to extend our reach was part of the discussion at the CASE away-day this year. Four presentations set out the LSE framework, and some personal experiences of driving awareness and impact. The framework, which envisages the levels at which a reaction can be achieved, encompasses: changing the audience's understanding of a key issue; altering their behaviour, skills and abilities; and ultimately changing policies, and social outcomes. Considerable discussion ensued, including concerns around the inevitable differences between wider audiences (who might be influenced by a short headline in a national tabloid), and more technical or strategically placed audiences who required patient and long term engagement. Nevertheless the progress in addressing this wide range of stakeholders can be seen in the continuing progress made this year.

Research staff and PhD students: Current research

Kenzo Asahi was researching the causal impacts of better transport accessibility in Chile as part of his PhD thesis in Social Policy. His quantitative thesis explored the effect of improving urban public transport networks in Chile on the neighbours' labour market and education outcomes and levels of crime. During 2014, he successfully defended his thesis and was selected for a tenure-track position at Universidad Diego Portales Institute of Public Policy in Chile.

Ben Baumberg was a Visiting Fellow at CASE until the end of the 2014 calendar year, and continues as a Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Kent. His main focus has been disability research: he began a three-year ESRC "Future Leaders" fellowship to study the assessment of incapacity for work, at the same time as his paper "Fit for work – or work fit for disabled people" was published in the *Journal of Social Policy*, based on his CASE PhD research. He was also asked to write the chapter on benefits in the 2014 *British Social Attitudes* report, and continues to work on a potential CASEpaper on "benefit myths". Beyond his research, he co-directs the University of Kent Q-Step Centre, working to improve the critical quantitative skills of social science undergraduates – and continues to have an obsession with data, evidence and truthiness.

Jo Blanden is a Visiting Fellow at CASE and CEP. She is a Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of Surrey. This year Jo has been working with Lindsey Macmillan on the Social Mobility Strand of the Social Policy in a Cold Climate programme producing a paper on the impact of education on social mobility and asking if education expansion encourages or limits mobility. She is also working with Lindsey on understanding the strong performance of London schools. In work outside CASE, Jo has been funded by the Nuffield Foundation to evaluate the impact of free part-time early education on children's outcomes.

Tania Burchardt's research is on inequalities, theories of social justice, disability and social care. This year she worked on the social care component of the Social Policy in a Cold Climate programme with Polly Vizard and Polina Obolenskaya, and continued working on Polly Vizard's ESRC-funded project on dignity and nutritional support for older people during hospital stays. She and Rod Hick (Cardiff University) have begun thinking about how the capability approach might be used to conceptualise advantage as well as disadvantage, work they intend to take forward in the coming year.

Kerris Cooper worked with Kitty Stewart to complete a JRF-funded systematic review into whether money itself has an impact on adults' wider outcomes, including subjective wellbeing, physical health and relationship quality and stability. The research, due to be published in January 2015, found strong evidence that money itself does matter for adults: money makes people happier and reduces mental health problems, as well as providing more choice in other areas of life. Kerris also continued to work on her PhD research which explores the relationship between economic hardship and parenting behaviours, using the Millennium Cohort Study.

Jack Cunliffe is in the final stages of his PhD and is looking to submit in the summer of 2015 – details of his work can be found in the PhD spotlight on page 22. Alongside this he teaches a number of quantitative courses both to undergraduate and MSc level, including applied regression and multivariate analysis and measurement. His wider research interests include work on projects evaluating child protection casework system changes in both New South Wales, Australia and in the UK, as well as working on the distributional analysis strand of the Social Policy in a Cold Climate programme. He is also an Associate Investigator on a project funded by and in conjunction with Macquarie University, Sydney, looking at the illicit online drugs trade.

Rikki Dean continued his PhD exploring the use of participatory policy-making techniques in social policy, and his recent CASEpaper, "Beyond Radicalism and Resignation", outlines a new typology for thinking about approaches to public participation. Throughout 2014 he carried out fieldwork in the UK, conducting "Q sorts" and qualitative interviews with a number of actors involved in participatory policy-making initiatives in order to model how people normatively construct notions of public participation in policy decisions. He also worked on a project with CASE Visiting Fellow, Moira Wallace, investigating trends in the risk factors for the social exclusion of young people in England. In addition, he taught on the undergraduate course Data Analysis for Social Policy.

Martin Evans has been working on improving child poverty profiles in developing countries by bringing together monetary and non-monetary indicators to show policy relevant poverty profiles. Specifically, this has led to work in East and Southern Africa on the determinants of stunting in Tanzania and Madagascar and on the relationship between consumption poverty and deprivations in Cambodia, Iraq and Tanzania. Martin has given papers to the Fall Conference of Association of Public Policy and Management in November 2014 and is working with LIS Data Center on child poverty in middle income countries.

Amanda Fitzgerald continued to work on the spatial strand of "Social Policy in a Cold Climate" with Ruth Lupton. Her main focus has been on researching the impacts of the local government funding cuts in some of the most deprived neighbourhoods of London. Interim and final reports supplying in-depth analysis of local government

responses and the impact on services and residents in three case study areas were launched. Part of this work has been written-up for publication within a forthcoming Local Government Studies symposium on local government and austerity. Alongside this she completed policy and data analysis on the Coalition's approach to neighbourhood renewal and regeneration, and its outcomes. She began the year working on an analysis of the spatial distribution of poverty in London and other cities.

Howard Glennerster continued to act as an advisor on the Social Policy in a Cold Climate programme. As a follow up to the Centre's work on the changing distribution of wealth he gave lectures to both HM Treasury and the National Institute for Economic and Social Research.

Ian Gough gave large public lectures on a range of themes centred around "climate change and the prospects for eco-social policies" in Frankfurt, Oslo and Vienna. Advisory work included advising the ESRC and British Academy on a research event and funding proposal on "Sustainable Prosperity: New directions for social science research", and the Norwegian social science council on "Sustainable European welfare societies". Educational work included contributing to the International Social Science Council's Fellows Forum, held in the LSE, and the Heinrich Böll Stiftung's Green Academy on Eco-social policies and transformations, held in Croatia.

Aaron George Grech continued to evaluate the social sustainability of pension reforms in European Union countries. His research indicates that while reforms have improved minimum pensions, the tightening link between contributions and benefits could result in higher relative poverty amongst the elderly in the future. During this period, Aaron also served as Deputy Chairman of the Malta Statistics Authority, managed the Central Bank of Malta's Research Department and served as an expert on a pensions strategy commission appointed by the Government of Malta. He also conducted a review of Malta's social housing policy strategy. Aaron was also involved in an EU-funded research collaboration with the Federal Court of Auditors in Brazil that sought to compare the Brazilian pension system with that in Hungary, Poland, Greece and Portugal.

Eileen Herden continued working with Anne Power and her colleagues in LSE Housing and Communities. The focus of her work this year was a longitudinal piece of research following 200 social housing tenants and their experience of work and welfare reform. This study will be published in March 2015 under the title "Is Welfare Working? How welfare reform affects tenants of working age". Eileen also began a full-time PhD at the LSE's Department of Social Policy, with Anne Power and Kitty Stewart as her supervisors. Her research builds on the findings from this year's work on welfare reform, and aims to examine how people on low incomes draw on support from their family and friends to help cover their basic necessities.

John Hills completed writing his book, *Good Times, Bad Times: The welfare myth of them and us*, which was published by The Policy Press and launched at LSE in November 2014. He wrote a number of blogs and newspaper articles drawing on it, and has been talking about it at other events and lectures, including launch events early in 2015 in Cardiff, Dublin and Edinburgh, as well as in broadcast interviews. He also worked on parts of the Social Policy in a Cold Climate Programme. He co-authored with Paula De Agostini and Holly Sutherland a paper on the distributional effects of the Coalition's policies towards cash transfers and direct taxation that was published in November 2014, and wrote an overall assessment of the Coalition's policies towards cash transfers that was published in January 2015. He has also been working with Jack Cunliffe, Polina Obolenskaya and Eleni Karagiannaki on a report from the Cold Climate programme on the changing structure of economic inequalities in the UK since 2007 which will be published in March 2015. He continued to be part of the European Union "ImPRovE" research programme on poverty reduction in Europe, as part of which he published a joint paper with Alari Paulus, Iva Tasseva and Holly Sutherland (all from Essex University) on the effects of tax and benefit policies in seven European countries between 2001 and 2011. He has also continued to be part of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Anti-Poverty Task group and was a member of the 2014 REF sub-panel for social policy and social work. With colleagues from across LSE departments he worked on designing the new LSE International Inequalities Institute, which will start work in May 2015, and to which work in CASE will contribute.

Stephen Jenkins worked on a diverse set of topics. He released working papers about: the estimation of "country effects" using multi-level data such as EU-SILC or the European Social Surveys (joint with Mark Bryan, Essex); poverty trends in Turkey (with Sirma Demir-Seker, Istanbul); and an extensive survey of within – and between-generation income mobility (joint with Markus Jäntti, Stockholm). Also continuing was research on methods for modelling employment instability using an approach distinguishing between permanent and transitory components of variability (joint with Lorenzo Cappellari, Milan), and on the implications of sample drop-out for estimation of persistent poverty rates (with Philippe Van Kerm, CEPS Luxembourg and STICERD visitor). Stephen also wrote an assessment of the WIID and SWIID for a *Journal of Economic Inequality* special issue on world income inequality databases, and a note on public policy and Stata for a volume celebrating the 30th anniversary of Stata statistical software. Since February 2014, Stephen has been the Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Economic Inequality*.

Eleni Karagiannaki worked on the Social Policy in Cold Climate programme led by Ruth Lupton. Her work involved producing data on economic outcomes (employment, earnings wages, educational qualifications) disaggregated by equality characteristics for London using data from the Annual Population Survey. This strand of work focussed on understanding how London fared in the recent recession compared with the rest of country, as well as whether there have been variations in outcomes within London. She also worked on a Joseph Rowntree Foundation project (jointly with John Hills and Lucinda Platt), analysing how the distribution of individual incomes has changed since the onset of the economic crisis for different groups of people, with a special focus on changes experienced between different ethnic groups and between men and women. Eleni also worked on a study commissioned by the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission and led by Polly Vizard, producing evidence on how a number of the indicators included in the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Measurement Framework have changed between 2008 and 2013. Her work covered 14 indicators (including among others, employment, unemployment, educational attainment, poverty, material deprivation).

Neil Lee is a CASE research associate and Assistant Professor in Economic Geography in the Department of Geography and Environment. In February 2014 he published a review for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on the relationship between cities, economic growth and poverty reduction. He is now working on an ESRC funded project on What Works in Poverty Reduction, with Anne Green (Warwick) and Paul Sissons (Coventry). The project will investigate how poverty transitions vary by sector of employment and relate this to forecast employment growth.

Ruth Lupton has continued to work with CASE on the Social Policy in a Cold Climate programme. She has led the programme overall and the work on the Coalition's record on schools, further education, skills and access to higher education, and area regeneration and renewal. She has also worked with Amanda Fitzgerald and Polly Vizard on London-focused analyses and with Polina Obolenskaya on understanding regional trends in social and economic outcomes since the economic crisis and following the change of government in 2010. Ruth will continue to work with the CASE team in 2015 to complete the programme and contribute to a book on the findings (to be published by Policy Press).

Elena Mariani continues her doctoral work on the effect of childbearing and divorce on job satisfaction. In year 2014 she has focussed on this effect for women. The focus is on how these family events disrupt well-being at work of women and what strategies women can use to minimise this disruption (eg, different length of maternity leave, employment inactivity). She analyses a longitudinal survey from Germany (German Socio-Economic Panel Data, 1984-2012). The preliminary findings were presented in national and international conferences in the summer. Alongside her research work she organises a seminar series for population-related topics, and teaches statistics and quantitative research methods to postgraduate students.

Nicholas Mathers joined CASE in October 2014 and started working on his PhD thesis looking at the effects of cash transfers on adolescent life-course outcomes in Nepal.

Abigail McKnight continued her work on wealth inequality with a project commissioned by SCOPE examining the gap in wealth holdings between people with disabilities and those without. This project highlighted how the disability wealth-penalty evolves over the lifecycle leaving those with persistent disability with very low levels of assets as they approach retirement. In January 2014 Oxford University Press published two large volumes covering the work of the GINI project on changing inequalities in rich countries, which Abigail co-edited along with her fellow project co-ordinators. She also extended her research on low wage employment and wage progression taking part in a Review of the UK National Minimum Wage – convened by the Resolution Foundation – and a project for the Confederation of British Industry examining the factors that contribute to wage growth and employment retention. Abigail joined John Hills on the FP7 funded ImPRovE project with a piece of research examining trends in the concentration of cash transfers (on low income families) and their redistributive effectiveness in the UK, Sweden, France and Italy.

Alice Miles joined CASE as a PhD student in September 2011 before temporarily suspending her studies to work as a policy adviser at the Department for Education. She resumed her PhD in September 2013 and now works part-time as a policy adviser and part-time on her PhD. She is studying the welfare of low to middle income families in socially segregated and socially mixed neighbourhoods in southern England, using qualitative and quantitative methods.

Polina Obolenskaya continued working on the Social Policy in a Cold Climate programme led by Ruth Lupton, which evaluates the impact of the recession, spending and policy reforms on the distribution of state provision and the distribution of social and economic outcomes. Following her involvement in producing a set of reports on Labour's record in government for this programme in 2013, this year Polina worked on a number of reports reviewing Coalition's record on policy, spending and outcomes within areas of healthcare, adult social care, early years and others. These were published and launched in January 2015.

Research staff and PhD students: Current research *(continued)*

Kênia Parsons is a fourth year PhD candidate in Social Policy. Her research focuses on how the *Bolsa Família* programme reaches out to the chronic poor. The *Bolsa Família* is one of the largest conditional cash transfer programmes in the world, reaching more than 13 million households in Brazil in 2014. In 2013, it received the first International Social Security Association award for Outstanding Achievement in Social Security. Using mixed methods and four pieces of empirical research, Kênia analyses if the chronic poor have effectively taken-up the *Bolsa Família* benefits and, if not, what the potential reasons are for comparatively lower take-up rates. In addition to the use of cross-sectional administrative databases, she conducted a three-level qualitative analysis to obtain national, municipal and household perspectives on the design and implementation of the programme in four rural municipalities. In June 2014, Kênia had her conference paper short-listed for the best paper prize at the 21st International Research Seminar, hosted by the Foundation for International Studies on Social Security (FISS), in Sweden. She continues her appointments as a visiting academic at Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, in Sydney, and as a research associate at the Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies, Australian National University, in Canberra.

David Piachaud is a Research Associate of CASE and a part-time Professor of Social Policy. During 2014 he was academically mainly concerned with the contribution that social policies make to economic growth, work that continues; in particular he is examining the idea of a social investment state. He added to the considerable attention devoted to Thomas Piketty's *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* by contributing to the *British Journal of Sociology* special issue devoted to this best-selling book, writing on Piketty's policy proposals. He also re-examined the Titmussian framework for approaching social policy in a paper for *Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies* on "The Future of Social Policy – Changing the Paradigm."

Lucinda Platt is a CASE research associate and Professor of Social Policy and Sociology in the Department of Social Policy. 2014 saw the completion of her ESRC-funded project "Trajectories and Transitions of Disabled Children and Young People". The project culminated in a round table for policy-makers and practitioners organised by the Council for Disabled Children and a CASE event presenting the various strands of the research to a mixed audience of policy-makers and academics. While the project is officially completed, follow up work is continuing, include a seminar at the Department for Education in January. Other highlights of 2014 were a workshop in Istanbul on the findings of a Norface-funded project on Turkish migration to Europe. The papers from the workshop are currently being finalised into a book to be published by Sage in 2015. Work with Eleni Karagianniaki on women's income inequalities across ethnic groups was presented to a conference in Edinburgh and to the LSE Gender Commission. There are plans to complete and write up this work in 2015. 2015 will also see a volume on *Social Advantage and Disadvantage*, co-edited with Hartley Dean and involving a number of CASE researchers sent to OUP for publication.

2014 was very busy for **Anne Power and LSE Housing and Communities**. With their knowledge exchange grant from HEIF5, they ran two tenant think tanks for 130 social housing residents at Trafford Hall on welfare reform and its impact on low income communities. Tenants and social landlords responded strongly and are heavily involved in Housing Plus. They also held a think tank for social landlords on "supporting tenants into work" to uncover the positive contributions of social landlords and demonstrate their value. They also launched their HEIF5 funded *Energy* Plus programme. They launched a report on financial difficulty and debt in Newham, London's poorest borough; prepared seven new European city reports for La Fabrique de la Cité, their French supporters; and completed High Rise Hope Revisited, their second stage research on retrofitting high rise blocks on the Edward Woods estate. They carried out a survey of housing associations, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, on their response to welfare reform, using evidence from their tenant think tanks and their survey of 200 tenants for the consortium of south west housing associations – HAILO. In addition they carried out research for the London Borough of Haringey on the low uptake of their social fund, an evaluation of Trafford Hall's Family Futures programme, and a project for United house on redevelopment schemes with residents in situ. Several new projects are in train for 2015, including a handbook for European cities, based on the seven cities; a long-term evaluation of a retrofit of a high rise estate in Portsmouth; and a project with the University of Ulster on the community impact of housing segregation resulting from the Troubles.

Bert Provan was involved both in undertaking research for the Housing and Communities Group, and in knowledge management for the Social Policy in a Cold Climate and other CASE programmes. Much of the research work was around the emerging impacts of Coalition housing and welfare benefits policies on social housing tenants – including the evidence from the South West that the new norm is to cope with welfare cuts by increasing debts and decreasing nutrition; evidence from the national survey of social landlords that they are mobilising quickly to increase and personalise services to their tenants; evidence from Haringey that the old DWP Social Fund is being replaced by a much less generous local replacement, at least in its early phase; and evidence that while many housing associations are committed to tackling energy efficiency and fuel poverty, there is as yet no clear model of effective delivery being relied on. Bert's international work, on Lille, Saint-Étienne, and Paris, indicated that French policies to tackle concentrated

poverty had their own strengths and weaknesses, but fundamentally reflected the devastating impact of the recession, though the continuation of public investment in renovation strategies was delivering some significant results. The impact of the wide ranging work in knowledge management, which CASE continuing to develop, is set out above

Nicola Serle supports LSE Housing and Communities' research and administration, and leads on the group's events. She is responsible for the delivery of the Housing and Energy Plus programmes, two knowledge exchange HEIF5 funded programme, looking at social landlords adopting a wider role in communities where they are based, particularly in poorer areas where tenants need more help to manage their lives. The programme uses residential think tanks and roundtable briefings to bring together key actors to uncover how the complex interacting problems of housing relate to welfare and housing reforms in low-income communities. She also provides research project co-ordination and backup for other LSE Housing and Communities projects.

Wendy Sigle has been working on a number of projects which consider how the study of fertility, or migrant fertility in particular, is conceptualised. She has produced a theoretical intervention which explores why and with what consequences, demographers have failed to adopt critical and feminist theoretical perspectives. Building on and updating previous work, she produced a chapter which examines how Britain has sustained a relatively benign demographic profile, despite a fairly minimal approach to family policy. She began working on a manuscript, co-authored with Ben Wilson, which focuses on how migrant fertility convergence can be defined and conceptualized in empirical studies.

Kitty Stewart worked with Kerris Cooper on a systematic review of evidence on whether money in adulthood affects a range of outcomes for adults. The report is a follow-up to one on children's outcomes published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 2013, and will be out in early 2015. Kitty also worked on the Social Policy in a Cold Climate programme, taking the lead on work on the under-fives. Together with Ludovica Gambaro and Jane Waldfogel she finished a project funded by the Nuffield Foundation examining how far children in England are able to access high quality early childhood education and care, and the extent to which funding and regulation mechanisms in the UK and seven other OECD countries successfully promote equal access. The main output from this project was a comparative book, *An Equal Start*, published by The Policy Press in January 2015.

Kate Summers joined CASE in September 2014 to begin her PhD, investigating how social security money functions within working age households. The design of social security money has often incorporated the idea that recipients attach different significance and uses to different payments, contradicting classical economic accounts of the fungibility of money. Kate's research takes a qualitative approach to explore how recipients characterise and use social security money within the household, and whether and how payments are differentiated.

Milo Vandemoortele is a PhD student in CASE. Her research interests lie in examining the association between parental resources and children's cognitive development in developing countries – particularly Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam. Her research is funded by the ESRC. Prior to LSE, Milo worked as a researcher at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI, London) in the Growth, Poverty and Inequality Programme. She spent 2014 thoroughly enjoying maternity leave.

Polly Vizard continued her research on poverty and inequality, the capability approach and human rights. She worked with Tania Burchardt on a project funded under the first round of the ESRC Secondary Data Analysis Initiative, examining older people's experiences of dignity and nutrition in healthcare using the Adult Inpatient Survey. Further research was undertaken with Polina Obolenskaya on the health work-stream of the CASE Social Policy in a Cold Climate programme, with Polina Obolenskaya and Tania Burchardt on the social care workstream, and with Eleni Karagiannaki and Jack Cunliffe on inequality in London between 2007 and 2013. Work also began on a project commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission on multidimensional inequality outcomes in the UK over the period 2007 – 2013, with Tania Burchardt, Eleni Karagiannaki and Ellie Suh.

Jane Waldfogel continued work on her 4 country project on inequality in school readiness and school achievement, with colleagues Bruce Bradbury (Australia), Miles Corak (Canada), and Elizabeth Washbrook (UK). She was a visiting fellow for the 2013-2014 academic year at the Russell Sage Foundation. Their forthcoming book, *Too Many Children Left Behind*, shows that socioeconomic status gaps in school readiness and school achievement are larger in the US than in the other 3 countries, explores reasons for these greater disparities, and makes policy recommendations to help close the gaps. She also continued her research on the effects of the Great Recession on children and families and her research on improving the measurement of poverty.

CASE publications 2014

(*) denotes publications largely attributable to work outside the centre. Non-CASE authors indicated by *italics*.

Books and reports

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CASE publications 2014 *(continued)*

CASEpapers

CASE/179	Jo Blanden and Lindsey Macmillan	Education and Intergenerational Mobility: Help or Hindrance?
CASE/180	Howard Glennerster	Richard Titmuss: Forty years on
CASE/181	Abigail McKnight	Disabled People's Financial Histories: Uncovering the disability wealth-penalty
CASE/182	Ian Gough	Climate Change and Sustainable Welfare: An Argument for the Centrality of Human Needs
CASE/183	Marigen Narea	Does early centre-based care have an impact on child cognitive and socio-emotional development? Evidence from Chile
CASE/184	Rikki Dean	Beyond Radicalism and Resignation: The Competing Logics for Public Participation in Policy Decisions

CASEreports

CASEreport 81	Anne Power, Bert Provan and Eileen Herden	Work and Welfare Reform: Impacts in the South West
CASEreport 82	Tania Burchardt and Amanda Fitzgerald	CASE Annual Report 2013
CASEreport 83	LSE Housing and Communities, for the London Borough of Newham	Facing Debt: Economic Resilience in Newham
CASEreport 84	Eileen Herden	Tenant Futures: External evaluation of the National Communities Resource Centre Tenant Training Programme

Social Policy in a Cold Climate working papers

Social Policy in a Cold Climate Working Paper 8	Jo Blanden and Lindsey Macmillan	Education and Intergenerational Mobility: Help or Hindrance?
Social Policy in a Cold Climate Working Paper 9	Anne Marie Brady, Amanda Fitzgerald and Ruth Lupton	Hard times, new directions? The impact of local government spending cuts on three deprived neighbourhoods. Final report.
Social Policy in a Cold Climate Working Paper 10	Paola De Agostini, John Hills and Holly Sutherland	Were we really all in it together? The distributional effects of the UK Coalition government's tax-benefit policy changes

Social Policy in a Cold Climate research notes

Social Policy in a Cold Climate Research Note 7	David Utting	Education, Equity and Social Mobility: A Summary of Three Research Papers
Social Policy in a Cold Climate Research Note 8	Amanda Fitzgerald and Ruth Lupton	Hard Times, New Directions? The Impact of Local Government Spending Cuts in London (Interim Report Summary)

CASE seminars and events 2014

Seminars

Social Exclusion Seminars	
29 January	Intersectionality: the influence of gender, employment and parenthood on voting inequalities in Dutch national and local elections Niels Spierings (ISER, University of Essex)
5 March	Austerity Statistics: what changes in government data might mean for the analysis of social policy Alex Fenton (CASE Visiting Fellow)
19 March	How can the human development index be made more sensitive to the position of the worst off? Srijit Mishra (Asia Research Centre, LSE)
7 May	Bullying experiences among disabled children and young people: Evidence from two British longitudinal studies Lucinda Platt (Department of Social Policy, LSE and CASE) with Samantha Parsons and Stella Chatzitheochari (Institute of Education)
21 May	Target efficiency of public support for disabled older people in Britain Ruth Hancock (University of East Anglia)
4 June	How does the tax system redistribute income? A lifecycle approach Mike Brewer (ISER, University of Essex)
18 June	How is domestic violence changing? Sylvia Walby (Lancaster University)
2 July	Older people's experiences of dignity and nutrition in healthcare: Secondary data analysis using the Adult Inpatient Survey Polly Vizard and Tania Burchardt(CASE)
15 October	Child welfare policy for orphaned children in China Karen Fisher (University of New South Wales)
5 November	Social Policies to reconcile lower emissions with social equity Ian Gough (CASE, London School of Economics and Political Science)
19 November	Multidimensional poverty and inequality Andrea Brandolini (Banca d'Italia)
26 November	Welfare Reform: the impact on housing associations, tenants and communities Anne Power with Eileen Herden and Bert Provan (CASE and LSE Housing and Communities)
Welfare Policy and Analysis Seminars	
5 February	Unemployment and domestic violence Tanya Wilson with Dan Anderberg, Helmut Rainer and Jonathan Wadsworth (Royal Holloway)
12 March	Take-up of Free School Meals: Price Effects and Peer Effects Angus Holford (ISER, University of Essex)
30 April	Capital in the 21st Century Thomas Piketty (Paris School of Economics)
14 May	Family Earnings Inequality and Partnership Patterns in the US Philippe Van Kerm (CEPS/INSTEAD)
28 May	Lifetime Intergenerational Earnings Mobility Paul Gregg (University of Bath)
11 June	Low Pay and the National Minimum Wage Conor D'Arcy and James Plunkett (The Resolution Foundation)
8 October	Overcoming unemployment among young people: lessons from the evaluation of the Youth Contract for 16-17 year olds Becci Newton and Stefan Speckesser (Institute of Employment Studies – University of Sussex)
22 October	Unemployment and real wages in the big squeeze Stephen Machin (Centre for Economic Performance LSE, University College London)
3 December	The implications of an EMU unemployment insurance scheme for supporting incomes Holly Sutherland and H. Xavier Jara (ISER, University of Essex)
10 December	Making growth work for everyone Lena Levy and Matthew Percival (Confederation of British Industry)

CASE seminars and events 2014 *(continued)*

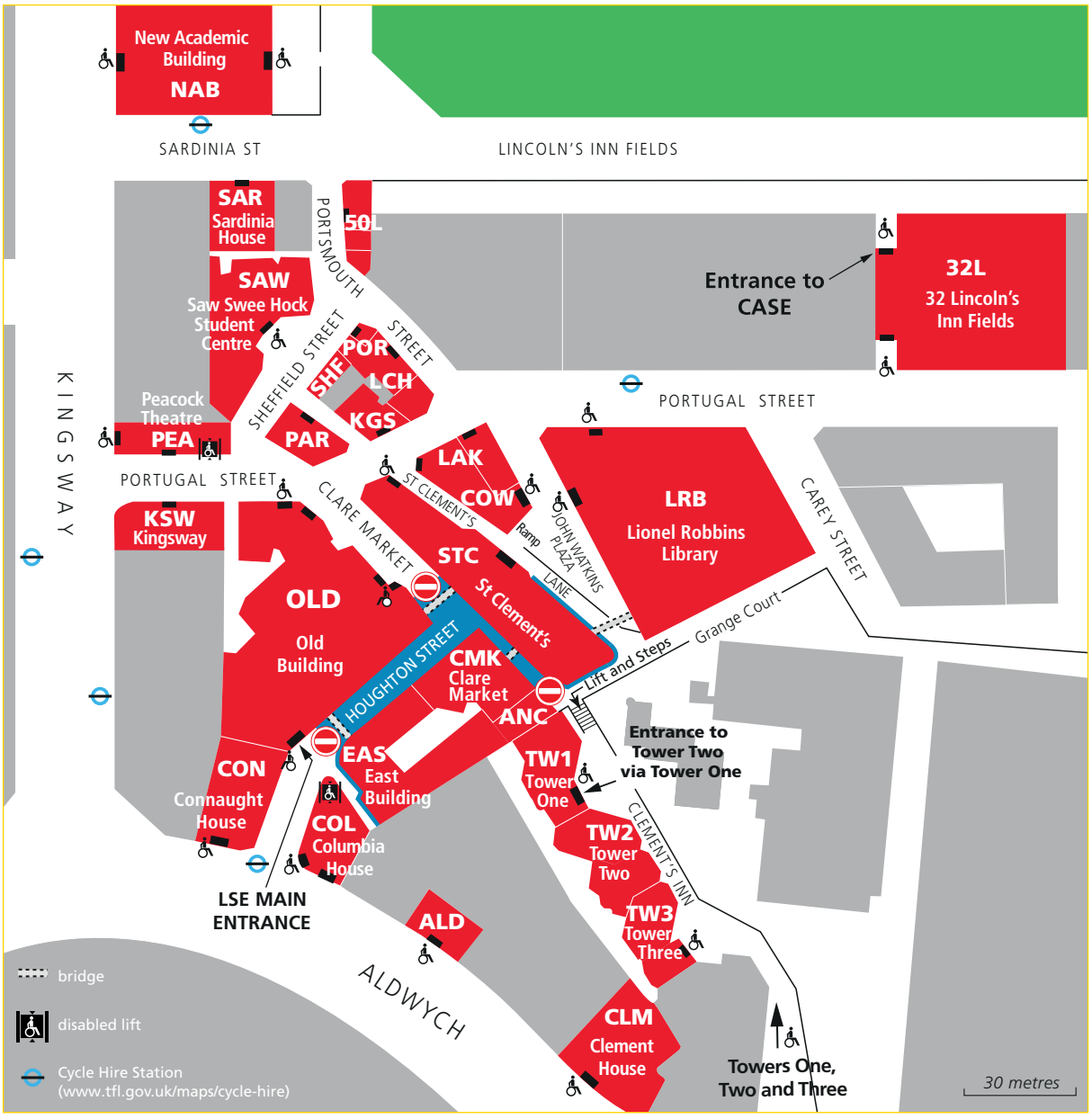
Special events

19 February	Book launch: *An Equal Start? Providing quality early education and care to disadvantaged children*, Kitty Stewart (CASE), joint with Ludovica Gambaro (Institute of Education) and CASE associate and Jane Waldfogel (Columbia University), CASE Visiting Professor Discussants: Vidhya Alakeson and Leon Feinstein
3 and 4 March	Housing Plus Think Tank 5: Welfare Reform and Tenants' Experiences LSE Housing and Communities and National Communities Resource Centre, Trafford Hall
18 March	Book Launch: *All that is Solid: The Great Housing Disaster* Danny Dorling (University of Oxford)
27 March	Book launch: *Changing Inequalities and Societal Impacts in Rich Countries: Thirty Countries' Experiences* Abigail McKnight (CASE), joint with Wiemer Salverda, Brian Nolan and Ive Marx Discussant: Stephen Jenkins Chair: Stephen Machin
16 and 17 July	Housing Plus Think Tank 6: Supporting tenants into work LSE Housing and Communities and National Communities Resource Centre, Trafford Hall
18 July	Report Launch: *Facing Debt: Economic Resilience in Newham* LSE Housing and Communities and the London Borough of Newham
12 November	Book Launch: *Good Times, Bad Times: the Welfare Myth of Them and Us* John Hills (CASE) Discussants: Polly Toynbee (*The Guardian*) and Holly Sutherland (University of Essex) Chair: Julian Le Grand
28 November	Trajectories and transitions of disabled children and young people. Lucinda Platt, Stella Chatzitheochari and Samantha Parsons

Notes

Notes

How to find us



No entry as of June 2015 Roads and footpaths closed as of June 2015

Further information on LSE's Centre Building Redevelopment (CBR) can be found at www.lse.ac.uk/centrebuildings

The information in this leaflet can be made available in alternative formats, on request. Please contact: CASE, +44 (0)20 7955 6679

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Suntory and Toyota International Centres for Economics and Related Disciplines

The London School of Economics
and Political Science
Houghton Street
London WC2A 2AE
Tel: +44 (0)20 7955 6679

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