



## **Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK**

### **National Advisory Board**

#### **Samantha Coope**

Sam Coope has been Head of the Tackling Poverty policy team in the Scottish government since 2008. The team advise on policies relating to poverty and deprivation, including 'Achieving our Potential', and lead on the development of the new Scottish Child Poverty Strategy.

Sam has a professional background in social policy analysis, research and management. She has worked in the Scottish government for nine years, including leading the government's research programmes on Children, Young People and Social Care, and Substance Misuse.

Prior to this, Sam worked as a consultant advising public and private sector clients on research methodology, and designing and delivering research on a wide range of social policy issues.

#### **Professor Danny Dorling**

Professor Dorling has been a Professor of Human Geography in the University of Sheffield since 2003. He is also Adjunct Professor in the Department of Geography, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, and Visiting Professor in the Department of Social Medicine, University of Bristol, UK. In 2009 he was awarded (for work with colleagues) the Gold Award of the Geographical Association and the Back Award of the Royal Geographical Society for his work on national and international public policy.

In 2008–09 he was a member of the Academic Reference Group advising Ministers on the Social Mobility White Paper. In 2009 he joined the World Health Organization's Scientific Resource Group on Health Equity Analysis and Research. With colleagues he has published over 25 books and 400 papers.

Professor Dorling's research interests include the visualisation of spatial social structure through drawing atlases; the changing social, medical and political geographies of Britain as revealed by the 2001 census; and from using a wide range of resources, trying to fathom the implications of rising housing market and wealth inequalities, the polarisation of health and life chances and the prospects for new social policies based on evidence and advocacy from research.

His research tries to show how far understanding the patterns to people's lives can be enhanced using statistics about the population. Part of this research involves developing new techniques to analyse and popularise quantitative information about Human Geography, in particular introducing the use of novel cartographic techniques into geographical research.

### **Mike Harmer**

Mike Harmer is head of the research team covering social justice within the Welsh Assembly Government. This includes research to support policies on poverty and social inclusion, area-based renewal, community safety and the promotion of equality.

Following his doctorate he carried out research on housing topics at several universities before becoming a research manager at Housing for Wales (Tai Cymru), later transferring to the Assembly and taking on his current remit several years ago.

### **Professor Stephen Jenkins**

Stephen Jenkins is Professor of Economics at the Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex. From January 2011, he will be Professor of Economic and Social Policy at the London School of Economics.

Professor Jenkins previously worked at the Universities of York, Bath and Swansea and has acted as a consultant to a variety of international research and policy groups. He is Research Professor, German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), Berlin; Research Fellow, Centre for Household, Income and Labour and Demographic Economics (CHILD), Turin; and Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA), Bonn. He was President of the European Society for Population Economics (1998), Chair of the Council of the International Association for Research on Income and Wealth (2006–08), and a member of the UK's National Equality Panel that reported in January 2010.

Inequality and poverty are central to Stephen's research interests, especially longitudinal perspectives. He has published widely on data collection, measurement, and substantive topics under this general heading. His most recent book is *Changing Fortunes: Income Mobility and Poverty Dynamics in Britain*, Oxford University Press, 2011 forthcoming.

### **Jane Lewis**

Jane Lewis is Director of Research in Practice. Established in 1996, Research in Practice is a subscription network of more than 110 partner agencies that aims to build capacity for evidence-informed practice across services working for children and families, particularly local government but also the third sector. Research in Practice's programme of work encompasses research dissemination; events- and e-based learning and knowledge exchange; networking; collaborative research and development projects; support for research and self-evaluation within children's

services; and strategic and practical advice on building evidence-informed practice cultures. Research in Practice has strong links with national and international strategic alliances for evidence-informed practice and with the research community within the UK.

Jane was Director of the Qualitative Research Unit at NatCen (National Centre for Social Research) for many years. She then became Director of Research, Evidence and Evaluation at the National Children's Bureau, where she led a department delivering high quality research studies across social care, education, health, wellbeing, play and positive activities and youth justice agendas.

### **Jean Martin**

Jean Martin, AcSS, worked for more than 30 years at the UK Office for National Statistics where she was responsible for many major national and international surveys. For some 12 years she specialised in survey methodology, heading the Data Methodology and Evaluation Division at the Office for National Statistics (ONS) before becoming Director of the Social Analysis and Reporting Division, producing publications on social inequalities among other topics. Following her retirement from ONS she held a Senior Research Fellowship at the Department of Sociology, University of Oxford for four years, teaching survey methods and carrying out research on national identity and on labour market disadvantage among different ethnic and religious groups. She currently works as a freelance consultant. She is a founding Academician of the Academy of the Social Sciences, a Visiting Professor at the University of Surrey and an Honorary Fellow at the University of Bristol.

### **Peter Matejic**

Since 2007, Peter has been the lead statistician for the Government's low income statistics published in the Households Below Average Income series and persistent low income data published in the Low Income Dynamics publication. These statistics are used to monitor progress towards the targets in the Child Poverty Act and key Department for Work and Pensions Impact Indicators.

Before this, he led on Fuel Poverty statistics and policy at the then Department of Trade and Industry. Previous to this, he has held a variety of statistical posts in the Civil Service, including working on production of the Family Resources Survey dataset and publication.

He has a keen interest in income and poverty statistics, as well as in the equality agenda.

### **Professor Monica McWilliams**

Professor McWilliams was appointed Chief Commissioner for Human Rights in Northern Ireland in September 2005 and appointed for a further four years from September 2008. She is currently on leave from the University of Ulster where she is Professor of Women's Studies and Social Policy. Previously, she served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in Northern Ireland from 1998 to 2003 and was an elected member of the Multi-Party Peace Negotiations, which led to the Belfast

(Good Friday) Agreement in 1998. She was a co-founder and leader of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition from 1997–2005.

She has published widely on domestic violence, human security and the role of political conflict on women's lives. Her work has been recognised by the John F. Kennedy Leadership and Courage Award and the Frank Cousin's Peace Award. She has received a Doctor of Humane Letters from Lesley College, Massachusetts and Mount Mary College, Milwaukee and is a graduate of Queen's University Belfast and the University of Michigan.

### **Polly Toynbee**

Polly Toynbee is a *Guardian* columnist. She was formerly BBC social affairs editor and President of the Social Policy Association. She is a Visiting Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford and sits on the board of the Political Quarterly. She is Chair of the Brighton Dome and Festival, and is President of the British Humanist Association.

Her books include: *Hard Work: Life in Low-pay Britain* (2003), *Lost Children: Story of Adopted Children Searching for Their Mothers* (1985), *The Way We Live Now* (1981), *Hospital* (1977) and *A Working Life* (1970). She co-authored *Unjust Rewards* (2009) with David Walker and their most recent book is *The Verdict - Did Labour Change Britain?* (2010)

### **Professor Robert Walker**

Professor Walker is Professor of Social Policy, Deputy Head of the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, Oxford, and a Fellow of Green Templeton College, Oxford. He was formerly Professor of Social Policy at the University of Nottingham and before that Professor of Social Policy Research, Loughborough University where he was Director of the Centre for Research in Social Policy. He is a Research Affiliate of the National Poverty Centre, University of Michigan and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He is a Member of the statutory UK Social Security Advisory Committee, Chair of the Academic Advisory Committee and a Member of the Governing Board of the ESRC UK Household Longitudinal Study.

Professor Walker believes that high quality research should inform the political process and improve policy, to enhance people's lives; his research actively engages with the development of welfare policies in Britain and other societies. His research interests include poverty; social exclusion; family dynamics and budgeting strategies; children's aspirations; and employment instability and progression. His policy concerns embrace social security and social assistance, welfare to work and labour market policies, policy evaluation and policy transfer and he has published widely on these subjects.