



Deprivation Review Steering Group 2pm 3rd September 2004, NICVA Offices, Duncairn Gardens

Persons present:

Mr Robert Beatty	Head of Demography and Census, NISRA	(Chair)
Mr Robert Kidd	DEL	
Ms Eileen Lavery	Director of Policy and Research, Equality Commission	
Mr Nick Mack	Programme Manager, Rural Development Council	
Mr Neil Marsden (deputising for Mr Michael Woods)	OFMDFM	
Dr David Marshall	NISRA	
Mr Martin Mayock	DHSSPS	
Dr Malcolm Megaw (deputising for Dr Stanley McBurney)	DARD	
Mr Martin Monaghan (deputising for Dr James Gillan)	DETI	
Ms Frances McCandless	NICVA, Director of Policy	
Mrs Karen McCullough	DCAL	
Danny McSorley	Chief Executive, Omagh District Council (SOLACE)	
Dr Chris Morris	DSD	
Mr Niall O'Neill (deputising for Mr Tony Mathewson)	PSNI	
Mr Rodney Redmond (deputising for Dr Tracy Power)	DRD	
Ms Patricia Wyers (deputising for Dr Ivor Johnston)	DE	
Ms Janis Watson	NISRA	(Secretary)

In attendance:

Ms Helen Barnes	University of Oxford
Ms Jennifer Doak	NISRA
Mr Uel McMath	NISRA
Mr Brendon Murphy	NISRA
Mr George Smith	University of Oxford

Apologies were received from Mr Michael Noble (University of Oxford), Mr Joe Frey (NI Housing Executive), Dr Michael Anyadike-Danes (Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland) and Mr Brian French (NIO). Mr Robert Beatty opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present noting particular welcome to Mr Nick Mack from the Rural Development Council (RDC) as a replacement for Mr Nigel Flynn who has left the RDC.

1. Minutes of 21st April 2004 meeting

The minutes were approved.



2. Action Points from last meeting

Mr Beatty circulated a list of action points from the last meeting and noted that point 6 (the provision of public transport data to the research team) was still in progress. In addition the paper under point 8 (Fermanagh District Council note on “Deprivation in Fermanagh and the Noble Report”) was circulated to the Steering Group and research team at the meeting.

3. Research Progress Report

Mr George Smith, from the research team, gave a progress report on the research and indicator data collection for each of the domains noted in the consultation document. From this discussion a number of action points were raised.

Employment

Action Point 1: Research team to check if New Deal for people with disabilities captured in indicator data and if not to request further data
(Research Team)

Health

Action Point 2: Research team to liaise with Mr Mayock (DHSSPS) on health indicator data request
(Research Team)

Action Point 3: Research team to assess the indicators used in the health domain for rural/urban bias
(Research Team)

Action Point 4: Research team to assess the need for inclusion of the dental health indicator used in the 2001 measures
(Research Team)

Education

Action Point 5: Department of Education to gather data on proportion of children attending schools not in the grammar school system and pass information on to Research Team – research team to assess need to amend indicators.
(DENI Steering Group representative/ Research Team)



Geographical Access to Services

- Action Point 6:** **Research Team to gather data on the cross border Accident and Emergency Hospital facilities for the Access to Services Domain.**
(Research Team)
- Action Point 7:** **Research Team to assess what factors would impact on geographical access to services (e.g. cross-border services etc.) and to present a note for the next Steering Group meeting.**
(Research Team)
- Action Point 8:** **Research Team to collate all services location facilities used in 2001 research**
(Research Team)

Living Environment

- Action Point 9:** **Research Team to assess the validity of the homelessness indicator**
(Research Team)

Crime

- Action Point 10:** **Research Team to take forward issue of District Policing Partnership survey to assess the ability of the survey to be used to measure fear of crime.**
(Research Team)

Other issues

- Mr Mayock commented on the small area population estimate methodology being used in the review and asked that he be kept informed of the work of the research in this area;
- The issue of differences in the nature of deprivation experienced in urban and rural areas had been raised on numerous occasions during the consultations, and was discussed further by the Steering Group. Members also raised the issue of individual indicators introducing urban or rural biases. The requirement of the research to provide deprivation measures that were equally applicable in urban and rural areas was noted. The research team was asked to assess the level of any bias in the indicators used and present this work as a formal note to the Steering Group. More widely, the team was asked to ensure that the issue of urban or rural bias was discussed fully in the final report.

- Action Point 11:** **Details on the small area population estimate methodology to be provided to the Steering Group**



(Research Team)

Action Point 12: **Research team to consider issue of urban-rural bias across all the proposed indicators and to write a paper for the Steering Group on this issue, and address urban or rural bias fully in the final report**
(Research Team)

4. Geography Presentation

Mr McMath gave a presentation on geography issues relating to the review of deprivation with specific reference to the proposed Super Output Areas. Mr McMath noted that Super Output Areas (SOA) had been well received in the consultation meetings but that there was a demand for data relating to Census Output Areas also.

Mr McSorley noted that it would be useful if further information on Super Output Areas could be made available to local Government. Mr Beatty noted that NISRA would be planning an information campaign to disseminate this new geography and that SOLACE and NILGA would be incorporated into this information campaign.

Action Point 13: **Draft Super Output Areas to be placed on the web by end of September.**
(NISRA Geography)

Action Point 14: **SOLACE and NILGA be incorporated into any SOA information campaign.**
(NISRA Geography)

Action Point 15: **Research Team to consider the impact of wards/Super Output Areas on the research project.**
(Research Team)

5. Consultation process (Paper DR2004/1)

Dr Marshall updated the Steering Group on the consultation process. He noted that five consultation meetings had been held, which had been attended by in total 272 consultees. One of the meetings was focused on statutory bodies and the four further public meetings were focused on the Community and Voluntary Sector. Mr Beatty thanked Ms McCandless for the support of NICVA in holding the four public meetings. Dr Marshall noted that comments at all of the meetings had been recorded and the Steering Group agreed that all comments should be passed to the Research Team.

In a wide ranging discussion regarding the consultation process it was agreed that comments on the consultation document should be placed on the NISRA website.



In response to a question from Mr McSorley, Ms Watson noted that all Local Government Districts had received copies of the consultation document and that all MLAs/MPs/MePs and political party leaders had also received a copy of the consultation document. She noted that approximately 3,000 copies of the consultation document had been circulated.

The research team agreed that they would produce a document considering salient responses to the consultation and that this would be presented at the next Steering Group meeting and that a fuller response would be incorporated into the final report.

Action Point 16: Research Team to prepare report on salient points from consultation process for next Steering Group meeting.
(Research Team)

6. Publication of indicator data (Paper DR2004/2)

Dr Marshall then discussed the draft pro-forma agreement document. The pro-forma laid out an agreement from each data provider to supply the relevant indicator data to NISRA for uploading on to the NINIS website (subject to disclosure and shrinkage estimation etc). It was agreed that no department had an objection in principle to the indicator data being placed on the NINIS website with any relevant disclosure and shrinkage technique applied.

Action Point 17: Indicator data provision pro-forma to be finalised and distributed to Steering Group members
(Steering Group Secretariat)

Action Point 18: Steering group data providers to sign off pro-forma and return to Steering Group secretariat
(Data providers)

7. Way Forward/Date of next meeting

The group agreed that the next meeting would be in November/December after the close of the consultation period.

Action Point 19: Arrange date of next meeting Steering Group meeting and circulate to group members.
(Steering Group Secretariat)

NISRA
October 2004