



**Building a 'Welfare Society'**  
*Understanding the Big Society*

Children England  
Northampton, September 2010



[www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk](http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk)

- Introduction to the CSJ policy work
- Three key changes identified in government thinking since May 2010
- Three broad questions that Children's Services must answer in order to form an effective strategic response.
- Sign-post some specific policy ideas for consideration within their service planning.

# Breakthrough Britain

*Ending the costs of social breakdown*

July 2007

Social Policy Group

November 2007

Chairman, Rt Hon. Iain Duncan Smith MP



# Our policy work

*The CSJ develops and promotes effective new approaches to tackling poverty and social exclusion in Britain*

- There are 4 key strands to our policy work:
  - Rigorous academic research
  - Anecdotal evidence
  - International visits
  - Polling
- For *Breakdown* and *Breakthrough Britain* we:
  - Consulted over 2,000 organisations and individuals
  - Held 3,000 hours of public hearings
  - Polled 50,000 people

# Five Pathways to Poverty

- Family Breakdown
- Economic Dependency
- Educational Failure
- Addiction
- Debt

How many could you cope with?



Five Giants

# 'A broken society'

- **Family Breakdown** – Britain has the highest family breakdown in Europe
- **Economic Dependency** – around 4 million working age people are out of work and claiming benefits
- **Educational Failure** – more than 1 in 10 children leave school without any qualifications
- **Addiction** – Children's alcohol consumption has doubled in the past 15 years
- **Debt** – up to 9 million people are in serious debt

## That is worseni

...more than one  
government!

- The number of **children born out of wedlock** increased from 8% to 41% (1970 – 2007)
- The number of **lone parent families** has increased by 40,000 per annum (1982 – 2007)
- The incidence of **intentional harm against children** has risen 34% (2003 – 2007)
- **Youth unemployment** is higher today than in 1997
- **Children who have taken drugs** increased from 5% to 26% (1987 – 2007)
- **Drug deaths** have risen 100 fold (1968 – 2007)

# The results of social breakdown

## **Unemployed**

- The UK has the highest proportion of children living in workless households in Europe
- Just 56% of lone parents are in work compared to 72% of mothers in two-parent families

## **In prison**

- Half of all prisoners were excluded from school
- Up to 70% of prisoners have used Class A drugs

## **Street culture**

- Most gang members have experienced family breakdown and were excluded from school

# An unbearable cost to society

***Criminal Justice*** – £32.5 billion (up 46%)

***Youth Justice*** – £648.5 million (up 45%)

***Police*** – £15.7 billion (up 40%)

***Working Age Benefits*** – £54 billion (up 25%)

- *Figures from House of Commons Library, October 2009'*

# Policy post *Breakthrough Britain*

- *The Next Generation* (Early Intervention for 0-3s)
- *Every Family Matters* (Family Law Review)
- *Couldn't Care Less* (Looked After Children)
- *Housing Poverty*
- *Dynamic Benefits* (Welfare Reform)
- *Asylum Matters*
- Criminal Justice
  - *Order in the Courts* (Courts and Sentencing)
  - *A Force to be Reckoned With* (Policing)
  - *Locked Up Potential* (Prison Reform)
  - *Dying to Belong* (Gangs)



# Policy post *Breakthrough Britain*

- Work in progress
  - Youth Justice
  - Mental Health
  - Eldercare
  - Sport
  - Community Cohesion
  - Social Return on Investment (reporting Autumn 2010)



# Three Changes

The context is family not just “chase the child”

Interest in SROI (“spend to solve”)

Big Society replaces the Big State

# Three Questions

**Q: How do you identify need?**

A: Need to modify our perception of poverty – more than economic - to understand the causes and respond effectively

**Q: How do you maximise impact of resources?**

A: Effective policy – fighting the root causes – not efficient services alone will reduce future service demands

**Q: How are you held accountable?**

A: More local decision making?

# Three Challenges

**Working with the VCS** How do you manage the risk if there is more for the VCS to do?

The **growing importance of councillors** and the removal of much central guidance have altered the dynamic of officer-member relations

What will happen to **Children's Trusts** – with funding changes, directly elected police commissioners, directly elected Mayors?

# Three Suggestions

A strategic approach to family services by councils: – early, small interventions with “coping families” to prevent future acute interventions (Kent, Kensington & Chelsea, Manchester)

Re-orienting children’s centres to become family hubs (e.g. Carousel Children's Centre in Braintree, Bromley Children’s Project)

Removal of ring-fences and redirected funding (e.g. from Connexions?, ref. LGA paper “Hidden Talents”)

# Early Years and Knife Crime

“I would rather have a hundred extra health visitors than a hundred extra police officers.”

- *Detective Chief Super John Carnochan (head of the Violence reduction Unit, Strathclyde Police)*



THE CENTRE FOR  
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**Thank you!**

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