



## Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK

**Working Paper - Methods Series No.14**

### **Indicators of Social Participation**

**Grace Kelly and Mary Daly**

November 2011

ESRC Grant RES-060-25-0052



## Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK

### Overview

The Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK Project is funded by the Economic, Science and Research Council (ESRC). The Project is a collaboration between the University of Bristol, University of Glasgow, Heriot Watt University, Open University, Queen's University (Belfast), University of York, the National Centre for Social Research and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The project commenced in April 2010 and will run for three-and-a-half years.

The primary purpose is to advance the 'state of the art' of the theory and practice of poverty and social exclusion measurement. In order to improve current measurement methodologies, the research will develop and repeat the 1999 Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey. This research will produce information of immediate and direct interest to policy makers, academics and the general public. It will provide a rigorous and detailed independent assessment on progress towards the UK Government's target of eradicating child poverty.

#### Objectives

This research has three main objectives:

- To improve the measurement of poverty, deprivation, social exclusion and standard of living
- To assess changes in poverty and social exclusion in the UK
- To conduct policy-relevant analyses of poverty and social exclusion

For more information and other papers in this series, visit [www.poverty.ac.uk](http://www.poverty.ac.uk)

This paper has been published by Poverty and Social Exclusion, funded by the ESRC. The views expressed are those of the Author[s].

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 UK: England & Wales License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/). You may copy and distribute it as long as the creative commons license is retained and attribution given to the original author.



## Contents

Introduction .....	4
Preliminary Observations .....	7
References.....	12
Appendix One .....	13

## Author(s)

Grace Kelly and Mary Daly  
Contact; Grace Kelly  
School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Queens University  
Belfast, University Road, Belfast, BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland  
Phone: ++44 028 9097 3483  
Fax: ++ 44 028 9097 3943  
e-mail: G.P.Kelly@qub.ac.uk

## Introduction

Individuals, families and groups can be said to be in poverty when they lack the resources to obtain the types of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least are widely encouraged and approved, in the societies to which they belong. Their resources are so seriously below those commanded by the average individual or family that they are, in effect, excluded from ordinary living patterns, customs and activities. (Townsend 1979: 32)

Accepting this definition of poverty, people are poor if they are prevented from carrying out obligations that are associated with their social role through lack of resources. This paper asks:

- What common social roles are found in social surveys and what activities are associated with these roles?
- Does the PSE questionnaire accurately reflect common social activities?
- Do other surveys use alternative ways of capturing participation in common social activities?

### ***Common social activities associated with social roles***

**Family** – (parent, child, partner, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, aunt, uncle, cousins, nieces, nephews, families- in-law, carer)

Maintains contact with family members, spends time with family at home or elsewhere.

Participates in family events and celebrations like weddings, birthdays, funerals, engagements, family members' achievements.

Goes on holiday with family.

Takes part in school events.

**Community** – (friend, neighbour, volunteer, carer)

Maintains contact with friends, spends time with friends, works to sustain friendships, responds to invitations, reciprocates invitations, carries out activities associated with organisation.

**Work** – (employer, employee, self-employed)

Takes part in work related social events, communicates with colleagues.

**Education** – (learner, parent/guardian of pupil)

Learns a new skill, attends a class, socially interacts with fellow learners, socially interacts with teachers, participates in school/college/class events

**Religion** – (member of religious group)

Participates in activity related to their membership or belief

**Sport /leisure/cultural** – (member of club, hobbyist)

Participant or observer of activities associated with sport, engages in hobby, engages in preferred informal leisure activity in free time (e.g. reading, gardening, shopping, walking) visit to cinema, theatre, eating out

***Deprivation questions in relation to common social activities which were asked in the PSE NI survey 2002/03***

PSE NI 2002/03

Social Activity	Necessary	Have	Don't have /Don't want	Can't afford
<b>Adult related social activities</b>				
Visiting friends or family in hospital or other institutions	97	84	14	2
Celebrating special occasions such as Christmas	95	97	2	0.8
Visiting friends or family locally	91	92	7	1
Attending weddings, funerals or similar occasions	89	92	6	2
Visiting school e.g. sports day, parents evening	88	31	68.7	0.3
Family days out	86	74	19	7
Collecting children from school	84	21	78.4	0.6
Having a hobby or leisure activity	84	70	25	5
Attending church or other place of religious worship	75	66	33.5	0.5
Presents for friends or family once a year	72	87	2	11
One weeks annual holiday away from home	60	57	19	24
Visiting family/friends in other parts of country by bus or train 4 times a year	56	34	58	8
Having friends or family visit for a drink or meal once a month	52	62	28	10
Going out for evening meal once a fortnight	40	45	39	16
Going out for meal in restaurant once a month	35	53	28	19
Pet, if you want one	31	40	57	3
Holiday abroad once a year	19	34	31	35

<b>Adult views of children's social participation and activities</b>				
Opportunity to take regular exercise	97	95	4	(1)
Celebrations on special occasions	95	98	1	(1)
Hobby/leisure activity	94	78	18	4
School trip at least once a term	92	84	14	(2)
Family day trips	89	84	6	10
Youth club or similar activity	88	59	37	(4)
Sports gear or equipment	76	80	12	8
One week's holiday away from home with family	69	64	8	28
Friends round to visit	72	82	16	(2)
Going to the cinema regularly	25	60	25	15

*(italics – items regarded as necessary by <50%, Brackets () – less than 20 unweighted cases)*

The PSE NI 2002/03 adopted the majority of items and activities that appeared in the PSE GB 1999. Most of the items and activities in relation to social participation are the same (see above) with the exception of a few items. 'Going to the pub once a fortnight' was not included in the NI survey. It is believed this is not an activity that would add a new dimension to the survey. Particularly given the number of pubs closing down, reported to be in the region of up to 52 each week<sup>1</sup>, attributed to a dramatic reduction in the number of people visiting pubs due to the recession, the increased VAT on alcohol and the smoking ban.

NI included the activity 'Family days out' in the necessities questionnaire. This was considered necessary by 86% of all respondents and 7% of people could not afford this activity. This item was among those used to construct the poverty index for NI. In addition, parents were asked whether they considered 'Family day trips' a necessity for children. A higher degree of consensus was evident with 89% of adults with children agreeing this activity was necessary with a greater number (10%) not being able to afford this activity. 'Family days out' or 'Family day trips' are important social activities associated with carrying out normatively defined social roles within the sphere of the Family. They have appeared in recent surveys (e.g. LSYPE, MCS) and should be considered for inclusion in the PSE 2011.

PSE NI 2002 asked whether people had 'Access to the internet from home'. 13% of people believed this was a necessity although a greater number (40%) had the item. The NI survey asked parents whether they thought this was a necessity for children - 20% agreed it was a necessity and 24% said they did not have this item because they could not afford it. Since both surveys were carried out there has been a massive increase in home internet use for

<sup>1</sup> British Beer and Pub Association at [www.beerandpub.com](http://www.beerandpub.com)

communication purposes.

Older people are much less likely to have internet access from their home than those in younger age groups (Ofcom 2009). However it cannot be assumed that those without internet access at home are not internet users. In the Ofcom survey, 1 in 10 respondents accessed the internet from libraries and educational institutions. This method of interaction and communication is now threatened with the planned closure of libraries and the further closures that are expected. Access to the internet from home is not conventionally associated with social participation but it is an essential part of fulfilling social obligations within the sphere of the family, community, work and education for both adults and children. It is not exclusively a child related item and should be considered for inclusion in the adult necessities list as well as the child list.

## Preliminary Observations

Survey questions in relation to social participation mostly cluster around themes of particular club and society membership, social involvement with friends and neighbours, hobbies and activities and more formal types of participation such as involvement in community or civic organisations (see appendix one for an overview of the most common questions relating to social participation found in major surveys). Most questions are similar to or the same as those found in PSE and the FRS. Regularly, questions contained within specific *social participation* modules will appear in modules on *social capital* or *social relations* or sometimes *social exclusion* or *wellbeing* or other similar module titles.

Questions on organised sports activity for adults could benefit from distinguishing between activities that cost money (or a lot of money) and those that don't. For example, prior to the recession higher income groups were more likely to participate in sports (DCMS 2008, DCAL 2006, ISM 2008). Research suggests a marked increase in this association since the recession began. Furthermore, participation rates of popular but relatively expensive sporting activities such as going to the gym and exercise classes show a marked decrease in use by young adults in lower socio economic groups<sup>2</sup>. There is a risk that other less expensive activities offered in community venues such as Church halls, school halls or leisure centres, may come to an end due to decreased budgets for departments of culture, arts and leisure and overall spending cuts. The link between participation in sport and physical and

---

<sup>2</sup> The Irish Sports Monitor is a large, representative survey of participation in sport and exercise by adults. Their findings strongly suggest a significant change in sport and exercise habits linked to the recession. DCMS's 'Taking Part Survey' 2009 data show a difference in participation between people in the least deprived areas and most deprived areas but the sample was smaller than in previous surveys and due to the small sample size, this difference is not statistically significant.

mental health benefits is well documented. The association between ill health and poverty and social exclusion is equally apparent. Continuing active participation of children into adulthood is an important element of public health policy and is linked with several cross-departmental Public Service Agreements. A question on enforced lack of participation may permit a focus on changing family health lifestyles.

Questions on organised activities for children could also benefit from making the distinction between organised play and sport activities and more costly structured cultural activities. Recent research from Save the Children point to the difficulty low income parents face due to the high cost of after school activities. For example, their research shows children of UK parents in the highest income group were twice as likely to have music lessons than children in lower income households (Save the Children, 2010). Similarly, the Growing Up in Ireland Survey (2009) show participation rates in structured cultural activities such as dance, ballet, arts, drama etc., were significantly related to social class, family income and family type with children from single parent families more disadvantaged in terms of participating in more structured cultural activities.

Numerous survey questions asking about social participation seem preoccupied with the duration and frequency of an activity or social participation. Common questions ask *'how many times in the past week, fortnight, the last month, over the last year have you...'* (e.g. ALSPC, BHPS/NIHPS, FACS, LSCE). The PSE, FRS and EU SILC also quantifies the necessity – *'An evening out once a fortnight', 'a holiday away from home once a year', 'A meal in a restaurant or pub once a month' 'coach or train fares to visit family/friends in other parts of the country four times a year', 'going to the pub once a fortnight'*. What appear to be missing in most surveys are questions that capture the meaning or value of particular types of social participation. One exception is the BSAS which attempts to evaluate the activity by asking follow up questions:

- When you are involved in free time activities to what extent do they enable you to be the kind of person you really are/to strengthen your relationships with other people?
- Please indicate how much enjoyment you get from the following free time activities:
- How often free time is used to establish contacts/relax/learn new skills

Also see for example, analyses using harmonised European time-use survey diary information to report on the differences between activities people said they enjoyed the most and activities which were carried out less often but which were much more satisfying (Michelson, 2010) . Perhaps social participation diary information could provide a form of personal evaluation of the nature of distinct activities.



Up until recently, the role of grandparent has been generally associated with being a pensioner. But there has been a shift in this thinking with the acknowledgement of their supportive role in family life. There are an estimated 14 million grandparents in the UK; 1.5 million are aged under 50. The support they provide family is estimated to be worth £3.9bn every year<sup>3</sup>. The first steps towards government recognition has been the announcement (15<sup>th</sup> October 2010) of a 'Grandparent Credit' to help protect the National Insurance contributions record of grandparents who give up work to look after their grandchildren (a first step but still a long way to go, in a number of other EU states grandparents are entitled to paid leave, transferable parental leave and in some cases be paid for the care they provide).

However, there still appears to be an underlying assumption in standard survey questions that the role of grandparent is attached only with that of child minder, as a provider of social support. Their role in a social participatory context is not explored or captured in most of the core survey questions reviewed. The MCS has made an attempt to view the role of grandparent in a wider context and has included a question asking how often the child sees their grandparent/s. The NILTS included a module on grand-parenting and family life in 2004, a module was also included in the BSAS 1998. In NILTS the vast majority of grandparents (94%) said they were either 'close' or 'very close' to their grandchild and had frequent contact. However, grandparents reported seeing less of their grandchildren where there had been a family breakdown or separation.

The social role of grandparent is a complex one, younger grandparents are more likely to be employed and more likely to be providing support to elderly parents at the same time. Higher divorce, separation and remarriage rates across all generations mean that grandparents themselves are more likely to experience divorce and risk losing or missing out on socially participating in the lives of their grandchildren. Divorced or remarried grandparents take part in fewer activities and report feeling less close to their grandchildren than grandparents who have never been divorced (Glaser et al., 2010).

Multigenerational family structures and relationships are a very important feature of particular social cultures but are often hidden (for example, the question '*How worried are you about problems with your children*' in the Crime section is only asked if there are children living in the household).

This is an area that is neglected in most surveys but one that could yield much information on the various forms of social exclusion over the life span. The PSE could provide an opportunity to study this area in a more contemporary way than is currently available in other general population surveys.

---

<sup>3</sup> [www.grandparentsplus.org.uk](http://www.grandparentsplus.org.uk)

***'Formal' Deprivation Measure Questions in relation specifically to social participation***

<b>Family Resources Survey Deprivation Questions (adult and child questions)</b>	<b>EU 2020 Poverty Measurement Deprivation Questions</b>	<b>Ireland Consistent Poverty Deprivation Questions</b>
Do you/you and your partner have a holiday away from home for at least one week a year, whilst not staying with relatives at their home?	A week's holiday away from home once a year	
Do you/you and your partner have friends or family around for a drink or meal at least once a month		Does the household have family or friends for drink or a meal once a month?
Do you have a hobby or leisure activity?		
		Does the household buy presents for family or friends at least once a year?
		Did you have a morning, afternoon or evening out in the last fortnight, for your entertainment (something that cost money)?
<b><i>Child deprivation questions</i></b>		
Does your child/Do your children have celebrations on special occasions such as birthdays, Christmas or other religious festivals?		
Does your child/Do your children have a family holiday away from home for at least one week a year?		
Does your child/children go swimming at least once a month?		
Does your child/children attend at least one regular organised activity a week outside school, such as sport or a youth group?		
Does your child/Do your children do a hobby or leisure activity?		
Does your child/children have friends round for tea or a snack once a fortnight?		
Does your child/children go to a toddler group/nursery/playgroup at least once a week?		
Does child/children go on school trips at least once a term?		
Does your child/children have an outdoor space or facilities nearby where they can play safely?		

### ***EU 2020 Poverty Measure Deprivation Questions***

Of the nine deprivation questions used only one relates to social participation.

### ***Republic of Ireland Consistent Poverty Deprivation Questions***

The original measure used in the RoI to measure consistent poverty consisted of an 8-item set of questions. Six items referred to deprivation in relation to food, clothing and heating, the other two questions were '*being unable to afford a substantial meal because of a lack of money*' and '*going into debt to meet ordinary living expenses*'. The revised deprivation list now contains 11 items. The six original items referring to food, clothing and heating have been kept. Two items relating to credit and finance have been deleted and 5 items have been added which it is claimed "involve an emphasis on adequate participation in family and social life" (Whelan, 2007:9). These new 5 items includes 3 items based on social activities (in table above) plus 'Keeping the home adequately warm' and 'Replacing any worn out furniture'. In the RoI survey, keeping the home warm and replacing furniture have been clearly linked with social participation. This link is not evident in other surveys.

## References

Department for Culture, Media and Sport (2008/09) *Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport*.

Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (2006) *Experience of Sport in Northern Ireland: Findings from the 2004/2005 Continuous Household Survey*. Belfast: NISRA.

Karen Glaser, Eloi Montserrat, Ulrike Waginger, Debora Price, Rachel Stuchbury and Anthea Tinker (2010) *Grandparenting in Europe*. Grandparentsplus Report, June 2010.

Lunn, P., Layte, R. (2009) *The Irish Sports Monitor, Second Annual Report 2008*. Dublin: The Irish Sports Council and the Economic and Social Research Institute.

Michelson, W. (2010) *What makes an act most enjoyable: Alternative ways of measuring subjective aspects of time use*. Conference paper, International Sociological Association, Sweden 2010.

Ofcom (2009) *Communications Market Report*.

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/research/cmr/cmr09.pdf>

Save the Children (2010) *£15,000 cost of UK after-school activities threatens social mobility*. News release Sunday 29 August 2010.

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

Townsend, P. (1979) *Poverty in the United Kingdom*. Harmondsworth: Penguin.

Whelan, C. (2007) *Understanding the Implications of Choice of Deprivation Index for Measuring Consistent Poverty in Ireland*. Working Paper 181, Dublin: Economic and Social Research Institute.

## APPENDIX ONE

### ***Common questions in relation to social participation in other surveys***

(These are questions that are commonly found in social surveys when asking people about social participation. Not all questions are asked in every wave of the surveys)

#### **Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children**

Includes questions on Family and Friends – how many friends, how often do you see them, how many people can you talk to about personal problems etc.

- During the last month, how many times did you get together with family or friends?
- Do you, in your spare time, belong to any organisations or groups of people (e.g. choir, gardening club, sports club, charity fund raising etc.)?
- Are you on any committees?
- During the past year, on average how often did you spend time doing the following? hiking or walking including walking to work, walking the dog, jogging/running/cycling/ keep fit, aerobics, step aerobics, etc/ tennis, squash, badminton etc/swimming/other energetic leisure activity e.g. gardening
- How much time do you spend with your children on average? watching TV together? interacting with children (e.g. singing, reading to one another, helping with homework).
- Do you think this is enough time?
- Why is this? Because of job/demands of partner/studying/housework/other
- Do you - visit the home of your neighbours/ argue with neighbours/look after your neighbours children/keep to yourself

#### **British Household Panel Survey/NI Household Panel Survey**

- Asks if membership of organisation, whether join in the activities of the organisation
- Play sport or go walking or swimming?
- Go to watch live sport?
- Go to the cinema?
- Go to a concert, theatre or other live performance?
- Have a meal in a restaurant, cafe or pub?
- Go for a drink at a pub or club?
- Work in the garden?

- Do DIY, home maintenance or car repairs?
- Attend leisure activity groups such as evening classes, keep fit, yoga etc?
- Attend meetings for local groups/voluntary organizations?
- Do unpaid voluntary work?
- How important it is to have time for: family and friends, more time for leisure activities, time to take part in community/voluntary work?

#### Youth survey

- How often go out with friends?
- How often do you go to youth clubs, scouts, girl guides or other organized activities?
- How often do you go to discos or nightclubs?
- How often do you do sports? Please include things like football, aerobics, dance classes and swimming?
- In the past 7 days how many times have you eaten an evening meal together with your
- family?

#### **British Social Attitudes Survey**

- How often do you do each of following activities in your free time? Watch TV/go to movies/shopping/read books/attend cultural events such as concerts, live theatre, exhibitions/get together with relatives, friends/play board games/listen to music/take part in physical activities such as sport, going to gym, walk/attend sporting event as spectator/ Do handicrafts such as needle work, wood work, etc.
- What sport or physical activity do you take part in most frequently?
- Thinking about games rather than sports or physical activities, what type of game do you play most frequently?
- In the last 12 months, how often have you participated in the activities of one of the following associations or groups? Sports group/cultural group/religious group/community, civic group/political

#### **English Longitudinal Study of Ageing** **Social Participation module**

- Have use of a car or van when need one (either as a passenger or driver)?
- In the past did drive a car or van?
- How often use public transport?
- Why don't you use public transport more often? – answer options – not available/doesn't take where want to go/too expensive/unreliable/infrequent/health problems/don't need/fear of crime/too dirty/not convenient/prefer to walk)

- Ever use any of the following means of transport – lift from family/friends/community transport/hospital provided transport/?
- How often get lifts from family or friends who do not live with you?
- Use of means of transport
  
- Participation in social activities including voting, going on holiday at home or abroad, hobby, use of interest, mobile phone. Whether go to cinema, eat out, art gallery, museum, theatre.
- Whether member of Political party/Trade union or environmental groups/Tenants groups, resident groups, Neighbourhood Watch/Church or other religious groups/Charitable associations/Education, arts or music groups or evening classes/Social clubs/Sports clubs, gyms, exercise classes/Any other organisations, clubs or societies.

### **EU SILC**

Apart from the 'official' measure on social participation of '*one week's holiday away from home*', a Social Participation Module was included in 2006. It asked:

Number of times going to the cinema/live performances (plays, concerts, operas, ballet and dance performances)/ Number of visits to cultural sites/live sport events

Frequency of getting together with relatives/friends/Frequency of contacts with relatives and friends/Ability to ask any relative, friend or neighbour for help

Participation in informal voluntary activities/participation in more formal activities such as/political parties or trade unions/professional associations

Participation in activities of churches or other religious organizations/activities of recreational groups or organizations/charitable organisations

The module on Material Deprivation included in 2009 contained questions in relation to adults and children which is associated with social participation. Outdoor leisure equipment/indoor games/participation in regular leisure activity/celebrations on special occasions/invite friends round/participation in school trips and events that cost money/holiday for one week per year/outdoor space to play safely

Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month/Regularly participate in a leisure activity such as sport, cinema, concert/Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself

### **Families and Children Study**

Questions for parents about social contact – meeting friends, giving unpaid help to groups, clubs, organisations/ Family learning activities e.g. activities involving parents and children learning together/children's involvement in

school activities

Children asked about social participation

- How many times had friends round to house?
- Visited friends in their houses?
- How many times done sports and other activities (bike, skateboarding, running around, dancing, swimming both in and out of school)?
- Which activities taken part in, not in school (youth club, scouts, sports club, dance, drama, music, after school, other organised)?

### **Health Survey for England**

(Included module on *Social Capital and Social Exclusion* in 2000. Module included a care homes sample)

Care home section

- Which, if any, of these activities do you ever take part in or go to?  
Religious services/Films or videos/Entertainment from outside the home/Bingo or games, incl card games/Discussion groups/Reminiscence group/Arts and crafts, incl knitting, sewing and painting/Classes or lectures/Music or singing group/Clubs/social groups/Trips and outings/Parties/Self-help or mutual support group
- Do you receive visits from friends or relatives who live outside this home? How often?
- Do you manage to take walks or trips outside?

Adults section

- During the past 4 weeks, how much of the time has your physical health or emotional problems interfered with your social activities (like visiting with friends, relatives, etc.)?
- Have you done any of these activities in the past 4 weeks? Also asks how often and how much time spent doing activity.  
Swimming/Cycling/Keep fit/other exercises for fitness/Exercises as part of physiotherapy/Dancing/Golf/Yoga/Bowls
- Any other activity?
- Which, if any, of these you have done in the past fortnight?  
Went to visit relatives/Had relatives visit me/Went out with relatives/Spoke to relatives on the phone/Went to visit friends/Had friends visit me/Went out with friends/Spoke to friends on the phone/Spoke to neighbours
- Do you join in any of the activities of the following organizations? Also asks are you currently a member of the organizations. Political parties/Trade unions (including students' union)/Environmental group/Parents'/School Association/Education, arts or music group/evening class/Tenants'/Residents' group or Neighbourhood watch/Religious group or church organization/Group for elderly people (eg lunch club)/Youth group/Social club/working men's club/Sports



club/Women's Institute/Townsmen's Guild/Women's Group/Other group or organisation

### **Home Office Citizenship Survey**

- Please pick out the ones which best describe any groups, clubs or organisations you've taken part in, supported or helped, over the last 12 months.

Children's education/schools/Youth/children's activities (outside school)/Education for adults

Sport/exercise (taking part, coaching or going to watch)/Religion/Politics/The elderly/Health, Disability and Social welfare/Safety, First Aid/The environment, animals/Justice and Human Rights/Local community or neighbourhood groups/Citizens' Groups/Hobbies, Recreation/Arts/Social clubs/Trade union activity

- In the past 12 months have you given any [unpaid] help to any of these groups/organizations in any of the ways shown?

Raising or handling money/taking part in sponsored events/Leading the group/member of a committee/Organising or helping to run an activity or event/Visiting people/Befriending or mentoring people/Giving advice/information/counseling/Secretarial, admin or clerical work Providing transport/driving/Representing/Campaigning/Other practical help (eg helping out at school, shopping)/Any other help

### **Longitudinal Survey of Young People in England**

Questions for main parent

- Do you get involved in:

Help out in class/Help out elsewhere e.g. library, school trips, dinner duties/Help with fund-raising activities/Help out with special interest groups like sports/drama/Get involved with Parents and Teachers Associations/Some other activity - Please specify/None of these

Follow up questions on how easy it is to deal with people in the school and whether or not the school makes it easy to get involved.

- In a normal week, that is from Sunday to Saturday, how often do you have an evening meal together as a family?
- How often would you say you *spend an evening at home* together as a family, doing something like watching TV together or something else you can all take part in?
- How often would you say you *go out together as a family* to some sort of event or entertainment or on a special visit somewhere, (not counting just going out for the normal weekly shopping)?

### **Millennium Cohort Study**

Questions on 'parenting activities'(activities carried out with child) - How often do you? Tell stories/Play music/sing songs/dance/other musical activities/Draw/paint/play sport or physical activity games outdoors or indoors/Play with toys or games indoors/Go to park or playground/Get child ready for bed/Look after child on own

Questions on 'child and family activities' – over past 12 months which if any places has child been to?

- Play, pantomime, music concert, circus or other live show/Art gallery, museum or historical site/Zoo, aquarium, wildlife reserve or farm/Theme park or funfair/Cinema/Professional sporting event as a spectator/
- Over the past 12 months how often has child been to/Library/Religious service/class/Club to do sport or physical activity e.g. swimming, gym, dancing, football/How often do you take part in physical activities with [child]/How many hours does child spend watching TV/computer games/How often do all or most of your family spend an evening or part of the weekend at home, doing things together such as watching television or playing an indoor game?/How often does child see grandparents/other relatives

### **National Child Development Study – (Social Participation module in sweep 5)**

- Have you ever been a member of any of the kinds of organizations/are you currently a member

Political Party/Trade Union/Environmental group/Parents'/School association/Tenants/Residents Group or neighbourhood watch/Religious Group or Church Organisation/Voluntary Service Group/Other Community or civic group/Social club/ Working men's club/Sports club/Women's Institute/ Townswomen's Guild/Women's group/ Feminist Organisation/Professional organization/Pensioners group/ organization/Scouts/Guides organization/Any other organization

- How often do you take part in the activities of the organization?
- And in the last 12 months have you - attended a public meeting or rally/taken part in a public demonstration or protest/signed a petition?
- Thinking first of your childhood, were you raised according to any particular religion?
- Which religion was that?
- Do you actively practise any religion now?
- How often, if ever, do you attend any kind of religious service or meeting?

### **(Leisure, Health & Wellbeing module)**

We are interested in the things people do in their leisure time. Please indicate how frequently you do each one...at least once a week/once a month/several times a year/once a year or less/never almost never

- Play sport or go walking or swimming/Go to watch live sport/Go to the cinema/Go to a concert, theatre or other live performance/Have a meal in a restaurant, café or pub/Go for drink in pub or club/Work in the garden/Do DIY, home maintenance or car repairs/Attend leisure activity groups such as evening classes, keep fit, yoga etc./Attend meetings for local groups/voluntary organizations/Do unpaid voluntary work/Visit friends or relations or have them visit you

### **NI Life & Times Survey**

I would now like to ask you about aspects of your social life. Can you please tell me have you done any of the following in the last year?

- Go out for a drink/meal/cinema/concert/visit friend in their home/do main weekly shop.

Are you involved in any clubs or societies like these?

- Animal breeders /Bridge Club /Conservation Society /Drama Club /Horticultural Club /Language Group /Local History Society /Musical Organisation /Professional Organisation /PTA /Scouts/Guides /Trade Organisation /Trade Union /Women's Institute /Knitting Circle

Are you involved with any sporting clubs and societies like these?

- Bowling Club /Golf Club /Soccer Club /Gaelic Football Club /Tennis Club /Watersports Club /Boxing Club /Shooting Club /Gymnastics Club /Dancing Club /Running Club /Cycling Club /Keep Fit Class /Equestrian Club /Pigeon Racing

Are you involved with any church organisations or religious associations like these?

- Mothers Union/Choir/Sunday School/SVP/Interchurch group/Church maintenance/Church finance& planning/BB GB/Altar server/Lay Minister

### **NI Life & Times Survey – 2004 Module on 'Grandparenting and family life'**

- *Do you have child(ren) alive?*
- *Do you have parent(s) alive?*
- *Do you have grandparent(s) alive?*
- *Do you have grandchild(ren) alive?*
- *Do you have great-grandparent(s) alive?*
- *Do you have great-grandchild(ren) alive?*
- *Do you have none of these relatives alive?*
- *Are your grandchildren a very rewarding part of your life?*

- *Do you want a life that is free from too many family duties now your children have grown up?*
- *Have you often put yourself out to help look after grandchildren?*
- *Did you have to cut down or give up work to help look after grandchildren?*
- *How many grandchildren do you have?*
- *Sex of selected grandchild*
- *Age of selected grandchild*
- *Have you had any contact at all with your grandchild in the last two years?*
- *Do you feel close to your grandchild?*
- *Does your grandchild live with you?*
- *How often do you see your grandchild?*
- *How long would it take you to get to where your grandchild lives?*
- *How often do you have contact with your grandchild by phone?*
- *In the past year, how often has your grandchild spent time during the day with you, without their parents?*
- *How often in the past year have you given or received a present from your grandchild?*
- *How often in the past year have you gone to a park or playground with your grandchild together without his/her parents?*
- *How often in the past year have you gone out shopping or to an event with your grandchild without his/her parents?*
- *How often in the past year have you played indoor games etc with your grandchild without his/her parents?*
- *How often in the last year have you gone to visit relatives with your grandchild without his/her parents?*
- *Have you helped with baby-sitting or child-care during the day for your grandchild?*
- *Have you helped with baby-sitting or child-care for your grandchild during the evening?*
- *Have you taken or collected your grandchild from nursery, play-group or school?*
- *Have you cared for your grandchild at home, during an illness or after an accident (grandchild aged 12 or under)?*
- *Have you cared for your grandchild at home, during an illness or after an accident (grandchild aged over 12)?*
- *Have you ever helped out your grandchild's parent(s) with money?*
- *In the past year, have you helped out your grandchild's parent(s) with money?*

- *Have you given your grandchild money?*
- *In the past year, have you given your grandchild money?*
- *Have you ever given your grandchild advice?*
- *In the past year, have you given your grandchild this sort of advice?*
- *Are both your grandchild's own parents still living?*
- *Are your grandchild's parents together?*
- *Did your grandchild stay with you for some of the time at the time of parents' death or separation?*
- *Did you have more contact with your grandchild at the time of parents' death or separation?*
- *Did you have less contact with your grandchild at the time of parents' death or separation?*
- *Did it become more difficult to keep in contact with your grandchild at the time of parents' death or separation?*
- *Were you not allowed to see your grandchild at the time of parents' death or separation?*
- *Do you and your grandchild's parents agree on how best to bring up children?*
- *When important decisions are being made about your grandchild, do you have a say?*
- *When important decisions were being made about your grandchild, did you have a say?*
- *Are your grandparents an important part of your life?*
- *Would you see your grandparents as often as you do if you didn't have to?*
- *Are your grandparents interested in your life?*
- *Do you see your grandparents as often as they would like?*
- *Do people place enough value on the part grandparents play in family life?*
- *Should grandparents should be closely involved in deciding how their grandchildren are brought up?*
- *Do grandparents have little to teach the grandchildren of today?*
- *Do many parents not appreciate the help that grandparents give?*
- *Do grandparents interfere too much with the way their grandchildren are brought up?*
- *Do families need grandparents to help more and more?*

**Surveys of Psychiatric Morbidity - (2007 module on 'social capital and participation')**

- How often do you participate in a voluntary or local community group?
- How often do you attend an adult education or night school class?
- How often do you go to a leisure centre?
- How often do you go to the library?
- Are you actively involved in any of the following clubs or associations?  
Sports or sport supporters club/Hobby or interest group/Political party/Neighbourhood Watch scheme/Parent Teacher Association/Tenants' group/Residents' group/Neighbourhood council  
Religious group/Other local group

**Other information:**

**N.I. Continuous Household Survey**

See modules on:

social capital – describe area, tight knit etc., friendly, trust, how safe is area to walk alone, speak to relatives/friends on phone, sees/speaks to relatives, belong to social club, sports/hobby club, associations, religious groups, other, how often travel outside area, influence decisions in area.

Culture arts and leisure activities (participation in sport, the arts, museums and public libraries) includes question on whether or not respondent can afford to participate in sport/physical activities.

Involvement in children's education – How often do you read to your child?

Place set aside for child to do homework, help with homework.

Activities such as parents evenings, help out in class, Help out with the library, dinner duties, school trips and so on? Fund raising activities, help with special interest groups e.g. sport and drama, breakfast clubs.