

CSA Research PDFs

Centre for Social Action's major research projects

Shaping our Age

Shaping our Age is a three-year, Big Lottery funded project and unique partnership between Royal Voluntary Service, the Centre for Citizen Participation at Brunel University and the Centre for Social Action at De Montfort University.



The project aims to explore how older people define their well-being, and is developing participatory ways in which older people can help each other to achieve their well-being.

It will provide the tools and campaigning materials that could exert massive influence and transform how Royal Voluntary Service works with older people and the way we approach living well in old age

Shaping our Age will inform the entire sector of older people's services including national and local government, health authorities and other partners to enable older people in their well-being to help themselves and each other and many have already signed up to it.

You can read more about the project in the [Shaping our Age launch paper](#)

Phase one of Shaping our Age was a national consultation. We held focus groups and qualitative research interviews to collect insights from a diverse range of older people throughout the UK on the subject of well-being.

We asked them to define their well-being; how they achieve well-being in their lives and to identify the barriers to achieving well-being. We also asked them about the impact of statutory and voluntary services on their well-being and the improvements that could be made to services to improve older people's well-being.

The publication of *Voices on Well-being* marked the conclusion to phase one of Shaping our Age.

The final report of the project is *Involving Older Age: The route to twenty-first century well-being*

DIEGO – (Disseminating Impact from Engagement with User Groups and Organisations) – a JISC/NCCPE funded project linking the participatory research of the CSA with an Impact Analyst at the University of Edinburgh to develop a [case study](#) looking at the analysis of the impact of our participatory research (2012 JISC £28K).

Amplified Resilient Communities

Amplified Leicester

The Standards We Expect

The Centre for Social Action has been a member of a partnership which has been awarded a Joseph Rowntree Foundation research grant for a two year project entitled *The Standards We Expect*; participating approaches to developing person-

centred solutions. The partnership included four organisations and eight individuals and is led by Shaping Our Lives, the independent, national service-user organisation.

The aim of the Project was to encourage and guide the development of systems and processes to support social care service users in eight local areas to determine how their rights/needs are met through a process of involvement and negotiation among key stakeholders, sharing and exchanging with a wider network. Particular attention will be paid to supporting the involvement of service users and face-to-face practitioners, groups which continue to experience particular exclusions in this context.

The approach was based on enabling stakeholders to engage in the process of change through identifying existing forums and developing a range of new ones. This was particularly designed to ensure the involvement of practitioners and service users, enabling stakeholders to develop, share and negotiate their perspectives and contribute on as equal terms as possible to the change process. This will involve the provision of support, information and training by the project team.

Supporting people: Towards a person-centred approach is available to buy from The Policy Press, priced at £19.95 rrp (plus £2.75 p&p).

The Standards We Expect project team have also produced a collection of free guides and studies to accompany the project, including:

Supporting People: towards a person-centred approach (a Summary with easy words and picture)

Working towards person-centred support: A local case study

[Person Centred Support - A Guide for Service Users](#)

[Person-centred support. What service users and practitioners say](#)

[Making a change: A guide to running successful and accessible workshops and training](#)

[The Standards We Expect - Choices for End of Life Care](#)

Community Cohesion in Leicester

The Centre is working with Leicester City Council (LCC) and Voluntary Action Network (VAL) in exploring and measuring community cohesion in Leicester. This project uses the community cohesion assessment instrument developed by LCC and the Centre for Social Action to inform and support the implementation and development of the council's community cohesion strategy and to embed community cohesion across the four themes of the Local Area Agreement blocks. It consists of a research project focusing on different areas of Leicester and another one with young people across the city.

The project is providing opportunities for enhancing community cohesion through a high level of local engagement with local people who are being trained by the CSA to administer the questionnaire. The LCC Cabinet at its meeting on 12 March 2007 agreed to this approach and advised that the programme be carried out across the city based on 10 'Super Output Areas' (SOAs) of varying mix ie, affluent areas, deprived areas, average areas, etc to give good comparative data. A survey is being carried out on 10 per cent of the population of each SOA and several focus groups will gather local knowledge about cohesion within the city of Leicester.

[Leicester Cohesion Report Young People](#)

[Leicester Cohesion Report Adults](#)

Faith and Volunteering Research – managing the research commissioned by Volunteering England to undertake research into volunteering in faith communities in England. (2008/9)

Boeck T, Fleming J, Smith R and Thorp L (2009) Volunteering and Faith Communities in England London: Volunteering England 63 pages <http://tinyurl.com/423zplp>

Critical Review of Youth Engagement in Beacon Authorities

The Centre was commissioned by IDeA in partnership with The NYA and their trainers who are themselves young people, to conduct a critical review of the Beacon authorities' youth engagement structures. The purpose of the review was to consider what structures are working well in enabling youth participation and what real outcomes there have been in the lives of children and young people, the sustainability of their approaches to participation and the impact these strategies have had on the delivery of council objectives and hence how effective the involvement of young people in shaping services has been. Centre staff ran focus groups with young people, interviewed staff in the eight authorities and wrote a report which was then circulated as a printed document. (2007)

[Executive Summary Report](#)

[Influence through participation - Full Report](#)

Big Lottery Fund Re:Action Project: volunteering and social capital

The CSA, in partnership with Youth Action Network, was awarded a grant of £283,000 by the Big Lottery Fund to investigate the impact of volunteering by young people on themselves and their communities, over a three year period. The research investigated how young people's community volunteering contributes to the enhancement of their own social capital and to the well-being of the community as a whole. A core group of young people formed the project steering group and participated in the project design, research, reporting and dissemination processes as equal partners with the research personnel from Youth Action Network and De Montfort University. The research defined the factors which contribute to successful engagement with young people; showing the organisational structures which best promote the empowerment of young people to take on responsibility and exercise authority within organisations and drew conclusions on the nature of the community benefit this produces. (2005-08)

[Project Reaction exec sum](#)

[Project Reaction final report](#)

[Reaction practitioner leaflet](#)

North West Leicestershire Council for Voluntary Service: Social Capital Survey

A Centre staff member worked with the Chief Executive of North West Leicestershire Council for Voluntary Service, in partnership with Leicestershire County Council and the County Local Strategic Partnership, on an enhancing and measuring social capital project as the baseline for the Stronger Communities element of Local Area Agreements. Centre Staff worked with volunteers from the County to devise the survey and trained them in administering it with members of the public. Currently work is underway to analyse the data. (2006)

[Cohesive Communities in Leicestershire - Report](#)

[Social Capital and Stronger Communities in Leicestershire - Executive Summary](#)

[Social Capital and Stronger Communities in Leicestershire - Report](#)

ESRC funded project: 'Young People, Social Capital and the Negotiation of Risk'

This project was part of the ESRC Network: 'Pathways into and out of Crime: Risk Resilience and Diversity' Grant number: L330253001. The main purpose of the study was to investigate the relationship between social capital and young people's navigation of risk pathways, and the role social capital may play in young people's risk decision making and their resilience to risky pathways. The project used an integrated mixed methods study involving 24 in-depth interviews, 17 focus groups with 60 young people, and a questionnaire (500) administered individually and in groups. The total sample comprised 589 young people aged 11–19 and was drawn from the Midlands area. It comprised 131 young people accessed largely through YOTs and Youth Inclusion Projects (YIPs) which include both known offenders and those deemed to be 'at risk' of offending. 458 young people were accessed through local schools and youth groups; this group included some young people who have offended (since for ethical reasons it was not possible to screen them out) but this part of the sample comprised mostly non offenders. The data were analysed using NUDIST QSR 6 and SPSS, and key findings were re-examined with a small sample of persistent offenders ($n = 12$) through in-depth interviews.

Leicester City Council Community Development Audit

Centre staff carried out an audit of community development work in Leicester on behalf of Leicester Partnership. Two questionnaires were circulated within the field, one for organisations employing community development staff and another aimed at community groups. These responses were supplemented by telephone interviews. The project was designed to inform the work of Leicester Partnership by describing the nature and extent of current community development work activity in Leicester. (2005)

Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) Direct Payments Good Practice Guide

The Centre was commissioned to produce a Good Practice Guide to Direct Payments for local authorities by SCIE. An advisory committee made up of disabled people with first hand knowledge of the subject helped to guide and shape the work. A survey was conducted of local authority workers and voluntary sector direct

payment support organisation to identify the major issues arising in this work and focus groups were organised with Direct Payment users facilitated by disabled people to gather first hand experiences. Disabled people also conducted telephone interviews with Direct Payment projects to gather case study material. (2004/5)

Diversity Training Research Project

The Centre was commissioned by the Equality and Diversity Support Service in Leicester to carry out research into the existing capability among identified representative groups in Leicester to deliver Equality and Diversity related training and consultancy. The research aimed to : identify the existing capacity of this group, identify any limitations in skills, knowledge, awareness and capacity to deliver training and consultancy and to identify the intervention required to bridge the gaps in the existing capability within these groups. Representative training courses by various providers were observed and written up by staff and evaluation sheets were completed by participants. (2005)

Department for Education and Skills Review of Young People Leaving Care Groups

A Centre researcher was one of three consultants engaged by the DfES to carry out a consultation with groups of young people in care, care leavers and agencies in the care field, concerning their views on the characteristics, membership and activities of a proposed new organisation, intended to represent and provide a national voice for children and young people in and leaving care. Young people's views were canvassed via 32 face-to-face and telephone interviews and 95 questionnaires. In addition four separate groups of young people were questioned directly. (2003)

Nottingham Urban Youth Team - Changing (Youth) Services

The Centre was commissioned by Nottingham Urban Youth Team to work alongside youth workers, volunteers and a group of young people with the aim of collectively planning a new direction for the youth service. Research was conducted on current youth provision and user and non user views of the positives and negatives of the current Department's youth facilities and activities. Weekly sessions with young people were held to find out what they wanted from the service and develop a user led approach, culminating in the creation of a youth charter for young people in Nottingham (2002)

Nottingham Health Authority (Social Action Research Project)

The Social Action Research Project (SARP) was an Health Education Authority funded project working in two areas in Nottingham. It aimed to test out whether and how social capital in communities can be developed by locally based projects. The Centre's involvement was to work with the projects funded by the SARP to help them undertake their own evaluation of their project's impact on the social capital in the communities in which they work. Project workers were trained in evaluation methods and introduced to the concept of social capital. The Centre developed a framework for identifying and measuring the presence of social capital in communities project which project workers applied to their own work. (2001- 2002)

Nottingham Social Services – needs analysis for people with HIV

A needs analysis of people with HIV status in the Nottingham health district was conducted in the light of the changing incidence of infection. The service implications

were also considered. The aim of the study was to make services more appropriate in the long run for those people who in the past might have been "low" risk, i.e. women, heterosexual people and people from ethnic minorities. (2001)

New Deal for West Ham and Plaistow, Community Consultation

The Centre conducted a community consultation in the Eastlea area around the proposed development of a community resource centre in Eastlea. This piece of work was carried out in partnership with the community architects, Hawkins Brown, and the final report included service and facility recommendations alongside building plans. (2001)

Belgrave Behano, Community Consultation

As part of a significant Millennium Commission bid the Centre was contracted to undertake a rigorous and independent community consultation to discover local views, issues and recommendations for the proposed development of a community resource centre (Peepul Centre) in Belgrave, Leicester. Local Community members were recruited and trained as information gatherers and a series of focus groups were conducted. (2000)

New Deal for Braunstone, Young People's Research and Development Project

The Braunstone Community Association (New Deal) funded this piece of social action research to work with a group of young people using social action methods to discover and document the changes they want to make to the area in which they live. The results will inform New Deal initiatives and spending plans for young people covering the rest of its six-year lifespan. (2000-2001)

Leicestershire Community Health Council

The Centre was commissioned to undertake a review of public opinion around proposed changes to hospital services in Leicester. Focus group interviews took place across the county with people who might not normally get a say in the formal decision making processes that affect their health. (2000)

Leicester City Council, Youth Consultation

The Centre undertook a youth consultation on four estates in north-west Leicester; an area targeted for Single Regeneration Budget funding (SRB5). The research aimed to discover the perceptions and experiences of young people, covering a wide range of existing service provision, and to highlight improvements or additional services that the young people wanted to see locally. (2000)

Early Research Work: Somaliland Development and Returning Home Project

The Somaliland Development and Voluntary Returning Home Project was a 12 month contract funded by the European Union aiming to work with the Somaliland communities based in London, Cardiff, Sheffield and Liverpool to explore the feasibility of returning to Somaliland. A small number of delegates, selected from the Somaliland community, took part in visits to Somaliland to investigate the issues raised by the groups and to assess the prospects for re-settlement. (1999)

Birmingham Voluntary Service Council – Youth Attitudinal Survey

Birmingham Voluntary Service Council commissioned the Centre to carry out a youth consultation research project on three estates in the Kings Norton area of

Birmingham. Kings Norton had been selected to benefit from the New Deals for Communities initiative and the purpose of this research was to discover the needs and aspirations of young people and to ensure their views were represented in the wider planning processes. (1999)

Nottingham East Area Child Care Research

This project was a community consultation with children, young people, parents and carers to find out their thoughts about childcare and play opportunities in the area and to get suggestions about how childcare could be made more accessible to people in the area. Local people were trained to undertake the information gathering. (1999 - 2000)

Church Manor Estate: Youth Consultation

The Centre was commissioned by the Harding Housing Association to carry out a Social Action investigation into the needs, aspirations, experiences and interests of young people living on the estate. A greater understanding between the various agencies was achieved and, based on the findings, a more responsive plan for future work was developed. (1999)

Social Exclusion Unit

The Centre was contracted by the Social Exclusion Unit to analyse the findings of their consultation with a range of organisations on the reasons for young people not being in education, employment or training and to write a report. (1999)

National Mentoring Project

The Centre was contracted by the National Mentoring Network to produce a quality framework with case studies on the subject of mentoring with socially excluded young people. A survey of the field and visits to 18 projects was carried out and a report of current practice and the quality framework document was completed. (1999)

Ramsgate; Community Facilities Survey

Hawkins Brown, Architects and THG Investments sponsored a community consultation on needs and facilities as part of a regeneration and development programme in the Manston Road area in Ramsgate. (1998)

Castle Vale Housing Action Trust. Phase Three Birmingham

The Centre was commissioned to work alongside young people to facilitate their involvement in implementing the recommendations of phases one and two of the research process. (1998)

Presentation Housing London

A youth consultation on a social housing estate in Tulse Hill, South London to involve young people in the regeneration of their estate. (1998)

Nottingham City Council

A contract to work with Nottingham Parenting Initiative on an action research project funded through SRB. The researcher, in conjunction with the workers and the local support group reviewed the progress of the project, analysed its impact and gave support and advice to the workers on action research methods. (1997-1999)

Peterborough City Community Education

A contract to work with the Werrington Action Group, Peterborough to address the issues of vandalism, lack of youth facilities and a growing rift between some young people and adults and professionals in the Werrington area. The researchers conducted a youth consultation and developed and implemented an action plan. (1997/8)

Castle Vale Housing Action Trust, Birmingham Phases One and Two

A youth consultation to ascertain the perceptions, needs and aspirations of young residents on a large housing estate. The work involved group discussions with young people and interested parents and issue based youth work on lines suggested by them. From these consultations the Centre developed action plans alongside unattached young people, setting out imaginative ways in which they could be involved in the regeneration process. (1997)

NACRO Essex - SHAPE

A homelessness research project on behalf of the Single Homeless Accommodation Project (SHAPE) to obtain an accurate picture of homelessness and housing needs in the county. The research informed the planning of services to single homeless young people with a particular emphasis on young offenders. (1996)

Knowsley Borough Council

Detached Youth and Playwork Study in two areas of Knowsley, Liverpool - the Princess area of North Huyton and the Southdene area of Kirkby. The purpose of the research was to present a comprehensive picture of the needs, issues, concerns, aspirations and culture of young people to the policy and decision makers in the area to assist in the planning of youth service provision. (1996)

Derbyshire Health Promotion Unit

A research project in four Derbyshire schools, facilitating health focus groups with 12 and 15 year olds to gain in depth information about their attitudes to and opinions on health issues. (1996)

Barking and Dagenham Disablement Association and Social Services Department

Research into services and needs of disabled children and their families in Barking and Dagenham. The Disablement Association of Barking and Dagenham and the local authority Social Services Department sponsored the research. (1995/1996)

Tower Hamlets Race Equality Council

The Centre was commissioned by THREC to carry out research into community need and service provision in the Somali refugee community. The study was funded by Bethnal Green City Challenge and focused on residents in the Bethnal Green area of London. (1995/6)

Barnardos/Derby City Council - Sinfin

A research study of community needs on the Sinfin Estate, Derby. The work focused on the childcare needs of residents. Recommendations for, and a feasibility study

on, the development of a community managed childcare facility on the estate were accepted. (1995).

Buckinghamshire Family Health -Milton Keynes

A community health needs assessment research project on two estates in Milton Keynes. The research was sponsored by Buckinghamshire Family Health Services Authority and managed through the Neighbourhood Inter Agency Planning Services Group. Further community health development initiatives are planned in Milton Keynes as a result of this project. (1995)

Derbyshire Local Planning Group for Adult Services

A research contract to enable disabled people who use day care, respite care and respite care facilities to voice their opinions on these services, and their ideas on ways to improve support. (1995)

NSPCC, Nottingham

Study to establish the feasibility of, and provide orientation data for, a proposed 'black families project' in the St Anne's and Sneinton areas of Nottingham. The study involved gathering information from local people (potential users of such a project) and statutory and voluntary organisations with an interest and involvement in the subject area. In the context of very critical views of current services for black children and their parents, and of the presentation of statutory and voluntary children's welfare agencies to this user group, the feasibility of such a project was established with indications for a user centred/community development focus. (1992/1993)

Nottingham Social Services Department and NCH Action for Children

Survey and evaluation of users' and workers' views of the Radford Shared Care Project - a joint statutory/voluntary funded preventive child-care project focusing on the maintenance of children, assessed as seriously at risk of abuse, in their families through intensive support for the parents. This research established the need for such a project and the viability of a user-centred practice approach. (1990/1991)

Summary of Training undertaken by the Centre for Social Action in the UK: Faith and Cohesion Project

Centre staff worked with members of SDSA (School Development Support Agency) on a project funded by the Home Office they had been commissioned by the recently formed Institute of Community Cohesion to undertake. The aim of the project was to gain young people's ideas and opinions about the successful promotion of inter-faith work, in particular:

- To gain young people's knowledge and awareness of different faiths
- To gain young people's knowledge of issues relating to inter-faith activities
- To gain young people's views of constraints to inter-faith activities
- To seek recommendations as to how to promote inter-faith activities

A one-day workshop was facilitated with members of SDSA to help them plan the sessions they would then go on to facilitate with groups of young people. (2006)

Involving service users in research

Trent RDSU, Shaping Our Lives and CSA formed a partnership to offer training and consultancy for researchers, and service users who wish to develop collaborative research projects. Training workshops were held which acted as an introduction to service-user involvement in September and November 2005. (2005)

Portsmouth Housing Association – youth participation

Centre staff provided a day's training for workers and residents involved with this Association on the theme of involving young people as tenants in activities on the estate. They used material from Youth Action 2, a website resource funded by the Housing Corporation, which updated a Centre publication called Youth Agenda, working with young people on their own ground. (2005)

Burnt Tree Sure Start – staff development, partnership working, evaluation

The Centre was commissioned to run separate training courses for staff and parent/volunteers of the Burnt Tree Sure Start project in the West Midlands, with follow-up consultancy. Training for staff, covered team building, empowerment, capacity building, community development and participation. Training for parents/volunteers covered community involvement, action planning, managing community programmes and recruiting, training and managing volunteers. Also included a training course in methods of evaluation/consultation for community members. (2003/4)

Notting Hill Housing Trust - Youth Agenda 2

The Centre was commissioned by Notting Hill Housing Trust to produce new resources updating their previous publication on the theme of involving young people in their local communities. "Youth Agenda 2 - the management of youth involvement" was created in the form of a website and CD-rom, as an aid to community groups and registered social landlords who want access to ideas and exercises which will help them engage with young people on their estates. Six separate day training courses around the country were also provided as an introduction to the approach. (2003)

Leicester City Health Action Zone – social capital and evaluation

Leicester HAZ has commissioned the Centre for Social Action to provide training in the use of social capital as an evaluation framework for the Wellbeing wing of the

new Peepul's Centre community building, based in Leicester. Centre researchers will provide three half-day training sessions on ways in which social capital concepts can be used to inform the evaluation of community projects. (2003)

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council – involving communities

Social action training with an inter-agency group of professionals working in the Tipton area of Sandwell to implement the Framework for Community Engagement. Explored practical ways that staff could work to empower people to have more say and control over their lives and examined barriers to involvement and issues of equity and inclusion. Aimed to devise strategies for identifying and working with community members who are potential change agents/local champions. A wide range of social action methods and techniques designed to facilitate participation were passed on to participants and practical action plans devised. (2002)

Aylesbury New Deal for Communities - Young People's Research Project

The Centre was commissioned to devise a six month social action training and research project that would aim to find out how young people would like to see future New Deal activity developed and to promote and increase their participation in local decision-making and educational opportunities. Six local people were recruited from the Aylesbury estate and attended a course in social action methods and subsequently conducted a six month youth research project, with support from facilitated consultancy sessions provided by Centre staff. Centre trainers also presented a series of youth education workshops. (2002)

Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People's Young Disabled People's Forum (GMCDP)

GMCDP (Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People) received funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to facilitate a Young Disabled People's Peer Mentoring Project for disabled young people (aged from 15-25 years) living in the Greater Manchester area. In order to disseminate the findings of the project in a format accessible to a wide range of young people, a CD-rom was produced. This comprised good practice guidelines for projects working with disabled young people. A Centre trainer facilitated six workshop sessions with young people between February and April 2002 to decide on the content of the CD-rom and also organised one or two focus groups with professional groups in Manchester, to consult them on the good practice guidelines. (2002)

Disability Rights and Empowerment

The Centre was commissioned to run a training course on Disability Rights and Empowerment for 13 disabled activists and their personal assistants representing organisations of disabled people from South Africa, Chile, Croatia, India, Japan, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Israel, France, Botswana and Malta. The seminar took place in Wales and modelled a way of working that involved finding starting points for learning and change that everyone could engage with, which enabled participants to explore their own journey to rights and empowerment. (2002)

Fox Hollies - Youth Safe Haven

The Centre was commissioned to carry out a six - week social action training course, with follow-up consultancy, for community members in the Fox Hollies Ward of Birmingham. The West Midlands Police were sponsoring a three-year multi-agency

project to tackle youth anti-social behaviour in the area and the training was designed to enable community members to carry out an initial youth consultation and be fully involved in the subsequent programme. (2002)

Birmingham South YOT- social action project

The Crime Reduction and Social Inclusion Unit at the West Midlands Government Office funded this initiative. Selected members of the Youth Offending Team staff and other local workers were trained in using social action techniques to engage with local young people in a variety of crime prevention projects. The Centre also provided ongoing consultancy support. (2001-2002)

Northampton Life Long Learning – participative youth work

An intensive two-day residential course aimed at Police and Youth Workers to develop inter-agency working, a better understanding of each other's roles and of social action approaches to working with young people. The Centre provided ongoing consultancy support for the resulting spin off projects. (2000-2002)

Nottingham Life Long Learning, Spring School

The Centre facilitated a three-day "Spring School" aimed at a group of 60 young people who had experienced difficulties with their formal education and were getting back into learning as young adults. Life Long Learning commissioned the event in order to discover how to better tailor its learning provision for the people who need it most. (2001)

Warwickshire SSD Pathway Planning Training

Two facilitated two-day courses for a group of foster carers, senior foster carers, family support workers, social workers and ESF project worker from Warwickshire on the topic of Pathway Planning in the wake of the Leaving Care Act 2001. The courses focussed on getting all the professionals who are responsible for young people in care to work together to provide a comprehensive and relevant pathway planning service. (2001)

Testway Housing and Wales and West Housing Association Youth Agenda

The Centre designed and facilitated training courses for social housing providers based on Youth Agenda - a good practice guide to working with young people on their home ground. The guide was written using case studies from a partnership project between the Guinness Trust Group and CSA. The work was funded by the Housing Corporation under their innovation and good practice grant scheme. (2001)

Early Training Projects: Birmingham Foster Carers Association

The BFCA undertook some research amongst their members, children and birth parents about their views of parental access visits within the foster home. The Centre for Social Action provided training for eight BFCA members, who interviewed birthparents, children being fostered, foster carers and their children to get their views of the current situation and how they thought it could be improved. The Centre for Social Action supported the researchers and helped with the production of the report. (1999)

Institute of Careers Guidance

In association with the Institute, the Centre provided training for the Careers advisers who work with disaffected young people, on Social Action principles and approaches which they can adopt in their work. A residential training event was held and this was followed up with a day's training on Social Action groupwork for those unable to attend the residential. Staff also offered a workshop at an Institute conference (1998/99)

Leicester Community Health Council

Funded by the Health Policy Unit at Leicester City Council the Centre ran a training workshop on monitoring and evaluation for the Leicester Community Health Project. (1998)

Birmingham Foster Care Association (BFCA)

Consultancy and training, was provided for the foster care association in Birmingham, focussing on organisational development. (1998)

De Montfort University Widening Participation

Widening Participation is a research project undertaken by De Montfort University and its partner Colleges of Further Education to find out why it is that people do not get involved in learning once they have left school. The Centre for Social Action provided training and consultancy to the college based staff to undertake the consultation. (1997/1998)