

Longview's main mode of working is to form expert groups to review research, communicate the results and identify knowledge gaps. The first three projects are:

- **Children and cognitive functioning** – impact on and impact of education and social policy and other changes in the social environment on the changing nature and outcomes of cognitive development
- **Attrition** – the problem of drop-out in longitudinal research, how to reduce it through improved survey practice and the information needs for optimum adjustment of results to take account of it
- **Review of panel and cohort studies** – undertaken for the Economic and Social Research Council to inform their strategy for supporting longitudinal studies

Longview, is supported financially by NatCen (National Centre for Social Research) and ICCS (International Centre for Child Studies). The new organisation builds through its Trustees on long-standing collaboration between University College (including the Institute of Child Health), the Institute of Education, and the National Centre for Social Research that between them house a number of the main British longitudinal studies – the 1946, 1958, 1970 and Millennium birth cohort studies, the English Longitudinal study of Ageing and the Whitehall Studies of Chronic Illness. The wider remit of Longview is reflected through Trustees from the UK Longitudinal Studies Centre at the University of Essex, with responsibility for the British Household Panel Survey and the Longitudinal Studies Centre – Scotland with responsibility for the Census-based Scottish Longitudinal Study.

Longview Trustees: Norman Glass, (Chair), *National Centre for Social Research*; John Bynner (Secretary of the Board and Director of Longview); Neville Butler, *Director of the International Centre for Child Studies*; Michael Marmot, *Director of the Institute for Health, Well-being and Society, University College London*; Michael Wadsworth, *Director of the MRC National Survey of Health and Development, University College London*; Heather Joshi, *Director of the Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Institute of Education*; Nick Buck, *Director of the UK Longitudinal Studies Centre, University of Essex*; Paul Boyle, *Director of the Longitudinal Studies Centre – Scotland*; Harvey Goldstein, *Director of the Multi-Level Modelling Centre, University of Bristol*; Carli Lessof, *Director of the Longitudinal Studies Group, National Centre for Social Research.*

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Longitudinal Research

Longitudinal research is the best means we have for understanding life in modern Britain. It has much to say about new challenges ranging from the effect of diet and environmental changes on health and well-being to the social and economic consequences of longevity and the ageing population. Good policy is founded on the evidence that the best longitudinal research can provide.

Longview's Aims

- Promote longitudinal research to policy makers, social scientists and funders and inform the general public
- Improve communication between policy makers and researchers about the results of longitudinal enquiry and the questions that it should address
- Help meet the challenges of undertaking longitudinal enquiry through methodological development and improved survey practice
- Seek means of integrating theoretical perspectives and research approaches across the scientific disciplines engaged in longitudinal study
- Appraise capacity in the UK to design, undertake, analyse the data and interpret the results of longitudinal research, identifying the training needs in different sections of the longitudinal research community and the locations where such training could be best developed

Achieving the Aims

The main function of Longview is to invest intellectual effort into the problem areas encompassed by each of these aims with a view to formulating solutions and recommending how they might be most effectively pursued. Immediate products include reports tailored to particular audiences, including national bodies such as the UK Data Forum, ESRC's Research Resources Board and the National Longitudinal Strategy Committee. There will also be regular conferences to debate emerging challenges and new findings, with publication where appropriate of the papers presented. A magazine or journal will be produced twice a year to distil for a wide audience what has been learnt from the work undertaken so far.

