

## **BCS70 2012 Survey Consultative Working Groups Guidance**

The 1970 cohort represent the mid-point of 'Generation X', and when we survey them in 2012, they will be entering early middle-age. There is no doubt that this generation will in many regards experience middle-age differently from the previous 'baby-boomer' generation. In comparison with the 1958 cohort, we know that the 1970 cohort's lives differ in some important ways. The 2012 survey presents a unique opportunity to understand the lives of this cohort as they enter a new stage of life. We would like to offer the opportunity for involvement in four working groups corresponding to important areas of social change.

### **1. Education, training, employment, income and social mobility**

- This generation experienced an expansion in the education system, but whereas the previous generation experienced substantial upward social mobility in absolute terms (more 'room at the top') this is not the case for the 1970 generation. Debate continues regarding the experience of relative social mobility.
- Women's employment became the norm, including for mothers.
- Income inequalities between individuals and households have increased.
- Security of employment has declined.

### **2. Family, Housing and Geography**

- Relationships between the sexes have become more equal
- Child-bearing has been delayed to later ages, especially for more educated women. Both fertility problems and chosen childlessness have increased.
- Marriage has declined in popularity.
- The 1970 cohort are more likely than previous cohorts to be the children of divorced parents, and to become divorced themselves.
- The cost of housing has rocketed, leading to a transfer of wealth upwards to the older generation.

### **3. Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing**

- Levels of overweight and obesity have increased.
- Levels of malaise have increased.

### **4. Social and Cultural participation, Values, Attitudes and Beliefs**

- There has been a perceived weakening of social ties, decline in social and cultural participation, and increase in loneliness.
- The internet, email and online social networking are entrenched in daily life for this generation.
- The place of food in the culture has changed, with a general decline in cooking skills combined with a rise in food as a niche interest.
- Social values have become more tolerant, particularly regarding race, gender and sexuality.
- Religiosity and Christian religious attendance have declined.

## Guidance BCS70 2012

### Potential content

The 2012 follow-up is planned to take the form of a 75 minute face to face survey. It is also likely that an additional 16-page paper self-completion questionnaire (or possibly a web-based questionnaire of equivalent length) will be administered. (A 16-page paper questionnaire equates to approximately 20 minutes worth of additional questions – provided they are in a suitable format).

Table 1 below contains a summary of what the BCS70 team considers to be the ‘essential’ content which will form the backbone of the survey. Table 1 shows that this content is estimated to represent just under half an hour’s worth of interviewing time (based on 2008/9 module timings provided by fieldwork contractor). Table 2 provides a summary of some additional questions / topics which could potentially be considered for inclusion. Most of these questions / topics were either included at NCDS Age 42, the BCS70 Age 34 survey or the NCDS Age 50 survey. An assessment has been provided as to whether these areas should be considered ‘high’, ‘medium’ or ‘low’ priority for inclusion in the BCS Age 42 survey. The areas identified as ‘high’ priority could all be accommodated within the 75 minute interview but decisions will need to be made over which of the ‘medium’ priority areas should be included. Clearly there may be many other questions / topics which could also be considered for inclusion. Tables 1 and 2 are merely for guidance, and should not be seen as prescriptive.

**Table 1: BCS70 2012 – ‘Essential’ content**

Block	Questions	Time (based on 2008/9)
<b>Introduction and Household Grid</b>	<p><b>Introductions</b></p> <p><b>Type of Accomodation</b></p> <p><b>Marital Status</b></p> <p><b>Details of each member of household:</b> Sex, Age, Relationship to cohort member</p> <p><b>Absent children:</b> Sex, Age, Relationship to cohort member</p> <p>Absent parents: Contact between children and absent parents, Whether absent parent pays maintenance</p> <p><b>Parenthood of children (living in household or elsewhere):</b></p> <p>Whether cohort members’ partner is parent of cohort members’ natural children</p> <p><b>Ethnicity / language:</b> Ethnicity, National Identity, Whether English is usual language spoken at home</p>	3 minutes
<b>Housing</b>	<p><b>Housing history:</b> Whether living at same address as at last interview and if not details of all previous addresses (including periods of homelessness: Dates of moves, reasons for moving, Postcodes of addresses (or town if not known)</p> <p><b>Current home:</b> Type of house (flat/terraced house etc), Number of rooms, Tenure</p>	2 minutes

<b>Relationships</b>	<p><b>Relationship history:</b> Information collected about all co-habiting relationships since previous interview (up to and including current partner)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When started living together</li> <li>• Whether male or female</li> <li>• Age of partner when started living together</li> <li>• Legal status of partner when moved in together</li> <li>• Whether got married</li> <li>• When got married</li> <li>• When stopped living together (ex-partners only)</li> <li>• Whether got divorced (ex-partners only)</li> <li>• When got divorced (ex-partners only)</li> <li>• When partner died (ex-partners only)</li> </ul> <p><b>For those not currently in a co-habiting relationship:</b></p> <p>Whether in a relationship  Length of relationship  Whether person is male or female</p>	2 minutes
<b>Pregnancies and births</b>	<p><b>For those who have been pregnant since last interview:</b>  Number of pregnancies since previous interview</p> <p><b>For each pregnancy:</b>  Number of babies carried</p> <p><b>For each baby carried:</b>  Outcome of pregnancy</p> <p><b>For each live birth:</b>  Whether child is still alive  Sex of child  Weight at birth  Date of birth  Whether early / late / on time  Whether anything wrong at birth (and details of the problem if so)  Whether current partner is other parent</p>	1 minute
<b>Adopted Children</b>	<p>Age of child when adopted  Whether child adopted by both cohort member and partner  Whether child is cohort member's partner's natural child</p>	0 minutes
<b>Absent Children</b>	<p>Who child lives with  When child last lived with cohort member  Frequency of contact with child  Whether cohort member contributes to child's maintenance (for children aged 18 or under)</p>	1 minute
<b>Other relatives</b>	<p><b>Whether parents are alive:</b></p> <p>Whether cohort member's mother is still alive  Age when mother died  Whether cohort member's father is still alive  Age when father died</p> <p><b>Help provided to parents:</b></p> <p>Whether cohort member's mother and father live together  Tasks done for parents  Hours spent caring for parents</p>	1 minute

<b>Family Income</b>	Sources of income Total annual income (cohort member and partner) before tax How well cohort member feels they are currently managing financially	2 minutes
<b>Employment</b>	<p><b>Economic Activity History:</b></p> <p><b>Details of all periods of economic activity:</b> Dates If employed: Job details to derive SOC Reason for changing job</p> <p><b>Current employment:</b> Number of jobs Whether been promoted (if still working for same employer as at last interview) Job details (SOC)</p> <p><b>If an employee:</b> Whether a private or public sector organisation Net and gross pay – amount and period covered Hours usually worked per week (including overtime but excluding meal breaks)</p> <p><b>If self-employed:</b> Number of hours worked per week Type of self-employment</p>	3 minutes
<b>Partner / Spouse</b>	Age partner left full-time education Partner's current economic activity status	1 minute
<b>Educational and vocational qualifications</b>	Age left full-time education (if not already known)  <b>Qualifications achieved:</b> Whether achieved any qualifications since previous interview Types of qualifications achieved (Degree, A-Level, BTEC etc)  <b>Details of each qualification:</b> Number of qualifications Subject of qualification When qualification awarded Whether studied full-time or part-time	2 minutes
<b>Health and health behaviour</b>	Self-rating of general health Rating of health in comparison with one year ago Whether currently suffering from any health conditions Whether seen a doctor about each condition in the last 12 months Whether registered disabled Whether health limits daily activities (in comparison to most people of same age) Activities which cohort member finds difficult to do alone Whether health limits type of work or amount of work that cohort member can do	2 minutes
<b>Smoking and drinking</b>	<p><b>Smoking:</b> Whether currently smokes regularly or occasionally, or has smoked in the past or has never smoked Number of cigarettes smoked per day Age started smoking Age stopped smoking (if applicable)</p> <p><b>Drinking: (As per NCDS 2008/9)</b> Regularity of drinking an alcoholic drink Amount of beer drank in last week Amount of spirits drank in last week Amount of wine drank in last week</p>	2 minutes

	Amount of sherry drank in last week Other alcoholic drinks drank in last week	
<b>Collection of consents</b>	Consents to provide CLS with access to routinely collected health and economic records	5 minutes
<b>Collection of contact information</b>		5 minutes
<b>Total</b>		<b>32 minutes</b>

**Table 2 – Additional questions / topics which could potentially be included in the BCS70 2012 follow-up.**

<b>Topic / Block</b>	<b>Time available for additional questions</b>	<b>Additional Questions</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<b>Household Grid</b>	1	Marital status of all occupants of household Other languages spoken at home	L L
<b>Housing</b>	1	Equity and value of home Satisfaction with local area	M M
<b>Pregnancies / Children</b>	5	Use of birth control Smoking before / during pregnancy Periods of lone parenthood Voluntary childlessness/ infertility Partner's children (Whether partner has children from a previous relationship and contact with these children) Older children (Economic activity, highest qualification, children of their own)	L M M H M H
<b>Family</b>	5	Family activities (Trips, cinema etc) Demands of looking after children Whether spends enough time with children Closeness of family  How often sees mother Closeness of relationship with mother How often sees father Closeness of relationship with father  Whether parents ever permanently divorced or separated How old when parents separated  Where parents live (postcode or town) How often speak on the phone Help given to partner's parents and time spent caring for partner's parents Relationship satisfaction Domestic labour	M M M M  M M M M  M M M M M M M M M
<b>Social / Emotional Support</b>	4	Social / emotional support networks Contact with friends Trust Neighbourhood Modes of communication, including online social networking	M M M M M
<b>Family Income</b>	4	Savings and investments Organisation of finances (pooled with	H M

