



Current Work and Future Directions

August 2011

The Carnegie UK Trust works to improve the lives of people throughout the UK and Ireland, by changing minds through influencing policy, and by changing lives through innovative practice and partnership work.

The Carnegie UK Trust is at an exciting time in its development. We have a new strategic direction for 2011 – 2015 and a new policy team based in Dunfermline to deliver our objectives.

The Trust remains focused on our core objective of improving well-being in the UK and Ireland. But, as Carnegie himself outlined in our Trust Deed and subsequently in our Royal Charter, the needs of people change over time and we must be flexible in our approach to respond to those changes.

We aim to use the history of the Trust as a launch pad for future work. We have a strong track record in areas like public libraries, support for cultural activity, social welfare, further education, the role of civil society and rural development. Each of these areas relates to an aspect of well-being, for example access to knowledge and culture, participation in society and access to goods and services. Our challenge is to explore how society can best meet these needs in the twenty-first century – the solutions will look very different now to those developed in the early twentieth century.

The Trust's new policy team has been tasked with identifying contemporary policy issues to be carefully researched, evaluated and reviewed. Our work is directed at finding practical and sustainable solutions to social problems and advocating these to stakeholder and decision-makers.

The Trust welcomes every opportunity to discuss ideas with stakeholders, including those from the public sector, private sector, voluntary organisations and communities. We are open to innovative ways of working in partnership with stakeholders – recognising that real change is often the result of active engagement and collaboration.

Martyn Evans
Chief Executive

Jennifer Wallace
Policy Manager

If you would like to discuss potential partnerships or collaborations please contact Jennifer Wallace, Policy Manager (Jennifer@carnegieuk.org).

Enterprise & Society

In recent years, the Trust has been a driving force in developing **new models for enterprise** in rural communities. In the same spirit, the Trust now wants to look at how all communities and individuals can be supported to thrive, as traditional patterns of trade and employment become less relevant to more and more people.



The Trust has a proven heritage in the development of **skills and lifelong learning** through funding the WEA, and helping to create Carnegie College in Leeds, Colleg Harlec in Wales, and Newbattle Abbey College in Scotland. The Trust continues to be interested in skills development, equality of access to skills, and the relationship between education and the economy.

The Trust also works to understand how change in a globalised economy is impacting individuals and individual

decision making. It wants to base its research and ideas on the **practical economic experiences** of people in the UK and Ireland.

Current work on Enterprise and Society

- Building on its heritage, the Trust has launched a project to learn about the attitudes of young **Further Education** students to **entrepreneurship, flexible employment and risk** taking, and identify innovations that can help to embed enterprise culture in colleges and student experiences.

- Cross-border **international institutions** have growing power in the **regulation of markets** and consumer interactions. This project will measure public awareness of and attitudes to international regulators and their networks, and develop new methods for ensuring their transparency and accountability to the public.
- We will continue to advocate the key messages of our 2011 report **Measuring What Matters** which argues that GDP is an insufficient and misleading measure of prosperity. Building on the 2009 Stiglitz Report and the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework, the report calls for better tools to assess economic performance, quality of life, sustainability and well-being.
- **Arms-Length Bodies**, often described as 'Quangos', are a significant part of the modern public sector. Their status



is subject to changes in political climate and public attitudes. This joint project with the Local Government Information Unit explores approaches to ALBs in the UK's jurisdictions, their value to the modern state, and the integrity of their governance structures.

For more information on our work on Enterprise and Society contact Jim Metcalfe, Senior Policy Officer (jim@carnegieuk.org).



Knowledge and Culture

Since its earliest days the Trust has been committed to supporting access to knowledge and culture. The Trust made a historic investment in the development of libraries, and it is timely for the Trust to reconsider its position on **public libraries** and **access to knowledge**, at a time when libraries are increasingly under threat from cuts in public expenditure.

The Trust has always had a strong interest in supporting involvement in **cultural activities**, particularly where these activities also provide social benefit. The Trust has a long history of providing support for innovative practice, whether that was looking at the role of arts activity in the lives of disabled people, or creating community drama projects, choirs or festivals in deprived areas. The arts are increasingly used as a tool to support social change, to create social capital, or in therapeutic interventions. The Trust is keen to contribute to emerging policy in this area, and to encourage and support cultural activity which brings direct social benefit to those involved.

Current work on Knowledge and Culture

- We have commissioned research to provide evidence of public attitudes to libraries across the UK and Ireland, to inform a clear policy position on this important issue. We will also be reviewing the literature in this area and meeting key stakeholders, with a view to publishing a report on the **Future of Public Libraries** early in 2012.
- We have funded a research scoping exercise of the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway shadowing scheme. The **CILIP shadowing scheme** was established in 1994 and encourages

reading among young people. The research aims to explore the shadowing scheme's impact on children and young peoples' reading habits as well as the benefits to librarians, group leaders, schools and libraries who are participating in the scheme.

- Carnegie UK Trust has sponsored the **CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway shadowing scheme** since 2006 and we are committed to providing funding for the scheme for the next four years until 2015.
- Blair Jenkins OBE, former Head of News at both BBC Scotland and STV, has been appointed a Carnegie Fellow to lead our work on **News, Media and Society**. This highly topical project, which builds on the work of the Trust's Commission of Inquiry into the Future of Civil Society in the UK project is focusing on three key issues – ethical standards in journalism; the increasing importance of new forms of local news; and how civic society can contribute to stronger media.

For more information on our work on Knowledge and Culture contact Liz Macdonald, Senior Policy Officer (lizm@carnegieuk.org).

People and Place

The Trust has played a prominent role in helping to build **strong communities**, and this remains a critical element of our work. Across the UK and Ireland communities face significant challenges and risks; questions of access to, use of, and ownership of land are highly relevant; and the way in which communities interact with and rely upon each other is changing rapidly.



The Trust is keen to examine these issues, and look at what action needs to be taken to ensure that people can live in settings which enable them to lead satisfying and fulfilling lives.

Current work on People and Place

- We will publish a book by Professor Jim Hunter on **Community Ownership of Land**. The book will provide an insight into the implications and impact for local communities of land reform in Scotland over the past two decades.
- **Rural Housing Burdens** help to ensure that land in Scotland remains accessible and affordable for local communities in rural areas. This review examines how effective these burdens have been since they were introduced in 2003, and provides recommendations for the further improvement of the system.
- In 2011/12 we will review the progress made by against the recommendations set by the Commission for Rural Community Development five years ago

and explore **Future Directions in Rural Development** across the UK and Ireland.

- We are carrying out a scoping exercise to explore **rural development networks** within the UK and Ireland. The study will explore the nature of rural networks and the services that they provide for individuals and communities. The purpose of this survey is to create a comprehensive map of rural networks within the UK and Ireland.
- A range of important community resources – owned by public, private or third sector providers – face growing threats and challenges to their sustainability. **Sustainable Community Resources** will examine the extent and nature of the threats facing these resources, and seeks to provide new and innovative solutions to help secure their future for the medium to long-term.



- Problems such as vandalism, broken glass, litter and graffiti can have a significant impact on community well-being. Our **Tackling Incivilities** project examines citizens' perceptions of these issues; the extent and nature of their impact on well-being; and how they can best be identified, addressed and tackled.

For more information on our work on People and Place contact Douglas White, Senior Policy Officer (douglas@carnegieuk.org).



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