

# The Social Impacts Task Force

## Background

The Social Impacts Task Force (SITF) was set up in August 2010 with the aim of developing a cross-Government approach to understanding social impacts, and embedding consideration of such impacts in policymaking. Members of the taskforce are analysts from across Whitehall and the devolved administrations with expertise and experience in this area, and it meets on a quarterly basis.

## Work on National Wellbeing

SITF has been playing an important role in sharing good practice and guidance on wellbeing analysis. In particular it is:

- Sharing departmental and devolved administration evidence and analysis of wellbeing, to improve the scope and quality of wellbeing analysis in departments
- Supporting the use of the ONS wellbeing data by encouraging and showcasing good practice
- Increasing the use of wellbeing questions in public surveys and evaluation, drawing on the expertise of external research providers, and disseminating information on which surveys include wellbeing questions
- Delivering a joint training course with the Cabinet Office for analysts on wellbeing, which will provide analysts with the necessary skills to be able to use and analyse wellbeing data in their policy areas
- Delivering events and seminars on wellbeing

## Outputs to Date:

Some outputs of the Social Impacts Task Force include:

- A survey of the range and approaches used to assess social impacts across departments
- A Green Book discussion paper: 'Valuation techniques for Social Cost Benefit Analysis – Stated Preference, Revealed Preference and Subjective Wellbeing Approaches'<sup>1</sup>
- A framework for understanding the social impacts of policy and their effects on wellbeing<sup>2</sup>
- A session at the 2011 joint Government Economic Service (GES) – Government Social Research (GSR) conference, "Working together for Policy Impact"

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<sup>1</sup> [http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/greenbook\\_valuationtechniques.pdf](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/greenbook_valuationtechniques.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/69196/pb13467-social-impacts-wellbeing-110403.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69196/pb13467-social-impacts-wellbeing-110403.pdf)