Inequalities Research Network: key themes from workshop 4th April 2016

Research Priorities

Participants agreed that a thematic focus is needed within the generic area of inequalities research. Five themes and potential issues/research questions relating to each theme were identified at the workshop:

1. **WORK**
   - Is work a solution to poverty? What do we mean by work? (eg. Does this include voluntary activities?)
   - Unintended consequences of legislative changes addressing poverty
   - Connections with youth/transition and other themes such as mental health, Islamophobia, economic migration.
   - How to address a risk averse culture (caused by lack of resources lack of evidence lack of public interest or precedent pressure) that prevents change especially radically different processes and structures such as changes to the tax benefit system
   - Wages and debt

2. **MENTAL HEALTH**
   - What are the barriers for employers in relation to staff with mental illness? What would help improve opportunities and access to employment?
   - Access to mental health services and the relevance/value of services
   - Community mobilisation - how do consultation groups influence public participation (issues of representation and who gets involved)? How can communities be included in decision-making?

3. **ISLAMOPHOBIA**
   - How can a Community Organising approach address issues of Islamophobia?
     - How can communities, institutions and individuals be empowered to contribute to addressing Islamophobia?
   - How effective is a co-produced initiative to reduce Islamophobia, involving community organisations and local public institutions?
     - How can a co-produced tool be used by public and community organisations?
     - What are the costs of implementing the initiative?

4. **YOUNG PEOPLE**
   - Connections with transition and other themes: work, mental health, Islamophobia and public transport

5. **TRANSPORT**
   - Connections with other themes: work, mental health, Islamophobia and young people

Participants agreed that research on the first theme of WORK should incorporate all of the other themes. The remaining themes can be developed in their own right but should also address the overlap with all the other areas. Attention to other marginalised groups may also be appropriate.