

As part of Challenge Poverty Week 2013, the Glasgow Centre for Population Health is publishing three reports and hosting an event, each with its own focus on poverty.

The reports will become available online over the course of the week – see [www.gcph.co.uk](http://www.gcph.co.uk) and [www.gowellonline.com](http://www.gowellonline.com) for more details.

### **Financial stress and mental wellbeing in an age of austerity: evidence from the GoWell surveys 2006-2011**

This report looks at the experience of financial stress over time and its relationship to mental health and wellbeing among residents of deprived areas in Glasgow, Scotland. The evidence presented comes from the GoWell programme, a long-term study of the progress of regeneration across deprived communities in Glasgow and its effects upon health and wellbeing.

In general, affordability problems eased for households over the period of study, particularly housing costs, but that fuel costs became more problematic. However, within this general pattern, some of the groups identified as being at risk from the effects of the economic downturn and austerity measures, faced particularly high affordability problems, or a worsening of affordability difficulties.

Where there were increased affordability difficulties, this was associated with a worsening of mental health for the householder. There were also indications that the threshold of multiple affordability difficulties at which point mental health declines dropped, and that over a longer time period, the drop in mental health associated with worsening affordability difficulties was greater.

### **The rise of in-work poverty and the changing nature of poverty and work in Scotland: what are the implications for population health?**

This paper represents an introductory overview of the changing nature of poverty and work, the rise of in-work poverty and the evidence-based implications for population health and wellbeing of these changes within Scotland. Key literature and analyses of important trends in these related areas are presented. In so doing, fundamental and well-established evidence and concepts in this field are covered as well as very recent literature, data and commentary.

## **Healthier, Wealthier Children: learning from an early intervention child poverty project**

The Healthier, Wealthier Children (HWC) project is a partnership approach to addressing child poverty across NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC), that involves health, local authority and voluntary sector partners. Launched in October 2010, the project established referral links between health and money advice services to support pregnant women and families at risk of, or experiencing, poverty.

During phase one (Oct 2010 to Jan 2012), there were 2,516 referrals to local advice services with an overall annual financial gain in excess of £2.25 million for those accessing advice services. To build upon these positive outcomes, the project received limited funding for a further year (2012-2013) to embed the work across practice, policy and strategic areas.

A phase two evaluation of the HWC project, from April 2012 to March 2013, demonstrated that, despite reduced ring-fenced funding, staff continued working together across a range of areas to tackle child poverty within NHSGGC.

## **Event: From welfare to work – a snapshot of the reform challenges and opportunities facing lone parents. Friday 18th October 2013.**

Highlighting the daily realities of poverty and demonstrating efforts to address them, the events of Challenge Poverty Week take place against a backdrop of continuing austerity measures, welfare reforms and predictions that poverty and inequality are expected to increase in the coming years.

As part of Challenge Poverty Week, this half-day seminar will focus on research commissioned by the Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH) into the challenges and opportunities facing lone parents with young children moving into work, as part of the welfare reforms. It will also provide opportunities to hear the direct experiences of lone parents in Glasgow, the role of the voluntary sector and panel debate.

The [seminar](#) is fully booked but you can follow the event on Twitter, using the hashtag #LPwelfare and tweet us at [@theGCPH](#)

**CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK**

14th-20th October 2013