LONGITUDINAL STUDIES REVIEW 2017: JULY UPDATE

Welcome to ESRC’s update on the Longitudinal Studies Review: a new regular series to keep you informed on the progress of the review. This edition reiterates the purpose, activities and timeline of the review, and includes the results of further analyses of the Consultation responses.

The Review’s purpose is to...

- Explore longitudinal studies’ continued and future scientific relevance, sustainability and contribution to the wider portfolio of data and longitudinal research resources in the UK and internationally
- Assess the continuing priority social and interdisciplinary scientific needs for our longitudinal studies
- Consider how our investment in longitudinal resources could best be positioned to meet the needs of future interdisciplinary research challenges
- Build upon the ESRC 2006 Strategic Review of Panel and Cohort Studies and MRC 2014 Strategic Review of the Largest UK Population Cohorts
- The review’s recommendations will inform our future strategy, funding, management and commissioning decisions, including what to continue, change, stop and start

Activities

We used an online survey to seek a wide range of views on the continuing relevance of the priorities identified in the 2006 review and to suggest new priorities for the future. See the report and infographic for initial results, with more results to follow as part of our Briefing Paper Series (see below).

Outputs from the Workshop have helped inform the Review Panel’s thinking about the priorities for the four evidence-gathering Workstreams that are currently leading.

The evidence gathered in the Workstreams will be assessed by the Panel and inform their final report and recommendations to the ESRC, to be presented to Council in February 2018.

Briefing Paper Series

Alongside the main findings of the Consultation, we have commissioned short briefing papers that examine key themes from the data in more detail.

1. Key areas of scientific and methodological interest to policy makers
2. The policy relevance of longitudinal studies – contributions and barriers
3. The capacity and infrastructure for longitudinal research
4. Use and accessibility of longitudinal resources
5. International comparisons and opportunities
6. What did respondents say about birth cohort studies?
7. Data linkage
8. New forms of data collection
9. Comparability and harmonisation
10. Representativeness and study design

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