

RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

SOEID-FUNDED PROJECTS:

EVALUATION OF RESOURCE PACKS

Researchers: H. Malcolm V. Wilson, SCRE
Scottish Council for Research in Education

This was a short project undertaken by SCRE which investigated issues relating to the design, dissemination and teachers' use of four resource packs which had been developed with SOEID funding. These included packs on Bullying, Discipline, Homework and Truancy. The report will not be published, however, RIU intends to produce, after further consultation, a summary of the report's main findings and lessons for future resource pack development and dissemination.

THE INTERFACE BETWEEN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND EMPLOYERS

Researchers: H. Connor, Institute for Employment Studies, Sussex University.

This research review assesses the current state of knowledge about the relationship between Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and their students and the needs and expectations of employers of graduates. The report examines trends in graduate recruitment, employer needs and behaviour, experiences of students and graduates, and needs and responses of HEIs. A number of gaps which require further research is also identified.

EDUCATIONAL PROVISION FOR AUTISTIC PUPILS IN SCOTLAND

Researchers: R. Jordan & G. Jones, Birmingham University.

The purpose of this project was to survey current provision for autistic pupils in Scotland and offer advice on future needs, drawing on experience south of the border and beyond. The final report explores these issues and is to be the focus for a conference arranged by Autism Scotland with SOEID support in June 1997. An *Interchange*, summarising the research will be published to coincide with the conference.

EXCLUSIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

Researchers: M. A. Cullen, M. Johnstone, G. Lloyd & P. Munn,
Moray House Institute of Education.

This study undertaken at Moray House Institute of Education mapped policy and practice at Education Authority level; explored headteachers' views on policy and procedures and on alternatives to exclusion in their schools; and investigated exclusions in a small number of schools. The study produced reports on each of these aspects and a literature review and an *Interchange* has also been prepared.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

Researchers: M. Adler, M. Arnott, L. Bailey, L. McAvoy, P. Munn, & C. Raab,
Edinburgh University/Moray House

This project was undertaken jointly by Edinburgh University and Moray House

Institute of Education. Using case studies of nine schools in Lothian, Tayside and Strathclyde Regions, the research explored the perceptions of teachers and others as to the effects of DSM on school organisation, ethos, learning and teaching, and staff morale. A summary of the findings will be available in late May in the form of an *Interchange*, and the full report has been published by the University of Edinburgh Department of Politics.

PART-TIME PROVISION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Researchers: I. Clark, B. Morgan-Klein, D. Raffé & T. Schuller,
Edinburgh University

This study analysed statistical data on current trends in part time provision in HEIs; conducted interviews with senior management in HEIs and some FEIs about current and future policy on part time provision; and explored several case studies of selected institutions to examine the costs and benefits of different forms of such provision for students, the institutions, employers and central government. The report is available and it is expected that an *Interchange* will be published in due course.

EFFECTIVE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Researcher: J. McBeath, Strathclyde University

This is a report of a cross national study which focuses on styles of leadership demonstrated by headteachers of schools in Scotland, England and Denmark. An interim report has been published, and the findings from the study were reported to a major conference in London in September 1996. It is expected that the study will generate materials for the training of headteachers.

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Researcher: M. Hill, Glasgow University

This project has provided an extensive review of current research literature relating to various aspects of the education of children looked after (in the terminology of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995) by Local Authorities. It includes material on educational placements for 'Looked After Children', the impact of the care system on educational progress; the care environment and its educational implications; collaboration between education and social work; and examples of collaborative practice.

For further information on any of the above-noted research projects, contact:

Brian Semple, HM Inspectors of Schools, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

Details of research and copies of some *Interchanges* can now also be obtained via the Internet by accessing the World Wide Web Server 'Educational Research in Scotland' managed by the Research and Intelligence Unit of the Scottish Office: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/~riu>

The server of the Scottish Council for Research in Education carries information about the full range of its research programme and other news about educational research in Scotland: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/~webscre>