



FAST FORWARD FUTURE

social science research centre, faculty of hss,
south bank university, 103 borough rd, london se1 oaa
tel: 0171 815 5786/ 5821

<<Information for participants>>

The Team:

Robert Bell (South Bank University)
Sheila Henderson (University of Essex)
Janet Holland (South Bank University)
Sheena McGrellis (University of Ulster)
Sue Sharpe (Institute of Education)
Rachel Thomson (South Bank University)

The Funders:

Economic and Social Research Council under the *Youth, Citizenship and Social Change* programme.

The <<f:f>> project builds on the ReSpect study, and follows a group of 100 young people, from 5 different parts of the UK over a further 2 years. Being involved means that you will meet with a researcher three times over a period of two years (every nine months). When we meet we will be asking you about what has been going on in your life since the last time we saw you - what's new, what's not. You may also be asked to take part in group discussions with other young people.

The Aims:

- * to document the range of experiences of young adults living in the UK at the turn of the millennium
- * to find what adulthood and independence mean to young people
- * to identify 'critical moments' in the process of growing older that will shape future opportunities.

By the end of the study we hope to have captured something of each person's story. By comparing these stories across the study we will try to understand the problems and the opportunities faced by young adults. There are people and the organisations that make decisions that affect your lives in areas such as education, training, health, housing, leisure and youth justice and we will explain the findings of the study to them to help their work.

<< *Memory books* >>

At Christmas time we asked you to tell us what you'd like to do between the interviews. Thanks for all your ideas. People suggested a whole range of things: written diaries, photo-*diaries, scrapbooks, picture collages. We're working on some other things too (like a web site) but this <<*memory book*>> is something for all of you right now! We hope you will like this one-size-fits-all-kit.

We tried keeping <<*memory books*>> ourselves and we found that each one of us had a different style – from neat and artistic to - well – let's just say a pile of stuff in a heap! But it wasn't too much trouble and was a great thing to look back on (even just a few months later).

The kit:

Each of you now has: a folder, a book, glue and a set of sticky labels. We hope we've come up with a way of getting you to record some of the things that happen to you during the time you're part of the <<f>> project in ways you feel most comfortable with.

In your book you could do any combination of the following:

- * write
- * draw
- * stick in photos,
- * stick in magazine or newspaper cuttings
- * stick in things that remind you of something- tickets from events you have been to, postcards etc.

You'll see we've included a set of stickers with 'trigger' words to get you started – and some blank stickers to write any other suggestions of your own.

You can change your style whenever the mood takes you. The most important thing is that whatever you put in is about you and your life: for instance your plans; your friends your hopes and fears as well as the more day-to-day things you do.

When to do it?

It is good to put things in when they are fresh in your mind, but you can always add things later. Some of you may want to add something to the book every couple of days, others may use it every week, month..... or whenever suits you. Try to remember to date your entries - it makes it a lot more interesting when you look back.

The idea is that you bring your <<*memory book*>> to your interview and tell us about it. Some of you may want to put private thoughts into your book - that's fine, you don't have to talk about things with us unless you want to. The <<*memory book*>> is, of course, yours to keep and to enjoy.

<<What you can expect from us>>

* Throughout the <<f>> project our main concern is with you and the other young people taking part in the research. We hope that the relationship you will have with us, and that we will have with you, will be enjoyable and productive on both sides. If at any point there is something that you are not happy with, or you start feeling bored with the way things are, please tell us. (During the project we'll ask you about it anyway).

* We will do our best to ensure that everything you tell us will be in confidence, that is, we will not tell anyone else. Anything that we use in writing up the research will be anonymous or will have a false name so that no-one will know it came from you. Things in your memory books, tapes etc. will be treated in the same way. Any information about you that may be given from other sources (such as friends, family, school) will also be treated in confidence. In some cases - such as group discussions - it may not always be possible to guarantee total confidentiality.

* Although we would like to know about all sorts of things that are going on in your life, it is not the idea of the project that you tell us more than you want to. If there is anything that you would prefer to keep private, this is not a problem. It is important to us that you feel comfortable about what and how much you tell us.

* As researchers, there are limits to how involved we can become. However, if you ask for advice or help on anything, or you have personal worries that you wish to share we will try and give you useful information or contacts who would be able to advise or help you.

* Whatever you make as part of the project - your memory book, tapes etc. belongs to you. We may need to copy or make notes on the things that you write or collect for us, but we will always return the original to you.

* There may be times when there are lots of things going on for you and other times when not very much seems to be happening. That's the way life is. So you may have loads to say at one time, and very little at another time. The idea is not to feel pressure from the project, but that we take things as they come.

Tell us what you think.

Remember, you can always contact us if you have any questions, ideas or comments. Either call us on our main number at South Bank University (0171 815 5786) or call your personal research contact directly.

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