

Examples of suggested research projects:

Lone parents, social security and social work

This topic would involve research on social security as it applies to lone parents. The particular focus could concern the specific effects of social security policies on social work practices or users of social work services or it could be more concerned with the role of poverty and social security as the background environment in which social work operates.

Research could focus on recent changes to social security support, including but not restricted to, the introduction of Universal Credit, the 'two child policy', the 'bedroom tax', increasing work-related conditionality in benefits for lone parents or new developments in devolved Scottish social security benefits. Research would be concerned specifically with the effects of these or other recent changes on lone parents. Historical approaches to the development of social security for lone parents would also be welcomed. Research involving lone parent organisations would be particularly welcomed.

Parenting a child as a single parent – the journey of care-experienced young women

Young women who are care-experienced are more likely to become a parent at a younger age compared to their non-care experienced peers. While this can present challenges, both due to the factors that result in the need for State care, alongside being a younger parent, little is known about the day-to-experiences of such parents, especially when parenting singly, and the strategies for coping and support utilised.

This study would explore the experience of care-experienced single mothers, to better understand their networks of support, coping strategies and their views on the role of community services. It seeks to challenge stereotypes of this marginalised group, while also evidencing what makes a difference for both mother and child.