

April 2002

## **Response to consultation on measuring child poverty**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation document. Over recent years the Foundation has supported research projects that have addressed the manifestations and distribution of child poverty (or the presence of children in 'poor' households), and that have demonstrated innovative survey methods for the measurement of child poverty and deprivation (Middleton et al, 1997 [Findings Ref SP118](#); Gordon et al 2000 [Findings Ref 930](#)). In October 2001 the Foundation convened an expert seminar to examine the definition and measurement of poverty, and the conclusions of this seminar have been submitted to ONS and DWP in response to the Review of Income Statistics and the HBAI Review.

The Foundation will not be submitting its own response to the present consultation. The experts who have been involved in relevant JRF funded research projects will undoubtedly be using the outputs from these studies as part of their individual or Research Centre responses to you.

However, our experience of the October 2001 seminar and discussions with a number of experts regarding the present consultation suggest that you will receive diverse responses to your consultation document. Furthermore, we understand that some people have found it hard to respond within the framework of your response form, and have submitted supporting papers that provide both detail and background.

We know that DWP has already convened two consultation workshops that brought people together to debate their reactions to your document. But in view of the likely diversity of the written response, the Foundation feels that it could best contribute to the process by hosting a seminar or workshop at which some of the key issues raised by the response could be discussed. This, we think, would help the Department draw out the most important issues and ideas.