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Social Capital & Public Policy

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Why is social capital important to policy makers?

Cowley shows that key achievements of government are dependent on:

- Local leadership
- Community connection at a human level
- The ability to work together
- Agreeing value and ways of behaving



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Government can encourage the building of social capital

- Research is at an early stage, however, we must act using common sense and imagination:
 - Crime -
 - build social capital in high-crime areas
 - increase social capital of offenders
 - Race - build bridges between disconnected communities
 - Citizenship - common values



Future challenges

- What do we mean by social capital in the UK?
- What are the levels and trends?
- What forms of networks are associated with what goals?
- How do we measure success of policy in social capital terms?
- What works, when and why?
- Can we make international comparisons?