



## Code of Practice: identifying 'what works' for socially excluded people

The Social Exclusion Task Force is working with the Government Social Research Unit (GSRU) to develop a Code of Practice for evaluating programmes to help socially excluded groups. This was one of the action points in *Reaching Out: An Action Plan on Social Exclusion*, published in September 2006. The Code of Practice is designed to strengthen the capacity of commissioners and providers of services to evaluate 'what works'. The aim is for higher quality service evaluations to inform evidence-based commissioning for socially excluded people.

The Code will provide guidance on different ways in which commissioners and providers can draw upon evidence to:

- Help assess whether a programme is likely to be promising;
- Set objectives to evaluate a programme or service;
- Review progress along the way.

The Code will be developed and tested via research conducted by Research in Practice and the National Foundation for Educational Research. The Social Exclusion Task Force will also carry out wider stakeholder consultation with local authorities, third sector, specialist organisations, and within Whitehall to further test the guiding principles and applicability of the Code.

The Code will cover:

- Information about why evaluations are important;
- Key principles of conducting quality evaluations;
- Existing guidance on conducting evaluations and signposts to further information;
- Different types of evaluations with examples;
- A common rating system for evaluations;
- An in-depth example of conducting and rating evaluations.

The Code is due to be published in March 2008.

For more information contact: [setaskforce@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:setaskforce@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk)

# Social Exclusion Task Force

The Social Exclusion Task Force (SETF) was created in June 2006 to ensure that the opportunities enjoyed by the vast majority of people in the UK become available to those whose lives have been characterised by deprivation and exclusion. We work across Government and beyond to improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged.

The SETF report *Reaching Out: An Action Plan on Social Exclusion* was launched in September 2006 and sets out a renewed drive to improve the life chances and opportunities for those at highest risk of entrenched and long term poverty and exclusion.

For more information on our work please visit our website at:

**[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social\\_exclusion\\_task\\_force/](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/)**

