

# First Oxford Company To Spin from the Social Sciences

Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion Ltd

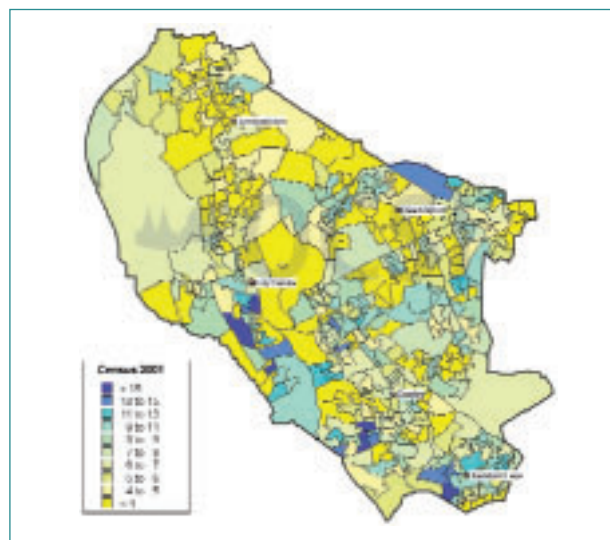


Oxford University's first spin-out company from the social sciences, Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI), was launched in October 2003 and aims to help local government identify deprived neighbourhoods, target resources and evaluate programme effectiveness. The technical developments behind OCSI are based on nearly two decades of ground-breaking research, initiated by Michael Noble and George Smith at the Social Disadvantage Research Centre (SDRC) in the University's Department of Social Policy and Social Work. The research centre is a world leader in area-based deprivation research, with director Michael Noble awarded an OBE for "services to research on poverty and deprivation" in the New Year Honours List 2001.

OCSI provides an 'applied' service using administrative data, alongside the research carried out by the SDRC. OCSI Director Tom Smith said, "OCSI expertise provides the information, analysis and interpretation that local government needs to target funds to communities on the ground, and strengthen local regeneration bids."

OCSI's formation comes at a crucial time, as significant sums are being targeted to regenerate deprived areas. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister reports that the Government Single Regeneration Budget is expected to target funding of £23 billion to disadvantaged areas by 2007. In addition, £5 billion of the 3 year Sustainable Communities programme has been earmarked for regenerating deprived areas.

The SDRC pioneered the widespread use of national administrative data, creating up-to-date and consistent information on all areas of the country and laying the foundation for the Office of National Statistics' major initiative on 'neighbourhood statistics'. Recent SDRC projects include the National Indices of Deprivation for England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland. The English Index



Oxford District - 2001 Census, output areas.

People aged 16-74: economically active: unemployed.

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(IMD 2000) – described as 'a reverse Domesday Book' of ward-by-ward deprivation – is currently the basis for allocating several billion pounds funding to deprived areas.

The centre's latest research concentrates on longitudinal analysis, measuring trends and the impact of major government social programmes on disadvantaged areas for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Department for Education and Skills, and HM Treasury. The SDRC is also extending its work to South Africa, with a major research and development initiative supported by both the South African and UK governments.

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