Response to Social Risk and Social Class Patterns in Poverty and Quality of Life

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Some Key Patterns

• At risk of poverty relatively stable
• Basic Deprivation (sharp rise) better reflects households’ changed circumstances
• Somewhat distinctive experience of Lone parents and Adults (18+) with a Disability
• Broad similarity across classes in income poverty trends
• Sharp class differences in the **level** of Q of L problems and sharp social risk differences in the **composition** of Q of L problems
Comments on Analysis

• Social Risk groups: ‘new’ risk groups are politically weaker and socially less approved. Do the trends/policies reflect a neat old risk/new risk dichotomy? Or will pensions retrenchment dilute the distinction?

• Multiple risk factors ≠ cumulative disadvantages that arise over time; MRFs are relatively independent and may be ‘additive’, ‘multiplicativelistbe’ or ‘non-additive’

• Divergent patterns between at risk of income poverty measure and basic deprivation: would this hold for other measures of income poverty?
Policy: Income and/or---?

• Analysis shows the limits of income measures
• Policy comments about income; “adequate income support, inclusive labour markets and access to labour market services”: “social transfers have been effective at reducing poverty in Ireland → limited room for income supports to further reduce income poverty. Broader actions and interventions are required.”
• The policy challenge starts with ‘auditing’ social protection ‘regimes’ for social risk groups to identify provisions specific to Q of L problems and barriers to inclusion, for example--
Disability: Policy Dimensions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Compensation</th>
<th>Integration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OECD average</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>17</td>
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</tbody>
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2007 data
Max score 50; min, 0; scores sum 10 items on each dimension scored 0 to 5. ‘Integration’ captures some of the policy measures relevant to Q of L and obstacles to employment and inclusion.
Disability and the Medical Card - the experience of persons with a disability (based on DSPs study of Disability Payments and feedback from recipients).

- Low employment rate among DA recipients
- Specific provisions benefits and allowances are obstacles to increasing command over income-provisions score low on ‘integration’
- Recipients identify loss of Medical Card as the obstacle to increased earnings
- Implication of ESRI study is the need to identify the specific (and varied) obstacles to employment and inclusion.
Conclusion: A bridge between Research and Policy

Attempt to ‘match’ the Q of L dimensions to policy attributes and domains for each Social Risk Group, giving a ‘matrix’ of risk groups and policy domains.