Underlying influences on health and mortality trends in post-industrial regions of Europe

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Background – 2008…

Rationale:

• Post-industrial decline (and associated factors) promoted as one of major reasons behind Scotland’s and WCS’s poor health profile

• Begs question: how have other similarly deindustrialised regions fared?
Background – 2008…

- Identified 20 comparably deindustrialised regions in Europe
- Specific focus on 10 key regions
- Detailed analyses of long-term (20-25 years) mortality trends
Post-industrial regions in Europe
Phase 1 results

Male life expectancy at birth, West of Scotland and ten post-industrial regions
Calculated from original source mortality and population data
Phase 1 results

Female life expectancy at birth, West of Scotland and ten post-industrial regions
Calculated from original source mortality and population data - see Appendix 4 of report for details
‘Aftershock’ study results

• Health of virtually all comparable European post-industrial regions was better and (NB) improving faster than West Central Scotland
• Trends driven especially by higher mortality in younger age groups (especially male) and middle-aged females
• Detailed mortality analyses included in report
‘Aftershock’ study results

• However, difficult to interpret these trends in isolation from the country and regions’ historical, political and economic context

• How has the UK and in particular West Central Scotland changed and adapted to deindustrialisation-post-industrial change compared with other comparable post-industrial regions of Europe?
PhD research components

- Effect of political change on health/mortality in CEE
- Timing/speed of deindustrialisation and policy responses
- Political and economic policies and current economic contexts
- Welfare state and other relevant systems
- Summary of most influential factors and greatest differences between WCS and other regions
Case studies: 5 regions

• 2 in eastern mainland Europe, 2 in western mainland Europe (+ WCS)
• Generally comparable levels of deindustrialisation
Nord-Pas-de-Calais (F)

- 43% decrease in industrial employment between 1970 and 2005
- Represents loss of >300,000 industrial jobs
Ruhr area (D)

- 55% decrease in industrial employment between 1970 and 2005
- Represents loss of 700,000 industrial jobs
• 55% decrease in industrial employment between 1980 and 2005
• Represents loss of 475,000 industrial jobs
Moravia-Silesia (CZ)
Today’s Coverage

• Post-war Contexts
• Timing and speed of deindustrialisation
• Policy responses
• Current economic contexts
• Conclusions
Post-war period

- UK economy and industry in decline relative to France and Germany who experienced 30 years economic development and industrial modernisation
- UK was at a comparative disadvantage in terms of management, labour relations, work practices and conditions, training and skills
- CEE workers engaged in heavy industry considered critical to economic development
Timing and speed of deindustrialisation

• UK 1970s - fast and facilitated
• France and Germany 1980s and 1990s respectively – gradual and resisted
• CEE occurred post 1989
Policy responses to deindustrialisation UK

- Facilitation of deindustrialisation via neo-liberal polices such as privatisation and deregulation
- Removal of state intervention and extend reach of the ‘market’
- Economic restructuring via attraction of branch-plant industries
- Physical, property and retail led regeneration
- Minimal mitigation of ‘social costs’
Policy responses France and Germany

• Gradual and socially inclusive path within established structures of local governance and economic relations
• Significant investment and concerted planning in both industry and infrastructure
• Diversification into new and related technologies
• City development civic: maintain improve open spaces and housing
Measures to mitigate associated social costs

- Early retirement schemes
- Definitions of disability
- Compensation
- Quality training
- ‘Bread winner’ model alleviate labour market pressure
- Income replacement rates unemployment and retirement higher
Policy responses in Poland and Czech Republic

- Both countries retain significant industrial capacity
- Both countries increased the provision of welfare during transition
- Moravia-Silesia removed regional government and pursued UK style market solutions with little success
- Poland early retirement and disability to protect workers
- Katowice significant state investment and strong regional representation aided economic restructuring/development
Current economic contexts

- WCS – deindustrialisation and deskilling has maintained employment rather than lead to growth. What job creation there is largely in low skill-low wage sector
- Ruhr – though also struggling to maintain increase employment levels. Work remains in high quality and niche production depending on high skilled and well rewarded workers
- NPdC - regional diversification and technological modernisation has led to an increase in overall employment. Significantly much of this is in manufacturing and high-tech sectors
Current economic contexts – contd.

• Katowice – despite deindustrialisation and deskilling there remains significant industry, in addition there is growth in services particularly high-tech services. Currently one of strongest performing regions in Poland

• Moravia-Silesia – deindustrialisation and deskilling yet still retains significant industry
Conclusions

• Neo-liberal polices intended to facilitate deindustrialisation and future socio-economic development had an adverse impact on WCS
• Uneven development and unsatisfactory and problematic socio-economic, health and wellbeing related outcomes
• Increased inequalities, skill polarisation, job insecurity, disadvantaged many in precarious labour market positions
• Path of other regions can not be attributed to single or common set of factors. Reflect a different history. Institutional arrangements, socially embedded culture and policy path at national and regional level
Conclusions: implications for WCS?

• Policies that are successfully implemented can have potential health dividend
• Where polices with potential social costs are to be implemented, complimentary policies can be established to alleviate these costs
• However policies are often a product of particular institutional arrangements or socially embedded cultures and are therefore not necessarily adaptable to UK or WCS context