

Disabled People and Direct Payments: a UK comparative Study

This is a 'four-country' (UK) study of direct payments, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, and conducted by leading centres for disability research in England and Scotland. The research uses a mixture of quantitative and qualitative data to explore national and local variations in the implementation of direct payments, and the power relations that underpin these differences. The main research questions addressed are:

- What are the key differences in direct payment policies, implementation strategies and practices in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and within each country what variations are apparent at a local level?
- To what extent have direct payment policies had an impact on forms of welfare production and consumption?
- To what extent have local authorities/health and social service trusts and health and social work practitioners changed their cultures and practices to facilitate new modes of welfare delivery?

The research design has been based on a progressive focussing strategy - beginning with a 'broad brush' analysis of national policies and statistics, followed by key informant interviews with policy makers and activists, telephone interviews with 102 purchasing authorities, and eight local case studies. The study draws particular attention to the connections and tensions that exist between direct payments policy implementation, the disabled people's independent living movement, and the devolution of government in the UK.

More information and is available from the project website, including detailed working papers explaining the policy context and the developing analysis.

www.leeds.ac.uk/disability-studies/projects/UKdirectpayments.htm

Papers published so far include...

Pearson, C., Barnes, C. Jolly, D., Mercer, G., Priestley, M. and Riddell, S. (2005) Personal Assistance Policy in the UK: What's the problem with direct payments?, *Disability Studies Quarterly*, 25(1)

Riddell, S., Pearson, C., Baron, S., Jolly, D., Barnes, C., Priestley, M. and Mercer, G. (2005) The development of direct payments in the UK: implications for social justice, *Social Policy and Society*, 4(1): 75-85

