

ODI MONTHLY RESEARCH SUMMARY – JANUARY 07

Employment

What works for whom? A review of evidence and meta-analysis for the Department for Work and Pensions

Research Report No. 407

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs2007.asp#whatworks>

This report reviews the current stock of DWP evaluation evidence in order to identify which interventions have worked most effectively for all DWP's key customer groups. Reviews of programmes aimed at disabled people include New Deal for Disabled People, Access to Work, Remploy and WORKSTEP. The report states 'what works' in assisting people enter/maintain employment and training is very varied, because disabled people are not a homogenous group and individuals have varied circumstances and needs. The findings outline what measures the different evaluations suggest are successful for different groups.

Public Attitudes

Perspectives on a changing society' British Social Attitudes 23rd report

The British Social Attitudes survey is an annual survey conducted by the *National Centre for Social Research*. It is designed to chart, describe and analyse trends in public attitudes to a range of issues, including attitudes towards disabled people and the prevalence of prejudice held by the general public.

<http://www.sagepub.co.uk/booksProdDesc.nav?prodId=Book230670>

Key findings include:

- The public's definitions of disability are more restricted than as defined by the DDA. Overall prejudice against disabled people exists but is not very extensive.
- Disabled people are generally perceived to be those with physical conditions that are long lasting or permanent and may lead to incapacity. Notably, mental health conditions were not considered as disabilities by the majority of respondents nor were long-standing illnesses such as cancer or HIV/AIDS.
- Although only a very small minority of respondents expressed strong negative feelings about disabled people, milder negative feelings were more widely held.
- Negative attitudes were especially more pronounced in relation to people with mental health impairments. There was a widespread unease among respondents at the prospect of coming into contact with people with mental health impairments, particularly in personal settings.
- Those who have personal or second hand experience of disability tend to perceive prejudice against disabled people as being more widespread, while they are significantly less likely to hold negative attitudes themselves towards disabled people.

[Summary of findings provided by Clare Talbot, DWP, CCSAD]

Disabled Children and Social Care

Supporting the Participation of Disabled Children and Young People in Decision Making Relating to Social Care. Anita Franklin and Patricia Sloper.

Research Works. SPRU.

<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/cfrefs.html>

This research set out to explore factors which can support good practice in **participation of children in decisions affecting them**; both about their own care and about service development. Although in general children's participation is increasing, disabled children are less likely to be involved than non-disabled children. The research looks at factors which can support good practice in the participation of disabled children in social care decisions. It includes a section **reviewing the information needs of disabled children**. The methodology consists of a national survey and case studies in six local authorities who had involved disabled children in decision making.

Accessibility

Secondary analysis of existing data on disabled people's use and experiences of public transport in Great Britain. Centre for Disability Studies on behalf of Disability Rights Commission (DRC).

http://www.drc-gb.org/library/research/services_and_transport/experiences_of_public_transpor.aspx

This study was commissioned by DRC to investigate the availability of existing data on disabled people's use of public transport, to evaluate the usefulness of this evidence in consultation with DRC staff, and to present findings in support of the Commission's transport campaign. The study explored wide reaching data sources and presents a variety of findings under headings; the importance of access to public transport, disabled people's use of transport, satisfaction and awareness, and examples of specific barriers.

Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport Final PSA3 baselines from the 2005/2006 survey

http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Research/taking_part_survey/survey_outputs.htm

Taking Part is a continuous national survey of people living in a representative cross-section of private households in England. One of the central aims of the survey is to provide a robust measure of the Department for Culture Media and Sport's Public Service Agreement target 3 (PSA3). The aim of this target is, by 2008, to **increase the take-up of cultural and sporting opportunities** by adults and young people aged 16 and above from each of the priority groups. The priority groups are defined as those from black and minority ethnic groups, **those with a limiting disability**, those people in lower socio-economic groups and in the case of sport, women are also defined as a priority group. This statistical release monitors progress on increased participation in a range of cultural and sporting activities.

