

ODI MONTHLY RESEARCH SUMMARY – NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2006

Necessities of Life: Older People's Experiences of Poverty. By Keele University on behalf on Help the Aged.

This report presents findings from a study which seeks to inform the development of alternative approaches to the measurement of older people's poverty. The research involved group discussions and individual interviews with older people belonging to a range of potentially disadvantaged groups, including older disabled people.

Key findings for older people with a disability include:

- Older people with disabilities relied heavily on information services to learn about and access the support they needed.
- Family carers were often over-stretched and unable to find relevant information on behalf of the disabled person they were caring for.
- Expectations in terms of standards of living and material resources were directly related to life course histories, which were often rooted in poverty.
- Restructuring needs and wants played an important role in coping with the limitations imposed by particular forms of disability, and in creating a meaningful life.
- Access to services and opportunities for socialising could be complicated and difficult.

Pathways to Work: Findings from the final cohort in a qualitative longitudinal panel of incapacity benefit recipients. By Anne Corden and Katharine Nice DWP Research Report No 398.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs2006.asp#pathwork>

The Pathways to Work Pilot was introduced in October 2003 and aims to increase the number of incapacity benefit recipients who move towards and into paid work. IB customers from the original seven pilot areas took part in three interviews over a nine month period as part of this longitudinal panel study. This report presents findings from the third and final cohort of customers and conclusions from across all three cohorts. It provides an analysis of the views and experiences of pilot participants, including their attitudes towards working, their involvement with the series of work-focused interviews, and their use of existing and new services available through the pilot

Personality Disorder Capacity Plans. Department of Health.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4139094&ch=za6qLL

During 2005, commissioners, clinicians, service users and other stakeholders around the country have worked together to produce personality disorder capacity plans for their local areas. This report provides: a national overview developed from analysis of the plans; commentary on common themes and a summary of actions arising from the plans.

We need to talk. The case for psychological therapy on the NHS

We Need To Talk is a collaboration between five mental health organisations: [Mental Health Foundation](#), [Mind](#), [Rethink](#), [The Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health](#), [Young Minds](#) and published by the Mental Health Foundation.

<http://www.mhf.org.uk/media/news-releases/news-releases-2006/31-october-2006/>

We Need To Talk examines the provision of psychological therapies. The report argues that evidence-based talking therapies such as cognitive behavioural therapy are as important for the nation's health as any cancer drug or surgical procedure. Evidence shows that they can help millions of people in the UK who experience common and severe mental health problems.

The report calls on the Government to provide psychological therapy through the NHS in line with NICE guidance. It also says that the NHS should introduce waiting time measures for access to mental health treatments.

Network 1000. Opinions and circumstances of visually impaired people in Great Britain: report based on over 1000 interviews. VISION 2020 UK, University of Birmingham, Big Lottery Fund.

<http://www.vision2020uk.org.uk/news.asp?newsID=687§ion=000100050006>

The key aims of this study are to establish a sample of 1000 people who are registered as blind or partially sighted which is as far as possible representative of the visually impaired population in the UK, and consult them on a range of issues. The results explore a wide range of issues, findings and further questions that are emerging from this project. For example:

- People's perceptions of employment and employability;
- The wide range of educational attainment and subsequent life experiences;
- The high occurrence of disabilities and long term health issues in addition to visual impairment;
- Role of visually impaired people as carers;
- Use of computers;
- People's perceptions of barriers to going out and about.

The report also presents two additional analyses. Firstly, a qualitative analysis of what participants identified as important issues in their lives in a response to an open question. Secondly, a section of the report relates to a sub-sample of 'key informants' who describe the circumstances of visually impaired people with learning and/or communication difficulties whom they know. This presents an insight into the lives of a group of people who are rarely represented in surveys.

Access to Communication in English for Deaf People. UK Council for Deaf People

<http://www.rnid.org.uk/VirtualContent/84923/ACEfinal.pdf>

The Access to Communication in English (ACE) group of organisations commissioned this research into deaf and hard of hearing people's experiences. It is based on a survey of 478 deaf and hard of hearing people across the UK, including

members from all the organisations involved in the coalition. The headline findings are:

- 22% of people received the wrong form of communication support either "often" or "all the time" when accessing public services.
- 26% of people reported that no support was provided to enable them to access their public services.
- Over half (55%) reported that no information was provided about the availability of communication support.