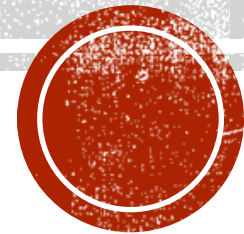


POVERTY, STIGMA AND WELFARE: REVIEWING THE EVIDENCE

Kayleigh Garthwaite, University of Birmingham @KA_Garthwaite
Ruth Patrick, University of Liverpool @ruthpatrick0





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WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW



INTRODUCING OUR RESEARCH



COMMON FINDINGS

- i) The reach of benefits & poverty stigma

“I need a job; because I’m sick of **scrounging**. That’s how I think of it, anyway I’m sick of scrounging.” (Sam, Ruth’s study)



COMMON FINDINGS

ii) stigma's adverse impact

“You do feel a bit like a washed up...**sponging off society**, even though for years and years I've paid in and have been a good girl, and done what I was told to do. And now it's all **blown back** in my face.” (Isobella, Ruth's study)



COMMON FINDINGS

iii) The perverse consequences of welfare reform

“The Work Programme people were getting **impatient** with me as I was getting interviews but no job...The woman who was running the office told me that I needed to get a job ASAP, that I needed to start looking for any job, especially care work because TA jobs were very competitive because of holidays. I felt so **demoralised**, I started to **doubt myself** and the decision I had made to pursue that [TA] job, which I chose to do because of being a single mum. I started getting anxious every time my appointment was coming up. At some point I believed that I was never going to get it.” (Susan, Ruth’s study)

<https://doleanimators.wordpress.com/participants-stories-2/adra/> (could play?)



COMMON FINDINGS

iv) The difference supportive interventions can make

“[The housing association] picked me up and helped me along... and they put me on the [employability] course which is all about improving your confidence and things...they've just given me that push and I kept going and going.” (Rosie, Ruth's study)



MAKING USE OF THE EVIDENCE BASE

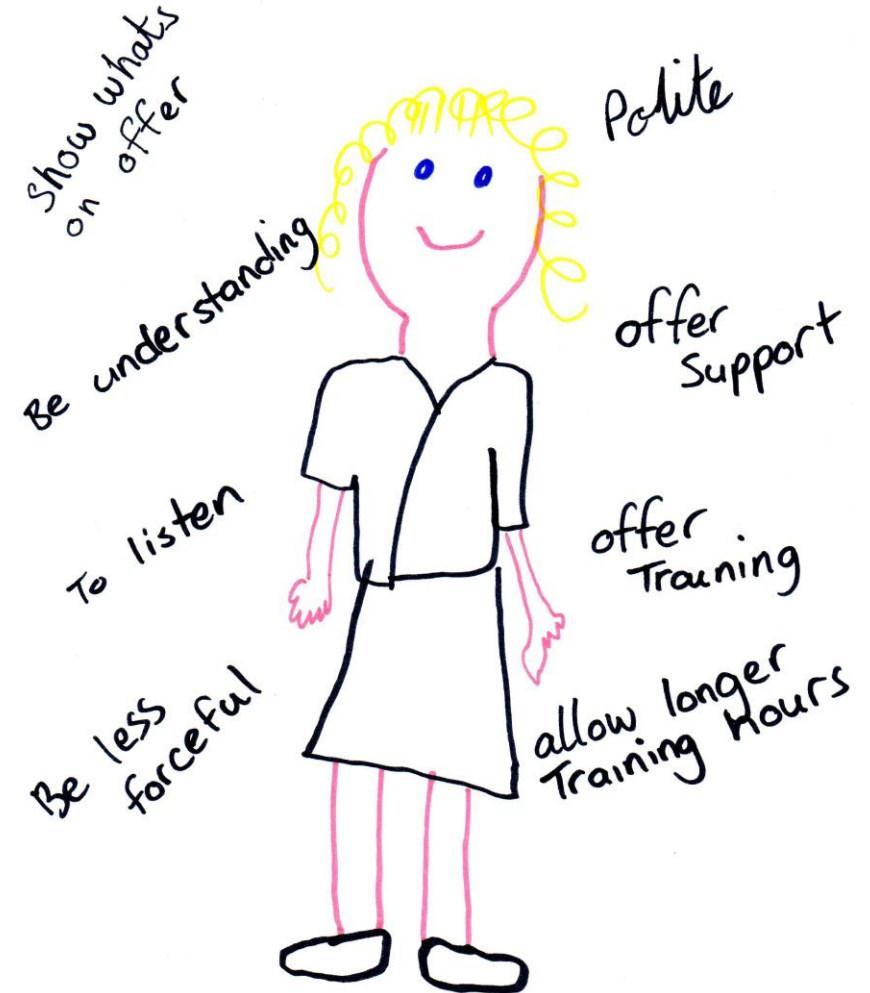
- Do we need more evidence?
- Or do we need to get better at how we communicate and share the evidence we already have?

- Need to do more to think critically about where we place our analytical lens
- Also need to work harder to include expertise that comes with experience in policy design and development



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Working towards creating a shame-proofed social security system (Lister, 2015)
- Changing the culture in Job Centre Plus & among employment support providers
- reframing around the 'right' to social security
- PLUS efforts on benefit maximisation & welfare rights support



DEVELOPING AN ANTI-POVERTY AGENDA GROUNDED IN THE EXPERTISE OF EXPERIENCE

**a 5 point plan for
A BRIGHTER FUTURE**
by Dole Animators

- 1. Direct money into programmes that work**
...open doors instead
Don't put up barriers...
- 2. A benefits system that shows empathy and is personalised**
"Hello, how can I help?"
"I'm not a number..."
"I'm a person..."
- 3. A right to work so people can have a decent life**
Surviving is not...
Good jobs
...living
- 4. Child care that makes work possible**
Make work...
...worth while
- 5. A right to decent and affordable homes**
From this to...
...Home Sweet Home

Find out more at:
www.doleanimators.org | @doleanimators | #goodsociety

#goodsociety

**HOUSE OF COMMONS
IT'S TIME YOU LISTENED TO
PEOPLE LIVING
IN POVERTY**

**LET THE HOLE IN
DEMOCRACY BE FILLED
WITH OUR VOICES...**

#GOODSOCIETY @THRIVETEESIDE

the VOICING PEOPLE

OUR 5 SOLUTIONS TO POVERTY FROM THE BOTTOM UP

- 1. COMPASSIONATE & NEEDS BASED BENEFITS SYSTEM**
UH UH... COMPUTER SAY'S NO
>Next...No
>Next...No
>Next...No
>Next...|
- 2. DECENT HOMES FOR ALL**
HOME SWEET HOME
- 3. A DECENT DAYS WORK FOR A DECENT DAY'S PAY**
HAPPY TOT'S CHILDCARE
LET'S BE HAPPY
- 4. BRING BACK OUR COMMUNITY CENTRES**
RUN BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE
BINGO • CITIZENS ADVICE • CAFE
HEART OF THE COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK • JOB CLUB
HOUSING ADVICE • CHILDCARE
- 5. PROVIDE CHILDCARE SO PARENTS CAN CHOOSE TO WORK**

