

Understanding welfare: Social issues, policy and practice

Series Editor: Professor Saul Becker, University of Nottingham

"This exciting series will be essential reading for students across a range of subjects and courses who need to gain a comprehensive understanding of welfare issues. It is evidence of the continuing commitment of the Social Policy Association to support the development of learning and teaching in Social Policy and related fields." *Pete Alcock, Professor of Social Policy and Administration, University of Birmingham and Chair, Social Policy Subject Benchmarking Group*

This important series, a unique publishing partnership between the Social Policy Association and The Policy Press, aims to improve understanding of social issues, policies and the delivery of welfare.

Books in the series will provide the reader with an understanding of:

- the economic, political and social context of contemporary social issues, policies and practice in the UK;
- how private and public concerns can become issues for policy;
- the main theoretical approaches and ideologies associated with welfare provision and their relevance for the analysis of social issues and policies;
- the policy process, and the agencies and agents, organisational and institutional arrangements, through which policies are developed and delivered;
- the historical origins and development of UK social policies and associated welfare agencies;
- the role of comparative cross-national analysis in promoting understanding of social issues, policy and practice;
- how to evaluate 'evidence' and use it appropriately;
- how to assess the merits of competing explanations and debates on social issues;
- how to assess the successes and limitations of social policies.

The series will be:

- *Social Policy Subject Benchmark compliant.* The content will conform to the requirements of the Social Policy Subject Benchmarking statement, which will help the reader to learn about issues and themes central to the academic study of Social Policy. This is the first book series to be 'Social Policy Subject Benchmark compliant' and will ensure that readers, particularly those at undergraduate level, are studying and learning about material which is most relevant to their degree. The content will also take account of the requirements of other related Benchmark statements, including Social Work and Sociology, to ensure relevance to other subject groups.
- *Learning and teaching-based.* The reader will be provided with essential information and critical analysis to promote learning, knowledge and understanding.
- *Accessible.* Clearly written, each text will be around 70-80,000 words in length, supported by an attractive series design and format, with the use of boxes, diagrams and illustrations to help understanding, and with links to relevant websites (including electronic links) and sources of further information for those

requiring even more in-depth coverage or access to the latest policy developments. Additionally, texts will include chapter abstracts, chapter summaries, revision questions and a glossary of key terms.

- *Topical and relevant.* The social issues discussed and the policies examined are very much 'alive' and applied. The aim is to explore and understand social issues which are important and policies and practices which matter.
- *Policy process oriented.* Texts will examine the extent and nature of the social issue; how the issue is currently defined (and by whom); evidence; relevant debates; policy options; policy choices and responses; historical changes; cross-national perspectives; evaluation of current policy; future agendas.
- *Practice relevant.* Texts will discuss implementation (delivery) issues; who are the key actors and agencies involved (professionals, users etc; statutory, voluntary, private, informal etc); their roles and responsibilities; tensions; debates; ways forward.
- *Evidence-based.* Each book will report, assess and critically evaluate the available evidence on each issue, the contradictions and gaps in evidence and the limits of existing knowledge (and what more we need to know/find out). This 'evidence' will include research studies and evaluations, evidence from service users, from professionals and other groups/sources.
- *Comparative.* While the main focus of the series is on social issues, policy and practice in the UK, books will make cross-national comparisons where these help readers to understand policy making and implementation. As another dimension of comparison, historical analysis will also be included where appropriate to show how issues, policies and practice change over time.

Readership. The series will be particularly attractive to undergraduate and postgraduate social sciences students (in particular social policy, sociology, health studies); those on health and social welfare/social care/social work professional training programmes (social workers, nurses, community care workers and so on); lecturers on these programmes; professionals and policy makers working in health and social care; and those involved in the planning and delivery of welfare services and programmes.

Titles published

- *Understanding social security: Issues for policy and practice*, edited by Jane Millar, University of Bath [May 2003]
- *Understanding the finance of welfare: What welfare costs and how to pay for it*, by Howard Glennerster, London School of Economics and Political Science [May 2003]
- *Understanding social citizenship: Themes and perspectives for policy and practice*, by Pete Dwyer, University of Leeds [May 2004]
- *Understanding research for social policy and practice: Themes, methods and approaches*, edited by Saul Becker and Alan Bryman, Loughborough University [June 2003]
- *Understanding the policy process: Analysing welfare policy and practice*, by John Hudson and Stuart Lowe, University of York [June 2004]
- *Understanding housing policy*, by Brian Lund, Manchester Metropolitan University [March 2006]

- *Understanding the mixed economy of welfare*, edited by Martin Powell, Stirling University [February 2007]
- *Understanding health policy*, by Rob Baggott, De Montfort University [June 2007]
- *Understanding immigration and migration policy: Contradictions and continuities*, by Rosemary Sales, Middlesex University [June 2007]
- *Understanding health and social care* by Jon Glasby, University of Birmingham [June 2007]

Forthcoming

- *Understanding inequality, poverty and wealth* edited by Tess Ridge and Sharon Wright, University of Bath and University of Stirling [June 2008]
- *Understanding global social policy* edited by Nicola Yeates, The Open University [June 2008]
- *Understanding theory and concepts in social policy*, by Ruth Lister, Loughborough University [February 2009]
- *Understanding social security: Issues for policy and practice*, edited by Jane Millar, University of Bath [February 2009] *Second edition*
- *Understanding the finance of welfare: What welfare costs and how to pay for it*, by Howard Glennerster, London School of Economics and Political Science [February 2009] *Second edition*
- *Understanding the policy process: Analysing welfare policy and practice*, by John Hudson and Stuart Lowe, University of York [March 2009] *Second edition*
- *Understanding equal opportunities and diversity*, by Barbara Bagilhole, Loughborough University [April 2009]
- *Understanding mental health policy*, by Ann Davis, University of Birmingham [April 2009]
- *Understanding social movements and social welfare* by Jason Annetts , Alex Law, Wallace McNeish and Gerry Mooney [April 2009]
- *Understanding welfare governance*, By Kirstein Rummery, University of Stirling [June 2009]
- *Understanding human need*, by Hartley Dean, London School of Economics and Political Science [February 2010]
- *Understanding social welfare*, by Peter Alcock, University of Birmingham [June 2010]

If you would like to submit a book proposal then please contact Saul Becker, Alison Shaw or Emily Watt for a copy of the series proposal guidelines:

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