

Press release for immediate publication

New Research on Employment Supports for Disabled People

The National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) have been granted funding from the National Institute for Health Research's School of Social Care Research (SSCR) to carry out a two year study into the cost effectiveness of different models of employment support for disabled people, including those with mental health problems.

A recent review carried out by NDTi shows that evidence around employment support is currently very patchy, especially looking across different client groups. Through addressing this research gap we hope to enable people who commission employment support to make more informed choices and decisions.

NDTi Chief Executive Rob Greig said: "Whilst there is good evidence that some types of employment support such as IPS and supported employment are more effective than others, evidence on value for money and likely outcomes from investment in different approaches is limited and certainly not shared and applied across client groups. This research aims to help fill those gaps and so enable commissioners to better understand how to get best value from the money they spend on employment services"

The study will focus on the following questions:

1. What is the 'value for money' impact of current employment supports, in terms of people consequently achieving paid work?
2. How does that 'value for money' impact vary between different models of employment support? Do they result in different outcomes?
3. How is the 'value for money' impact affected by different approaches to implementing local employment strategies?

As part of this we will also look at the influence of (and links between) various factors, such as types of work, hours worked, type of disability, age/ different life stages of people needing support etc.

The research will involve national scale data collection as well as in-depth research and analysis with a sample of around 12 local authorities. The findings will generate a wide range of evidence-based materials that will help local authorities plan, buy and deliver more effective employment support for disabled people. It will conclude with an action learning programme to help authorities implement the findings.

For more details please visit the following website:

<http://www.ndti.org.uk/major-projects/employment-support-for-disabled-people/>

or contact Anita Wilkins at NDTi on 01202 471 423 / anita.wilkins@ndti.org.uk

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Notes to the Editors

About National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi):

- NDTi is a social change organisation that works to achieve a society that is inclusive of all people, where factors like disability and age are not an obstacle to people achieving good life outcomes. For more information please visit our website: www.ndti.org.uk
- Examples of the organisations that the NDTi is currently working with include: the Department of Health, the Department for Education, Joseph Rowntree foundation and numerous local authorities, NHS and third sector organisations across the UK.
- Other examples of the recent and current NDTi work include:
 - Delivering the 'Preparing for Adulthood' programme for the Department for Education which is about working with young people, families and local areas to support young people with SEN and disabilities achieve employment, good health, independent living and community inclusion as they move into adulthood.
 - Developing commissioning good practice guidance for the DH around services for people who challenge
 - NDTi being one of the partner organisations delivering the Learning Disability Public Health Observatory
 - Two key projects for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Better Life programme on promoting equality, inclusion and choice for older people with high support needs

About The National Institute for Health Research:

- It was established in April 2006 to provide the framework through which the Department of Health can position, maintain and manage the research, research staff and research infrastructure of the NHS in England as a national research facility. Its vision is to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research. Its aim is to support outstanding individuals (both leaders and collaborators), working in world-class facilities (both NHS and university), conducting leading edge research focused on health and social care.
www.nihr.ac.uk

About The NIHR School for Social Care Research:

- The NIHR School for Social Care Research is a partnership between six leading centres of social care research in England based at the Universities of Kent, Manchester, York, King's College London and directed by Professor Martin Knapp at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Its primary aim is to develop the evidence base for adult social care practice in England - and so help to improve the quality of care and support experienced by individuals and families – by conducting and commissioning high-quality ('world class') research to produce new knowledge to inform the development of adult social care practice in England. www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk