

# Social policy assignment

Sociology



Political parties implement their own policies on what they regard as the priorities for social welfare attention. These are outlined in their manifestos and are broadcast through the media. They can broadcast and influence via television programmes, news channels, radio stations and newspaper news articles. The main political parties in the UK are the Labor Party (New Labor), Conservative Party, Liberal Democrats, Scottish Nationalists (SNAP), UKIP and Plaid Cymru, the Party of Wales. 3. Mixed economy of care is made up of four different sectors.

Statutory, Private, Voluntary and Informal. The statutory sector consists of services provided by the state, through law and legislation. An example could be local authorities who provide social work. It may offer day care, respite care, mobility aids and meals on wheels. The private sector is services that are offered for profit making, but they still have to run to the standards of the local authorities and are subject to the inspection of the care commission. An example could be Pupa. It offers private day care, private nursing homes and other services owned by private organizations.

The voluntary sector is there to fill gaps in the statutory provision. They are funded by donations and money from local and central government.

Voluntary organizations are not for profit which means some workers may get paid but do not get profit. The services offered are day centers, lunch clubs or aids, provided by certain charities like British Red Cross or unpaid workers. Informal care is provided by family, friends or neighbors offering to help where possible but do not get paid for it. This is saving the authorities millions of money as they are not having to pay for services out with the family household.

Statutory services are seen as services that individuals need, whereas, private services are seen as what individuals want. All of these sectors work to provide care for society, and all have to abide by the National Care Standards and Care Commission. 4. The majority of funding of social care services come from the central and local government. This is obtained from income tax, VAT and national contributions. Other funding mechanisms include sales of licenses, charges or fines. The local authority funds come from mainly the central government.

The spending of local authorities is primarily made up from council tax and business rates. These authorities have the power to charge individuals for care services received. Voluntary Organizations and Charities provide important financial contributions towards the cost of welfare. Some of these charities are Barnyard's, Cancer Research and Salvation Army. Charities receive a large amount of money from the donations and the National Lottery Fund. In the UK, a lot of money comes from the National Lottery, but mainly from people buying lottery tickets.

Individuals contribute financially by paying tax on everything they buy (VAT), every individual has to pay council tax for where they live, charges and fines are also paid by individuals. People who are in employment pay income tax or national contributions from their wages. 5. The European Government plays a significant role in influencing policies in the UK. It was formed by a number of European countries who created policies to avoid conflict and bring agreement and peace to Europe. The UK joined the European Union in 1973.

This was an attempt to bring policy in the countries closer together and it has a serious impact on how the I-J is influenced by Europe in regards to social policy. The I-J has tried on a number of occasions to opt out of policies passed by the E.U. One of those being the maximum 48 hour work week. The E.U. took measures to ensure the 'opt out' option was blocked. They agreed that the UK sign the 'opt out' agreement, but they would not be allowed to force individuals to work more than 48 hours per week. The National government sets laws of the country, and taxes in England and Wales.

It also provides funding for the Northern Ireland Assembly and Scottish Parliament. It determines the welfare budget and also deals with policies in England and Wales and is responsible for local governments, housing and planning matters. The Scottish Parliament is a national government. An example of a national policy being implemented in Glasgow and surrounding areas is GIRAFFE (Getting it right for every hill). The Scottish government introduced the policy to ensure all children are given a good chance in life and can develop and grow to their full potential.

GIRAFFE is relevant to every child in Scotland, and ranges across children's and adults' services in the public and voluntary sectors to drive towards achieving better futures for all children and young people. Local government refers to the devolved powers given to them by Westminster and the Scottish parliament. Local governments can influence policies by receiving advice from central governments on implementing policy, this is not legal and local governments can interpret the advice any way they wish.

Central Governments pass laws that force local governments to comply with their wishes, for example poll tax. Many local authorities opposed this but had to implement them. An example of legislation imposed by the central government, on local authorities is The Children's Act 2004. The purpose of this act is to make the I-J better and safer for children of all ages. The idea behind the Act is to promote (co-ordination) between various official organizations to improve the overall well-being of children. 1480 WORDS