Policy in Practice

Welfare Reform Impact Analysis

Local authorities need to understand what impact welfare reform policies are having on each of their residents. Yet the impacts of reforms are complex, confusing and change over time. We help councils and others to understand the impact of all policy changes on each individual household.

Using the local authority's own household level data our person-centred approach enables better targeting of scarce support resources to where it's most needed.

Smart analysis delivering inarguable facts

We use your household level data and our software to create rich insights showing how individual households in your area are affected by cumulative and aggregate welfare reforms.

We have worked with over thirty authorities who have used our approach to understand the combined impact of welfare reform on each individual low income household in their local authority.

They have used this to:
- Make tough but informed decisions
- Explain a complex picture to cabinet members, with ward by ward analysis
- Inform a proactive, targeted and tailored approach to local welfare support
- Allocate scarce support budgets and build a case where funding is required
- Plan now to mitigate against negative impacts on individual households

Universal Credit	Benefit Cap £23k / £20k	Council Tax Support	Minimum / Living Wage
Under-occupation	Pay to Stay	LHA	LHA rate to Social Housing
Income Tax Threshold	Support and Arrears	Rent Changes and Living Costs	Cumulative Impacts

Every household counts

Your data can tell you that *"Mrs Jones at 73 High Street will lose £15.62 per week due to all welfare changes, and she has high barriers to work"*.

We can show which of your individual households are affected by current and future welfare reforms, and by how much, and we provide indicators to help you target support. Knowing this information for each of your residents can help you to make stronger strategic and operational decisions, now and in the future.

You can proactively use the insights to engage residents *before* they run into financial hardship.

Rich data about each household

Local authorities have to analyse the impact that policies will have on their residents. Typically the impact of each policy is analysed in aggregate, and in isolation. Because of the way policies interact, and have knock on effects, it can be very difficult to model all policy changes together.

We take your household level data and show you the impact of all reforms from the perspective of your residents. This resident-centred approach helps you to take proactive decisions about how to target support. You can see the cumulative impact of current welfare reforms, plan to mitigate the effect of future welfare reforms, and understand the barriers to work faced by each household.

Additional big data services available

1. Visualisation of analysis using heat maps
2. Design of a tailored CTRS or other local support scheme
3. Combine with other data sets, e.g. arrears data, discretionary housing payments, health data
4. Analysis on a subset of residents (e.g. all residents living in council accommodation)
5. Longitudinal analysis to track a customer's journey with your local authority

> "I can't see whether the people being clobbered by reductions in council tax support or under-occupation are the same people that have been clobbered by other reforms."
>
> Steve Carey, Leeds City Council

> "We want to move beyond sticking plaster solutions. If we can promote work and independence by understanding who is impacted by welfare reforms we'll have more resources available for those who still need our support."
>
> Chris Gibbs, Birmingham City Council

Deliverables

1. Rich household level data set (in editable MS Excel) with filters for each welfare reform, and showing the amount each household is impacted by
2. Comprehensive report assessing the impact of current and future welfare reforms in your council
3. In person meetings with policy experts: kick off meeting, preliminary findings review and final presentation of findings and report.

About Policy in Practice

Policy in Practice believes the welfare system can work more effectively. We help people and organisations by making government policy simple to understand. We show how government policy affects you and your residents, so you can make informed decisions and take control. .

Our software tools use colour and visuals and are fast, simple and easy to use. Our Welfare Reform Impact Analysis and Council Tax Reduction scheme modelling help local authorities target resources, meet their statutory obligations and spend money more effectively.