

Welfare, work and wellbeing in the 21st century social security system

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Role of social security

Beveridgean view

- Abolition of want
- Insurance against interruption or loss of earning power
- Adjustment of incomes to family need
- Insurance against 'special expenditure'
Social insurance and allied services, 1942

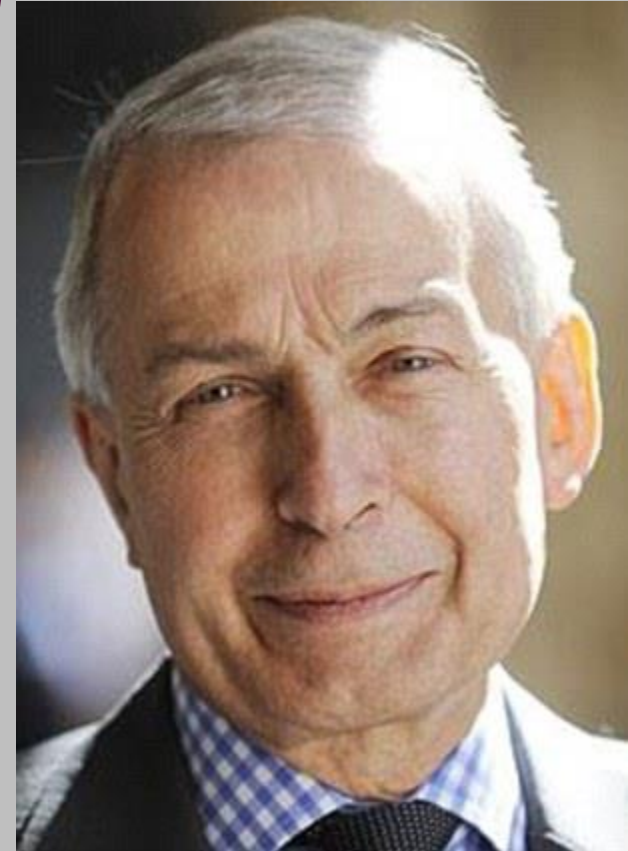


Role of social security

A new contract for welfare?

- Work, security and opportunity
- Responsibilities as well as rights
- Making work pay
- “Work for those who can, security for those who cannot”

New ambitions for our country, 1998



Role of social security

21st century welfare?

- ‘A life on benefits is a poor substitute for a working life but too much of our current system is geared toward maintaining people on benefits rather than helping them to flourish in work’
- Putting ‘work... at the centre of our welfare system’

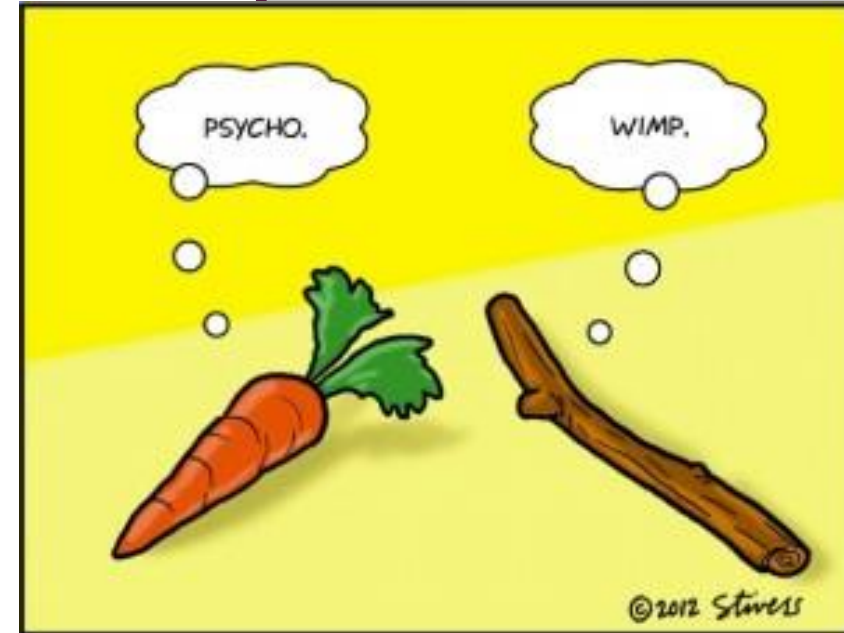
Universal credit: welfare that works, 2010



Putting work at the centre

The carrot and the stick

- Universal credit intended to allow low-paid workers to keep more of their benefit
- Promise of intensive, personalised employment support
- Significant benefit cuts since 2010
- Stiffer sanctions for non-compliance with benefit conditions, more frequently applied



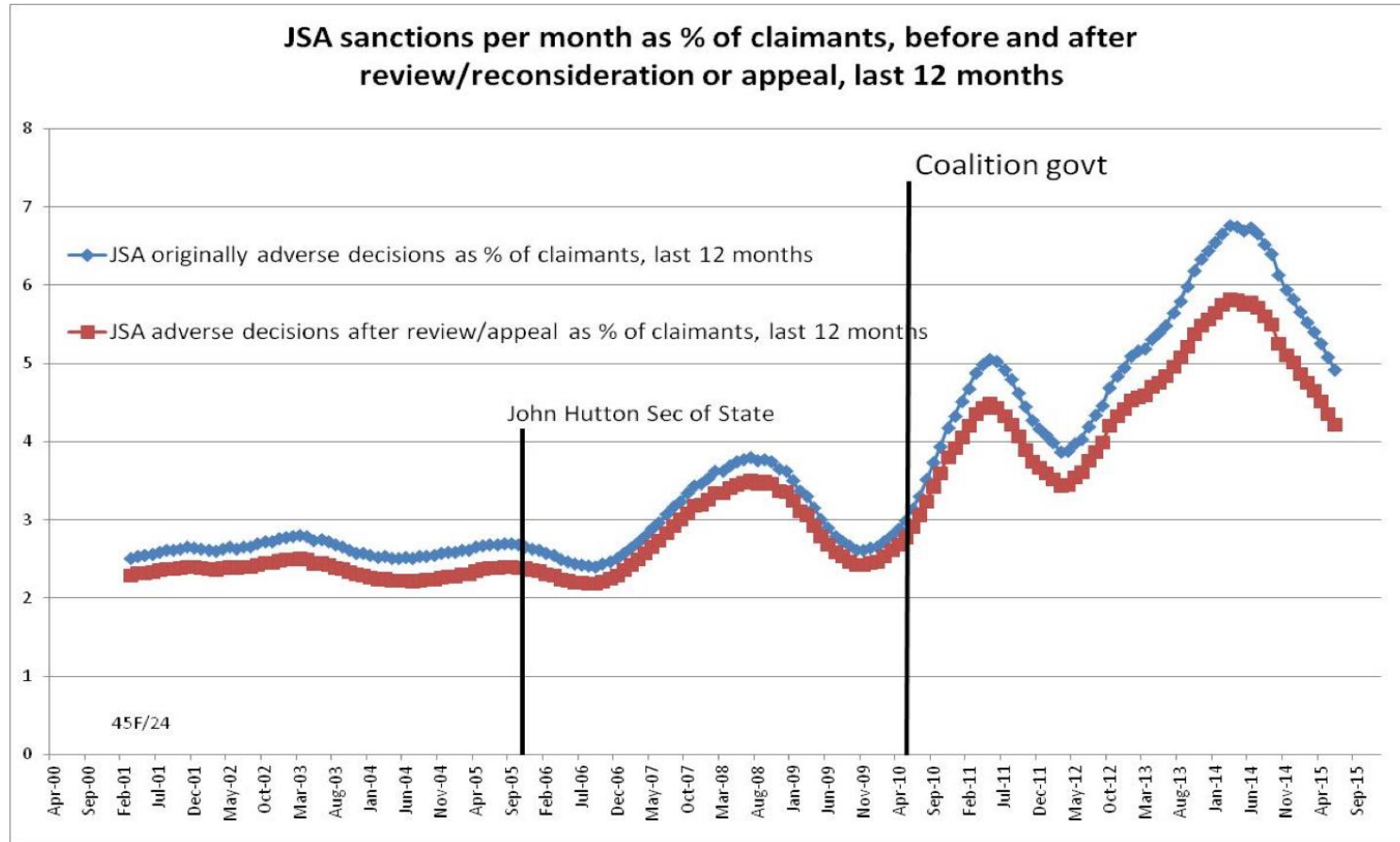
The stick

Conditionality in jobseeker's allowance and universal credit

Condition	First failure	Second failure	Subsequent failure
Missed meeting with work coach	4 weeks	4 weeks	13 weeks
Not actively seeking work	4 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks
Voluntary unemployment	13 weeks	26 weeks	156 weeks (NI 78)

The stick

Conditionality in JSA and UC



Work, welfare and wellbeing

Research evidence on sanctions and conditionality

- Conditional benefit systems probably increase rate of transition to employment
- Stiffer sanctions have no additional impact
- Negative effect on duration of employment and earnings
- Significant numbers cease claim without entering employment

Griggs & Evans, 2010

Sarah's story



I didn't complete the CV I agreed to do on my action plan

"I didn't think a CV would help me but my work coach told me that all employers need one. I didn't have a good reason for not doing it and I was told I'd lose some of my payment. I decided to complete the CV and told my work coach.

I got a letter to say my benefit would go down for two weeks. I was told it was longer than a week because I missed a meeting with my work coach back in March.

My benefit is back to normal now and I'm really pleased with how my CV looks. It's going to help me when I'm ready to go back to work."

Work, welfare and wellbeing

Research evidence on sanctions and conditionality

- Being poor is hard work!
 - Cost of travel to Jobcentre
 - Need to shop around for cheapest food/visit food banks
 - Digital exclusion
 - Impact on mental health, self-confidence, demeanour and appearance

Of our clients seeking help for JSA sanctions:

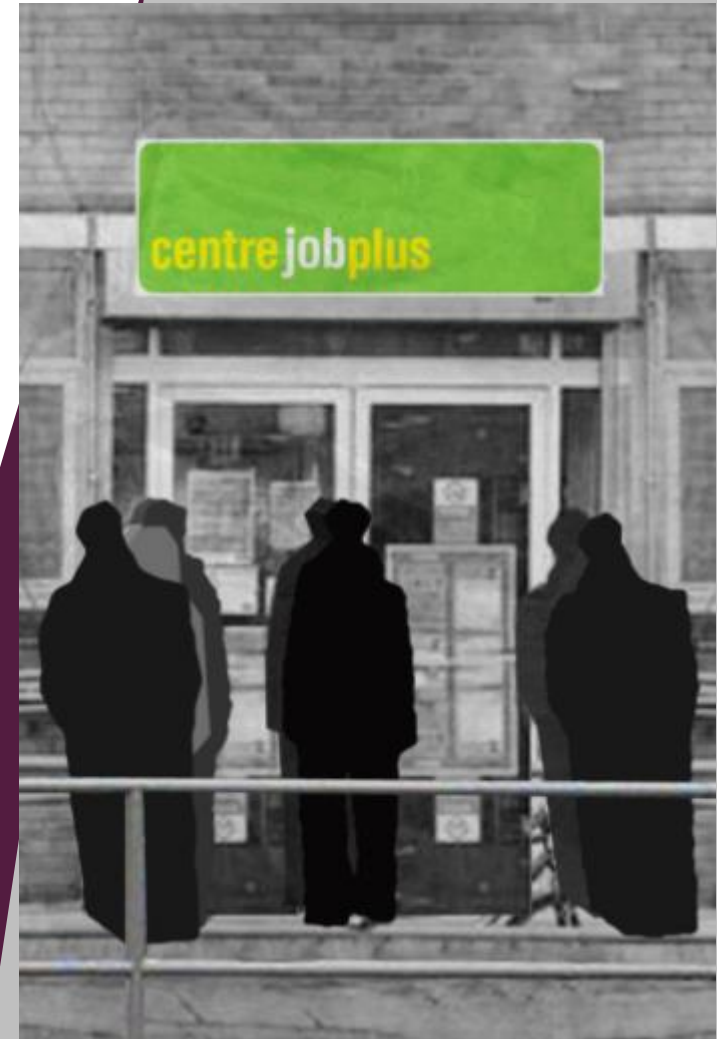


Work, welfare and wellbeing

'Adrian's' story

- “You’d go for an interview... you’re all skinny and everything, you look proper ill. They look at you and go ‘nah, you look like a crackhead’.”
- “You find yourself searching more for food than a job. Then when you do find a job interview I have had to travel there and back on an empty stomach... No nutrition for the brain is like trying to start your car with no petrol inside.”
- “It’s a traumatic experience that has caused some mental issues... made me unsociable with people.”

Patrick, 2017



Work, welfare and wellbeing

'Rebecca's' story

- Impact of sanction: “not wanting to be here, just breaking down, not going out, not wanting to speak to anyone, missing appointments, not on purpose, just because I can't face going out. My health, I've started to get alopecia on my head, losing hair because I'm so stressed out, I constantly get migraines, sometimes I'm really ill, I can't get out of bed, I'm just constantly sick.”

McKeever & others, 2018



...AND IN CONCLUSION I RESTATE MY MAIN POINTS
IN A SUPER WORDY FASHION TO SQUEEZE
ANOTHER PARAGRAPH OUT OF THIS PAPER.



endlessorigami.com

Further reading

J Griggs and M Evans, *Sanctions within conditional benefit systems: a review of evidence* (York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2010)

R Patrick, *For whose benefit? Lived experiences of welfare reform* (Bristol: Policy Press, 2017)

G McKeever, M Simpson and C Fitzpatrick, *Destitution and paths to justice* (London: Legal Education Foundation/York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2018)

M Simpson, G McKeever and AM Gray, *Social security systems based on dignity and respect* (Glasgow: Equality and Human Rights Commission, 2017)