

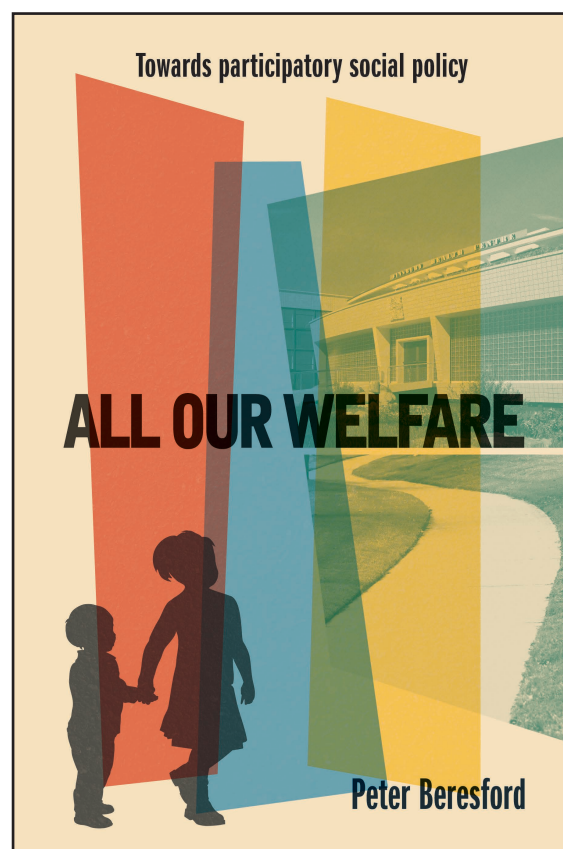
All our welfare

Towards participatory social policy

Peter Beresford, Brunel University

"An imaginative, challenging and valuable rethink of the welfare state, with a unique bottom-up focus from the perspective and interests of the people it was created to serve." Peter Tatchell, Director, Peter Tatchell Foundation

"Peter Beresford is one of our best and most trenchant critics of the impact of neoliberal policies on social work services, service users and welfare provision more generally. This stimulating and important book deserves to be read widely." Michael Lavalette, Liverpool Hope University



"All Our Welfare deftly weaves together history, policy and personal experiences to examine the pasts and possible futures of welfare in Britain. This timely and moving book is an important reminder that what welfare is really about is 'how we look after each other in society'." Imogen Tyler, Lancaster University

The UK welfare state is under sustained ideological and political attack. It has also been undermined by accusations of paternalism and past failures to engage with the very people it is intended to help.

This unique book is the first to critique the past, present and future welfare state from a participatory perspective. Peter Beresford, champion of user involvement, draws on pioneering theories and practice of welfare service user movements to offer a blueprint for a new participatory social policy. He controversially challenges orthodox social policy and the limitations of both Fabian and Neo-liberal perspectives in engaging people to improve their own welfare, drawing on service users' own ideas and experience, including fascinating vignettes from his own family's experience, to demonstrate the value of 'user knowledge'.

Filling a much-needed gap in the literature, this accessible text will provide a great introduction for students and a road-map for practitioners of an alternative vision for a future participatory and sustainable social policy. It will also command much wider interest from everyone concerned with how we look after each other in future in society.

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