

## Additional file 1: Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

	Included	Excluded
(i) Geographical coverage	UK	All other countries
(ii) Time coverage	Studies published between 2002 and 2007	Pre-2002
(iii) Population of interest	Working age (16-65) population who are chronically ill or disabled.	Pre- or post-working age population, and working age population without a chronic illness or disability
(iv) Studies of interest	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Empirical evaluations of effectiveness of 'welfare-to-work' programmes on employment.</li> <li>2. Qualitative studies of the views of participants and process evaluations of the implementation of the included interventions.</li> <li>3. Systematic reviews of studies in 1 and 2 above</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evaluations of 'welfare-to-work' and 'long-term sick to work' programmes that do not include employment outcomes</li> <li>2. Studies that do not include empirical data or do not review empirical studies</li> <li>3. Single cross sectional studies</li> </ol>
(v) Type of policy intervention	Major 'Welfare-to-work' and 'Return-to-work' programmes and their constituent elements to improve the employment chances of chronically ill or disabled people of working age.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Small-scale, local experiments for specific groups of chronically ill or disabled people not part of a national policy initiative;</li> <li>2. "sheltered employment" for severely disabled people that would not constitute employment in the open or competitive labour market.</li> <li>3. "Welfare to work" programmes for people without a chronic illness or disability.</li> <li>4. Programmes to reduce short-term absence rates among the employed population.</li> </ol>
(vi) Outcomes	<p>Effectiveness – employment chances and social inclusion</p> <p>Process – influence of contextual factors on implementation</p> <p>Organisation – features of the policy intervention that influence operation</p>	Studies that do not address outcomes in terms of effectiveness, process or organisation.