

The Welfare State

How important do you think the welfare state was in shaping modern Britain ?

I think it was very important because it improved many aspects of Britain and created useful systems that still stand today .The main positive changes were made in 1942, by the Liberal politician William Beveridge, who the government asked to discover what kind of Britain people wanted to live in after the war, there were five main points, these were called "giants on the road to reconstruction":

- 1 poverty
- 2 disease
- 3 ignorance
- 4 squalor
- 5 idleness

This was thanks to William Beveridge helped prevent and decrease the number of disease as it was originally his idea to have a national health service. This was employed by Clement Attlee - the prime minister in 1945. This was a huge step because until now if you became ill there was nothing that could be done, unless you had enough money to pay for treatment. Especially as this was directly after the war , there were many ill patients that needed caring to, so sickness became a huge problem.

Another major issue that was solved - or at least greatly relived, was poverty. Social security was introduced this helped pregnant women , people who had been injured at work and many other. People were now able to claim benefits. This meant that now anyone could take a holiday or rest a home if they were sick without worrying that they couldn't provide for their family. Council housing was also introduced to fight against homelessness and prevent people living in squalor. Around 1.25 million houses were built between 1955 and 1961. There was also sustain land that was defined 'greenland' and had to be kept rural. Later another act was passed for the council to ensure that young children 'deprived of a normal life' should be kept safe. This helped many young , troubled children get back on the path to a normal life. Marshall Aid was another thing introduced to help get industry going. The government decided to nationalise the road haulage , railways and coal industries in 1947. This meant that the economy was booming and people were