Practical Social Research

Also by the authors

David Hall

*Social Relations and Innovation: Changing the State of
Play in Hospitals*

*Beyond Separation: Further Studies of Children in
Hospital* (with M. Stacey)

Irene Hall

Community Action versus Pollution

Practical Social Research

Project Work in the Community

**David Hall
and
Irene Hall**

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Glossary

Client organisation: Used to denote the group with whom the research has been negotiated. A representative from this group is the recipient for the **Client report** produced by the student(s) as a result of their agreed practical research project.

Client report: The outcome of practical research, addressing the issues negotiated with the client organisation and written in everyday language. May include recommendations for action.

Community practitioner: Term currently used in Britain to denote those active at the locality level in providing welfare services.

Gatekeeper: Individual in an organisation with the power to grant access to a researcher.

Housing co-operative: A form of housing provision in Britain where residents are tenants of housing which they own in common (with government grant assistance), and which they are usually involved in planning, designing and administering.

Informant: Term used to denote the individual who is being asked for information, whether by interview or survey. Used instead of 'interviewee' or 'respondent' (also in common usage) as such an individual possesses the information which is the basis of the study – s/he is the 'expert'. However, a study for women partners of prisoners could not use this term because of the negative connotation of 'informing'.

Glossary

Learning difficulty: Term currently used in Britain in preference to 'mental handicap' or 'mental retardation'.

Local authority: British term for local government at town, city or metropolitan area level which provides a number of services for residents and levies taxes.

Methodology report: Used to refer to a report which students may provide for their academic department as a reflection on their research experience and demonstrates the lessons they have learned about methodology in the everyday world.

Service user: Term in current usage which denotes the beneficiary of services, often of social care, from voluntary or statutory organisations. Used in the book in preference to 'client' – to distinguish from the official providers of the service (the client organisation).

Special needs: Term increasingly used in Britain in preference to 'disabled'.

Sponsor: Individual with influence who promotes research by providing researchers with the means and/or contacts for undertaking it.

Stakeholder: Refers to everyone in an organisation as provider or recipient of service, paid or voluntary staff who has some interest (stake) in the quality of service provided.

Survivor: Used as a non-stigmatising term instead of victim, as in survivor of rape

Voluntary organisations: Non-profit organisations, often either registered charities or voluntary associations, which usually include volunteers among their workers. In Britain increasingly dependent on paid staff, and major providers of specialised services to local authorities who contract to 'buy' such services (provided by, for example, residential homes or day centres). Called the Third Sector in the USA.