What counts as ‘evidence’?

Making a submission to the LASPO review
Quantitative vs qualitative data

- Quantitative data – evidence that can be measured using numbers e.g. statistics
  Examples: Ministry of Justice data, organisational statistics

- Qualitative data – evidence that relies on non-numeric methods, e.g. descriptive data, narratives, discourse analysis
  Examples: case studies, litigation, observations
Choosing your data

- The different functions of different types of data
  - *What do you want to measure?*
  - *What are you trying to capture/demonstrate?*
  - *Statistics can capture scale, descriptions can capture the ‘human’ dimensions of an issue*

- ‘Mixed methods’ – combining quantitative and qualitative methods
  - *Scale vs depth of data*
  - *Level of detail – in-depth descriptions can narrate statistics*

- The importance of your contribution
  - *What information do you have access to?*
  - *What is unique about your perspective?*
Ethics

- ‘Do no harm’ as a research principle
- Protecting confidentiality - anonymise where necessary
- Consent – do those represented know how their data is being used?
Is it ‘anecdotal’ data?

_Demonstrating a systematic perspective_

- Why your evidence is important
  - *Your authority to speak on the issue*
  - *Representing the views of your clients/service users*
- Explain your methods and the scope of the data
- The value of ‘thick’ description
- No data is insignificant – how to build the bigger picture
PLP’s research briefings

1. The gap between the legal aid means regulations and financial reality Isaac Richardson
2. LASPO briefing: Public Law Project Litigation Matthew Ahluwalia
3. The effects of LASPO on civil legal aid in Wales Sue Harper
4. Exceptional Case Funding Briefing Katy Watts
5. The Civil Legal Advice Telephone Gateway Polly Brendon
6. Legal aid and access to early advice Mary Evenden
7. Family Law and Access to Legal Aid Emma Marshall, Sue Harper and Hattie Stacey
Ideas?