

Social Care

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Social care - parameters

In 2007-08:

- 1.75 million adults used social care services
- £16.5 billion spent by councils on adult social care
- £3.52 billion spent by older people themselves
- 18,000+ care homes with 450,000 places for adults
- 42,000 home care agencies
- 1.5 million people working in adult social care services
- 5.2 million adults provide unpaid care ...
- ... 1.7 million of them provide care for 20+ hours weekly

Contributions to health and health care (e.g. older people)

Many social care users have considerable health needs ...

... and their treatment, care and support are interwoven in complex ways. There are pay-offs →

- Each £1 of social care spending on older people reduced inpatient care spending by 30p (ECCEP study)
- Each £1 of POPP (social and health care) spending on older people reduced emergency bed day spending by £1.20
- And – in the other direction – health care spending can clearly save money for councils and individuals using social care services

School for Social Care Research

- established 2009



Mission: to develop the evidence base for adult social care practice in England by commissioning and conducting world-class research

- £15 million funding over 5 years
- Both 'internal' and 'external' research
- LSE, KCL, Universities of Kent, Manchester, York

Goals:

- **Conduct and commission** high-quality research
- **Focus** for social care research within NIHR
- Develop **methods**
- **Consult** widely on research priorities
- Help to build social care research **capacity & awareness**
- Support **knowledge transfer**

Key themes

- Engage with *users, carers, practitioners*
- Highest *ethical* and governance standards
- *Scientific excellence* ...
- ... but with *real-world impact*
- *Communicate* questions, methods and answers

Some particular emphases:

- Use robust *outcome measures*
- Understand '*process outcomes*'
- *Cost-effectiveness*
- Recognise cultural, ethnic, socioeconomic *diversity*
- Evaluate *interfaces* – social care, health & other systems
- Understand consequences *workforce* and *unpaid carers*

SSCR – broad programmes

- Preventing and reducing the need for social care
- Promoting choice and independence
- Balancing care and work
- Developing solutions to changing needs
- Delivering integrated services – particularly between health and social care

BUT we are open to suggestion on all research themes and projects – so long as the potential is there to improve adult social care practice

More information



- Website: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/nihrsscr
(migrating in 2010 to NIHR portal)
- Email: sscr@lse.ac.uk and m.knapp@lse.ac.uk
- Call us on **020-7955-6258**