

School for Social Care Research

Ann Netten

PSSRU, University of Kent

Associate Director, School for Social Care Research



NIHR SSCR - Parameters

- Adult social care practice in England
- Small evidence base
- £15 million research funding over 5 yrs from May 2009
- Wide consultation on research topics
- Broad commissioning of research

This presentation:

- **Background**
- **Mission and activities**
- **Structure and governance**
- **Cross-cutting themes in our work**
- **Research programmes**
- **What happens next ?**
- **Contacts**

Introduction: social care

- Adult social care → care and support services
- Care at home, in day centres or in residential or nursing homes
- Funded by: local authorities, users'/family's own resources, charities
- Provided by local authorities, charity/non-profit, for-profit organisations, relatives and friends

In 2007-08

- 1.75 million adults used social care services
- £16.5 billion spent by councils on social care for adults
- £3.52 billion spent by older people not eligible for public support
- 1.5 million people working in adult social care services in England
- More than 18,000 care homes providing 450,000 places to adults of all ages
- 42,000 home care agencies
- 5.2 million adults provide unpaid care → 1.7 million of them provide care for 20+ hours per week

Contributions to health and health care (eg 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 spend on older people reduced inpatient care spend by 30p (ECCEP study)
- Each £1 of POPP (social and health care) spend on older people reduced emergency bed day spend by £1.17
- And health spend can clearly save money for councils and individuals

Background

"We want to improve the evidence for social care practice so we can be sure that people in this country are provided with better and more effective services in the future. This new National School for Social Care Research will make a major contribution to improving the volume and quality of the research in the English social care sector" (**Care Services Minister May 2008**).

"The new NIHR SSCR ... will give researchers the time and funding to ask the important questions and improve our understanding of what works, what doesn't work and why. This new School will provide considerable benefit to the health and well-being of the population through the new knowledge gained" (**Dame Sally Davies, Director General of Research and Development at the DH**).

Mission and activities

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

Goals:

- **Conduct** high-quality research
- **Commission** high-quality research
- Provide **focus** for social care research within NIHR; promote development of social care research
- Develop **methodological** rigour and widen repertoire
- **Consult** widely on research priorities
- Contribute to wider efforts to build social care research **capacity** and improve research **awareness**
- Support a wide range of **knowledge transfer** activities

Structure and governance

- Director
- Associate Directors - form the School Executive
- Senior Fellows – specialist advisors
- Fellows – externally funded PIs
- Advisory Board
- User, Carer, Practitioner Reference Group
- Administrative structure:
 - Senior scientific officer
 - Communications officer

NIHR SSCR Executive

Martin Knapp (NIHR SSCR Director) – LSE

David Challis (Associate Director) – Manchester

Caroline Glendinning (Associate Director) – York

Jim Mansell (Associate Director) – Kent

Jill Manthorpe (Associate Director) – KCL

Ann Netten (Associate Director) – Kent

Supported by:

Gill Hastings – LSE

Angela Mehta – LSE

Advisory Board members

David Behan (chair)

Victor Adebowale

Christine Barton

Andrew Cozens

Ian Diamond

John Dixon

Martin Green

Conrad Hodgkinson

Julie Jones

Janet Newman

Denise Platt

James Richardson

Imelda Redmond

Ian Shaw

Emma Stone

Alan Walker

Paul Wiles

In attendance:

Martin Knapp

Carol Lupton

Clare Croft-White

User, Carer, Practitioner Reference Group

- Set up July 2009; 8 members
- Roles:
 - **support** SSCR mission
 - **advise** SSCR Executive
 - **champion** continuous and active participation of service users, carers and practitioners in SSCR activities
 - **help develop** the SSCR user-led, carer-led research

Cross-cutting themes 1

- Engagement with ***users, carers, practitioners***
- Highest ***ethical*** and research governance standards
- Pursuit of ***scientific excellence*** ... but proportionate to real-world relevance
- Research with ***real-world impact***
- ***Peer-reviewing*** to ensure high standards and relevance
- Visible, ***accessible information*** on projects and their findings

Cross-cutting themes 2

- Develop and use robust **outcome measures**
- Understand '**process outcomes**' (how support is accessed and experienced)
- Examine **cost-effectiveness**
- Recognise cultural, ethnic, socioeconomic **diversity**
- Chart and evaluate **interfaces** between social care, health care and relevant other systems
- Understand consequences of practice changes for paid **workforce** (all sectors) and **unpaid carers**

Research programmes – 1,2

1. Prevention and reduction

How can we best prevent or reduce the development or exacerbation of circumstances that lead to the need for social care?

2. Empowerment and safeguarding

How can we best empower and safeguard people who use social care services?

Research Programmes - 3

3. Care and work

How can we best equip and support people – practitioners, volunteers, informal carers – to provide optimum social care?

How can we ensure that people who use social care and their carers are enabled and supported in paid work and other types of meaningful activity?

Research Programmes- 4,5

4. Service interventions, commissioning and change

What interventions, commissioning and delivery arrangements best achieve social care outcomes?

5. Resources and interfaces

How can social care and other public resources best be deployed and combined to achieve social care outcomes?

First Wave Projects

Four projects starting 2009

Individualisation of services – a scoping study

Social care practice with carers: an investigation of practice models

Care and support for people with complex and severe needs: innovations and practice – a scoping study

Costs and outcomes of skilled support for adults with complex needs in supported accommodation

Second Wave Projects

July 2009 - a call for outline research proposals

Emphasis

- originality
- relevance for adult social care practice in England
- potential improvements to adult social care practice in England

October 2009 – short-listing decisions

January 2010 – decisions on short-listed full proposals

March 2010 – Second Wave projects begin

What happens next?

- Consult widely on research priorities (***ongoing activity - including today***)
- Commission reviews of methods (***September 09***)
- Tender for Third Wave projects (***Spring 2010***)
- First conference (***30 March 2010***)

How to contact us

We welcome suggestions to shape our research agenda

- Visit our website
www.lse.ac.uk/collections/nihrsscr
- Use our online form
http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/NIHRSSCR/research_suggestion.htm
- Email **sscr@lse.ac.uk**
- Call us on **020-7955-6258**