

# School for Social Care Research

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# 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
- Focus includes: interventions, needs and outcomes
- Support at home, out & about, or care homes
- Funding from: local authorities, users' or family's resources,

## ***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
- 42,000 home care agencies
- 5.2 million unpaid carers → 1.7 million providing care for 20+ hours per week

# Background

*"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

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

## Goals:

- 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 ongoing efforts to build social care research **capacity** and improve research awareness
- Support wide range of **knowledge transfer** activities

# Structure and governance

- Director
- Associate Directors - the School Executive
- SSCR Associates and Fellows
- Advisory Board
- User, Care and Practitioner Reference Group

# 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, socio-economic **diversity**
- Chart and evaluate **interfaces** between social care, health care and 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?

# What happens next?

- Consult widely on research priorities (**ongoing, including today**)
- Establish User, Carer and Practitioner Reference Group (**June 09**)
- Start First Wave projects (**June 09**)
- Commission reviews of methods (**July 09**)
- Invite proposals for Second Wave projects (**July 09**)
- Tender for Third Wave projects (**Sept 09**)
- First conference ('Launch event') (**Oct 09**)

# How to contact us

*We welcome suggestions to shape our research agenda*

- Visit our website

**[www.lse.ac.uk/collections/nihrsscr](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/nihrsscr)**

- Email **[sscr@lse.ac.uk](mailto:sscr@lse.ac.uk)**

- Call us on **020-7955-6258**