

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
- Care at home, in day centres or in residential or nursing homes
- Funding from: local authorities, users' or family's own resources, charities

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

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 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 - forming the School Executive

SSCR Associates and Fellows

Advisory Board

User, Carer and Practitioner Reference Group

Administrative structure

SSCR Executive



Martin Knapp (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 (DH; chair)
Victor Adebowale (Turning Pt.)
Christine Barton (Lay member)
Andrew Cozens (IDeA)
Ian Diamond (ESRC)
John Dixon (W Sussex/ADASS)
Martin Green (ECCA)
Conrad Hodgkinson (Lay mbr)
Julie Jones (SCIE)
Janet Newman (Open Univ)
Denise Platt (CSCI)
James Richardson (HMT)

Imelda Redmond (Carers UK)
Martin Roland (NIHR SPCR)
Ian Shaw (JUC SWEC)
Emma Stone (JRF)
Alan Walker (Sheffield Univ)
Paul Wiles (Govt Social Res.)

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?

What happens next?

- Consult widely on research priorities **(ongoing)**
- 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

- Email **sscr@lse.ac.uk**

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

