

School for Social Care Research

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Outline of presentation

- **Introduction – what is social care?**
- **Parameters of SSCR**
- **Background**
- **Mission and activities**
- **Structure and governance**
- **Cross-cutting themes in our work**
- **Research programmes**
- **What happens next ?**
- **Contacts**

Introduction: social care

- Provided at home, day centres, residential or nursing homes
- Funding from: local authorities, users' or family's own resources, charities
- Provided by local authorities, charity/non-profit, for-profit organisations, relatives and friends

In 2007-08

- 1.75 m adults used social care services
- £16.5 b spent by councils on social care for adults
- £3.52 b spent by older people not eligible for public support
- 1.5 million people working in adult social care services in England
- > 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 care for 20+ hours per week

NIHR SSCR Background 1

- Adult social care practice in England
- Very small evidence base compared with health/health services research
- £15 million research funding over 5 years from May 2009
- Wide consultation on research topics
- Funding for internal (member/Executive) research
- External research commissioning

SSCR Background 2

"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

Activities:

- **Conduct** high-quality research
- **Commission** high-quality research
- Provide **focus** for social care research within NIHR, promoting 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

Martin Roland

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

Second Wave Projects

- July 2009 call for outline proposals
- Emphasis:
 - originality
 - relevance to adult social care practice in England
 - high scientific quality

October 2009 – short-listed 36 outline proposals

January 2010 – decisions on 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 2009***)
- Tender for Third Wave projects (***Spring 2010***)
- First conference (***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/researchsuggestion.htm>

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

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