

## School for Social Care Research

# Supporting the future of social care through research



## Annual Report 2010/11

Improving the evidence base for  
adult social care practice in England

The School for Social Care Research (SSCR) is one of the leading funders of research into adult social care practice in England. Research findings will help drive new developments in social care policy and practice. In particular we aim to identify and fill gaps in evidence.

## Our mission...

...is to improve social care practice for adults in England through commissioning and conducting research to:

- Provide evidence of effective, pioneering and imaginative approaches
- Enable people needing social care to lead satisfying, fulfilling lives, supported by accessible, easy-to-use, individually-tailored services
- Underpin the development of social care practice through high-quality research evidence.

## Our objective...

...is to produce new knowledge through high-quality research to inform the future development of social care practice. We are doing this through new empirical research and/or by reviewing and synthesising existing knowledge.

## Our values...

### remain committed to...

- Working closely with users, carers and practitioners
- Consulting other decision makers and researchers
- Making sure that research proposals and findings are rigorously reviewed to ensure they are relevant and of a high standard
- Pursuing scientific excellence – in proportion to the real-world relevance of the research question
- Making information on projects and their findings visible and accessible
- Using robust outcome measures
- Understanding how people access and experience support
- Looking at value for money
- Recognising diversity and exploring what it means
- Charting how social care services work with other support systems such as health, housing, education and social security
- Being clear about the implications of our results for those who work in social care – both paid and unpaid.



The SSCR is a partnership between the London School of Economics and Political Science, King's College London and the Universities of Kent, Manchester and York. It is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

# Our questions

We aim to answer a number of important questions through our research. These include:

- How can we best prevent or reduce the development or exacerbation of circumstances that lead to the need for social care?
- How can we best empower and safeguard people who use social care services?
- How can we best equip and support people – practitioners, volunteers and unpaid carers – to provide optimum social care?
- How can we ensure that service users and their carers are enabled and supported in paid work and other types of meaningful activity?
- What interventions, commissioning and delivery arrangements best achieve social care outcomes?
- How can ‘resource allocation’ mechanisms create the right incentives to improve resource use and impact?
- How have commissioning arrangements altered in light of the changing social care markets in response to personal budgets?
- What forms of social care practice work best in assessing and meeting carers’ needs?
- What support arrangements improve carers’ well-being?
- How can social care practice support most people’s stated desire to die at home?
- What are the social care needs of people who do not qualify for local authority support and how are these met?
- What are the implications for social care practice, service providers, users and carers of a colder economic climate?

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**Mr David Behan, Director General of Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships, Department of Health**

At the end of its second year, the NIHR School for Social Care Research (SSCR) sits on the peak of new developments in social care. The Commission on Funding Care and Support chaired by Andrew Dilnot has now reported, as has the Law Commission on its reforms on the laws around social care. The Department of Health's Caring for our Future Engagement consultation sought views to understand the immediate and long-term priorities for social care reform and to inform policy development and decisions focusing on six identified priority areas. A White Paper is due in Spring 2012. Many of these developments have been informed by evidence generated by well-conducted research, and many will continue to require robust evidence as they go forward. The success of future policy reforms will be all the greater if they build on good research.

SSCR has the potential to provide high-quality, world-class evidence to support these and future reforms in social care. This report demonstrates the breadth of the School's activities over the last year. The School has commissioned a number of studies in key areas of social care, many of which overlap with the priorities identified by the DH (see panel on left). Some of these studies will begin to report their findings in the coming year. Further gaps in the evidence base continue to be identified (e.g. through scoping reviews), feeding into the new Call for Proposals in late 2011.

There are some challenges. We need to ensure that all social care research is underpinned by robust methods. The School's collection of methods reviews is working towards achieving this by supporting researchers to understand and utilise a wider range of methods in social care research. Some of these reviews provide further guidance on research involving certain client groups, such as the forthcoming review on user-led research, and the commissioned review on research involving people with dementia. Through these and other activities the School can work closely with others in the field to build capacity, and support future research leaders, improving not just the quality of current research but of future social care research.

Key challenges for the future will be to build on the collaborations established with key individuals and organisations in the social care sector, and to continue the current work on research impact that is underway, to ensure the transfer and utilisation of SSCR's research evidence into practice. At the same time, the School will be engaging with key research users to better understand their research needs.

I congratulate the School and its members for another excellent year.

**Caring for our future engagement: Six priority areas**

- 1. Improving quality and developing the workshop**
- 2. Increased personalisation and choice**
- 3. Ensuring services are better integrated around people's needs**
- 4. Supporting greater prevention and early intervention**
- 5. Creating a more diverse and responsive care market**
- 6. The role of the financial services in supporting users, carers and their families**

See: <http://caringforourfuture.dh.gov.uk>

# Research Focus

## ■ Knowing the status of social care research

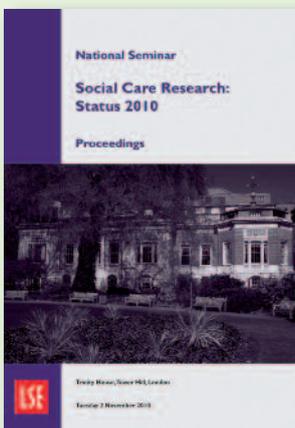
### Social Care Research: Status 2010

Adult social care research has strengthened in quality, and its status and place on the political agenda have risen in the last five years. This has never been an ivory tower area of research but it is becoming ever more practice-based and multi-disciplinary. Practitioners and policy-makers are frequently encouraged to build on the evidence of research findings. Results are becoming easier to access. There has been increased funding for social care research in the last five years, particularly through the establishment of the NIHR School for Social Care Research (SSCR).

These were some of the messages from a national seminar organised by the SSCR. The aim of the event was to assess the current state of adult social care research, and what it can contribute to policy and practice. The national seminar, held in London in November 2010, brought together academics, central and local government, research commissioners, service providers, service user representatives, carers, practitioners, and employers. Participants considered progress made since the 2005 review of social care evidence – A Wider Strategy for Social Care Research – commissioned by the Department of Health.

Participants agreed more work was needed to:

- Make the research community better aware of funding opportunities
- Demonstrate the impact of research on policy, practice and individual lives
- Improve communication of results to both research and non-research audiences
- Collaborate with people who use services who should continue to be involved in developing research priorities, not only in providing information.



The full report is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/events/status2010.pdf](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/events/status2010.pdf)



# Welcome from our Director

Adult social care is critical – not only for the millions who use services today – but also for the many more millions who will need them in the future. Radical changes in the public sector together with the squeeze on public finances mean that the challenge of how to design care and support to improve the lives of adults needing social care in England has never been greater. We are working to meet that challenge by commissioning and undertaking relevant, robust, informative studies that, we hope, will inform improvements. That was the clear aim of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) when the SSCR was set up in 2009 and we are well on the way to fulfilling it.

Research is vital to empower service users, their carers, and the staff who support them, to get the best out of the resources available. It is our job to ensure that high-quality evidence exists to help social care practice develop – now and in future. To date we have commissioned 22 research studies (with a further 11 under consideration) and three scoping reviews. Our first three methods reviews, meanwhile, are now completed and available on our website. Our latest call for proposals will generate yet more studies.

But we cannot, and must never, stand still. Research must be translated into practice or it is a waste of effort, and a waste of public money. That is why we are working hard to ensure that the messages from the studies we fund reach those who need to hear them – front-line practitioners and managers in adult social care, service users and their carers. We are committed to translating research into practice to ensure that the research we fund has real impact.

The School for Social Care Research is built on strong foundations and is now playing an active role in connecting research, policy and practice. Next year we will work even harder to raise awareness of the need for social care research to drive forward improvements in services and decision-making. To do this everyone needs to play a part in the discussion. We are keen to hear what research questions you want answered and to learn what difference SSCR research has made – or can make – to services and people's lives in your area.

I thank you all for your support and involvement this year and look forward to working with you in the coming year to help change the face of social care through research. I also thank colleagues who drafted, edited and produced this annual report: Patsy Westcott, Jane Garton, Teresa Poole and Sarah Moncrieff.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Knapp', with a long horizontal line underneath.

Professor Martin Knapp, Director, School for Social Care Research

*P.S. Please get in touch*

*Join our discussion by calling 020 7955 6238, emailing or writing to [sscr@lse.ac.uk](mailto:sscr@lse.ac.uk).  
Together we can make a real difference to the future of social care.*

## Foreword

In 2010/11 we continued working towards the goals set out in our Business Plan ([www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/resources/D1](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/resources/D1)) and developing our research strategy. The year saw significant progress in commissioning and conducting research focusing on the key priorities set out in the Plan.

1. Preventing and reducing the need for social care and support
2. Promoting choice and independence
3. Balancing care and work
4. Developing solutions to changing needs
5. Providing evidence to help deliver integrated services

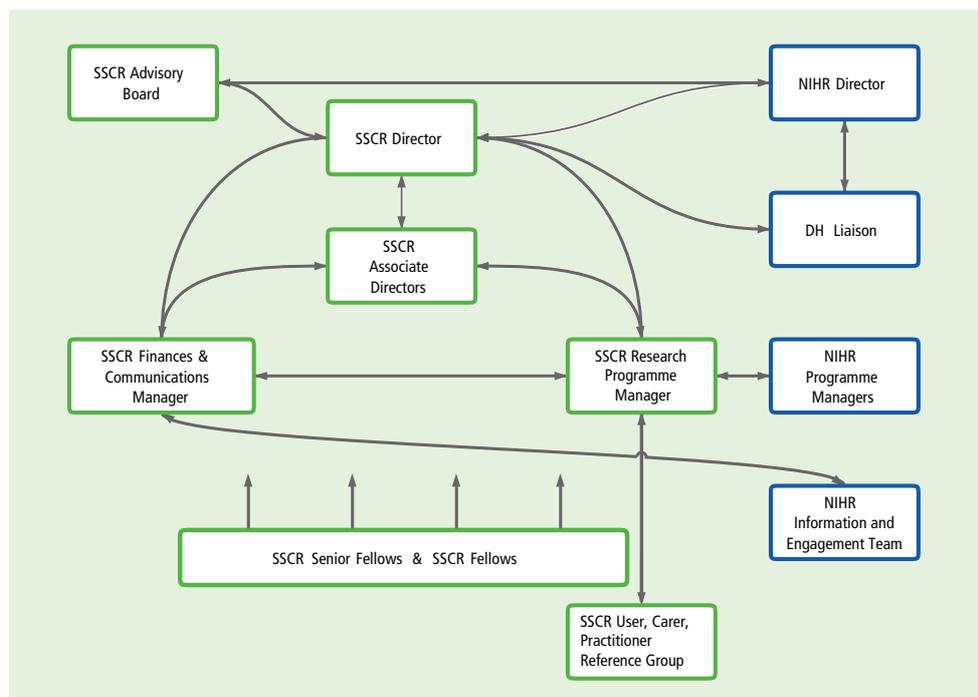
Over 100 people took part in our open consultation. We listened to them and in light of what they told us and the results of commissioned studies we are currently redefining and expanding these themes.

We have also been working hard to continue to review and develop our strategy in the context of new policy developments, such as the Department of Health's *A Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens*, published in November 2010, the Health and Social Care Bill, which was set before parliament on 19 January 2011, and the White Paper on social care expected in Spring 2012.

We continue to provide strategic leadership in developing social care research by funding new and innovative studies, addressing key current and future questions and through our many activities with individuals ranging from service users and carers to opinion formers and policy makers.

This review sets out our achievements in 2010/11 and shows how on every front we are working to improve the face of social care through research.

### SSCR structure



# Recognising achievement



## Professor Jim Mansell honoured with SCIE Knowledge Award for Outstanding Contribution to Knowledge in Social Care

*Jim was a founder member of SSCR. The award from SCIE could not have been made to a more appropriate person, and everyone in SSCR is delighted.*

Professor Martin Knapp

Professor Jim Mansell was recently awarded a SCIE Knowledge Award for Outstanding Contribution Knowledge in Social Care by the Social Care Institute for Excellence. Emeritus Professor of Learning Disability in the Tizard Centre at the University of Kent, Jim, who founded the Tizard Centre, has made an outstanding contribution to knowledge in social care, which has made an impact in improving the quality of direct provision of social work or social care.

Jim Mansell is Professor in the School of Social Work and Social Policy at La Trobe University, Melbourne. He is a Fellow of the British Psychological Society, a chartered psychologist and a social science academic. In 1971, he established a student charity in Cardiff and set up a group home for young people with severe learning disabilities formerly living in long-stay hospitals. In 1983 he moved to Kent where he founded and then directed the Tizard Centre for many years, leading a large programme of research, consultancy and teaching in intellectual disability and community care. He has been a consultant, teacher and adviser to governmental and non-governmental organisations in Britain, the US, Australia and Europe.

He is a Trustee of the charity United Response and has been a Commissioner for Social Care Inspection, a member of HM Government's Learning Disability Task Force and of the Independent Inquiry into Access to Healthcare for People with Learning Disabilities. His publications include the books 'Active support' (2012), 'Deinstitutionalisation and community living' (1996), 'Severe learning disability and challenging behaviour' (1993) and 'Developing staffed housing for people with mental handicaps' (1987).

Professor Jim Mansell was, until December 2010, Associate Director of SSCR, and is now SSCR Senior Fellow.

Read more about the Award at <http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/corporate/tenth-anniversary/scie-knowledge-award.asp>

# 2010–11 at a glance

This is the second full year for the School for Social Care Research. These key facts and figures show how we performed:

**35**

the number of full research proposals submitting following our second call for proposals, eight of which we are now funding. We based our choice on the calibre of the submissions and whether they addressed the crucial questions that need answering

**50,000**

the number of hits on our website

We welcomed

**5** new Senior Fellows and

**24** new Fellows

**350**

the number of people who joined our mailing lists

**105**

the number of peer reviews of research proposals submitted – a third of these came from user, carer or practitioner colleagues

We published

**4** SSCR Updates (our e-newsletter)

**3** methods reviews and

**1** scoping review

We hosted our second annual meeting and held two meetings of our User, Carer, Practitioner Reference Group

We held workshops on research ethics and governance in social care, and on the past, current and future status of social care research

We published our first annual report

# Our achievements

The School for Social Care Research is leading the way in raising awareness of social care issues and researching ways to improve adult social care throughout England. Here's what we said we would do and what we achieved in 2010/11:

## Last year we said we would... [call for research proposals to start in 2011](#)

**100**

the number of applications for funding received since May 2009

We called for proposals addressing 18 specific questions on 23 June 2010. As a result we agreed to fund eight studies starting from April 2011.

We commissioned four internal studies.

We continued to try to identify gaps in available evidence. In our first year we commissioned two scoping reviews – on mental health services in social care research and the prevention of learning disabilities. The results of the latter are now feeding into ongoing research studies as well as informing our decisions on the commissioning of future studies.

## Last year we said we would... [continue to conduct high quality research](#)

Some 22 projects are now underway and one scoping review has been completed. See page 9.

## Last year we said we would... [report on the responses to our consultation for research ideas](#)

We successfully elicited a wide range of topics for research reflecting and expanding upon our five research themes.

The suggestions helped inform our review of evidence gaps and research needs and were subsequently incorporated into our Calls for Proposals in 2011.

We will continue to commission research in areas where evidence is clearly needed to support and develop adult social care practice. To this end we are constantly working towards expanding our pool of ideas.

## Last year we said we would... [publish reports from the methods and scoping reviews commissioned in our first year in areas where there is a research need](#)

We published Jo Moriarty's *Qualitative Methods Review*, showcasing different ways in which qualitative research has been successfully used in social care.

We published Elizabeth Price's review on *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) Sexualities in Social Care Research*, addressing methodological and other challenges facing social care researchers.

We launched Nigel Charles's review, *A brief guide to carrying out research about adult social care services for visually impaired people*.

**Last year we said we would... continue to support and promote social care research in England**

In November 2010 our national seminar brought together 80 academics, representatives from central and local government, research commissioners, service providers, service user representatives, carers, practitioners and employers to assess the current state of adult social care research and how it can contribute to policy and practice. Participants considered progress made since the 2005 Review of Social Care Evidence – a wider strategy for social care research commissioned by the Department of Health.

We welcomed the publication of the second edition of the *Research Governance Framework Resource Pack for Social Care* and discussed how this could be best implemented in October 2010 at an event organised jointly by ourselves and the Social Service Research Group (SSRG).

**Last year we said we would... welcome a number of new Fellows**

We appointed four new Senior Fellows. We now have 68 Fellows who are funded to work on SSCR-funded projects. See pages 31 and 38.

We are working with our Fellows to identify ways in which SSCR can support their training and development needs, and help them – and future Fellows – develop their social care research skills.

**Last year we said we would... support the European Conference for Social Work and Social Care Research**

The Conference, co-organised by Professor Ian Shaw, a member of our Advisory Board, took place on 21 March 2011. It gave social work and social care researchers the opportunity to explore some of the key issues facing research today.

Two SSCR Fellows presented papers. Dr Martin Webber described an innovative approach to developing complex interventions in social care. Dr Rachel Fyson's contribution centred on social workers' and adult safeguarding officers' views on the needs of adults with learning disabilities.

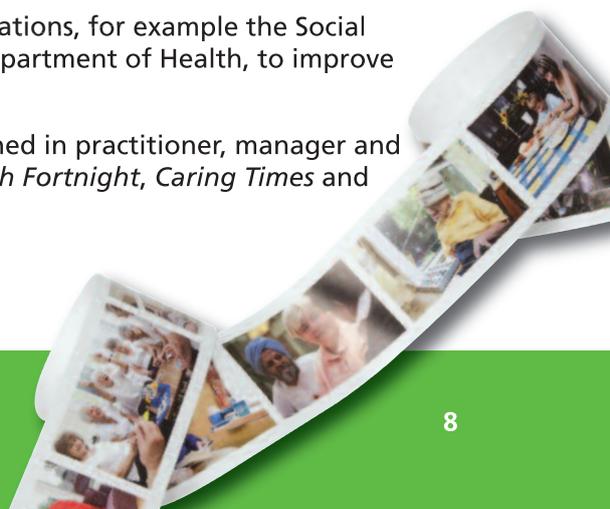
**Last year we said we would... continue promoting SSCR and its work, and communicate and discuss new research findings as they emerge, as well as building on the partnerships we have developed**

We organised a number of high-impact meetings and workshops on user-led research and research ethics and governance.

We represented social care research on various groups and boards, such as the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services Research Group.

We continued to work with organisations, for example the Social Services Research Group and the Department of Health, to improve social care research.

We had a number of articles published in practitioner, manager and provider journals, including *Research Fortnight*, *Caring Times* and *Community Care*.



# Our research

The establishment of the SSCR in 2009 opened a new avenue for funding social care research, which put us on the path to developing that evidence base. In 2010/11 we committed a further £3,021,373 to funding eight new external studies and four new internal studies. With this investment in research it is vital we prove its worth. To this end we are redeveloping our research strategy and setting out clear objectives to target those areas where we can show the greatest impact.

## Knowing which questions to ask

The School aims to commission research that will help fill gaps in the available evidence across our priority areas. We also want the results of the work we fund to be directly relevant to the individuals who use social care services and support, and for social care practitioners who are responsible for improving support and care.

## Preventing and reducing the need for social care and support

Interventions that successfully prevent or postpone a person's need for social care have the potential both to improve an individual's quality of life and to reduce overall public and private expenditure on services. Government policy currently emphasises the need for prevention, but the commissioners of services need better evidence of what works well, and offers value for money, so that they can put this policy into practice. We have funded studies that identify the types of services and support that, over an appropriate timescale, either help individuals to avoid the need for care, or stop a person's existing needs from escalating so that they require more intensive support.

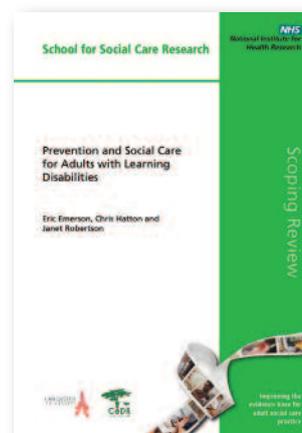
- Detailed information is needed about what prevention means for specific types of service users. For example, we are keen to contribute to a stronger evidence base on prevention in the area of learning disabilities. This may be through preventing the development of learning disabilities *per se*, or by reducing the need for adult social care services *among* people with learning disabilities.

The scoping work we funded, led by Professor Eric Emerson at Lancaster University, has broadened our understanding of the options for prevention in the area of learning disabilities and demonstrated how they commonly involve altering the social and environmental context in which children in the UK grow up, with interventions ranging from reducing exposure to child poverty and economic inequality to providing early intervention for children with developmental delay.

## What areas of social care do we research?

We focus on adult social care in its broadest and most inclusive sense.

This encompasses the wide range of care and support available to and used by adults, a diversity of services and services providers, and the care and support provided through informal care, self care and self-funded care.



The Scoping Review is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/SR1](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/SR1)

- Given the lack of formal evidence on prevention, local authorities have often had to make their own investment decisions about prevention, with little to guide them on how best to invest strategically over time. In the current financial context, and faced with a series of significant demographic challenges, we need more information about these local approaches to prevention and how successful they are.

We are funding Professor Jon Glasby at the University of Birmingham to investigate and identify those that look the most promising.

- There is evidence that social capital is important for recovery from mental health problems and that it can also enhance quality of life. Through establishing stronger social networks, people can benefit from the power, prestige, wealth or abilities of other people and these connections can often help an individual find work and help them move on in their lives after experiencing an episode of psychosis.

We have funded Dr Martin Webber at King's College London to conduct an exploratory study to understand the ways in which social care workers are currently helping young people recovering from psychosis to generate and mobilise social capital as part of promoting recovery (see page 14).

- Successful prevention is often the result of innovative thinking. Currently, 'family minded' practice (particularly with an adult focus) is under-researched and there is a need for wider evidence on family based models of support.

We have funded Dr Jerry Tew at the University of Birmingham to explore whether 'family-focused' interventions contribute to the reablement of people with mental health difficulties. In particular, the work will consider whether better family relationships can lead to a reduction in a person's use of social care services.

### Promoting choice and independence

One of the big shifts in recent years has been an acceptance that people who use social care services should have choice and control over their own support. In this way, it is argued, the type of care and support they receive can be 'personalised' to their individual preferences and priorities, thereby hopefully achieving optimal outcomes. Implementation of personalisation, however, is not always straightforward and requires social care practitioners and carers to learn new skills and adapt to new roles. There is little robust evidence on how successful this has been, or whether outcomes are improved through the introduction of personal budgets. Furthermore, there remain questions about how best to manage risk while promoting the rights of 'vulnerable individuals', including those with cognitive impairments.

One of the first projects we funded was a scoping study by Professor Ann Netten at the University of Kent (see page 16) to identify approaches to personalisation that merited evaluation and further research in order to promote the commissioning and development of cost-effective options for service users. Since then we have built on this initial work through the commissioning of a range of studies into how well the policy of personalisation is delivering the goals it set.



The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO17](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO17)



The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO20](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO20)

- Not all users of social care services want to manage their own budgets. In particular, older people, people with cognitive impairments, and service users with large support packages may prefer a local authority care manager or home care provider to do so on their behalf. When this is the case, the person managing the budget, or a specialist ‘support planner’, may also help to plan a person’s support. But does this type of arrangement still deliver choice and control?

We funded Dr Kate Baxter, Dr Parvaneh Rabiee and Professor Caroline Glendinning at the University of York to carry out some of the first research into the opportunities for people who do not manage their budgets themselves to still receive personalised and flexible support and have choice and control over that support.



The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO11](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO11)

Separately, we funded Dr Val Williams at the University of Bristol to research the range and nature of the support planning provided by various types of organisations, and to gather evidence of what works best for different groups of personal budget holders, including those from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds (see page 25).

- The evidence base to support claims made by advocates for personal budgets (that they empower people, lead to greater autonomy and better opportunities to pursue chosen lifestyles) is weak. Older people are the largest group of users of social care services, but the best study to date\* has suggested that many older people who were given a personal budget did not achieve good outcomes (the study did find evidence of good outcomes for younger budget holders). We need to understand why this might be so, and what should be done to address the situation. So we have funded Dr John Woolham at the University of Coventry to find out if Adult Services Departments have identified specific issues facing older people as personal budget holders, and what strategies they have in place to deal with them (see page 27).

- The introduction of personal budgets has focused attention on the need for greater transparency in the allocation of resources to individuals, and requires a robust method of matching resources to needs. In practice, however, the resource allocation process is not underpinned by objective criteria and there are inequities between, and within, different user groups.

There is therefore an urgent need for an improved evidence-based approach to resource allocation at the level of individual users and carers. We have funded a large study by Professor David Challis at the University of Manchester to investigate the current determinants of and practices in resource allocation and to develop evidence-based guidance for local authorities regarding resource allocation at the individual level in adult social care.



The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO15](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO15)

\*Glendinning C, Challis D, Fernandez J, Jacobs S, Jones K, Knapp M, Manthorpe J, Moran N, Netten A, Stevens M, Wilberforce M (2008) Evaluation of the Individual Budgets Pilot Programme: Final Report, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York

# Research Focus

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

Dr Julie Beadle-Brown and Professor Glynis Murphy, University of Kent,  
1 June 2010 for 24 months

Social care services provide support to many people with learning disabilities and complex needs who would formerly have lived in NHS long-stay institutions. Care services often have difficulty meeting the wide-ranging needs of these service users. The opportunities presented by more personalised service models require the support of skilled staff if they are to be realised by people with complex needs. Skilled support from care staff is key to empowering and safeguarding individuals with learning difficulties and complex needs. Further research is needed to understand what forms of skilled support are most effective at best achieving social care outcomes.

Improved evidence of the impact of skilled support is important to enable people using services and their advocates to identify staff practices associated with good outcomes and to specify these in their care packages. A better understanding will also enable people providing services to recruit, train and manage staff in order to promote these care practices, and to assist people commissioning, planning or regulating services to achieve better value for money by requiring effective staff practices.

Dr Julie Beadle-Brown and her team are evaluating the impact of skilled staff support on the lives of people with learning disabilities and complex needs, and describing the nature of the support required and the implications of providing this support. "Our study will provide service commissioners, planners and regulators with evidence on the most relevant care skills to support staff training and ensure public resources are deployed in a cost-efficient manner".

For further information contact:  
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The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO9](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO9)

- Since November 2009, a new group of social care service users has been entitled to direct payments: people who may lack the mental capacity to consent to having a personal budget. They include some people with learning disabilities and people with dementia. Under the new regulations, third parties chosen as 'suitable persons' (often family carers) may now receive direct payments on their behalf. This raises the question of what processes have been put in place to implement this legislation and how effectively it is working in practice.

We have funded Dr Dan Robotham at the Mental Health Foundation to investigate how direct payments are currently taken up by the proxies of people without capacity, and what constitutes good practice (see page 18).

- Questions about promoting a service user's choice and control are at their most acute in situations where an individual has been deprived of their liberty or is particularly vulnerable to poor practice. The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) were introduced in April 2009 to protect people who 'for their own safety and in their own best interests' need care and treatment that may deprive them of their liberty but who lack the capacity to consent and where detention under the Mental Health Act 1983 is not appropriate. There has been little research on the impact that DoLS are having on individuals' lives and whether DoLS support vulnerable individuals to make decisions, wherever possible.

We have funded Joan Langan at the University of Bristol to explore these issues (see page 20). Separately, people with learning disabilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse and 'poor practice'.

We have funded Dr Rachel Fyson at the University of Nottingham to identify poor practices which people with learning disabilities commonly experience in residential care or supported living settings, which may not fall within the standard definitions of abuse but which are nevertheless unacceptable (see page 28). Her study will also clarify the appropriate reporting response for different types of malpractice, including the use of formal adult safeguarding procedures.

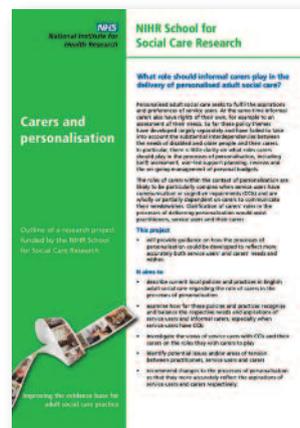
- There is little clarity on what roles carers should play in the processes of personalisation, including (self) assessment, user-led support planning, reviews and the on-going management of personal budgets.

We have funded Dr Wendy Mitchell and Professor Caroline Glendinning at the University of York to examine current local policies and practices regarding carers and personalisation, and how far these recognise and balance the respective needs and aspirations of service users and carers, especially when service users have communication or cognitive impairments. Clarification of carers' roles will assist practitioners and service users as well as carers.

### How do we decide which research to fund?

We continually seek and receive recommendations for research priorities and have internal and external mechanisms to ensure these come from as wide a range of people as possible, after which our Executive Board decides on key research questions.

We have a rigorous, independent process of peer review to ensure we commission studies that will have the most impact on practice.



The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO12](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO12)

# Research Focus

## ■ Developing a social capital intervention for people with psychosis: an ethnographic study of social capital generation and mobilisation

Dr Martin Webber, King's College London, 1 July 2010 for 28 months

Dr Martin Webber has been developing an intervention to help people recovering from psychosis to generate and mobilise social capital. The intervention development is grounded in social capital theory and evidence which suggests that people can derive benefits from the social resources that they can access through their social networks.

The *Connecting People* study uses combinative ethnographic methods to observe practice in mental health services, housing support services and innovative voluntary sector projects where workers have the opportunity to enhance individuals' access to social capital. "We aim to relate the practice we observe to social capital theory in order to explore the extent to which it conforms with, or deviates from, the reality of mental health social care. We aim to develop our social intervention from the ethnography and the transmogrification of social capital theory that it may involve. The intervention will be refined in a Delphi Consultation with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that it is feasible in practice and faithful to social capital theory" explained Dr Webber.

"The synergy of using ethnography within the context of existing theory is a novel approach to developing complex interventions in social care. This method allows us to embed apparent good practice within the intervention; account for different practice contexts; and ensure its feasibility in practice, thus facilitating its eventual smooth implementation. Assuming, that is, that it works" he added.

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The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO3](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO3)

### Balancing care and work

The need to support the estimated six million people who provide unpaid care to relatives and friends has gained in importance as part of the government's strategy for adult social care.

The work we funded by Professor Jill Manthorpe at King's College London has looked specifically at how specialist 'carer support' staff have developed a range of different models for assisting carers with the information and advice they need and the types of support that are most useful (see page 30).

Just as importantly, however, many carers want the opportunity to continue in paid work at the same time as fulfilling their caring responsibilities. However, we have only a limited understanding of how best to maximise the employment outcomes for both social care users and those supporting them.

- Although most carers are people of working age, relatively little support has developed to enable them to remain active in the labour market. Some local authorities and carer groups have adopted innovative approaches, through equipping carers to work and encouraging employers to recruit carers/assist those they employ, but local practices vary substantially.

We have funded Alice Sinclair at the Institute for Employment Studies to evaluate different local approaches. Her findings will provide an opportunity for adult social care commissioners and practitioners to learn from each other so that they can more quickly and cost-effectively put measures in place.

- We also need a better understanding of what the cost implications would be if local authorities were to intervene systematically to sustain carers in employment by providing services to the person needing care. Considerable resources might be required, but the costs might be offset by gains elsewhere in the public sector, for example from reduced benefits claims and improved carers' health.

The research project underway by Dr Linda Pickard and Professor Martin Knapp at the London School of Economics and Political Science will examine this question as part of its work and also identify interventions that merit evaluation through further research (page 34).

#### How do we ensure our research addresses the real questions that people want answering?

Every study we commission involves users, carers and practitioners, who sit on Advisory Boards, take part in focus groups or belong to our User, Care, Practitioner Reference Group.

This Group exists to advise us on research and helps manage our relationship with key groups of users, carers and practitioners.

#### How do we ensure quality and methodological rigour?

We provide feedback on all research proposals, which includes advice and information on methodology. We do not hesitate to ask for changes in methodology if we feel these will strengthen a study.

An Executive Group member is allocated to each lead researcher as a mentor to help ensure that the methods used are rigorous and robust, that the work proceeds to timetable and that plans for dissemination are appropriate.

# Research Findings

## ■ Personalisation of Services Scoping Project

The project aimed to address the need for research evidence for those involved in personalising social care by identifying: barriers and facilitators to putting personalisation into practice; aspects of care and support where individuals have difficulty in achieving desired outcomes (such as being clean and comfortable, feeling safe, or being socially involved); and examples of successful innovative services.

The study involved interviews and focus groups with 55 participants in three councils and two Shared Lives schemes and a telephone survey of personalisation leads in 20 councils. Some of the key findings from the study are as follows:

- Participants felt it was still too early to properly assess the impact of personalisation on the services provided by Adult Social Care departments and on providers, practitioners, service users and carers.
- Financial resources were becoming a critical issue for councils. This compounded one of the most frequently mentioned challenges to personalisation: the change in culture needed amongst frontline staff, providers and across the council.
- Personalising services for some people, in particular older people and people with mental health problems, was challenging. Some participants highlighted ways in which they were addressing these challenges.
- Reflecting current policy, the study took an outcomes focus. Managers and practitioners identified problems they were having with the use of outcomes to assess services users' quality of life. These included problems defining and measuring outcomes.
- In terms of specific outcomes, service users valued having control over their budget and organising their care and support. While social participation and occupation were identified as the most difficult areas, these were also where the most promising services identified were making progress. They appeared to be able to deliver solutions to meeting individuals' goals, potentially at low cost.
- Although innovative services are important in finding personalised ways to achieve individuals' goals, participants also indicated the value of mainstream services and suggested that more people were choosing to access these than before.
- Service users and carers reported some difficulties with the process involved in setting up and managing a personal budget. Despite this, they were clear that personalised services were preferable to traditional services.
- Areas where we identified a need for more evidence included: engagement of hard-to-reach groups; alternatives to personal budgets; effectiveness of different models of support planning and brokerage; options for the management of personal budgets; new models for day activities and support; effective use of the workforce; the role of Personal Assistants; evaluation of innovative personalised interventions.

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### Developing new solutions to changing needs

Social care services must find ways to adapt to changing contexts, whether these arise from shifts in the balance of the populations they already serve or the emergence of new groups of service users. The ageing population and the improved survival of individuals with complex needs are just two examples of how the demographics of service users have changed in recent decades. As a result we need to understand how best to reshape the commissioning and delivery of social care services, and how to meet the specific requirements of certain sub-groups of service users.

- Advances in care and treatment mean that more young people with complex and severe disabilities survive well into adulthood, with the result that the number and characteristics of adults with social care needs are changing rapidly. Currently there is no single source of projected local need that covers all categories of younger disabled adults, including those with Special Educational Needs (SEN); with long-term degenerative illnesses; or who are dependent on medical technology. This creates challenges for effective service commissioning and undermines strategic decision-making relating to the best use of resources.

We funded Professor Eric Emerson at the University of Lancaster to develop a web-based modelling tool that local authorities (and others) will be able to use to predict future need.



The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO5](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO5)

- The evolution of approaches to mental health care in recent years calls for an evaluation of the interaction of mental health and social care services. We have funded Professor John Carpenter at Bristol University to carry out a scoping study to review the nature and form of the social care contribution to mental health services.
- Users of mental health services can be distinguished from users of other services by the fact that they can be legally compelled to undergo assessment and treatment. Since 2008 compulsory treatment in the community has been possible for the first time under Community Treatment Orders (CTOs), which allow users to be discharged from compulsory treatment and detention in hospital and to reside in the community if specific grounds are met. There are large gaps in our knowledge and understanding of the impact of CTOs, including the extent to which social care provisions are conditions of CTOs or are associated with them.

We have funded Dr Julia Stroud at the University of Brighton to explore the experiences of this new group of service users, the role of social care interventions in supporting people subject to CTOs and the professional practice associated with CTOs, with a view to exploring and identifying effective and good practice.



The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO18](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO18)

# Research Focus

## ■ How effectively does the direct payments system work for people who lack the mental capacity to consent?

Dr Dan Robotham, Mental Health Foundation, 1 April 2011 for 24 months

A key part of the current personalisation agenda is helping people who need social care support decide what form this support should take. The Direct Payments system is one way in which this is being carried forward. However, there are those who are unable to make full use of the opportunities presented because they lack the ability to make decisions or, to put it in legal terms, 'lack the capacity to consent'.

"Using a variety of methods to ask questions people can understand, we want to find out how staff, such as care managers, social workers, care coordinators advocates, brokers and finance managers, see this process as well as seeking the views of carers and people who lack capacity to consent themselves." explains study leader Dr Dan Robotham, from the Mental Health Foundation.

"Our aim is to produce a guide for staff who decide about Direct Payments on how to process them for people who may lack the capacity to consent to the payment. We will also make accessible information available to carers and people who may lack capacity. This will help make sure that people who lack capacity to consent get the right support to use Direct Payments as well as helping their families and people who work with them" he observes.

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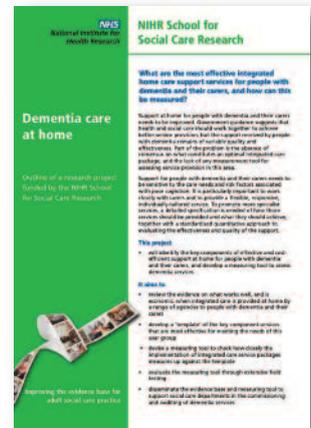


The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO16](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO16)

**Providing evidence to help deliver integrated services**

Most recipients of social care also use other public services. Most commonly, health care and housing will play a part in improving the quality of life for individuals and families. As a result, effective services are increasingly integrated, for example in the provision of housing with support, or through collaboration between health and social care professionals in assessing needs. One of the big challenges, however, is to produce robust evidence of the benefits of integration, and to find a way to apportion both the costs and any resultant savings from the services that are provided.

- The ageing population will mean an increasing number of older people with dementia will be cared for at home, yet there is little consensus on what represents the optimum integrated support package of health and social care. We have funded Professor Robert Jones at the University of Nottingham to identify the key components of an effective and cost-efficient package when integrated care is provided at home by a range of agencies to people with dementia and their carers.



The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO7](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO7)

- The multiple conditions of some service users can include learning difficulties, physical disabilities and mental health disorders. This poses significant challenges to adult social care commissioners and providers and requires coordination across a wide range of services, professionals and other workers, particularly from health and social care and across the statutory and voluntary sectors. Yet in practice service provision is still often fragmented and poorly coordinated.

We have funded a scoping study by Professor Caroline Glendinning at the University of York of existing practice and innovations in commissioning and delivering care and support for people with complex and severe needs. It aims to identify the key features of service and support arrangements that are valued by disabled people with severe and complex needs and their carers; and examples of service initiatives that demonstrate these features (see page 36).

- The need for more integrated homelessness services for women is already recognised. Women who are homeless often have complex social care and health needs, but all too often their needs are not fully recognised nor adequately met by statutory and third sector services. For providers, there is the challenge of maintaining contact with homeless women over time and of identifying the most appropriate types of support to offer. For the homeless women themselves, there are often barriers to accessing services.

We have funded Dr Emma Williamson at the University of Bristol to carry out research with a group of homeless women. The study is investigating how housing, social care and health services can work together more effectively to create a multi-agency approach.



The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO13](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO13)

# Research Focus

## ■ Liberty, equality, capacity: the impact of the deprivation of liberty safeguards on social care practice and human rights

Joan Langan, University of Bristol, 1 May 2010 for 27 months

People who lack the capacity to make decisions often rely on others to support their choices and protect them from harm. This, however, can sometimes be at the cost of their personal liberty. For example, an individual might not be allowed to leave where they live or staff may effectively be in control of many areas of their life.

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards 2007 (DOLS) provide procedures to protect those in hospital or care homes who lack mental capacity and who need to be deprived of their liberty in their best interests.

Joan Langan and colleagues are investigating the impact of DOLS on social care practice and human rights. They are doing this by selecting a sample of people subject to a DOLS in four local authority/PCT areas. They will be conducting in-depth interviews with all those involved in the decision to apply for or assess for a DOLS. This includes people assessed for a DOLS, if they have capacity to give consent and their relatives.

The team are also carrying out an online survey of DOLS Best Interests Assessors to establish the factors they take into account when deciding whether or not care practices amount to a deprivation of liberty. This research is one of the first to look at social care practice in this new area of law, policy and practice. An illustrated, easy-to-read version is planned.

*We are breaking totally new ground with this research because it is exploring the perspectives of everyone involved with, or subject to, a DOLS. The research has the potential to really improve the lives of people who lack mental capacity by exploring what contribution DOLS are making in supporting their human rights.*

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The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO4](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO4)

# Ensuring social care research

The primary aim of the SSCR is to use research to help improve adult social care practice in England. And one way to contribute to this aim is to support the development of use of better quality and more relevant research methods.

SSCR is keen to expand the methodological repertoire in social care research and to support researchers in underpinning their research with robust methods. In turn this will ensure that the empirical evidence resulting from social care research has the rigour needed to offer relevant and useful findings to inform the development of social care practice.

SSCR has commissioned several methods reviews to help to develop or adapt methods so as to be most useful in the social care practice research context (see Methods Reviews, page 46). The first three of these methods reviews were published in early 2011. Our next collection of methods reviews will be available shortly.



## Qualitative methods overview, Jo Moriarty

This review provides an introduction to the different ways in which qualitative research has been used in social care and some of the reasons why it has been successful. It includes a discussion of how qualitative social care research might be improved in terms of its quality and in extending the repertoire of research methodologies on which it draws. Also it offers some closing ideas about how future research on social care practice can make better use of qualitative methods.

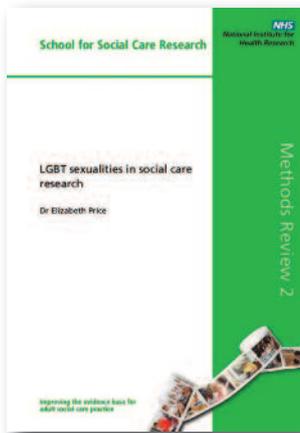
The review concludes that this is an exciting time for qualitative research in social care. Increasing interest in methodological plurality and in interdisciplinary research means that researchers can discover new approaches to researching social care topics. At the same time, technological developments give them greater choice in the ways of reaching participants and collecting data. There is a growing body of practitioner and user-controlled research which has helped to expand the qualitative social care research agenda. Taken together, these developments offer an opportunity to expand and strengthen the social care evidence base.

The full review is available at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/MR1](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/MR1)

*I am an "old" MA Social Work student at MMU struggling to write my research proposal! I found a brilliant article that was well researched and made qualitative research easy to understand (well easier, in my case!). Please pass on my thanks to Jo Moriarty it was a "brilliant" help! The article was entitled Qualitative Methods Overview.*

Danny Mooney

# incorporates robust methods



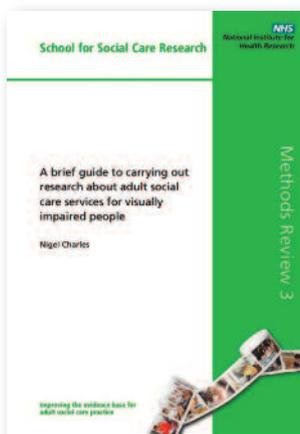
## LGBT sexualities in social care research, Elizabeth Price

People who transgress expected norms regarding gender and sexuality have always attracted attention from social scientists. Some recent research has focused on the adult social care arena. This review charts the development of sexualities research and provides an overview of associated methodological approaches and perspectives, particularly those that have a specific adult social care focus. It addresses a range of methodological challenges associated with research with LGBT people, and aims to enable social care researchers to recognize and acknowledge the diversity of human experience in their research.

The review concludes that LGBT people will already participate in much, if not all, social care research – the challenge for the researcher is to allow these voices expression. Account needs to be taken of issues such as: the

challenges associated with both counting and sampling LGBT populations, the problematic issues of definition and categorisation, the language used to describe LGBT people and the ethical concerns that should be addressed with this, or any, vulnerable population. These issues and the research questions being asked will be the impetus behind the choice of methods in any given research project.

The full review is available at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/MR2](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/MR2)



## A brief guide to carrying out research about adult social care services for visually impaired people, Nigel Charles

Carrying out research about adult social care services for visually impaired people presents challenges that are not necessarily found in other fields. The purpose of this review is to draw attention to these challenges and to guide the researcher through them. The review covers the ideological context of research in this field; definitions of visual impairment and their appropriate and inappropriate uses in research; misleading claims and reliable evidence about the size and characteristics of the visually impaired people; and the reasons that these are important issues for research in the field. It also covers the main topic areas of research and the methodological approaches, both quantitative and qualitative, that researchers have taken to deal with them.

The review concludes that recent UK research into the life experiences of visually impaired people has used a range of qualitative and quantitative methods to explore their experiences and their access to and use of services. This work has included efforts to include those with additional hearing loss or other disabilities to take part in research and has thus enabled research to be participatory. There has also been research on service providers for people with visual impairment. The review uses examples from studies to show some of the main areas of research relevant to social care and examples of the methodological approaches that have been successfully used.

The full review is available at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/MR3](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/MR3)

# Communicating our findings



## Getting research into practice

In a knowledge-based economy the dissemination of results is as important as their generation, as is exchanging ideas and knowledge throughout the research process. To this end we are working in a host of ways to ensure that findings from the research we fund are communicated widely so they may be translated into real changes in social care practice. These include:

- Requiring all funded studies to submit an end-of-project report including one or more peer-reviewed papers to high-quality journals, information on methods and lessons learned, plus a brief, accessible 'findings' document with key messages to go on our website, a key avenue for dissemination and knowledge transfer.
- Making findings known via other avenues such as printed publications and face-to-face meetings, individual discussions, video and audio productions – for those without Internet access.
- Contributing to high-impact academic journals and conferences.
- Working with policy and practice leaders in central and local government and third and private sector providers.
- Making our outputs openly available online, not only through our own website but also through university-specific repositories and UKPubMed Central.
- Our work with Research in Practice for Adults, the Social Care Institute for Excellence, the Association for Directors of Adult Social Services and Making Research Count will put us in a strong position to translate our findings into practice.



### Raising awareness

To ensure that as many people as possible join the debate about the future of social care and get to hear about our research we are working to inform users, carers, practitioners and the public at large about our activities, studies and reviews.

- We had 50,000 hits on our website. We are currently redeveloping it to make it more interactive.
- We published six issues of our e-newsletter *SSCR Update*, which contains lay summaries of news and events. Currently over 400 people receive this.
- We had papers in a number of journals and trade magazines – these included the *Journal of Care Services Management*, *Eurohealth*, *Caring Times* and the *INVOLVE* newsletter.
- We mailed out 500 electronic copies of our Annual Report and distributed hard copies at various events, conferences and meetings.
- We held 7 events and seminars including our Annual Conference in March 2010, our Annual meeting in April 2011, the Social Care Research: Status 2010 national seminar and workshops on ethics, governance and user-led research, which were attended by 800 people. We also presented at other organisations' events, meetings and conferences.

### Achieving impact

To ensure that we understand impact, what it is in the social care context and how we can maximise the impact from our work, we are developing activities on impact (generating, enhancing, measuring) and engagement specifically for adult social care. One such activity was a workshop in June 2011 exploring key issues around impact, engagement and translation between research and practice. Another is the development of an impact guidance document. Further activities will engage with key research users.

# Our work with users,

One of our key tenets is that social care service users, carers and practitioners have assets that can help to improve services, rather than simply needs that must be met. To ensure that social care services are informed by the experiences of those who use them and carers we work closely with users, carers and practitioners in a variety of ways. In the past year this has included:

- Working with the User, Carer, Practitioner Reference Group (UCPRG) to hear and learn from the experiences, expectations and aspirations of people's real world experience of adult social care.
- Funding research into methods of involving users of services in planning, commissioning and carrying out research such as Nigel Charles's review of how to include the life experiences of people with visual impairments (see page 22).
- Setting up mechanisms to ensure a range of different voices advise us on research. These include our online research suggestion form, hard copy leaflet and discussion with stakeholders such as NAAPS UK, the UK network for family-based and small-scale ways of supporting adults, ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services), SSRG (Social Services Research Group) and the DH (Department of Health).
- Funding research from a user's perspective. For example Dr Val Williams's *My Life, My Choice*, which will look at how to carry out effective support planning from the perspective of disabled people.

The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO14](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO14)



*What I like is the fact that the SSCR provides something for everyone – not just the professionals but also people who use social care services and their carers.*

Conference delegate



# carers and practitioners

**How we are meeting the challenges set by SSCR's UCPRG last year:**

## **Ensuring that research in social care covers all groups of people needing social care support, rather than concentrating on older people**

We have significantly developed our portfolio of work in Year 2, which has included the range of client groups we have been able to include in research projects and our scoping and methodology papers. Our research portfolio now includes research with groups such as people with visual

impairment, with the d/Deaf community, people with learning disabilities and with people experiencing mental health problems, plus younger disabled people, homeless women and carers – extending the reach of our work to improve the evidence base for all adult social care. On advice from the users, carers and practitioners and others engaged in SSCR, early in 2011 we issued a call for research proposals, our Third Wave call, against a framework of 12 priority topics. These topics covered a very wide spectrum of social care needs, topics and contexts and we are confident the research commissioned from this call will even further expand the coverage of the work of the School.

## **Avoiding seeing carers as a single group but as a diverse groups of individuals with different needs**

We now have a range of projects examining the needs of carers and how best to meet them. SSCR colleagues are researching employment issues for carers, models of social care practice for all carers, and carers for people with different conditions, including dementia. These encompass a range of caring contexts and needs, and within each project researchers treat carers as a diverse group. We are confident that the projects we will commission from our next call for external projects will further add to the range of projects we have examining the needs of carers and how social care can best meet them.

## **Encouraging a range of research to reflect practice in the statutory, third and private sectors**

The School recognises the complex and dynamic range of social care provision and has worked to include these in our research portfolio. Method and scoping papers commissioned by SSCR include social care and the third sector and work in care homes. Researchers seeking support from SSCR are very clearly told that we wish their work to understand and research this mixed economy of social care and to not merely focus on statutory care providers. Applicants are also encouraged to seek partners from these sectors for their proposals to help ensure the relevance of their work and to maximise the impact of the outcomes of commissioned work. Our commissioned projects are reflecting practice across all these providers, and includes research led by a third sector organisation.

## **Ensuring that research addresses the changing nature of social care and the roles of individuals and organisations working on it.**

SSCR is very conscience of how social care, related policy and thought have changed and how they continue to evolve. Our range of projects includes work on personalisation and personal budgets, community development and social capital, prevention, social care markets, innovations in practice and the continuing development of newer aspects of social care such as safeguarding. Through our Users, Carers and Practitioners Reference Group, our Advisory Board and ongoing contact and discussions with people working in and receiving support from social care we are continually examining how well we understand our work fits with the real world of social care. This is essential for the School to fulfil its remit of providing evidence to help improve adult social care.

**We are working hard to ensure we continue to address the challenges set by our User, Carer, Practitioner Reference Group in Year 1**

# Our standards

One of our core aims is to ensure that the highest ethical and governance standards are applied to all research we commission and carry out.

Not only do all research proposals have to provide clear confirmation that they have ensured appropriate ethics and research governance measures will be in place for their study, we continue to monitor all commissioned studies to ensure they are achieving those measures and continue to review their study's ethics and governance needs.

Our commissioned research is conducted in accordance with Department of Health Guidance Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care ([www.dh.gov.uk/research](http://www.dh.gov.uk/research)) and in accordance with guidance from the National Social Care Research Ethics Committee ([www.scie.org.uk/networks/screc/index.asp](http://www.scie.org.uk/networks/screc/index.asp)).

*The Research Governance Framework – Resource Pack for Social Care (2nd edition)* is a set of minimum standards for all social care research carried out by or involving councils. The guidance was welcomed by delegates at an event organised by the Social Services Research Group and the SSCR in October 2010 to discuss its content and how it could be implemented. A report and presentations from the event are available on our website.

We are exploring the issues that researchers faced in thinking about, planning for, and incorporating research governance and ethics in their work and also in the day-to-day practicalities of implementing their research.



## Research governance and ethics for adult social care research: procedures, practices and challenges, SSCR Methods Review 4

Dr John Woolham, Coventry University

The introduction of the Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care by the Department of Health in 2001 extended the reach of research governance from the NHS, where reviewing arrangements were already well established, into universities and local authorities, who were requested, in the guidance, to introduce arrangements to ensure appropriate levels of ethical and methodological review.

This review describes the different structures and processes used by the NHS, universities and local authorities to meet the expectations of the Department of Health, and offers a critical analysis of some of the consequences – both problems and opportunities – that have resulted.

# Research Focus

## ■ Safeguarding and best practice in services for adults with learning disabilities

Dr Rachel Fyson, University of Nottingham, 1 January 2011 over 20 months

In June 2011 a BBC *Panorama* investigation of bullying and abuse in a Bristol Care Home highlighted the need to protect vulnerable adults. This research, which was started before the programme was broadcast, seeks to discover how this can best be done. "So far we have held a number of focus groups with adults with learning disabilities and their parents and have used the resulting data to inform our interview procedures with frontline care/support workers and their managers" explains Dr Fyson. The researchers are now completing interviews with staff for the second phase of this research.

"We have already given several presentations including a workshop at the 5th National Social Work Continuing Development Conference "Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and Children", at the Institute of Psychiatry in London based on our collected data and are also developing an article for one of the leading social care journals. Meanwhile, in January 2012 we will be speaking at a local conference, The Nottingham Research Network (Special Educational Needs, Social and Educational Inclusion, Health and Disabilities. We hope that the responses to an additional question which was introduced to assess support workers' reactions to the *Panorama* programme will be of sufficient interest to merit a small stand-alone journal article," she adds

"We are hoping that our research will support the promotion of improved practice so that incidents such as the one highlighted by *Panorama* may be avoided in future".

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The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO8](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO8)

# Our partnerships

Our partnerships with other organisations and individuals are vital for us to reach our goals. These are some of our partners in 2010/11:

## The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

As one of the NIHR's two flagship Schools (the other is the School for Primary Care Research\*), we continue to work with it to ensure that social care is a central plank of NIHR activities and to learn from NIHR initiatives.

Although the health and social care systems work mainly in parallel with separate policy frameworks, financing arrangements, regulations and so on, and different professional domains, the two are inextricably linked. Most people who use social care services, especially those who are older, also use the health service. And there is no doubt that good social care can alleviate pressure on health services.

For every extra £1 spent on care homes there is a 35p saving on hospital care in the over 75s

Preventive initiatives such as befriending schemes can also save the NHS money. Why? Users experience less depression and anxiety

Pilot studies of the Department of Health's Partnerships for Older People Projects (POPPs) set up to promote health, well-being and independence, and prevent or delay the need for higher intensity or institutional care reveal that for every extra £1 spent on POPP services, around £1.20 is saved on days spent in emergency hospital beds

## Our partnership with academia

Our colleagues in academia play a vital role at all stages of research from deciding which research to commission to disseminating information about the need for – and wider benefits of – social care research. Our close collaboration with external academic organisations, such as the Academy for Social Sciences, meanwhile, is helping to collate information about current research and find ways to demonstrate its impact. Our aim is to make the results of our research available through websites and other forums and to gain a greater understanding of its impact.

## Our partnerships with practice

Continuing dialogue and partnership with colleagues and organisations working in social care practice is important to ensure research evidence can support practice. We are working closely with colleagues within organisations such as the Association of Directors for Social Services, Research in Practice for Adults and the Social Care Institute for Excellence.

## Our partnerships with other organisations

We are also forging strong links with other funding organisations such as the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Economic and Social Research Council and with third sector and voluntary organisations as well as other social care groups.

\* A third School – the School for Public Health Research – is currently being established



# Research Focus

## ■ Social care practice with carers: an investigation of practice models

Professor Jill Manthorpe, King's College London, 1 July 2010 for 18 months

An estimated 1.75 million adults use social care services, supported by around 1.5 million social care workers. Around 6 million people provide unpaid care to family members or friends, representing around 11 per cent of the population aged five and over.

Over the next 30 years, the number of carers is projected to rise to around 9 million due to the increase in the number of older people and people with disabilities.

Successive governments have recognised the need to support people who provide unpaid care to relatives and friends. As a result, there has been a rise in the number of social care posts aimed at developing, coordinating and providing assistance and support for carers. These specialist 'carer support' staff have developed a range of different models of how to support carers working across local authority, health and voluntary organisations. Yet there has been little analysis of the different ways these post holders carry out their work, and whether they are effective in improving the lives of carers. Professor Jill Manthorpe and her team set out to investigate the various roles of specialist staff in supporting carers, and to analyse the effectiveness of emerging support models.

"A better understanding is needed of how the policy on carer support is being put into practice on the ground in order to ensure that resources are used to the best advantage of carers", explains Professor Manthorpe. "Evidence is currently lacking on how best to provide unpaid carers with assistance and support that will prevent or reduce the carers themselves needing social care in the future. Effective support for carers will help to empower and safeguard these individuals, and also helps to create the circumstances and environment that may enable carers to take on paid work and become involved in other types of meaningful activity. This study aims to provide such evidence".

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The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO6](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO6)

# Our people

We support 68 Fellows, including 6 Senior Fellows to work on SSCR-funded projects.

This year we welcomed the following new Senior Fellows...



**John Carpenter, Professor of Social Work and Applied Social Science, Centre for Research and Health Care, University of Bristol**

An expert on de-institutionalisation, community mental health services, violent mentally disordered offenders and assertive outreach teams, Professor Carpenter also brings research experience on the lives of disabled children and young people and their experiences of social care and health services to the SSCR.



**Eric Emerson, Professor of Disability and Health Research, University of Lancaster and Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences, the University of Sydney**

A member of several official advisory groups and author of 5 books and over 140 papers in academic and professional journals, Professor Emerson's expertise is in the health and social inequalities faced by disabled children and adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities.



**Jon Glasby, Professor of Health and Social Care at the University of Birmingham. He also directs the University of Birmingham's Health Services Management Centre**

A qualified social worker and author of leading textbooks on health and social services, Professor Glasby specialises in joint work between health and social care as well as analysing and advising local national and international bodies on social care policy. He is a member of the editorial boards of the International Journal of Integrated Care and The Policy Press.



**Justine Schneider, Professor of Mental Health and Social Care in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Nottingham**

A social worker with a special interest in marginalized groups and social inclusion, Professor Schneider has used a variety of methods to research the costs and carer burden in dementia, quality of life and the impact of occupation in residential homes, the impact on carers, staff and service users of mental health care reforms, and various aspects of disability relating to employment and social inclusion.



**Brian Taylor, Professor of Social Work, Institution for Research in Social Science, University of Ulster**

A registered social worker in Ireland, Professor Taylor contributes his 12 years' experience as a practitioner and manager in social work, residential care, primary school teaching and youth work and 15 years in professional training and organisation development in health and social services. He is also a member of our projects selection panel.

## Also joining us this year are...

### Michael Clark as our Research Programme Manager

We are pleased to welcome Dr Clark who joins us from the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority and the National Mental Health Development Unit where he undertook work on developing and improving care pathways for the Care Cluster model (being used for Payment by Results in mental health), and worked on public mental health and health promotion.

### Glynis Murphy as our Associate Director

We are delighted that Professor Murphy, a long-time colleague of Professor Jim Mansell in the Tizard Centre, agreed to replace him as Associate Director on his retirement. The Joint Chair of Clinical Psychology and Learning Disability at the Tizard Centre and at Oxleas NHS, her considerable expertise and experience in the area of learning disabilities research and practice will be an invaluable contribution to our Executive Group.

## We said goodbye to...

### Jim Mansell, who retired as Associate Director of our Executive Group in December 2010

With a long and distinguished career – he founded and directed the Tizard Centre at the University of Kent for many years – Professor Mansell's great expertise in learning disability and community care has been a tremendous asset to us. We are pleased that he continues as a Senior Fellow.

### Gillian Hastings, our former Senior Scientific Administrator

Dr Gillian Hastings, who has worked for us since May 2009, took up a new post in the NIHR's Primary Care Network in April 2011. We thank her for all her efforts in setting up and establishing key research processes for SSCR.

## We also welcomed 4 new Advisory Board members...

### George Julian, Director of research in practice for adults (ripfa), which supports the use of evidence in adult health and social care practice

Dr Julian has overall responsibility for ripfa's work, supporting and growing their network and leading their team of staff. She has provided a number of useful insights into how research is used and the best approaches to knowledge transfer and translation.

### Jenny Owen, Executive Director of Adults, Health and Community Wellbeing, Deputy Chief Executive of Essex County Council

Past President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) in 2009/10, Jenny brings her 33 years experience of working in social care, social services, in local government as well as a senior civil servant at the Department of Health. During 2007/08 she co-chaired the National Dementia Strategy and in 2010 was awarded a CBE for services to local government.

### Liz Sayce, Chief Executive of the Royal Association of Disability Rights (RADAR)

Liz is a Commissioner at the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. She is currently leading an Independent Review into disability employment programmes. We look forward to benefiting from Liz's considerable professional expertise in this area as well as her wealth of personal experience and knowledge of mental health, disability and social inclusion

### Dawn Woodgate, Research Development Leader at the Economic and Social Research Council

Dawn brings a wealth of experience and knowledge about social policy research to our Advisory Board. She is standing in for Paul Dolan, Chief Executive of the Council.

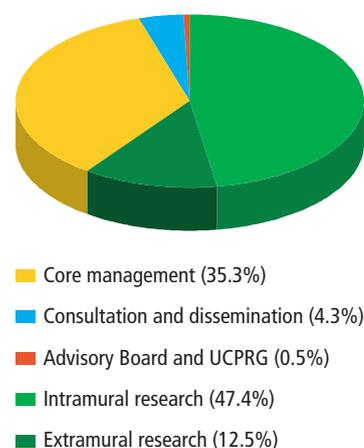
# Looking ahead

The SSCR is looking forward to building on its achievements in 2011/12 as we start to release findings from our early studies, expand our collection of methods and scoping reviews, review the evidence base for social care research and commission further research based on our findings.

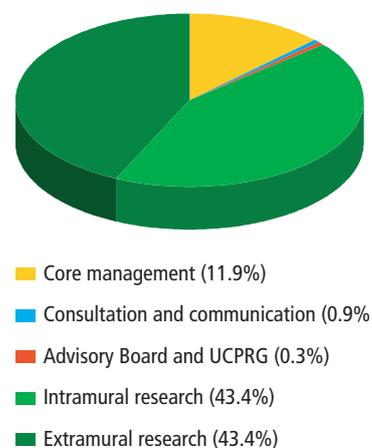
## NEXT YEAR WE WILL...

- Commission more research studies
- Publish findings from some of our first studies
- Publish four scoping review reports
- Review commissioned research versus gaps in the evidence base and to identify where more work is needed
- Publish another 13 methods reviews
- Organise a series of activities and papers published around work on impact in social care
- Launch the *Making the Case for Social Care Research* booklet, which we have been working on with the Academy for Social Sciences
- Hold a series of seminars and workshops around key themes such as informal care, personalisation, ethics and governance, longitudinal datasets
- Host our third annual meeting in Spring 2012
- Continue to promote social care research and the work of the SSCR at events, meetings and conferences
- Expand and develop our links with key organisations such as ADASS

SSCR Expenditure Overview 2010/2011



SSCR Expenditure Overview 2009 to 2014



# Research Focus

## ■ Overcoming barriers: unpaid care and employment in England

**Dr Linda Pickard and Professor Martin Knapp, London School of Economics and Political Science, 1 January 2011 for 12 months**

There is an increasing emphasis in social policy on combining provision of unpaid care and employment. However, many carers face barriers to remaining in employment. A key barrier is the difficulty many carers face in obtaining support and services for the person they care for. To date, there has been little research in England on social care interventions, provided to cared-for people, that would enable carers to remain in employment. This research gap is reflected in current practice. Dr Pickard and her team have been exploring local authority interventions, provided to the cared-for person, that would support working carers in England to remain in employment and evaluating the costs of these interventions to local authorities and potential savings to the public sector.

Early findings from the study include:

- Unpaid care provision has a negative effect on employment especially if provided for long hours or on a co-resident basis
- An estimated 315,000 people of working age in England have left employment to provide care
- There is little evidence so far that councils systematically use services for the cared-for person as a means of supporting carers in employment
- Only 4% of carers working full-time, and 6% working part-time, are offered an assessment or review
- Only 13% of carers say the main person they care for has a home care worker and 8% attend a day centre
- Only around a quarter of employed carers have adequate support from formal services to enable them to combine work and care
- No scientific research has been identified on the effectiveness of social care services to support carers in employment in England.

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The Project Outline is available for download at  
[www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO10](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO10)





# Reflections

**Professor Dame Sally C Davies**  
**Chief Medical Officer and**  
**Chief Scientific Adviser, Department of Health**

Developments in policy and practice have reinforced the key role that health and social care research has in improving health and care. The 2010 Spending Review and the Government's March 2011 Plan for Growth demonstrate the clear recognition of the importance of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), and the academic excellence, rigour and influence of the nation's research community to the health and wealth of the nation. The Health and Social Care Bill will have significant impacts on practice within the NHS and for social care providers. The NIHR School for Social Care Research's unique position will provide innovative world-class research to help shape the development of social care provision within England through an improved evidence-base.

We established the NIHR School for Social Care Research in May 2009 to support the NIHR's mission of improving the health and wellbeing of the nation through the improvement of the evidence base for adult social care practice. By the end of Year 1, the School had four research studies underway, eight core members, an Advisory Board of 17 people, 44 Fellows and Senior Fellows and nine members in its User, Carer, Practitioner Reference Group. It now has an additional 18 commissioned studies, a growing number of published reviews and papers, and is making substantial progress in achieving its mission. This report demonstrates the number of achievements made in its second year (see pages 7-8).

The School's growing portfolio of research studies is indicative of its commitment to identifying gaps in the evidence base, understanding the needs of a developing social care system and the evidence required to support ongoing reforms. A number of current projects will report in the coming year and I look forward to their outcomes and inputs in to ongoing practice and policy discussions.

Exchange of knowledge with, and the participation of, academics, people who use services, carers and practitioners as well as key figures in social care will ensure that the research commissioned by the School has effective public participation and has the potential to transfer research findings into practice. I am pleased to see the growing partnerships the School is establishing, not just with these groups, but additionally with knowledge exchange experts working in the field, as well as colleagues working across the different parts of NIHR. Such partnerships will support the School's emphasis on engagement, knowledge exchange and ensuring processes are in place to generate impact from the School's ongoing activities.

For the School, the coming year will explore a number of opportunities and challenges, and build on its achievements in 2010/11. I congratulate the School on another successful year and look forward to what promises to be an interesting year for both practice and research.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally C Davies".

# Research Focus

## ■ Care and support for people with complex and severe needs: Innovations and Practice

A scoping study. Professor Caroline Glendinning, University of York, 1 January 2010 for 20 months

Direct payments and personalised support are a key part of the government's Vision for Adult Social Care. To find out how personalisation can work best for people with severe and complex support needs we asked them, carers and representatives of voluntary sector organisations and professional groups, about their experiences.

While flexibility and choice came across as important elements, other pre-requisites included:

- A personalised approach: services tailored to meet individual needs. Direct payment was satisfactory for some, while for others services and staff understanding and taking time to meet their specific needs were key.
- Sufficient resources: either having enough money in a personal budget to cover the costs of personal assistance in pursuing an active social life, or enough staff to enable a person-centred approach.
- Time: although it can be time-consuming to really get to know and understand a person's needs if a social worker dedicates enough time it can be achieved.
- Reliable, well-coordinated staff who show respect at the level of service delivery and organisation: staff continuity was a key positive factor for people with complex needs.
- Support and information: there was strong support for key worker and case management models and agreement that information should be available as and when required.

*This study was important because it now gives us a set of criteria that we can use to identify examples of good practice in delivering support to people with severe and complex needs*

Professor Glendinning.

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The Project Outline is available for download at [www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO1](http://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/outputs/PO1)

# Who's who



*Selection Panel meeting to discuss research proposals*

## Our Executive Group

### [Professor Martin Knapp, Director; chair of Executive Group](#)

Professor of Social Policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science and Director of the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU); also Professor of Health Economics at King's College London, Institute of Psychiatry, and until 2011 Director of the Centre for the Economics of Mental Health

Martin's research activities are primarily in the mental health, long-term care and social care fields. Particular areas of interest currently include prevention and promotion, dementia, autism, telecare and cost-effectiveness.

### [Professor David Challis, Associate Director](#)

Professor of Community Care Research, and Director of the PSSRU at the University of Manchester

David's research includes studies of care coordination and assessment processes in older people's services, performance measurement in social care and old age mental health services.

### [Professor Caroline Glendinning, Associate Director](#)

Research Director (Adults, Older People and Carers) in the Social Policy Research Unit, University of York

Over the years Caroline's research has focused on user experiences of social care, informal (family) care, partnerships between social care and health services, the governance of social care and comparative studies of social and long-term care in other countries.

**Professor Jill Manthorpe, Associate Director**

Professor of Social Work at King's College London, and Director of the Social Care Workforce Research Unit

Jill was a member of the IBSEN team, evaluating the pilot individual budgets pilots in England. Her research interests centre on workforce issues, older people and social care services, risk, adult safeguarding and mental health in later life.

**Professor Glynis Murphy, Associate Director**

Joint Chair of Clinical Psychology and Learning Disability at the Tizard Centre and at Oxleas NHS

Glynis's research interests focus on autism/learning disabilities and challenging behaviour; augmentative communication systems; mental capacity; witnesses and suspects with learning disabilities in the criminal justice system; cognitive behaviour therapy and learning disabilities; secure services and learning disabilities .

**Professor Ann Netten, Associate Director**

Professor of Social Welfare, and Director of the PSSRU, University of Kent

Ann's research interests include developing theoretically based but pragmatic approaches to the measurement of costs, quality, outputs and outcome in social care, housing and care of older people and economic evaluation of social welfare interventions, including criminal justice.

**Dr Michael Clark, Research Programme Manager**

Mike manages the research process within the SSCR. His research interests include public mental health and health promotion, and working across research, policy and practice.

**Ms Anji Mehta, Finances and Communications Manager**

Anji manages the financial and contractual processes within the SSCR. She also manages SSCR's communications activities and processes.

## Department of Health/NIHR liaison with SSCR

**Dr Carol Lupton**

RDD Social Care Lead, Department of Health

**Clare Croft-White**

SSCR Project Manager, Department of Health

## SSCR Senior Fellows and Fellows

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Co-investigator on SSCR-funded project

**Kerry Allen, SSCR Fellow** University of Birmingham

Researcher on SSCR-funded project

**David Ansari, SSCR Fellow** King's College London

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[Professor Alys Young, SSCR Fellow](#) University of Manchester  
Author of methods review on research with people with hearing difficulties

## SSCR Advisory Board chaired by David Behan

[David Behan](#) Director General for Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships, Department of Health

[Lord Victor Adelbowale](#) Chief Executive, Turning Point

[Dr Christine Barton](#) Lay expert

[Andrew Cozens](#) Strategic Advisor, Children, Adults and Health Services, Improvement and Development Agency

[Professor Paul Boyle](#) Chief Executive, Economic and Social Research Council

[John Dixon](#) Executive Director Adults and Children, West Sussex County Council

[Martin Green](#) Chief Executive, English Community Care Association

[Conrad Hodgkinson](#) Lay member

[Julie Jones CBE](#) Chief Executive, Social Care Institute for Excellence

[Dr George Julian](#) Director, Research in practice for adults

[Professor Janet Newman](#) Professor of Social Policy, Open University

[Jenny Owen](#) Deputy Chief Executive, Essex County Council

[Dame Denise Platt](#) Chair, Independent Advisory Panel for the Local Innovations Award Scheme

[Imelda Redmond CBE](#) Chief Executive, Carers UK

[James Richardson](#) Chief Micro-economist, Her Majesty's Treasury

[Liz Sayce](#) Chief Executive, Royal Association of Disability Rights

[Professor Ian Shaw](#) Professor of Social Work, University of York

[Emma Stone](#) Deputy Director of Research, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

[Professor Alan Walker](#) Professor of Social Policy and Social Gerontology, University of Sheffield

[Paul Wiles](#) Government Social Research

[Dr Dawn Woodgate](#) Research Development Leader, Economic and Social Research Council

## SSCR User, Carer, Practitioner Reference Group Members

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[Angie Carmichael](#)

[Margaret Dangoor](#)

[Rashid Ebrahimkhan](#)

[Shamime Lakda](#)

[Dave Nwokedi](#)

[Jane Reast](#)

[Inam Shaikh](#)

[Heidi Wong](#)



# Commissioned Projects

An Exploration of Service User and Practitioner Experiences of Community Treatment Orders  
*Dr Julia Stroud, University of Brighton*

Are personal budgets always the best way of delivering personalised social care services to older people?  
*Dr John Woolham, Coventry University*

Can family focused approaches contribute to the reablement of people with mental health difficulties?  
*Dr Jerry Tew, University of Birmingham*

Care and support for people with complex and severe needs: Innovations and practice – a scoping study  
*Professor Caroline Glendinning, University of York*

Carers and personalisation – what is the role of carers in assessment, support planning and managing personal budgets, especially for people with cognitive or communication impairments?  
*Professor Caroline Glendinning, Dr Wendy Mitchell, University of York*

Changing social care markets – ensuring choice and control in home care for people opting for managed personal budgets.  
*Professor Caroline Glendinning, Dr Kate Baxter, Dr Rabiee Parvaneh, University of York*

Costs and outcomes of skilled support for adults with complex needs in supported accommodation  
*Dr Julie Beadle-Brown, Professor Glynis Murphy, University of Kent*

Developing a social capital intervention for people with psychosis: an ethnographic study of social capital generation and mobilisation  
*Dr Martin Webber, King's College London*

Estimating future demand for social care for younger disabled adults  
*Professor Eric Emerson, Lancaster University*

Improving effective integrated home support for people with dementia and their carers (PWD) - Development of a service fidelity index  
*Professor Robert Jones, University of Nottingham*

Improving employment opportunities for carers identifying and sharing good practice  
*Miss Alice Sinclair, Institute for Employment Studies*

Individualisation of services – a scoping study  
*Professor Ann Netten, University of Kent*

Liberty, equality, capacity: The impact of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards on social care practice and human rights  
*Joan Langan, University of Bristol*

Local evidence of prevention investments, outcomes and sustainability  
*Professor Jon Glasby, University of Birmingham*

Mental capacity and direct payments  
*Dr Dan Robotham, Mental Health Foundation*

Resource allocation at the micro level in adult social care: determinants, methods and guidance  
*Professor David Challis, University of Manchester*

Safeguarding and best practice in services for adults with learning disabilities  
*Dr Rachel Fyson, University of Nottingham*

Social care practice with carers: an investigation of practice models  
*Professor Jill Manthorpe, King's College London*

Support planning in practice  
*Dr Val Williams, Norah Fry Research Centre*

Unpaid Care and Employment in England  
*Professor Martin Knapp, Dr Linda Pickard, London School of Economics and Political Science*

### Forthcoming methods reviews

Chance-based designs

Cost-effectiveness

End-of-life care research methods

Mathematical modelling and its application to social care

Overview of outcome measurement for adults using social care services and support

Research governance and ethics for adult social care research: procedures, practices and challenges

Research in care homes

Research with Black and Minority Ethnic people using social care services

Research with d/Deaf people

Systematic reviews

The use of 'large scale datasets' in UK social care research

User-led research



# Publications

Charles N (2011) A brief guide to carrying out research about adult social care services for visually impaired people, *SSCR Methods Review 3*, NIHR School for Social Care Research, London.

Emerson E, Hatton C, Robertson J (2010) *SSCR Scoping Review: Prevention and Social Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities*, School for Social Care Research, London.

Hussein S (2010) Who Cares for the Family Carers of Adults and Older People? *Social Care Workforce Periodical*, Issue 10.

Knapp M, Mehta A (2010) Research to support the improvement of adult social care practice in England: the NIHR School for Social Care Research, *Research and Policy Update*, Research in Practice for Adults, May 2010.

Moriarty J (2011) Qualitative Methods Overview, *SSCR Methods Review 1*, NIHR School for Social Care Research, London.

NIHR School for Social Care Research (2011) *Social Care Research: Status 2010: Messages from a National Seminar*, NIHR School for Social Care Research, London.

NIHR School for Social Care Research (2010) *SSCR Annual Report, 2009–2010*, London.

Patterson A, Fyson R (2011) Researching adult safeguarding practices, *Ann Craft Trust Bulletin*, Issue 75, April.

Price E (2011) LGBT sexualities in Social Care Research, *SSCR Methods Review 2*, NIHR School for Social Care Research, London.

Simpson C (2011) *Joint PSSRU-SSRG meeting on Research Governance and Ethics in Adult Social Care*, 13 October 2010, NIHR School for Social Care Research, London.

# Presentations

[Martin Knapp](#) NIHR Specific Funding streams – School for Social Care Research – Improving the evidence base for adult social care practice, *SSRG Annual Conference*, March 2010

[Lisa Callaghan](#) Personalisation of services: A scoping study, *Transformation Leads Workshop*, 13 May 2010

[Martin Knapp](#) The role of research in achieving best practice, *International Conference on Evidence-based Policy in Long-term Care*, 10 September 2010

[Paul Dolan](#) Research Governance Framework, *Joint SSRG PSSRU meeting on Research Governance and Ethics in Adult Social Care*, 13 October 2010

[Paul Dolan on behalf of John Woolham](#) Research governance in practice, *Joint SSRG PSSRU meeting on Research Governance and Ethics in Adult Social Care*, 13 October 2010

[Carol Lupton](#) Research Governance Framework, *Joint SSRG PSSRU meeting on Research Governance and Ethics in Adult Social Care*, 13 October 2010

**Chris Russell** Research governance – the local authority context, Joint SSRG PSSRU meeting on Research Governance and Ethics in Adult Social Care, 13 October 2010

**Deborah Rutter** Research ethics in practice, Joint SSRG PSSRU meeting on Research Governance and Ethics in Adult Social Care, 13 October 2010

**Martin Stevens** Research Governance Framework, Research Governance Resource Pack, , Joint SSRG PSSRU meeting on Research Governance and Ethics in Adult Social Care, 13 October 2010

**Rachel Taylor** RFG in practice: Local authority speaker, Joint SSRG PSSRU meeting on Research Governance and Ethics in Adult Social Care, 13 October 2010

**Nigel Wellman** Mental Capacity Act, Joint SSRG PSSRU meeting on Research Governance and Ethics in Adult Social Care, 13 October 2010

**David Behan**, Closing remarks at conference, National Seminar on Social Care Research, London, 2 November 2010

**David Burnham** The current state of social care research – Local authority perspective, National Seminar on Social Care Research, London, 2 November 2010

**Angie Carmichael** The current state of social care research – Research user perspective, National Seminar on Social Care Research, London, 2 November 2010

**Martin Green** The current state of social care research – Provider sector perspective, National Seminar on Social Care Research, London, 2 November 2010

**Carol Lupton** Christine Barton, David Challis, Survey into the state of social care research, National Seminar on Social Care Research, London, 2 November 2010

**Elaine Sharland** The current state of social care research – Researcher perspective, National Seminar on Social Care Research, London, 2 November 2010

**Emma Stone** The current state of social care research – Charitable body perspective, National Seminar on Social Care Research, London, 2 November 2010

**Glenn Wells** The current state of social care research – Funding body perspective, National Seminar on Social Care Research, London, 2 November 2010

**Caroline Glendinning** Introduction to the SSCR and projects overview, University of York – Making Research Count and Social Policy Research Unit Joint Research Conference (in association with the NIHR School for Social Care Research) Personalisation in practice: New horizons in adult social care research, York, 26 November 2010

**Kate Gridley, Jenni Brooks** Personalisation and partnership: care and support for people with complex needs – current SSCR project, University of York – Making Research Count and Social Policy Research Unit Joint Research Conference (in association with the NIHR School for Social Care Research) Personalisation in practice: New horizons in adult social care research, York, 26 November 2010

**Martin Webber** From ethnography to randomised controlled trial: an innovative approach to developing complex interventions in social care, First European Conference for Social Work and Social Care Research, Oxford, March 2011

**Michael Clark** NIHR Specific Funding streams - School for Social Care Research – Improving the evidence base for adult social care practice, National Institute for Health Research Open Day, Coventry University, 14 April 2011



[Jennifer Brooks, Kate Gridley, Caroline Glendinning](#) Personalisation in research and practice: methods and early findings from a study into good practice in social care for people with complex and severe needs, SSCR Annual Conference, London School of Economics, 18 April 2011

[Nigel Charles](#) Finding visually impaired people: some basic principles and practical steps, SSCR Annual Conference, London School of Economics, 18 April 2011

[Eric Emerson](#) Estimating future need for adult social care for disabled younger adults, SSCR Annual Conference, London School of Economics, 18 April 2011

[Alex Fox](#) Shared lives and the NAAPS approach, SSCR Annual Conference, London School of Economics, 18 April 2011

[Martin Knapp](#) SSCR: Looking forward, SSCR Annual Conference, London School of Economics, 18 April 2011

[Peter McGill](#) Learning disabilities and challenging behaviour, SSCR Annual Conference, London School of Economics, 18 April 2011

[Ann Netten](#) ASCOT – an approach to measuring outcomes of social care, SSCR Annual Conference, London School of Economics, 18 April 2011

[Jenny Owen](#) Reflections: Social Care Practice, SSCR Annual Conference, London School of Economics, 18 April 2011

[Linda Pickard](#) Overcoming barriers: unpaid care and employment in England, SSCR Annual Conference, London School of Economics, 18 April 2011

[Jeremy Porteus](#) Policy issues and research implications: independent living, SSCR Annual Conference, London School of Economics, 18 April 2011

[Justine Schneider](#) Making a drama out of front-line care for people with dementia, SSCR Annual Conference, London School of Economics, 18 April 2011

[Val Williams](#) Support planning in practice, SSCR Annual Conference, London School of Economics, 18 April 2011

[Alys Young](#) Research involving d/Deaf people: challenges of methodology and method, SSCR Annual Conference, London School of Economics, 18 April 2011

# HELP US TO IMPROVE ADULT SOCIAL CARE PRACTICE IN ENGLAND

Title	First name	Surname
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Address

Tel

Email

What is your connection to adult social care?

What do you believe are the top three issues facing adult social care **practice** over the next five years?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What do you believe are the top three opportunities for adult social care **practice** over the next five years?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is the single biggest issue facing adult social care **research** over the next five years?

What is the single biggest opportunity for adult social care **research** over the next five years?

What research question(s) would you like us to consider, and why?

Would you be happy for us to contact you regarding this survey?  
(tick as appropriate)

 Yes No

**Please return to:**

NIHR School for Social Care Research  
c/o  
**Freepost RSHB-UHHY-RTSG**  
Archives and Rare Books  
LSE Library  
10 Portugal Street  
London WC2A 2HD

**or fax to:**

020 7955 6131



# SSCR Annual Meeting

14 May 2012

The School for Social Care Research aims to conduct and commission high-quality research into adult social care practice. This annual meeting focuses on:

- key themes for adult social care practice in England;
- early findings from SSCR-funded studies;
- findings from SSCR-funded methods and scoping reviews;
- current and future priorities for adult social care research in England; and
- provides an opportunity to discuss these issues.

## Venue

The meeting will take place at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

## Programme

The meeting will take place on Monday 14 May 2012 from 10.15am to 15.30pm.

Further details and the programme will be circulated to registered delegates.

## Registration fee

This event is free to attend. However, there will be a charge of £20 for non-attendees who do not cancel their registration by 4.00pm on 2 May 2012.

Registration via LSE's eShop at [http://eshop.lse.ac.uk/browse/extra\\_info.asp?modid=1&prodid=509](http://eshop.lse.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?modid=1&prodid=509)

# School for Social Care Research

What are the key issues in adult social care practice for you?  
We would be interested to hear from you.

Please get in touch:

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