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Adult Social Care: Summary of the Research Plans of the Department of Health Policy Research Units and the Commissioned Research of the NIHR School for Social Care Research

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Raphael Wittenberg, Personal Social Services Research Unit
Michael Clark, NIHR School for Social Care Research

Policy Innovation Research Unit

PIRU POLICY INNOVATION RESEARCH UNIT

LSE **PSSRU**
Personal Social Services Research Unit

Executive summary

This report summarises the research plans which the Department of Health (DH) Policy Research Units (PRUs) have developed on adult social care and research projects which the NIHR School for Social Care Research (SSCR) has commissioned. For the PRUs, it covers research in progress or planned to start shortly and not completed studies. For the SSCR, it covers all the projects which it has commissioned., some of which have recently been completed.

This report was commissioned by the DH from the Policy Innovation Research Unit (PIRU). The purpose is to present on a systematic basis an overview of the research on adult social care funded through the PRUs or SSCR. This is intended to be of value not only to the DH but also to other funders and users of research on adult social care who may find it helpful to have a systematic account of research on adult social care, in progress or planned, commissioned by the DH from its PRUs or by the SSCR.

The paper is structured around the seven themes of the *Vision for Adult Social Care*, plus a few further themes. The research has been grouped for this purpose by main theme, although many projects cover more than one theme. The 'people' theme has been sub-divided between unpaid (informal) carers and workforce, since there main studies on these topics. Further themes have been added to the seven themes of the *Vision* to capture a considerable range of work on quality and outcomes, on financing and on assessment and care management, and a few studies which are mainly methodological.

The themes are prevention, personalisation, partnership, plurality, protection, productivity, social care workforce, carers, quality and outcomes, financing health and social care, assessment and care management, and methodology.

PLANNED DH FUNDED RESEARCH ON ADULT SOCIAL CARE

This report summarises the plans which the Policy Research Units (PRUs) and the NIHR School for Social Care Research (SSCR) have developed for research on adult social care. It covers research in progress or planned to start shortly and not completed studies. It concentrates on the PRUs and SSCR and does not include studies funded through other NIHR programmes, other DH contracts, the Research Councils or other funding agencies.

The paper is structured around the seven themes of the *Vision for Adult Social Care*, plus a few further themes. The research has been grouped for this purpose by main theme, although many projects cover more than one theme. This follows the format for the SSCR Showcase Event for the Department of Health held on 21 February. The projects, with details of topic, principal investigator and completion date, are listed under these same themes in the tables produced for that event.

Prevention

The SSCR has five projects whose main theme is prevention. Several other SSCR projects, especially some of those on personalisation and on partnership, also relate to prevention as a secondary theme. The University of Birmingham has recently completed a study of local prevention initiatives, covering prevention investments, outcomes and sustainability. (The report of the project findings is at http://sscr.nihr.ac.uk/PDF/Findings_17_prevention-initiatives_web.pdf.) Others also at Birmingham plan to complete soon a study of family-based approaches in mental health, investigating whether they can contribute to the reablement of people with mental health difficulties.

The University of York is conducting a Connecting People pilot study investigating social care interventions that promote social participation and well-being for people with mental health problems. The University of Kent is conducting a study on preventing challenging behaviour of adults with social needs in supported accommodation. The University of Bradford is investigating whether Participatory Video can enhance social participation and well-being for people with dementia in residential social care.

Personalisation

The SSCR has fifteen projects and the Quality and Outcomes Research Unit (QORU) one project whose main theme is personalisation. Some other SSCR projects, especially some of those on productivity and on carers, also relate to personalisation as a secondary theme. The QORU study on this theme relates to improving person-centred care for people with long-term conditions. It is being conducted by the Universities of Kent and Oxford and is due to be completed in June 2013.

The University of York have completed a scoping study on care and support for people with severe and complex needs, examining innovations and practice (http://www2.lse.ac.uk/LSEHealthAndSocialCare/pdf/Findings_1_complex-and-severe_web.pdf); and PSSRU at University of Kent have completed a scoping study on individualisation of services (http://www2.lse.ac.uk/LSEHealthAndSocialCare/pdf/Findings_2_personalisation_web.pdf). The Mental Health Foundation are studying how effectively the direct payments system works for people who lack the mental capacity to consent; the University of Coventry are investigating whether

personal budgets are always the best way of delivering social care services to older people; and KCL are studying risk, safeguarding and personal budgets, exploring relationships between these and identifying good practice. The LSE are examining the E-inclusion and access to the 'ICT-care sector' of older people in England.

There are several studies relating to personalisation and ethnic minority groups. Southampton are studying the acceptability of and satisfaction with social care among South Asian groups in Hampshire (as a case study). St George's and Kingston Universities are conducting a qualitative exploration of ethnic differences in satisfaction with support services among older people with long-term conditions and their carers. NatCen are exploring satisfaction with personal social care services among Pakistani, Bangladeshi and White people. Birmingham are exploring the experiences and views of services of people with learning disabilities from black and ethnic minority groups. Glyndwr University are investigating factors that contribute to the levels of satisfaction with social care for physical disabilities amongst Chinese and African Caribbean service users. Some of these also examine the experiences of carers.

The University of Bristol are conducting a study of support planning in practice and a study of supporting men with long-term conditions. The University of Hull are conducting a study of relocation, portability of assessment and support and social care practice, investigating the barriers and solutions encountered by disabled people when moving across local authority boundaries. The University of York are examining the care and support arrangements for physically disabled young adults.

Partnership

The SSCR has six projects and the Economics of Social and Health Care Research Unit (ESHCRU) two projects whose main theme is partnership. Some other SSCR projects, especially some of those on personalisation and on protection, also relate to personalisation as a secondary theme. ESHCRU (LSE) are conducting an evaluation of a local scheme for improving the coordination of health and social care in Hertfordshire. ESHCRU (Kent and York) are also examining substitution between health and social care.

Manchester are examining care coordination exploring and informing the emerging role of the non-statutory sector in long-term aged care in England. KCL are studying supporting formerly homeless people to achieve independent living . Bristol are conducting a longitudinal study of the service use and need of homeless women. Both these last two explore people's experiences of support from multiple services. York are conducting an ethnographic study of social capital generation and mobilisation, developing a social capital intervention for people with psychosis and examining partnership working between social workers and communities. Nottingham are developing a service fidelity index, improving effective integrated home support for people with dementia and their carers. York are studying the development of best practice in social care and support for adults with concurrent sight loss and dementia within different housing settings.

Plurality

The SSCR has two projects and the Economics of Social and Health Care Research Unit (ESHCRU) three projects whose main theme is plurality: plurality in the sense of care markets is one of

ESHCRU's core themes. Some other projects, especially some of those on personalisation, also relate to plurality as a secondary theme.

York are studying the personalisation of home care for older people using managed personal care budgets. PSSRU at Kent are studying outcomes, processes and cost-effectiveness of Shared Lives. They are also studying as part of ESHCRU the effects of market structure on quality and outcomes, the effects of ownership and organisation on quality and outcomes, and entry and exit in the care markets: an analysis of supply side dynamics.

Protection

There are eight SSCR projects and two projects by the Social Care Workforce Research Unit (SCWRU) on protection. Many other projects, including several of those on personalisation or on partnership, have protection as a secondary theme.

The two SCWRU projects relate to investigating the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) disclosure and barring scheme and analysis of serious case reviews of adults. KCL are also conducting a study exploring and comparing models of adult safeguarding. Kent are conducting studies of domestic violence against women with learning disabilities and costs and benefits of social care support for ex-offenders with learning disabilities.

Nottingham have completed a study of safeguarding and best practice in services for adults with learning disabilities. Bristol are completing a study on liberty, equality , capacity: the impact of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards on social care practice and human rights. Brighton are completing an exploration of mental health service user and practitioner experiences of Community Treatment Orders. Cambridge are studying supporting people with learning disabilities who have offended to live safely in the community: negotiating diverse and often divergent policy and practice to promote social inclusion and rehabilitation. Manchester Metropolitan are conducting a study to identify and assess the effectiveness of social care's contribution to the development of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences and the protection of adults facing domestic violence.

Productivity

There are nine SSCR projects and one project by the Economics of Social and Health Care Research Unit (ESHCRU) whose main theme is productivity. Many other projects, including several of those on quality and outcomes, have productivity as a secondary theme.

Kent have completed a study on the costs and outcomes of skilled support for adults with complex needs in supported accommodation. Lancaster have completed a study estimating future demand for social care for younger disabled adults. PSSRU at Manchester are conducting a study of resource allocation at the micro level in adult social care: determinants, methods and guidance, and a study on optimising adult mental health service configurations across health and social care.

Birmingham are conducting a study on managing organisational change in social care: a review for practitioners and managers. The National Development Team for Social Inclusion are conducting a study of employment support for disabled people with the relationship between people and outcomes (people getting paid work). Worcester are conducting a study entitled Adult Social Care Environments and Settings (ASSET), developing a better understanding of good practice in different

housing settings. PSSRU at LSE are conducting studies on the economic consequences of community capacity-building projects and on examining the economic case for social care interventions.

PSSRU at Kent are conducting an ESHCRU project on social care productivity. The aim of this project is to incorporate both outcome and case-mix/severity-of-need adjustments in productivity measurement and estimate productivity rates over time and by service type, group and locality. The project will use these estimates to compare trends and comment on potential improvements in social care productivity.

[The seventh P, people, we have split into workforce and carers for the purposes of this overview.]

Social Care Workforce

The Social Care Workforce Research Unit (SCWRU) at King's College London (KCL) has a programme of research on this important topic. It includes analyses of three substantial data sets:

- A study of the factors that facilitate or constrain recruitment and retention in the social care workforce in England, using data from a longitudinal survey conducted by the Unit;

- A study, using the National Minimum Data Set – Social Care, of trends within the workforce, changes in nature of provision of social care, job mobility and career development;

- Analyses, using General Social Care Council data, to address current and emerging knowledge gaps about the social work profession and social work education.

The SCWRU programme includes two evaluations. One is an evaluation to compare employment outcomes for the cohort of Jobs First participants with a matched comparison group, identifying approaches that facilitate and hinder employment of people with learning disabilities. The second is an evaluation of the Social Work Practices pilots with adults to examine their effects on the workforce and on the service provided to users, including quality and quantity of support.

SCWRU are also conducting four literature reviews looking at social work education, including one to inform the review of the social work bursary scheme. For the SSCR Manchester are undertaking a scoping study exploring the changing roles of Occupational Therapists in social care.

Carers

There are several SSCR projects on unpaid (informal) care and a study by the Economic Evaluations PRU (EEPRU). Some other studies relate also to carers as a subsidiary theme.

KCL have recently completed an investigation into the roles of specialist carer support staff in helping carers, and an analysis of the effectiveness of emerging support models. EEPRU are conducting an audit and an evaluation of a carers' breaks scheme in Bristol.

The University of York are conducting a study of carers and personalisation, investigating the role of carers in assessment, support planning and managing personal budgets. This study, which relates especially to people with cognitive or communication impairments, aims to: describe local policy/ practice; examine how far policies/practice balance the needs of disabled people and their carers; and explore the views of disabled people and carers on the role they want carers to play.

PSSRU at Kent and LSE are conducting a study which aims to provide recommendations for councils about identifying and supporting people who provide unpaid care. It includes an examination of variations between councils in the extent to which they are in contact with carers and an exploration of the extent to which individual-level factors of carer and care recipient and council-level factors account for variations in carers' quality of life.

The Institute for Employment Studies and PSSRU at LSE are each conducting studies on carers and employment. The Institute's work aims to identify examples of good practice in supporting carers to remain in or to return to paid employment; explore innovative practices in supporting carers' employment opportunities; and identify what works and how cost effective it is. The PSSRU study, which follows earlier scoping work on the economic costs of carers leaving employment (http://www2.lse.ac.uk/LSEHealthAndSocialCare/pdf/Findings_10_carers-employment_web.pdf), addresses gaps in the evidence on the effectiveness of 'replacement care' in supporting working carers and unmet needs for support of working carers.

Quality and Outcomes

There are seven QORU projects on this theme and two SSCR projects. All are led by PSSRU at Kent.

Several of the studies involve the further development of the Adult Social Care Outcomes Tool (ASCOT). This tool was developed by PSSRU through a series of studies funded by DH and HM Treasury. The measure contains eight dimensions of outcomes, covering: control over daily life; personal care; food and drink; accommodation; safety; social participation; occupation; dignity. It is preference weighted to reflect the relative importance of different aspects of outcome, with final scores anchored to 1 (the ideal state) and 0 (being dead), so it can be related to time. This provides the basis for a social care equivalent of the influential QALY used in health economics.

The main activities in one project will be to continue to provide training, workshops and online problem-based support for people using the measure as well as tools to support analysis of data using ASCOT. QORU will also undertake further refinement of the toolkit, development of new tools to widen applicability, and upgrade of supporting documentation on the website. An SSCR study will explore whether feedback from the ASCOT multi-method approach can be used to focus staff on service user outcomes and improve care practice; and examine the feasibility of conducting a cluster randomised controlled trial of the feedback-intervention in the future. Another SSC R study aims to adapt the ASCOT toolkit so that it can be used to generate a care home rating based on the lived experience of residents and focussing on how well the home performs on the eight ASCOT domains. The objective is to produce a draft quality indicator and toolkit that can be tested and be made available for use in the future.

A QORU study aims is to develop outcomes-based measures for people with long-term conditions (LTCs). Specific aims include: assessing the limitations of EQ5D, considering practical options to address the limitations; assessing the evidence from the PROMS pilot; considering methods for combining and dealing with overlaps between measures eg EQ5D and ASCOT.

Other QORU studies aim to examine the impact of using outcome measures. One examines the impact of services, processes or frameworks (eg CQC standards) on outcomes: one strand for example will assess the impact of different home care providers (by organisation type, CQC rating

and workforce characteristics). Another study explores the kinds of outcomes-related factors that guide people's behaviour and considers the implications for how outcomes information can be better defined and presented to patients and service users. One strand looks at people with dementia and their carers choosing residential care. A further QORU study aims to develop a value-added measure, through identifying the impact of adult social care. Outcome measures give an indication of overall experience of outcomes but this is not attributable. To be a more effective measure for accountability, it should be able to demonstrate the impact of services on a particular outcome. A first step is to examine the relationship between carer and service user outcomes.

Finally, QORU will continue to support the development of the Adult Social Care Survey (ASCS), Carers Experience Survey (CES) and Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) indicators. It will include the development of (potentially web-based) guidance and tools for LAs to make better use of the ASCS data locally.

Financing Health and Social Care

There are seven projects which have financing as their main theme and several more which have financing as a secondary theme. Six of these seven are ESHCRU projects and one is EEPRU in which ESHCRU is now also involved.

ESHCRU are undertaking a study to understand financial mechanisms for integrating funds for health and social care. Its aim is to systematically review the international evidence on: the types of integrated resource mechanisms available; the costs and effects of these mechanisms, including unintended consequences; the barriers to implementation and the factors critical to success.

A series of connected studies will examine factors linked to the use of health and social care. It will address questions on: equity in the provision of care services in terms of equal service provision for equal need; unmet need for care, particularly the extent to which people with high levels of need are or are not receiving care; changes through time in the patterns of need and service receipt; the responsiveness of demand for care to price of care; factors associated with local differences in the balance between community and residential care services, and with variations in the use of personal budgets and direct payments across local authorities; substitution and complementarity between health and social services.

A study on understanding and quantifying system outcomes will investigate what are the aggregate outcome implications of the current patterns of service provision and how health and social care services could be reconfigured to achieve the greatest outcomes within available resources. The analysis will examine changes in levels of outcomes of alterative service configurations (e.g. changing the balance between community and residential care). It will estimate changes in aggregate levels of outcomes and in the distribution of outcomes across groups of individuals (e.g. by wealth).

ESHCRU are continuing to model, using their existing micro and macro simulation models, present and future patterns of health and social care funding and resource flows. This work relates to implications of alternative funding arrangements and of alternative funding constraints. It is designed to address the policy questions concerning the levels of demand for health and social care services that can be expected over the next 20 years; the resources that will be required to meet

these demand levels; and the consequences on service utilisation, cost and outcomes of alternative social care funding arrangements.

A series of ESHCRU projects are investigating the interrelationship between unpaid care and formal health and social care. They address questions on: what individual characteristics are linked to the likelihood of providing informal care; what household or social network characteristics are influencing informal care supply; which local circumstances (e.g. rurality, deprivation) are associated with variations in the supply of informal care; to what extent can different government interventions lead to changes in the amount of informal care provided and/or the number of individuals providing unpaid care; what is the rate at which formal and informal inputs substitute for or complement one another; and what are the outcomes of providing informal care, including its opportunity costs in terms of labour supply and caregivers' wages.

Assessment and Eligibility

None of the SSCR or PRU projects have assessment arrangements as their main theme. It is a subsidiary theme of a few projects, such as the SCWRU evaluation of Social Work Practice Pilots and York SSCR study of carers and personalisation, which includes the role of carers in assessment. DH has separately commissioned studies from CHSEO, PSSRU and SCIE on assessment and eligibility.

Methodology

Three studies – two from QORU and one SSCR study – are mainly methodological; but many other studies involve methodological developments (including several of the QORU projects).

SCWRU has been supporting the development of Research Governance in local authority social care departments and undertaking work to develop a proposal for the development of the Research Register for Social Care. QORU are developing methods – and testing and validating those methods – for wider inclusion of people with severe intellectual, communication and cognitive impairments.

SCCR has also commissioned a number of methods reviews. These cover:

- research with specific user groups, such as visually impaired people (Plymouth), deaf people (Manchester), users from BME groups (Durham and York);
- research in specific settings, such as care homes (Southampton, National Council for Palliative Care, City), end-of-life care methods (Hertfordshire and Lancaster);
- methods, including qualitative methods overview (KCL), use of large data sets (KCL), mathematical modelling (Sheffield), observational studies (Kent), systematic reviews (SCIE).