

NATIONAL EVALUATION OF THE COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK FOR ADULTS DEMONSTRATOR PROGRAMME

PSSRU

Outline of a research project undertaken in collaboration with SQW and GfKNOP and funded by the Department of Health

David Challis, Paul Clarkson and Jane Hughes

June 2010

BACKGROUND The Department of Health has commissioned the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) in Manchester to evaluate the introduction of the Common Assessment Framework, a generic approach to assessing the health, social care and wider support needs of individual adults. This is being undertaken in conjunction with two independent sector organisations: SQW, a consultancy in sustainable economic and social development, and GfK NOP, a market research and insight agency.

A number of local authority led partnerships have received funding from central government to stimulate innovations in practice designed to improve information sharing around multidisciplinary assessment and care planning. It is envisaged that these will support improved coordination between health and social care services and assist the continued development of 'personalisation' by improving assessment processes and helping people chose services better suited to their needs.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY The overall project aims to evaluate demonstration sites nominated by the Department of Health to pilot new approaches to assessment which avoid unnecessary duplication; promote an efficient and transparent system of information sharing; and ensure that service users receive appropriate care and support. The research will explore changes in the nature of the assessment process; the experience of service users and staff; and the nature and cost of services received by users.

DESIGN The research design will take account of the various approaches to developing the Common Assessment Framework for different adult user groups in each of the demonstration sites. Meetings will be held with IT commissioners and providers to understand the background to the installation of the new technology and how

continued/...

The **Personal Social Services Research Unit** undertakes social and health care research, focusing particularly on policy research and analysis of equity and efficiency in community care and long term care and related areas, including services for elderly people, people with mental health problems and children in care. The Unit's work is funded mainly by the Department of Health.

The PSSRU Bulletin and publication lists are available free of charge from the PSSRU librarian in Canterbury (01227 827773) and on the Internet the Unit Web site can be found at <http://www.PSSRU.ac.uk>. The PSSRU was established at the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1974 and from 1996 has operated from three sites:

The University of Kent at Canterbury
PSSRU
Cornwallis Building, University of Kent at
Canterbury,
Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NF
Tel: 01227 823963 Fax: 01227 827038
Email: pssru@kent.ac.uk
Site Director: Professor Ann Netten

The London School of Economics
PSSRU
London School of Economics,
Houghton Street, London WC2 2AE
Tel: 020 7955 6238 Fax: 020 7955 6131
Email: PSSRU@lse.ac.uk
Site Director: Professor Martin Knapp

The University of Manchester
PSSRU
Dover Street Building
The University of Manchester, Oxford Road,
Manchester M13 9PL
Tel: 0161 275 5250 Fax: 0161 275 5790
Email: pssru@manchester.ac.uk
Site Director: Professor David Challis

staff engage with the new systems will be explored. In addition, two tranches of data collection are planned by PSSRU.

In the first, data will be collected relating to existing practice, either before the introduction of procedures relating to the Common Assessment Framework or with a similar cohort of people outside the demonstration site but within the same local authority. This will provide baseline or comparative information. The second will be undertaken after the introduction of the new procedures. In both timeframes data will be collected in respect of the assessment process and its documentation; user characteristics and outcomes and their satisfaction with the process; the content of support plans and service receipt; and staff wellbeing and time use. This will be undertaken in conjunction with GfK NOP.

Staff from PSSRU in conjunction with colleagues in the participating authorities will agree the most appropriate research strategies for the initiative under investigation taking account of progress in its implementation. Some of the data will require extraction from existing records and where this is required PSSRU will assist in the development of an appropriate tool. In other circumstances PSSRU will provide profomas for completion.

Additionally interviews with staff and service users will be undertaken mainly by SQW and GfK NOP, with each organisation contributing to different aspects of the study.

DISSEMINATION

Interim and final reports will be prepared for the funders with our two collaborators. It is also envisaged that arrangements will be made in conjunction with the funders for participating authorities to receive feedback relating to particular initiatives during the course of the study. Additionally, PSSRU staff will produce journal articles and information will be made available through the organisation's website.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The PSSRU staff leading this study are David Challis, Paul Clarkson and Jane Hughes at the University of Manchester. For further information please contact Jane Hughes (telephone 0161 275 5229 or email jane.hughes@manchester.ac.uk).
