

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA THE RELATIVE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF SPECIALIST AND GENERIC DOMICILIARY CARE SERVICES

PSSRU

Outline of a research project funded by the Department of Health

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BACKGROUND The Department of Health has commissioned the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) at Manchester University to contribute to the development of the evidence base relating to domiciliary care for people with dementia. This will inform the implementation of the National Dementia Strategy which advocated the provision of an appropriate range of services to support people with dementia living at home and their carers.

Domiciliary care services have long been part of the fabric of the welfare state. However, specialist services for specific groups are a more recent development. Current policy requires local authorities to redesign their services to demonstrate an investment in prevention; early intervention/re-ablement; and provision of intensive care and support for those with high-level complex needs. Service commissioners face the challenge of ensuring high quality services delivered by a well-trained workforce which reflect the goals of choice and control within the personalisation agenda.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY The proposed project aims to bring together evidence and identify and evaluate existing models of generic and specialist personal support for people with dementia in England.

DESIGN This is a piece of work with a short timeframe. A mixed method approach, incorporating both primary and secondary data collections and analysis, with three elements will be employed.

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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:

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First, a narrative literature review and evidence scoping exercise will be undertaken of peer reviewed material and unpublished data from studies conducted by the PSSRU in Manchester.

Second, a typology of domiciliary care services for people with dementia will be constructed using evidence derived from two recent studies conducted by the PSSRU in Manchester.

Third, current service provision will be appraised. This will involve:

- telephone interviews with a sample of managers in local sites with demonstrably different approaches to service provision derived from the typology to ascertain information about standards of service and associated costs.
- secondary data analysis to explore whether different arrangements for domiciliary care influence the rate of admission to care homes.
- consultations with carers to ascertain their service preferences.

DISSEMINATION A report will be provided to the funders which will include all the elements described above. Additionally, a short expert briefing for service commissioners will be created summarising key findings which will be available both as a paper and a web based document. PSSRU staff will also produce a journal article based on the findings.

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).
