

LONG-TERM CARE COORDINATION FOR OLDER PEOPLE AT HOME – EXPLORING THE ROLE OF INDEPENDENT ORGANISATIONS IN CARE COORDINATION FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND THEIR CARERS

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 to investigate long-term care coordination arrangements for older people living at home. This is one of two studies within the research programme to examine developments in care coordination arrangements in the light of the personalisation agenda. It will explore the role of the independent¹, and particularly voluntary organisations, in care coordination for older people and their carers. The other study will investigate the extent of the flexible use of budgets to achieve personalised care.

A postal survey of local authorities carried out by the PSSRU in 2006 indicated that in older people's services, independent organisations undertaking care coordination are primarily involved in services relating to carers and those with sensory impairments. More recent policy guidance envisages developing the role of independent organisations and strengthening their capacity to deliver social care, both as strategic partners and as service providers.

¹ Including voluntary, not-for-profit, and for-profit organisations.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY The purpose of this study is to further explore and document the role of organisations independent of local authorities in the provision of care coordination for older people and their carers, and the implications this may have for service commissioning and service providers. It will also seek to identify some of the factors which influence local authorities' capacity to expand the range of services available.

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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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DESIGN

This study is in three stages. Stage one will identify and verify the potential local authorities for further study, using evidence from the recent survey conducted by the PSSRU. Stage two will comprise telephone interviews with managers in older people's services in authorities identified in stage one, to investigate in more detail the commissioning of services to co-ordinate care for older people from independent organisations. The final stage will be in the form of more detailed case studies of selected sites or independent service providers who are involved in care coordination for older people and their carers.

OUTCOMES

It is anticipated that the wider role of independent organisations in social care will have implications for organisational processes within both local authorities and the independent sector. The study will provide an insight into the role of independent organisations in care coordination for older people and their carers, including the interface with local authorities. This information will be of value to policy makers, managers in local authorities, and independent service providers.

FURTHER INFORMATION

This work is being undertaken by David Challis, Chengqiu Xie, Caroline Sutcliffe, Jane Hughes, Helen Chester and Siobhan Reilly. For further information please contact Chengqiu Xie (telephone 0161 275 5960, email Chengqiu.Xie@manchester.ac.uk).
