

# IMPROVING HEALTH SERVICES FOR EUROPEAN CITIZENS WITH DEMENTIA: BEST PRACTICE STRATEGIES FOR TRANSITION FROM HOME CARE TO LONG-TERM RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING CARE

PSSRU



## **PROJECT ACRONYM: *RightTimePlaceCare***

*Outline of a research project funded by the European Union (HEALTH-242153)*

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**BACKGROUND** This research project is being funded by the European Union over three and a half years, between 2010 and 2013. The study has received 3 million euros of funding and is being undertaken in eight European countries; England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden, reflecting wide-ranging cultural and social backgrounds and varied health and social care systems. The English component of the project is being undertaken by the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) located within the School of Community-Based Medicine in the University of Manchester.

The main focus of work of the PSSRU is community-based and long-term care, particularly in relation to services for older people and people with mental health problems.

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**PURPOSE OF THE STUDY** The purpose of the study is to examine the approaches to the support and care for older people with dementia and their informal carers currently demonstrated in eight European countries. The findings will inform the development of best practice strategies across Europe for long-term dementia care tailored to individual needs. It will describe and analyse European health, social care and welfare systems, advocacy and informal carer support systems for people with dementia including interagency communication and service delivery.

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**DESIGN** The project will be undertaken within six work packages.

- Work Package 1 (**Management**) comprises the overall project management which aims to coordinate the project.

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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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- Work Package 2 (**Health care structure**) will undertake an extensive information collection in order to describe the structures and processes of health and medical care, social and nursing care and welfare systems, and inter-agency communication along the trajectory of dementia care. First, a template will be developed of terminology used to describe the dementia care system across Europe. Second, a number of focus groups will be held in each participating country with professionals within the dementia care system, older people with dementia and carers to explore their experiences throughout the process of care.
- Work Package 3 (**Survey**) will develop and conduct a survey to identify those factors which influence the decision to enter long-term residential or nursing care within the differing European regimes. This will involve interviewing two populations of older people with dementia and their informal and professional carers to determine aspects of their health, quality of life, quality of care and costs of care. One population will be living in the community but known to be at risk of breakdown, the other population will have recently entered a care home. Both populations will be followed up after 6 months.
- Work Package 4 (**Economic evaluation**) will assess the related economic impact of formal professional home care and long-term care. The economic data will be collected within the above survey.
- Work Package 5 (**Best practice**) will develop best practice strategies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of integrated health care for people with dementia in Europe. Recommendations for best practice will be based on an extensive review of published literature and the findings from Work Packages 2, 3 and 4.
- Work Package 6 (**Dissemination**) will develop and implement a detailed dissemination plan as described below.

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**DISSEMINATION** The project findings will be disseminated internationally and nationally, using a variety of disciplines including conferences, congresses and published articles in journals on nursing, medicine, health economics, and other related disciplines; scientific and non-scientific events and media. Web based information will be available to wider audiences through a project website [www.RightTimePlaceCare.eu](http://www.RightTimePlaceCare.eu). The public website will present the objectives, the non-confidential results of the project, reports of workshops and meetings, published articles and a final report. Presentations and teaching material will be made accessible for lecturing and teaching in University training programmes. Links to this website will also be available through the PSSRU website at [www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/pssru](http://www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/pssru).

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**FURTHER INFORMATION**

This work is being undertaken at the University of Manchester by: David Challis, Caroline Sutcliffe, David Jolley and Alistair Burns.

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