

## Research Plans

Following discussions with the PSSRU's main funder, the Department of Health, and with our advisory group, we have recently outlined our research plans for the next few years. The final details are to be agreed, so the work outlined here may change, but we are looking forward to developing an exciting set of research projects.

The individual projects described below are grouped within seven programmes of work. However, there are of course overlaps between programmes and our work builds on previous and collaborative research.

Pages 10–31 report work from current programmes of work and pages 32–33 highlight some newly started projects.

### Assessment and Coordinated Care for Older People

Programme leader: Professor David Challis  
See pages 10–11 and 14–15 for information on previous work in these programmes.

A distinct theme of the work at PSSRU Manchester has been field-level experimentation and evaluation to address policy questions such as the impact of assessment prior to care home placement.

With regard to both the assessment of older people and developments in care coordination, the planned work is designed to identify and explore the impact of the new arrangements through examination of new patterns of working, the contribution of different professional groups and organisations, and the experiences of service users and their carers.

Four pieces of work are planned:

#### Towards the new care coordination for older people: exploration of emergent arrangements for the provision of care at home

The project aims to explore the different emerging arrangements for coordinated care provision and to discern changes in them since the late 1990s. A number of specific questions will be addressed to determine the extent to which services are sufficiently differentiated and integrated so as to address the needs and wishes of older people against the criteria of flexibility, choice and responsiveness.

#### Links between care management provided through the social care system and NHS case management

This work will explore the different linkages and interfaces between care management as provided through the social care system and NHS case management, as developed for people with complex, long-term conditions. We will investigate the likely impacts of these links in addition to describing who receives each form of care/case management and how

the linkages between the two are managed.

#### The single assessment process: pathways into care services for older people

This will investigate the role and outcomes of the Single Assessment Process in terms of service receipt by older people and to identify the numbers and characteristics of people entering different types of care arrangements. It will also evaluate this major policy change to assessment from the perspective of its links to relevant performance criteria with which to judge the impact of the policy.

#### The single assessment process: patterns of staff involvement and impact

The aims of the project are to explore the range of impact of the Single Assessment Process in terms of the variation in staff involvement and their possible effects in terms of service outcomes and user experience. The intention is to assess the impact of the policy against one of its major aims, which is to ensure assessments are more inclusive of relevant staff and more integrated in their content and in their mode of operation.

### Children and young people: services, costs and effectiveness

Programme leader: Dr Jennifer Beecham  
See pages 18–19 for information on previous work in this programme.

The demand for information about services and support for children and young people will grow over the next ten years as the new *Change for Children* policies are implemented. This programme aims to help meet this demand with high quality research-based evidence on the provision and use of services and supports, the costs of support, and the associations between costs, needs, and effectiveness.

Three projects are under consideration:

## Multi-agency support for disabled young people

This project would identify and collate recent research findings and datasets on the way disabled children and their families use services allowing us to:

- explore the ways in which disabled children and their families are supported by multi-agency packages of care
- estimate the costs of supporting disabled children with different types of disability, needs or levels of severity
- explore the associations between costs and needs.

## Health, social care and education interfaces for children and young people

The proposed study plans to identify ‘interface’ services and explore the ways these services are provided, to whom and at what cost. The project would provide:

- a national picture of the pattern of health service support of particular groups of children in a range of non-health settings
- a more detailed view of the way ostensibly similar services are delivered
- insights into the ways that these services are commissioned.

## Access to child and adolescent mental health services

The project would explore equity of access to these services, and provide:

- an analysis of overall levels and variations in service provision and expenditure
- a national picture of current access patterns to CAMH services
- information on the improvements in access since the NSF was published.

## Commissioning and performance

Programme leader: Professor Martin Knapp  
See pages 12–13 for information on previous work in this programme.

Future work will build on this long-running programme of studies, continuing with some of its themes, for example looking at the structure and performance of local markets and investigating the patterns and sources of variation in the performance of different agents within the increasingly complex economies of social and health care. Departures from previous work include a greater emphasis on the health–social care interface, including how it relates to hospital bed use by older people, a study of regulation (interpreted quite broadly) and work on the individualisation of care and user choice, linked in part to direct payments.

Three projects are planned:

## Local variations in social care patterns: equity and efficiency

The project will assess the extent and patterns through time of local variability in key features of social care in England such as financing and eligibility. Second, we will seek to ‘explain’ the variation in these features, according to demand and supply, organisational and political factors. Third, we will analyse the implications of observed variability for local performance, in terms of, for example, innovation, responsiveness, satisfaction and effects on hospital activity.

## Regulating residential care for older people

The project plans to examine the extent to which the regulatory architecture has moved in response to the recent reforms. It will first look at the impacts of these changes on ‘context’ (e.g. economic and political organisation of supply side) and ‘content’ (e.g. tensions between different beliefs about practice) in relation to older people. Are the reforms solving and/or managing these tensions, or are they redistributing and/or intensifying them? The project will then explore geographical variation in regulatory ‘performance’.

## Partnerships and prevention for older people

The aim of this work is to describe and evaluate forms of broadly preventative work that will improve outcomes for older people. A first core activity will be (statistical) analysis of impact of partnership working, prevention incentives, and strategic commissioning on performance and costs. Second, we will use longitudinal analysis to assess the consequences of low-level preventative services on future outcomes and downstream service need. Third, analysis will be conducted of particular local projects.

## Costs, quality and outcomes

Programme leader: Professor Ann Netten  
See pages 16–17 for information on previous work in this programme.

The programme has three aims:

- to develop and improve the measurement of costs, quality and outcomes
- to investigate factors associated with variations in costs, quality and outcomes of services and contribute to our understanding of how it is possible to improve efficiency while maintaining or improving key aspects of quality and outcome
- to enhance the value of both research and routine statistical information for monitoring, evaluative and ongoing policy purposes.

Initially four projects are planned:

## Unit costs of health and social care

This continues a long running stream of work which aims to identify, improve and disseminate information

about unit costs of health and social care.

The project provides a means by which findings from research studies are updated and remain easily accessible in the public domain. The project's annual volumes (see page 38) are widely used.

## Costs, quality and outcomes of equipment services

Our objectives are:

- to identify methods of measuring equipment service outputs, quality and outcomes for younger and older disabled adults
- to identify the use of equipment and adaptations over time
- to provide an understanding of the relationship between cost quality and outcomes
- to investigate factors underlying variations in efficiency.

## An extension to the younger adults user experience survey (UES)

The principal aims are:

- to add value to the younger adults DES for a sample of participating local authorities by enhancing comparability across dimensions not included in the compulsory items
- to assess items for their suitability as performance indicators
- to provide a basis for weighting the general satisfaction measure that reflects the views of younger adults of the quality of services received
- to investigate causes of variation in younger adult service users' experience.

## Development of PSS output index

This project will continue to develop the approach to the measurement of personal social services outputs developed for the Atkinson Review of National Statistics and to explore the wider potential for the measurement of productivity and efficiency.

## Housing and care

Programme leader: Professor Ann Netten  
See pages 24–25 for information on previous work in this programme.

This work investigates the implications and potential of current developments in housing and care for the welfare of older people and the efficient use of resources. In particular, the planned projects will look at the feasibility, affordability, desirability and implications of moves away from care homes towards alternative housing and care options. To what extent do developments such as extra care housing deliver improved outcomes and at what cost? What are the implications for care homes?

Four projects are planned, together with the support of a research network:

## An evaluation of extra care housing for older people

The longer-term aims are to monitor how the schemes funded under the Department of Health's Extra Care Housing Funding Initiative develop over time, to track long-term outcomes for schemes and residents and to compare the costs and outcomes with people moving into care homes.

## Analysis of evidence about the contribution of care homes and extra care to the support of older people

This work will draw on previous and recent data collections to examine the implications of changing patterns of use of care homes and extra care housing for older people. The analyses are planned to

- compare people moving in to care homes with those supported in their own home and people moving in to care homes in the 1990s
- identify the cost and care environment implications of changes in patterns of service
- investigate sense of control and well-being in care homes and extra care housing.

## Tracking the development of extra care housing

The project aims to:

- collect accurate descriptive information about the quantity and nature of extra care housing
- understand the local context of extra care housing developments
- identify factors that facilitate or limit development
- compare the growth of extra care housing with the supply of other forms of housing and care over time, such as care homes
- understand the impact of extra care housing on patterns of services.

## A study of older people's housing decisions and transitions

A project aiming to investigate the relationship between desire to move, perception of choices, and final decisions and transitions. We plan to:

- identify older homeowners' reasons for considering a move and their perceptions of the housing options available to them
- identify decisions made, the basis for these decisions and accommodation transitions these older people make in practice
- explore links between needs-related circumstances, information and advice, individual perceptions of options and decisions made.

## A housing and care of older people research network

The network aims to provide a forum through which researchers can:

- exchange information
- collaborate on research proposals

- share methodological experiences
- develop messages for commissioners and providers
- suggest new areas and programmes of research
- discuss ethical issues.

## Long-term care finance

Programme leader: Raphael Wittenberg  
See pages 20–21 for information on previous work in this programme.

The overall aims of the programme are to make projections of likely demand for long-term care for older people and associated expenditure to 2031 under different scenarios. The scenarios relate to changes in external drivers of demand, such as demographic pressures, and to potential changes in patterns of care or policies. A specific objective is to assess the likely impact of different policies and approaches to funding long-term care for older people on the balance of expenditure between sectors. Work to date has been widely used by national and local policy-makers.

Five areas of activity will be taken forward:

### Developing and updating the PSSRU long-term care projections model

This work will to develop the long-term care projections model so that it can incorporate the outputs of other projects in this programme and produce a wider range of projections. We plan to update the model regularly in order to produce up-to-date projections for requirements such as spending reviews.

### Long-term care financing arrangements

This stream of work will examine different financing arrangements implemented in other countries. It will investigate their implications for efficiency and equity and their potential impact on current and projected expenditure and on the balance of expenditure between public resources and private resources if introduced in England.

### The future supply of informal care and employment

This work will make projections of the future supply of informal care and link these with projections for the supply of the long-term care workforce.

### Changing patterns of care for older people in the coming decades

The aims here are to:

- expand the range of services in the long-term care finance model
- add direct payments/individual budgets to the model
- consider new scenarios for changing patterns of care.

## Workforce projections

The project would produce projections of future demand for workforce to provide long-term care for older people.

## Mental health economics and policy

Programme leader: Professor Martin Knapp  
See pages 22–23 for information on previous work in this programme.

The programme conducts high-quality research on mental health policy and practice, drawing particularly but not exclusively on economic approaches and associated empirical methods. Work covers the full age range and all mental disorders, and includes research on intellectual disabilities. Much of the work is conducted outside the UK.

Three main pieces of work are being considered for our programme in England.

### Evidence-based mental health services: bridging the gap

In a mental health system that is rightly giving more attention to how unidentified and unmet mental health needs can best be addressed, the aim is to estimate the resources necessary to close the gap between currently delivered mental health services and those recommended by policy. That is, what resources are needed to move from current reality to evidence-based aspiration?

### The cost-effectiveness of community models of mental health care: a review

We plan to update our earlier review of the economic evidence concerning community models of mental health care, covering all relevant international literature, although viewed in the English context. We will also carry out careful meta-analyses of relevant data in order to synthesise the economic consequences of alternative models of community-based care, including new organisational arrangements for community teams.

### Lifetime economic consequences of mental health problems in childhood and adolescence

The primary task is to build a model to project economic consequences of child and adolescent mental health problems into adulthood, perhaps over much of the lifespan. Personal, public sector and economic consequences of different childhood behavioural and emotional problems would be distinguished. Second, we would use evidence on the effectiveness of childhood interventions to project their long-term (adulthood) economic benefits (again widely interpreted).