Queen’s Anniversary Prize for PSSRU LSE

LSE Health and Social Care (of which PSSRU at LSE is a major part) has been awarded a prestigious Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education 2009 for its work in ‘applying research to the advancement of global health and social care policy’. Martin Knapp, PSSRU director at LSE and co-director of LSE Health and Social Care, was one of the LSE representatives at a reception at St James’ Palace in November to hear the announcement.

The Royal Anniversary Trust recognised the unit’s ‘achievement in adult social care research and the impact on well-being of the nation’ and ‘groundbreaking research on the shaping of new models for care management in the community which have underpinned legislation.’ More details on the award can be found on the LSE news pages at http://tinyurl.com/yzqn5yy.

Professor Knapp also directs the Centre for the Economics of Mental Health, which forms part of one of the other groups to be awarded a Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 2009: the Health Services and Population Research Department at the Institute of Psychiatry, King’s College London, with which PSSRU enjoys many collaborative links.

PSSRU Research Informs Care and Support Green Paper

PSSRU research led by Julien Forder and Jose-Luis Fernández has provided the analytical modelling underpinning the new Green Paper on the future funding of care and support services in England. The cross government Green Paper, Shaping the Future of Care Together, introduces the radical new concept of a national care system, and proposes three alternative funding models.

A paper summarising the first stage of the analysis can be found at www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/dp2644.pdf. The full Green Paper is available on the Department of Health website.

Investors in People

PSSRU at LSE was recently re-accredited by Investors in People. The PSSRU group at LSE is the first research group within LSE to receive the accreditation – and for the second time. The assessor commented that ‘PSSRU displayed an impressive number of strengths… and a number of good practices’. The PSSRU branches at Kent and Manchester also hold the iIP awards.

Congratulations...

to Heba Elgazzar (at PSSRU, LSE) and Kathryn Berzins and Val Harrington (at Manchester), who have successfully completed PhDs.

Staff news

Dr José-Luis Fernández was appointed as specialist adviser to the House of Commons Health Committee as it carried out its Social Care Inquiry. The inquiry looked at the future of social care services following the publication of the Government’s Green Paper, Shaping the Future of Care Together.

Professor David Challis has been appointed a senior investigator by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). These awards are made through open competition by an international panel of judges to individuals making an outstanding contribution to research essential for health and social care decision-making.

At PSSRU LSE promotions include José-Luis Fernández and Julien Forder to Principal Research Fellow, Jennifer Beecham to Professorial Research Fellow, David McDaid to Senior Research Fellow, Tihana Matosevic to Research Fellow and David McDaid to Senior Research Fellow. At Kent Robin Darton has been promoted Senior Research Fellow.

PSSRU welcomes Amanda Holman, Ruth Puig-Peiro, Fiona Scorer and Madeliene Stevens at the LSE branch, and Michael Hill, who joins us as a Visiting Professor.

Dr Gill Hastings joins PSSRU at LSE as an honorary associate. She joins the NIHR School for Social Care Research as Senior Scientific Administrator.

Dr Florence Baingana – a Research Fellow at the Makerere University School of Public Health – joined PSSRU at LSE from September 2009 to look at costing mental health care in Uganda as part of a Masters Fellowship from the Wellcome Trust.

Jessica Abel has left PSSRU Manchester to take up an ERSC studentship working towards a PhD at the International Centre for Lifecourse Studies in Health and Society (ICLS), Imperial College London.

Visitors to LSE included Andrea Ciarini and Marla Woolderink, and at Kent we welcomed Birgit Trukeschitz.
Evaluation of the Personal Health Budgets Pilots

Personal health budgets aim to give people greater control over the health services they use, as part of a policy commitment to a more personalised and responsive NHS.

This new way of delivering health care represents a major cultural shift within the health care service, which needs to be evaluated before any decision to extend its availability across the country is made.

In 2009, the Department of Health invited primary care trusts to put forward PHB projects to be part of a pilot implementation, supported by a rigorous evaluation, to explore the opportunities PHBs offer. The pilot programme includes 70 sites, 20 of which have been selected to participate in the in-depth evaluation.

A multidisciplinary research team led by the PSSRU at the University of Kent, with colleagues from Imperial College London, LSE and SPRU at the University of York, is conducting the evaluation. Further details are available from the project website, www.phbe.org.uk.

Information online

Many more copies of this Bulletin are now downloaded than circulated in printed form, and this will be the last version in this format.

Nearly 400 other publications are available for free download through the PSSRU website.

We have introduced a series of online newsletters (Research Bites and Research Focus) from the three PSSRU branches which you can view and download at www.pssru.ac.uk/rb.htm.

You can join our email announcements list through the web page www.pssru.ac.uk/pssrulist.htm and keep abreast of new research findings, also announced on the News section of the website. Or for more succinct updates, follow PSSRU_LSE on Twitter.

A report on conference presentations given by PSSRU staff is available online, from www.pssru.ac.uk/events/. This web page also includes details of past and forthcoming events organised to report and discuss PSSRU studies.