

MAPPING AND EVALUATION OF CARE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND THOSE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS IN AN INTEGRATED HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES SYSTEM: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

PSSRU

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BACKGROUND

The Department of Health has commissioned the Personal Social Services Research Unit to provide an evaluation of the different forms, types and models of care management (CM) which have emerged for the two major groups, older people and those with mental health problems. The study began in late 1996.

In collaboration with the Health and Social Care Research Unit (HSCRU), Queens University, Belfast, the study is being extended in order to evaluate CM in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland has an integrated health and social services structure administered by the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) via four HSS (commissioning) Boards and twenty HSS (provider) Trusts (including eleven Community HSS Trusts).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this comparative study is to identify and describe in detail the different forms of CM in Northern Ireland; assess their relative costs and their impact on older people and people with mental health problems; and compare the advantages and disadvantages of the integrated health and social services in Northern Ireland with the different organisational circumstances, such as separate health and local authorities, under which CM has been implemented in England. This study is particularly relevant in view of the consultative document *Partnership in Action* (1998), which aims to remove barriers to joint working through such mechanisms as pooled budgets, lead commissioners and integrated provision.

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The **PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES RESEARCH UNIT** (*Director*: Professor Bleddyn Davies) 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 was established at the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1974, and from 1996 it has operated from three sites:

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The PSSRU Bulletin and publication lists are available free of charge from the PSSRU librarian in Canterbury (01227 837773) and on the Internet the Unit website can be found at <http://www.ukc.ac.uk/PSSRU/>

DESIGN

The study will replicate the three phase research programme currently being undertaken in respect of care management arrangements in social services authorities in England. Further details of this are given in a separate PSSRU project outline entitled 'Mapping and Evaluation of Care Management Arrangements for Older People and Those with Mental Health Problems, Outline of a Research Project Funded by the Department of Health' (P25/March 1997). A number of changes have, however, been made to the project design.

Phase one of the Northern Ireland study will identify and categorise care management arrangements through three postal questionnaires sent to all HSS Trusts who provide community services. These are based on the questionnaires used in phase one of the Mapping Study in England, amended to reflect the different organisational framework for the delivery of health and social care and the differences in mental health policy in Northern Ireland compared with England.

The second phase will collect more detailed information from a small number of HSS Trusts, to help to formulate and draw out in detail the different arrangements identified in the first phase.

Phase three will involve the evaluation of the models formulated in Northern Ireland by monitoring services received and outcomes for service users, enabling comparisons to be drawn with models in England.

**FURTHER
INFORMATION**

The PSSRU staff conducting this study are David Challis, Jane Hughes, Karen Stewart and Kate Weiner at PSSRU, University of Manchester (0161 275 5250) and Robin Darton at PSSRU, University of Kent (01227 764000).

Michael Donnelly is undertaking this work on behalf of HSCRU, Queens University, Belfast (01232 331463).