Current Research Projects and Recent Publications

These pages give a brief listing of most work current at September 2006, categorised by programme (groups of related studies) and individual projects or clusters of projects, which are shown as boxed titles.

Also listed under each programme of work are relevant publications by PSSRU authors (often in collaboration with colleagues at other institutions) since the previous Bulletin in October 2005. Articles are arranged in alphabetical order of title.

Assessment and Performance Measurement

Programme leader: Professor David Challis
See pages 6–7 for more information on work in this programme.

The Unit has a tradition of work in relation to assessment of older people’s needs both in research and development. Current and planned work will examine changes in the roles of staff as assessment processes develop and changes in performance management processes. 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. Work is underway in two areas:

Assessment processes: staff involvement, care pathways and service outcomes

This work is planned to investigate developments in assessment processes in terms of the variation in staff involvement and their possible effects in terms of service outcomes and user experience. It will also evaluate major policy changes in assessment from the perspective of its links to relevant performance criteria with which to judge the impact of the policy. 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.

Performance Measurement

A new book has been published (see below) and a new project examining local variations in performance measurement in older people’s services has just commenced.

Recent publications from this programme

Assessing care home quality using routine regulatory information
Quality in Ageing, 7, 3, 33–44

Performance Indicators in Social Care for Older People
Ashgate, Aldershot

Performance measurement in social care: a comparison of efficiency measurement methods
Social Policy and Society, 5, 4, 461–477

‘Single’ assessment for older people: comparison of the MDS-HC with current auditable methods in the home care setting
Journal of Integrated Care, 13, 5, 35–41

The assessment of older people’s needs in care homes
Aging and Mental Health, 10, 5, 549–557

The needs of older people with dementia in residential care
International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, 21, 43–49

Services for Children and Young People

Programme leader: Dr Jennifer Beecham
See pages 14–15 for more information on work in this programme.

Focusing on children and young people who have additional needs and who use specialist services alongside universal supports, this programme brings an economic perspective to studies of cross-agency service provision and use of services. It has its roots in the earlier Economics of Social Care programme but reflects the broader vision found in the Change for Children policy agenda. Current research includes exploring support for disabled children, mental health services, adoption services, specialist foster care, and the interfaces between health, education and social care. Strong links are maintained with the Mental Health Economics and Policy programme and the Centre for the Economics of Mental Health at the Institute of Psychiatry, London.

Access to child and adolescent mental health services

In this project we will build on work already undertaken with adult mental health services to explore two issues; the potential for access through availability of services, and the actual access made as indicated by utilisation rates of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS).

Education services for young people living away from home

This study, in collaboration with researchers at the Department of Applied Social Studies, University of Bedfordshire, is funded under the Department of Health Quality Protects research initiative. The main research questions are

- What is the quality of care provided for different group of ‘difficult to manage’ adolescents living in foster care, children’s homes and residential schools for children with emotional and behavioural problems (EBD)?
- What are the educational and wider outcomes for children in these groups?
- What are the costs of the care and education services used and how do these relate to outcomes?
- How do the public and independent sectors compare?

Multi-agency support for disabled young people

The aim is to identify and collate recent research findings and data on the way disabled children and their families use services, allowing the following activities:

- exploration of the ways in which disabled children and their families are supported by multi-agency packages of care
- estimation of the costs of supporting children who have different types of disability, needs or levels of severity
- exploration of the associations between the costs of support and needs

Health, social care and education interface

Provision of integrated services is a central component of the policy to improve access to a range of supports for children and families. This project will identify these ‘interface’ services and explore the ways in which they are provided, to whom and at...
what cost. The focus will be on the way that health services are supporting particular groups of children in a range of non-health settings.

**Costs and outcomes in children’s social care**

Thirteen studies were funded under the Department of Health research initiative, The Costs and Effectiveness of Services to Children in Need. They covered diverse subjects using a range of designs: from an extended health visiting service for babies to support for young people as they leave care, and from small comparative experimental studies to large cohort studies. Each study included an economic component. Some described the costs of services and others aimed to look at why the costs of services or the costs of supporting children might vary. A few brought costs and outcomes information together within a cost-effectiveness framework.

See Beecham and Sinclair (2006) and www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

**An investigation of linking and matching in adoption**

Little is known about what makes a good match in adoption or how much it might cost. A national survey will provide a broad picture of linking and matching practices. Innovative as well as more routine approaches will be examined in more detail through a catch-up prospective study of 150 children from 5–10 adoption agencies in the public and voluntary sectors.

In collaboration with researchers at the School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol.

**An exploration of different models of key worker services for disabled children and their families: effectiveness and costs**

Research has shown that families of disabled children who have a key worker benefit from this service and recent policy initiatives emphasise the importance of such provision. Alongside the recent expansion of these services (30 were found in a recent national survey) has come a proliferation of models of service delivery. This study, undertaken with researchers at the Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, aimed to identify which characteristics of key worker services were associated with better outcomes for disabled children and their families, and at what cost.

**Recent publications from this programme**

*Adoption by foster carers: a profile of interest and outcomes*
*Child and Family Social Work, 11, 2, 139–146*

*An Exploration of Different Models of Multi-Agency Partnerships in Key Worker Services and Disabled Children: Effectiveness and Costs*

*Assessing services, supports and costs for young families under stress*
*Child: Care, Health and Development, 32, 1, January, 101–110*

*A randomised controlled trial of family therapy and cognitive behavioural guided self-care for adolescents with bulimia nervosa or related disorders*
*American Journal of Psychiatry, forthcoming*

*Costs and Outcomes in Children’s Social Care: Messages from Research*
Jessica Kingsley Publishing, forthcoming

*Developing Social Care: The Current Position*
Report commissioned by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), London.

*Economic cost of severe antisocial behaviour in children – and who pays it?*
*British Journal of Psychiatry, 188, 547–553*

*Foster carer training: resources, payments and support*
Kirton, D. and Beecham, J. (2006)
*Adoption and Fostering, forthcoming*

*Gaining satisfaction? An exploration of foster carers’ attitudes to payment*

*Key worker services for disabled children: the views of parents*
*Children and Society, forthcoming*

*Key worker services for disabled children: the views of staff*
*Health and Social Care in the Community, forthcoming*

*Key worker services for disabled children: what characteristics of service lead to better outcomes for children and families*
*Child: Care, Health and Development, 32, 2, March, 147–157*

*Resource use and cost of caring for ventilator-dependent children in the United Kingdom*
*Health and Social Care in the Community, forthcoming*

*Social services support and expenditure for children with autism*
*Autism, forthcoming*

*The economic impact of chronic pain in adolescence: Methodological consideration and a preliminary costs-of-illness study*
*Pain – International Association for the Study of Pain, 119, 1–3, December, 183–190*

*The Report of the Older People’s Inquiry into ‘That Bit of Help’*
Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York, forthcoming

*Transition Pathways for Young People with Complex Disabilities: Exploring The Economic Consequences*
Report to Disability and Rehabilitation Education (DARE)

*Young families under stress: assessing maternal and child well-being using a mixed methods approach*
*Child and Family Social Work, 11, 1, 43–54*

**Commissioning and Performance**

Programme leader: Professor Martin Knapp
See pages 8–9 for information on previous work in this programme.

The Commissioning and Performance programme endeavours to describe and evaluate the mixed economy of care in England, particularly focused on commissioning, providing, market development and choice. This work builds on earlier work on the ‘mixed economy of care’ which sought to describe and evaluate the development, structure and performance of social care markets. There is a particular focus on:

- the approaches and perspectives of purchasers
- the characteristics, motivations and behaviour of providers
- the key features of commissioning and their consequences for market structure and outcomes
- micro-commissioning by care managers and the participative roles of service users
- commissioning of services by users, through direct payments and individual budgets

Current research is organised into five clusters.
Balance of care

A number of projects are examining the range and balance of services needed to provide the most cost-effective and equitable outcomes for people. Some of the work builds on the Wanless Review of Social Care, considering the criteria and application of cost-effectiveness principles, the services that satisfy these principles, how commissioning can be developed using planning tools derived from them, and examining the projected future costs. Three national evaluations are looking at aspects of the balance of care for older people. The team is contributing to the national evaluation of the Partnership for Older People Projects (POPPs). The SDO is funding a study of the impact of different local governance arrangements on efforts to reduce the use of inappropriate hospital stays. And work continues on the evaluation of the Innovation Forum programme for older people.

Care service evaluations

Work underway on the motivations of care home owners and managers is coming to an end, with reports and papers produced. The PSSRU contributed to a major national evaluation of Healthy Living Centres. Work carried out for the Wanless Review, and subsequently prompted by it, continues to explore the patterns of need, demand and supply in relation to older people’s social care.

Consumer-directed care

A major policy emphasis in recent years has been to shift more power and responsibility over to service users. Our evaluation of direct payments for older people will soon end, including coordination of UK-wide surveys of local authorities and support organisations (see page 8). PSSRU inputs to the evaluation of the Individual Budget pilots take forward this interest in consumer-directed care. Further research in this area is planned. Another project is looking at the Invest to Save programme in Kent, promoting ‘brighter futures’ for older people, especially through the involvement of volunteers.

Local variations

All aspects of social care provision in England are characterised by significant local variability, whether in funding patterns, eligibility criteria, service mix, costs or outcomes. Within the core programme are studies examining whether such variability results from influences beyond the control of local policy makers or from local policy decisions, and the resultant impacts on equity and efficiency.

European social care

Research within this cluster is comparative across a number of European countries. It includes an evaluation of assistive technology for older people and people with disabilities (the MonAMI project); a study exploring the impact on social care system performance of recent changes in the role of the state as service provider/regulator; and a study of the comparative costs and effectiveness of community and institution-based services across 28 European countries.

Recent publications from this programme

An Evaluation of Intermediate Care for Older People
Analysis to support the development of FSS formulae for older people. Interim report

Care home providers as professionals, understanding the motivations of care home providers in England

Delivering effective social/long-term care to older people

Le livre vert de l’Angleterre sur les services sociaux pour les adultes, indépendance, bien-être et choix

Social care and the nonprofit sector in the western developed world

Social Care Review: Securing Good Care for Older People. Taking a Long-Term View

The determinants of private medical insurance prevalence in England, 1997–2000

The Evaluation of the Big Lottery Fund Healthy Living Centres, Third Annual Report of the Bridge Consortium

Coordinated Care and Care Management Arrangements for Older People

Programme leader: Professor David Challis
See pages 10–11 for information on previous work in this programme.

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. Current work is designed to identify and explore the impact of the new care management arrangements through examination of new patterns of working, the contribution of different professional groups and organisations, and the impact upon service outcomes. Work is underway in two areas:

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 are being addressed to determine the extent to which services are differentiated and integrated, to address the needs and wishes of older people against the criteria of flexibility, choice and responsiveness. A national survey of care management and care coordination arrangements for older people in England is currently underway.

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

This work is exploring 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. Work has begun in North West England, working with PCTs in the Greater Manchester area to examine the nature of case management arrangements, and variations in outcomes of different approaches. It is hoped to
Recent publications from this programme

Are different forms of care management associated with variations in case-mix, service use and care managers’ time use in mental health services?
Research Policy and Planning, 23, 2, 71–85
Are different forms of care management for older people in England associated with variations in case-mix, service use and care managers’ time use?
Ageing and Society, forthcoming
Better prevention
Care and Health Magazine, 4–20 September, 26–27
Care management for older people: does integration make a difference?
Journal of Interprofessional Care, forthcoming
Care management: is it all assessment and paperwork? A diary study of care managers’ working practices in three service settings
Journal of Integrated Care, 14, 3, 22–31
Community care: service delivery, development and evaluation
Challis, D. and Hughes, J. (2005)
in B. Roe and R. Beech (eds) Intermediate and Continuing Care, Blackwell, Oxford
Continuing care: policy and context
in B. Roe and R. Beech (eds) Intermediate and Continuing Care, Blackwell, Oxford
Expanding the factors influencing care management arrangements in adult mental health services in England
Research Policy and Planning, 23, 1, 31–42
Integration and specialism: assessment of older people and predictors of care home admission
Psychological Medicine, 36, 1011–1021
Levels of integration and specialisation within professional community teams for people with dementia
International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, 21, 77–85
Patterns of care management arrangements for people with mental health problems in England
Australian Journal of Case Management, 7, 2, 3–9
Quality in long term care homes for people with dementia: an assessment of specialist provision
Ageing and Society, 26, 4, 649–668
Standards of care in day hospitals and day centres: a comparison of services for older people with dementia
International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, 21, 460–468
Standards of care in home care services: a comparison of specialist and generic services for older people with dementia
Aging and Mental Health, 10, 2, 187–194
Social work and care management
The impact of specialist clinical assessment on the carers of vulnerable older people: a randomised controlled trial
Ageing and Society, forthcoming
Variations in care management arrangements for people with mental health problems in England
Care Management Journals, 6, 3, 131–138

Costs, quality and outcomes

Programme leader: Professor Ann Netten
See pages 12–13 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 areas 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 enables findings from research studies to be 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 of this research are:
- to explore the problem of non-response in the UES
- to consider how performance indicators might be developed using such data given the problem of non-response
- to add value to a sample of participating local authorities by collecting data on the quality of services delivered to younger adults with physical and sensory impairments (PSI)
- to facilitate the further development of a measure of the quality of services for adults with PSI
- to investigate variations 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. A number of projects are involved, particularly the Quality Management Framework studies announced on page 4. This will be comprise four projects at PSSRU over a three year period starting October 2006:

extend this work at a later date.
- Measuring and monitoring quality of outputs of care homes
- Estimating value and monitoring the quality of outputs of low-level interventions
- The value of information and advice services
- A population preference study of social care outcomes

The care homes project is being conducted in conjunction with the Commission for Social Care Inspection and will aim to both feed into the review of care standards and build on these for monitoring quality.

Recent publications from this programme

Incorporating user experiences in performance monitoring of care homes

Provider and care workforce influences in quality of home care services in England

The influence of individual characteristics in the reporting of home care service quality by service users

Unit Costs of Health and Social Care 2006

Using discrete choice experiments to estimate a preference-based measure of outcome – An application to social care for older people

Programme leader: Raphael Wittenberg

See pages 16–17 for information on previous work in this programme.

The overall aims of the LTCF programme are to make projections of likely demand for long-term care for older people and associated expenditure to 2041 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.

Cognitive impairment study

This project is concerned with the exploration of scenarios about the future prevalence of cognitive impairment in older people and their impact on long-term care expenditure and has been funded by the Alzheimer’s Research Trust. The aim of the study is to explore scenarios about the future prevalence of cognitive impairment in older people through the views of experts working on the development of treatments for dementia. The cost implications of these scenarios is being investigated using an updated version of the PSSRU Cognitive Impairment Model, which makes projections of future demand for long-term care services and of associated expenditure, based on alternative scenarios about trends in the drivers of demand.

Long-term care projections project

This DH-funded project is concerned with projections of demand for long-term care for older people in England to 2041 and associated public and private expenditure under different assumptions about key factors affecting demand. The project has involved the construction of a cell-based computer model to make projections, the development of scenarios on trends in the key drivers of demand for long-term care and the production of projections under variant assumptions and scenarios. A wide range of formal health and social services and disability benefits is covered and informal care is considered. Projections have been produced under different assumptions about trends in life expectancy, disability rates, real unit costs, availability of informal care and patterns of formal care. Projections have also been made of future expenditure under different funding systems. The project has generated projections and analyses for the Department of Health, the Royal Commission on Long-Term Care, HM Treasury and the Wanless Health Trends and Social Care Reviews.

Paying for long-term care

The aim of the study, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, is to make projections of expenditure on long-term care services under a wide range of options for reforming the system for funding long-term care for older people. The projections under each option include a projected breakdown of expenditure between public sources of funding (NHS, social services and DWP disability benefits) and private sources (service users) and an analysis of the projected differential impact on older people in different parts of the income distribution. The study involves linkage between a variant model of the PSSRU long-term care finance model and the CARESIM model. It is being conducted in collaboration with researchers at the Universities of Essex and Birmingham. The study will be completed by the end of 2006.

Projected financial implications of the Wanless Report

The aim of this project was to prepare projections of the financial implications of the Wanless Review of Social Care. A variant version of the PSSRU long-term care finance model was developed to produce analyses commissioned by the Wanless Review team. The structure and basis of the Wanless Review version of the model draws upon existing work carried out by the PSSRU long-term care team and established links with the CARESIM model at the University of Essex. The study was completed in March 2006 with the publication of projections to 2026 of the financial implications of the service models recommended by the Wanless Review.

Recent publications from this programme

Care by spouses, care by children: projections for informal care for older people in England to 2031

Cognitive impairment in older people: the implications for future demand for long-term care services and their costs

Expenditure on social care for older people to 2026: projected financial implications of the Wanless Report

Future long-term care expenditure in Germany, Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom

Long-term care for older people in the United Kingdom: structure and challenges
What are the most effective and cost-effective services for informal carers of older people?
Research in Practice for Adults, 4, June

**Housing and Care**

**Programme leader:** Professor Ann Netten
See pages 20–21 for more information 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?
The work outlined below is current in this programme, together with the support of a research network (see the news page 4).

**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. See page 21.

**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. See also page 29.

**Recent publications from this programme**

**Alternative Housing and Care Arrangements: The Evidence**

Care Homes and Continuing Care

**Mental Health Economics and Policy**

**Programme leader:** Professor Martin Knapp
See pages 18–19 for information on work in this programme.
The programme comprises 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 approaches and associated empirical methods. Work covers the practice, drawing particularly but not exclusively on economic

**UK studies**
The core DH-funded programme includes work exploring the links between childhood mental health problems and adulthood economic implications, and what can be done to address the problem; links between employment and mental health; and evaluations of a number of policy initiatives.
Recent or current work has included an evaluation of the Choose Life suicide prevention programme in Scotland. An examination of income-related inequalities in prevalence and service use is underway. A long-term theme has been the link between mental health problems and social exclusion, working collaboratively with the Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion at LSE. Mental Health problems in old age have been studied in three projects: the impacts of unrecognised depression, the prevalence and costs of dementia, and the impact of needs assessments on care patterns and performance. A major study of medium secure units is coming to an end.

**International mental health**
The flagship project here is the Mental Health Economic European Network, covering 32 European countries and some non-European countries, now in its second phase. A further eight EU-funded projects are also underway, including work on supported employment for people with serious mental health problems, strategies to integrate people with disabilities into the labour market, child and adolescent mental health service development, genetic testing and depression treatment, and mental health prevention and promotion.
Outside Europe, PSSRU team members are contributing to mental health policy and practice development initiatives in southern Africa and a major programme to raise the profile of depression and its socio-economic consequences in Asia.

**Recent publications from this programme**

Access to mental health supports in England: crisis resolution teams and day services
An economic, financial and health systems analysis of systems to support mental health in the Sverdlovsk Oblast, Russian Federation Report prepared as part of DFID Adult Mental Health Reform Project 2002–2006
Sverdlovsk, Oblast, Russian Federation
A methodological approach for assessing the cost-effectiveness of treatments using longitudinal observational data, the SOHO study
Annimation, Economic evaluations of child and adolescent mental health interventions, a systematic review
Balancing Institutional and Community based care. European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. Policy Brief
World Health Organization, Copenhagen
Challenges in multi-disciplinary systematic reviewing, improving the evidence base for social exclusion and mental health policy
Children in foster care, mental health, service use and costs
Children with antisocial behaviour, what do they cost and who pays?
Cognitive stimulation therapy for people with dementia, cost-effectiveness analysis
Cost analysis of treating schizophrenia with amisulpride, naturalistic mirror image study
Cost-effectiveness of individual versus group psychotherapy for sexually abused girls
PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Cost factors in group care

Cost impact of young adults with high-functioning autistic spectrum disorder

Costs of Schizophrenia

Effectiveness and costs of acute day hospital treatment as compared with conventional in-patient care: a randomised controlled trial

Evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of Escitalopram versus Venlafaxine XR in Major Depressive Disorder

Evaluation of the First Phase of Choose Life. Final Report

Financing mental health care in Spain. Context and critical issues

Financing mental health, equity and efficiency concerns for low and middle income countries

Funding mental health in Europe. European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. Policy Brief

Health system factors impacting on delivery of mental health services in Russia, multi-methods study

Income, health and health care utilisation in the UK

Income-related inequality in mental health in Britain: the concentration index approach

Inequalities in health, international patterns and trends

Intellectual disability, challenging behaviour and cost in care accommodation: what are the links?

Key issues in mental health policy and practice development across Europe. European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. Policy Brief

Measurement of health-related quality of life for people with dementia, development of a new instrument (DEMQOL) and an evaluation of current methodology

Mental health expenditure in England, A spatial panel approach

Mental health in low- and middle-income countries, economic barriers to better practice and policy

Mental Health Policy and Practice across Europe

Primary prevention of child mental health problems using primary health care professionals, cost comparisons

Quality and costs of community-based residential supports for people with mental retardation and challenging behaviour

Schizophrenia patients with cognitive deficits, factors associated with costs

Service use and costs of support for people with learning disabilities twelve years after leaving hospital

Service use and costs of supporting the most socially disabled patients in a hospital re-provision programme, a two-hospital comparison

The case for suicide prevention, an economic perspective

The costs and effectiveness of two psychosocial treatment programmes for personality disorder, a controlled study

The Evaluation of the Big Lottery Fund Healthy Living Centres, Third Annual Report of the Bridge Consortium

The development of a local index of need (LIN) and its use to explain variations in social services expenditure on mental health care in England

The social networks of people with intellectual disability living in the community twelve years after resettlement from long-stay hospitals

Twelve years on: service use and costs for people with mental health problems who left psychiatric hospitals
Costs and Outcomes in Children’s Social Care: Messages from Research

Jennifer Beecham and Ian Sinclair (Consultant editor: Carolyn Davies), Jessica Kingsley Press, London

Thirteen studies were funded under the Costs and Effectiveness of Services to Children in Need research initiative. They covered diverse subjects and used a range of designs: from an extended health visiting service for babies to support for young people as they leave care, and from small comparative experimental studies to large cohort studies. Each study included an economic component. Some described the costs of services and others aimed to look at why costs vary. A few brought costs and outcomes information together within a cost-effectiveness framework.

Care services for children depend on a limited supply of resources; it is vital that these are used to best effect. This book pulls together broad findings from the research initiative to examine the way services are delivered and how resources are distributed. It considers the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of these services and their contribution to children’s well-being. Particular attention is paid to the possible contributions of early intervention and better coordination.

International Outcome Measures in Mental Health: Quality of Life, Needs, Service Satisfaction, Costs and Impacts on Carers

Graham Thornicroft, Thomas Becker, Martin Knapp, Helle Charlotte Knudsen, Aart Schene, Michele Tansella and José Luis Vásquez-Barquero, ISBN 1-904671-00-4, Gaskell, The Royal College of Psychiatrists, January 2006, 172 pages, paperback, £45.00

How do we know if mental health services work? What are the best ways to measure the outcomes of care for people with mental health problems?

This book contains five practical scales for assessing the outcomes of mental healthcare. They are the European versions of:

- Camberwell Assessment of Need (for unmet and met needs)
- Client Socio-demographic and Service Receipt Inventory (for service costs)
- Involvement Evaluation Questionnaire (for impact of care on family members)
- Lanaschire Quality of Life Profile (for quality of life)
- Verona Service Satisfaction Scale (for service satisfaction).

Each scale has been standardised (in Danish, Dutch, English, Italian and Spanish), and has been shown to be reliable and valid in all these European languages.

The book contains full details of the development of these scales, manuals for their use, the scales themselves and instructions on how to use the results.

Long-Term Care Finance Reports

Three new reports from the Long-Term Care Finance (LTCF) team have recently been completed. The first, Future Demand for Long-Term Care, 2002 to 2041: Projections of Demand for Long-Term Care for Older People in England, reports on recent developments and updates to the projections model, describing the addition of new modules on disability benefits and workforce. It also sets out projections from the model.

The second, Expenditure on Social Care for Older People to 2026: Projected Financial Implications of the Wanless Report, arises from the study undertaken by the LTCF team for the Wanless Review on Social Care funded by the King’s Fund. The team was asked by the Wanless Review to produce projections of demand for and expenditure on social care for older people under different patterns of care. This report presents those projections with further analyses and provides technical details of the modelling.

The third follows from a project undertaken for the Nuffield Foundation with colleagues from the Universities of Essex and Birmingham. A summary of the report, Paying for Long-Term Care for Older People in the UK: Modelling the Costs and Incidence of a Range of Options, can be found on page 24.

All these reports and their research summaries are available for download from the PSSRU website.

Mental Health Policy and Practice Across Europe

Edited by Martin Knapp, David McDaid, Elias Mossialos and Graham Thornicroft, Open University Press, November 2006

Recent years have witnessed a growing interest in mental health policy and practice in Europe, culminating in the recent Helsinki Declaration and Action Plan for mental health signed by all 52 countries of Europe. This new book, produced as part of a series developed by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, and featuring contributions by leading experts, maps the current state of service provision and funding for mental health across Europe, taking account of the differing historical contexts influencing the development of services and the ways in which they are delivered. A holistic approach is adopted, looking not only at mental health care services, but also at the influence of environmental factors such as housing, poverty, employment, social justice, and displacement on mental health. The legal rights of people with mental health problems take on special significance; the right to liberty of individuals must be balanced against the need to protect individuals from self-harm. Stigma, social exclusion and discrimination need to be addressed. The role of service users and families in the development of mental health services and policy are also considered. Facilitating evidence informed policy and economic analysis, reflections on approaches to reform, and the future development of services for the promotion of good mental well-being and treatment/rehabilitation of people with mental health problems are also provided.
Securing Good Social Care for Older People: taking a long-term view

Available to download at www.kingsfund.org.uk

Social care for older people in England will require sharp increases in funding over the next two decades and also a major overhaul of the way that care is financed. These are the main recommendations of this major review commissioned by the King’s Fund, led by former NatWest group chief executive, Sir Derek Wanless, and produced in collaboration between the King’s Fund and the PSSRU at LSE. Julien Forder and José Luis Fernández of PSSRU managed the project and, along with Martin Knapp, sat on the project steering group. PSSRU staff Raphael Wittenberg, Adelina Comas-Herrera, Juliette Malley and Francesco Moscone were members of the research team.

The review found that simply keeping pace with population changes and not seeking to improve care services or the way they are funded, total public and private spending on social care for older people would need to increase from £10.1 billion in 2002 to £24 billion by 2026. In view of serious shortcomings in funding arrangements, the review recommended that the current means-tested funding system should be scrapped and replaced with a partnership model. Everyone in need would be entitled to an agreed level of free care, after which individuals’ contributions would be matched by the state up to a defined limit. People on low incomes would be eligible for benefits to fund their contributions.

Performance Indicators in Social Care for Older People


A number of central government initiatives in the 1980s forged a climate of opinion around the idea of efficiency in managing public resources. This is evident in a growing focus upon performance review and monitoring which has increased the awareness and use of performance indicators throughout a range of public services. For social care organisations, it is increasingly a requirement that data be available to make performance review possible. This work involved the development, implementation and monitoring of a set of performance indicators for services to older people. The book sets this work within a national context by reviewing the historical development and measurement issues around the use of indicators, within the public sector more generally and social care in particular. The White Paper Modernising Social Services established a national Performance Assessment Framework which requires supplementation by local indicators. This book provides the rationale for and contents of a suite of PIs for the social care of older people to meet these requirements. It also considers the process of engaging staff at various levels of the organisation in using the evidence from local indicators to address issues of local equity and quality improvement.

Further information is at www.ashgate.com where you can also order the book.

The Older People’s Inquiry into ‘That Bit of Help’

Edited by Norma Raynes, Heather Clark and Jennifer Beecham, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York

Volume 1 of this report focuses on how to involve older people alongside professionals in identifying what services they may want and value. A model is provided to ensure older people’s central involvement in prioritising valued services; the methods used would be easily transferred to local level. This volume provides an overview of the Inquiry’s findings and presents the chosen ‘baker’s dozen’ of small ways in which life can be made better for older people, giving ideas about what services might be developed.

The second volume draws together the evidence submitted to the Inquiry, going beyond the boundaries of health and social care. The starting point is seven key areas older people identify as central to their lives: comfortable and secure homes, an adequate income, safe neighbourhoods, getting out and about, friendships and opportunities for learning and leisure, keeping active and healthy, and access to good relevant information. Each is mapped onto the research evidence, the development of policy since 1989, and the funding streams available.

Unit Costs of Health and Social Care 2006

Edited by Lesley Curtis and Ann Netten
PSSRU, November 2006, 229 pages, ISSN 1368-230X, paperback, £33.00.

This is the latest updated volume in a well-established series bringing together information from a variety of sources to estimate national unit costs for a wide range of health and social care services.

This report consists of tables for more than 130 types of service which as well as providing the most detailed and comprehensive information possible, also quote sources and assumptions so users can adapt the information for their own purposes. Also included is a preface in which current and new developments are discussed, a guest editorial and brief articles providing background to user services and descriptions of cost methodology or use of cost estimates, price indices, a reference list of key studies a glossary and indexes.

This year’s volume includes an editorial on conducting and interpreting multi-national economic evaluations and four new articles: on the costs of a home visiting programme for vulnerable families; direct payments; person centred planning; and unit costs and funding.

The 2006 edition is available in full at the PSSRU website. Printed copies are available from the librarian at the PSSRU in Canterbury, price £33 including postage. Volumes for previous years to 1995 (with articles on different aspects of costing research and methodology) are available, and are priced at £15 for the 2005 volume and £2 each for previous years (when ordered with the 2006 volume). All prices include post and packaging.