

# EVALUATION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS FOR OLDER PEOPLE PROJECT

# PSSRU

*Outline of a research project funded by Somerset County Council*

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P65/December 2006

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## BACKGROUND

The Partnerships for Older People Project (POPP) is being funded by the Department of Health over a two year period – 2006 to 2008. Up to 31 local authorities and their partners are setting up innovative pilot projects focused on older people, providing person-centred integrated care and developing preventative approaches that promote health, well-being and independence.

The Somerset Partnership encompasses a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations that have agreed to collaborate in creating a new vision for prevention in Somerset. This will be achieved through creating an infrastructure of approximately 50 Active Living Centres (ALCs) across the county.

The contribution of the ALCs to overall well-being of older people will be both directly through specific activities and indirectly through information and advice that helps individuals and families to access ‘mainstream’ or ‘universal’ services or local groups.

The local evaluation, being conducted by PSSRU, is coordinating with a national evaluation, which is being led by the University of Hertfordshire. The national evaluation will be comparing the impact of the different POPPs throughout the country.

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## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of the local evaluation are:

- To develop an approach to measuring the contribution of the ALCs to the quality of life of older people making use of the centres
- Where possible to identify the impact of services or activities generated by the ALCs including the early effects of a prevention of falls service
- To identify the comparative effectiveness of the ALCs in meeting their objectives
- To identify different approaches developed by the ALCs and the association of these approaches with the Centres’ effectiveness
- To provide an indication of the cost implications of the introduction of ALCs

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## METHOD

A survey will be conducted with at least 200 prospective users as they join ALCs. This will establish their present circumstances and expectations.

A follow-up survey will be carried out with as many of the original users as possible. The purpose will be to ask users for their overall levels of satisfaction and perceptions of the quality of the service.

The team will also draw a sub-sample from our survey respondents and conduct a small number of face-to-face interviews with users, to provide context and depth to the research.

To identify the types of activities being undertaken, key workers and users in some ALCs will be interviewed. Based on this initial enquiry, a short telephone questionnaire will be developed to collect key descriptive data from the remaining ALCs.

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## OUTPUTS

The Somerset Partnership will receive a full research report. The team will also present headline findings to Somerset POPP and representatives from ALCs, including users. A summary of the findings will also be available on the PSSRU website, [www.PSSRU.ac.uk](http://www.PSSRU.ac.uk)

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