

LOCAL EVALUATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR OLDER PEOPLE PROJECTS IN KENT

PSSRU

Outline of a research project funded by Kent County Council

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BACKGROUND

Independence through the Voluntary Action of Kent's Elders (INVOKE) is one of nine projects in the second round of POPP. INVOKE has the following aims:

- To support independence and interdependence through the creation of new forms of support: providing the extra assistance older people need when facing life-changing circumstances that could affect their long term health problems.
- To put older people in personal control, providing integrated care and support through joint working across public and voluntary sectors.
- To focus on prevention of ill health and promotion of wellbeing, allowing older people to be both healthy and independent.

A key purpose of the local evaluation is to examine the extent to which INVOKE meets its objectives over the period from September 2007 to June 2009. The local evaluation is also assisting the national POPP evaluation, which is the responsibility of a team led from the University of Hertfordshire and including PSSRU.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The study aims to address the following research questions:

- To what extent has INVOKE supported the reduction of inappropriate emergency admissions to acute hospitals (the LTC target of the POPP initiative)?
- To what extent has INVOKE supported an increase in the proportion of older people living in their own homes and a decrease in the proportion entering long-term care (the OP PSA target of the POPP initiative)?
- To what extent and in what ways have users of the INVOKE services/ interventions benefited?
- To what extent has INVOKE altered local patterns of expenditure and proved to be cost-effective?
- What impact has INVOKE made on joint working between the voluntary, health and social care sectors in East Kent?

In addressing these research questions, the evaluation will also describe the links between the three strands of the local initiative; what service gaps the new support services are designed to fill; what links they are anticipated to have with existing services; and what links they prove to have in practice.

METHODS

The evaluation is employing a mix of both quantitative and qualitative methods, and is also drawing on both primary data collections and analyses of existing material.

To date, interviews have been conducted with key staff in Kent County Council Adult Services and Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT (ECKPCT) who have been central to the development of the INVOKE project; also with representatives from the voluntary sector and service users involved in the development of INVOKE.

Interviews have taken place with staff delivering the Care Navigator and the Community Matron Support Worker services. Staff from the third INVOKE service, the Community Liaison and Information Assistants, will be interviewed shortly.

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There is continuing ongoing collection of data from the Quality of Life questionnaire on behalf of the National Evaluation team which will contribute to the Minimum Data Set for the National Evaluation. Early analysis of both the qualitative and quantitative local evaluation data has taken. Data is also being gathered from the ECKPCT on emergency bed day usage.

TIMESCALE

September 2007 to June 2009.

OUTPUTS AND DISSEMINATION

Reports will be provided to the funder and to other relevant organisations. Summary versions will be made available to users. Appropriate dissemination of the project outcomes may form the subject of articles in professional and academic journals as appropriate.

RESEARCH TEAM

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