

HOME CARE REABLEMENT SERVICES: INVESTIGATING THE LONGER-TERM IMPACTS

PSSRU

Outline of a research project funded by the Department of Health

Julien Forder, Karen Jones and Lesley Curtis

P85/March 2009

BACKGROUND

The PSSRU at Kent is working in collaboration with researchers at the Social Policy Research Unit (University of York) on a two-year project, funded by the Department of Health Care Services Efficiency Directorate, to evaluate home care reablement services. The researchers at the University of York are taking the lead in the project.

In many local authorities, the in-house home care service provides short-term reablement interventions aimed at encouraging independence among people either newly referred to adult social care services or those experiencing a change in situation such as being discharged from hospital. The service typically lasts for six weeks and focuses on developing both the confidence and practical skills to enable service users to carry out activities such as personal care themselves. Previous findings by researchers at the Social Policy Research Unit at the University of York suggested that the benefits of home care reablement may be significant and sustained, possibly reducing or delaying subsequent needs for services by up to two years (Newbronner et al., 2007).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of the prospective study are:

- To provide robust research evidence on the immediate and longer-term benefits of home care reablement
- To identify the factors that affect the level and duration of benefits for service users of a period of reablement
- To identify any impact on and savings in the use of social care and other services, that can be set against the costs of reablement services
- To describe the content and costs of home care reablement services

DESIGN AND METHODS

The evaluation will compare outcomes and use of services over a one-year period between people receiving home care reablement services in five local authorities with those receiving standard home care in four different localities. The research design will use both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

TIMETABLE

The evaluation commenced in spring 2008 and will finish by September 2010. A final report will be produced in September 2010.

OUTPUTS

Summaries of findings will be available on the PSSRU website (www.pssru.ac.uk) during the evaluation.

REFERENCES

Newbronner, L., Baxter, M., Chamberlain, R., Maddison, J., Arksey, H. and Glendinning, C. (2007) *Research into the Longer Term Effects/Impacts of Reablement Services*, Homecare Re-ablement Workstream, Care Services Efficiency Delivery Programme, London, www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/_oldCSEDAAssets/longit-study-bc.pdf

continued/...

RESEARCH TEAM

A multidisciplinary research team from the Universities of Kent and York is conducting the research. The team consists of Professor Julien Forder, Dr Karen Jones and Lesley Curtis (PSSRU) together with Professor Caroline Glendinning, Dr Hilary Arksey, Dr Kate Baxter and Dr Parvaneh Rabiee (SPRU).

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you require further information about the project, please contact:

Michelle Maynard
Project Administrator
Social Policy Research Unit
University of York
Heslington
York
YO10 5DD

Email: mm603@york.ac.uk
Telephone: 01904 321959

The **PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES RESEARCH UNIT** undertakes social and health care research, supported mainly by the Department of Health, and focusing particularly on policy research and analysis of equity and efficiency in community care, long-term care and related areas — including services for elderly people, people with mental health problems and children in care. Views expressed in PSSRU publications do not necessarily reflect those of funding organisations. The PSSRU was established at the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1974, and from 1996 it has operated from three branches:

University of Kent, Cornwallis Building, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7NF
London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE
University of Manchester, First Floor, Dover Street Building, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

The PSSRU Bulletin is available free from the librarian at Kent (01227 827773; email pssru_library@kent.ac.uk) and on the PSSRU website.

Email: PSSRU@kent.ac.uk

Website: www.PSSRU.ac.uk