

## Foreword

This is the twelfth volume in a series of reports from a Department of Health-funded programme of work based at the Personal Social Services Research Unit at the University of Kent. The aim is to improve unit cost estimates over time, drawing on material as it becomes available, including ongoing and specially commissioned research.

The costs reported always reflect, to a greater or lesser degree, work in progress, as the intention is to refine and improve estimates wherever possible, drawing on a wide variety of sources. The aim is to provide as detailed and comprehensive information as possible, quoting sources and assumptions so users can adapt the information for their own purposes. Brief articles are included to provide background to user services, descriptions of cost methodology or use of cost estimates.

The editorial identifies the new developments in estimates included and key current issues in the estimation of costs and use of the information provided in this report.

In addition, this report relies on a large number of individuals who have provided direct input in the form of data, permission to use material and background information and advice. Thanks are due to Candida Ballantyne, Barbara Barrett, Nick Brawn, Frank Brown, Jennifer Beecham, Sarah Byford, Keith Childs, Hedy Cleaver, Cherry Cullen, Andrew Fenyo, Gyles Glover, Lisa Holmes and Richard Hughes. Thanks also to Robert Eaglesham, Helen Friedrickson, Glen Harrison, Bernard Horan, Paul McCrone, Tony Rees, Stephen Richards, Jill Tidmarsh, David Wall and Helen Weatherly. We are particularly grateful to Becky Sandhu who has provided both general support and advice through several volumes.

If you are aware of other sources of information which can be used to improve our estimates, notice errors or have any other comments, please contact Lesley Curtis, telephone 01227 827193.

Many figures in this report have been rounded and therefore occasionally it may appear that the totals do not add up.

This report may be downloaded from our website: <http://www.pssru.ac.uk>