School for Social Care Research

The NIHR School for Social Care Research and Public Involvement.

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School for Social Care Research

Mission: to develop the evidence base for adult social care practice in England by commissioning and conducting world-class research

Renew and refresh

May 2009-April 2014 ⟶ May 2014-April 2019

- **LSE, KCL, Universities of Kent, Manchester, York (6 academic units)**
- **£15 million funding over 5 years**
- **Both 'internal' and 'external' commissioned research (budget split 50/50)**

- **LSE, Universities of Kent, Manchester, York, Bristol**
- **£15 million funding over 5 years**
- **In the process of business planning now**
- **Probably both 'internal' and 'external' commissioned research**

What is Adult Social Care?

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We cover:

- *Age* – 16 to end of life
- *Commissioning and providing*
- *Mixed economy of providers* (statutory, third and independent/private)
- *Mix of funding* – statutory and self-funding
- *Settings* – community, people's usual residences, supported accommodation, care homes, interfaces and integrated care (inc. criminal justice) . . . . .
- *Client groups* – physically disabled, learning disabilities, mental illness (inc. dementia), elderly and frail, end of life, homeless, long-term conditions, carers . . . . .
- *Policy themes* – personalisation (person-centred, control, self-directed support), information/advice/advocacy, re-ablement, equality, integration, prevention, safeguarding, funding . . . .

What is Adult Social Care?

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There are:

- around 380,000 people in residential care, 65% of whom are state-supported

- around 1.1 million people receiving care at home, 80 % of whom are state supported

- 76 per cent of older people will need care and support at some point in later life

- around 5 million people caring for a friend or family member

Who are the Workforce?

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Diverse:

- …1.8 million people employed in the care and support workforce
- Over 20,000 Social workers
- Some Nurses and Occupational Therapists
- Large non-professionalised workforce
- Commissioners and managers
- Employers may be statutory, third or private sector organisations
- Skills for Care works with more than 24,000 privately run social care services, as well as services run by the 152 local authorities
- New workers emerging – Personal Assistants

Structure of SSCR

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Executive Group

Martin Knapp (LSE) (Director of SSCR)

Leads for the other member units

Research Programme Manager:

Michael Clark

Finances and Comms Manager:

Angela Mehta

User, Carer, Practitioner Reference Group (UCPRG)

Advisory Board chaired by an independent Academic

7 SSCR Senior Fellows . . . .

- Academic leaders in the field to provide additional advice to SSCR

And c150 Fellows . . . .

- Working on SSCR commissioned projects, promoting the School and building capacity

SSCR – our values

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- Working closely with users, carers and practitioners
- Consulting other decision makers and researchers
- Making sure that research proposals and findings are rigorously reviewed to ensure they are *relevant* and *of a high standard*
- Pursuing scientific excellence (inc. peer review) – in proportion to the real-world relevance of the research question
- Making information on projects and their findings visible and accessible
- Using robust outcome measures
- Understanding how people access and experience support
- Value for money
- Recognising diversity and exploring what it means
- Charting how social care services work with other support systems such as health, housing, education and social security
- Being clear about the implications of our results for those who work in social care – both paid and unpaid.

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A goal is to make **our research as inclusive as possible**, e.g.s:

- commissioned a number of relevant methods reviews e.g. research with the d/Deaf community, LGBT sexualities in social care research, research with people from BME communities . . .
- commissioned scoping reviews – user-controlled research, practitioner research
- Research projects on the theme of BME experiences of social care
- Webinars with Involve to promote inclusive research

And we want users, carers and practitioners to be as **active partners in all our projects** as possible:
- All projects have UCP involvement to some degree, e.g. membership of advisory/steering groups

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UCPRG and its work with SSCR
- 11 UCP members, several with more than one UCP role in life;
- Formally meets twice a year to advise SSCR EG on the School's work;
- Representatives sit on the School's Advisory Board, Impact Working Group, and commissioning panels;
- Members review research proposals, and project, method and scoping reports;
- Very active in other ways e.g. participating in our workshops;
- Will be involved in business planning for SSCR#2.

Plus, some members have gone on to be **part of things in the wider research system**, e.g.s
- membership of the Social Care Research Ethics Committee.
- involved in steering groups for other projects.
- leading on public involvement on a major ESRC grant.

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The **future of public involvement in SSCR#2:**

- We are still in business planning mode, however . . . .

- We will at least continue with the same organisation, expectations and scope of involvement;
- We will explore means of building on this, e.g.
    - More people in UCPRG?
    - What further training might we offer?
    - What support would there be for user, carer and/or practitioner-led research?