

The Valuing Care Guidance Study



PROJECT SUMMARY

To become involved in the study as a partner (for example, to help draw out and disseminate recommendations) or for more information please contact the Principal Investigator:

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WHAT ARE WE INVESTIGATING?

The Valuing Care Guidance study examines (A) the resources and costs incurred by local authorities and NHS Trusts when implementing social care guidance in practice and (B) the value generated.

It focuses on guidelines for social care published by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

“Implementation science is still evolving—especially in social care. We urgently need better knowledge of how to increase the uptake of guidance and evidence-based practice in social care.”

Annette Boaz,
Professor Health and Social Care Policy,
LSHTM, co-investigator

THREE PROBLEMS THAT NEED TO BE UNDERSTOOD AND WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT?



Guidance is not implemented widely in adult social care.

Barriers include the lack of knowledge about how best to implement guidance at a local level, and the costs and value linked to implementation.

This study will investigate processes leading to implementation and examine how to optimise resources and value.



Guidance implementation does not happen if it is not supported at an organisational and system level.

At a national level, substantial effort and resources go into producing NICE guidance, which sets out what good quality care should look like.

This study will generate knowledge about what kind of support is needed to implement guidance.



Not using guidance is a missed opportunity for achieving equal access to high quality social care.

This study seeks to recommend how best to use guidance locally and ultimately support the uptake of guidance in practice.

WHO IS DOING THE STUDY, AND WHEN?

The study is led by a research team at the Care Policy and Evaluation Centre at the London School of Economics and Political Science and is being conducted in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The study is linked to the NIHR Academic Research Collaboration North Thames and NIHR Local Clinical Research Network North Thames for Social Care.

The study runs from February 2022 to November 2023. The findings will become available towards the end of 2023.

“NICE adult social care guidance is closely aligned with what inspection bodies like CQC require from local authorities. Findings of the study will be of value to local authorities striving for compliance with inspection and regulation.”

Jane Moore,
Associate Director,
Field Team London region, NICE



WHAT ARE WE PLANNING TO DO?

The study will work with three to five local sites which have implemented, or plan to implement, NICE guidance to understand what happened, where, how and why it happened, and the costs and outcomes linked to processes and activities.

Several methods will be used to gather information:

- **WORKSHOPS** with individuals from local authority or NHS partners to develop a Theory of Change which sets out the relationships between expected processes, resources and outcomes with regards to guidance implementation, as well as drivers and barriers.
- **ACTIVITY AND BUDGET QUESTIONNAIRES** for key individuals to complete at each local site, providing information about the process of implementation, and resource inputs required.
- **INTERVIEWS** with individuals or groups of individuals from local sites to gain a deeper understanding of their experiences around guidance implementation.
- **ASCERTAINING WHAT DATA IS AVAILABLE LOCALLY** (such as satisfaction surveys, audit data) to help evidence some of the expected outcomes of guidance implementation.
- **MODELLING OF COSTS AND CONSEQUENCES** (where feasible) to illustrate potential returns from investing in guidance implementation.

“There are currently few good insights into the costs of implementing social care guidance in practice. Finances are always on the minds of local authorities, who need to make impactful decisions under substantial financial pressures. An important contribution of the study will be to better understand the resources required to implement guidance successfully.”

Jonathan Kilworth, Business
Intelligence Partner, Harrow Council

WHO IS PARTICIPATING?

The following local authorities and NHS organisations are participating in the Valuing Care Guidance study.

- Northumberland County Council
 - Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
 - Neath Port Talbot & Swansea Bay University Health Board
 - Coventry City Council
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WHAT PRINCIPLES GUIDE THIS STUDY?

Exploratory: the VCG study generates knowledge in an area which has so far not received a lot of attention in research or practice

Theory-informed: the VCG study develops a logical story based on stakeholder accounts, supported by real-world data; this is called theory-informed

Oriented towards local needs: the VCG study methodology will be flexible to local priorities, capacities and needs

Participatory: the study is consulting with partners and stakeholders, including people using social care and carers throughout the study

“Valuing Care Guidance is an important study within the programme commissioned by the NIHR School for Social Care Research as it will shed light on how to convert evidence on costs and benefits into local practice changes.”

Martin Knapp, Professor Health and Social Care Policy, Director NIHR SSCR, co-investigator



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