

School of Health and Social Care
Community and Health Research Group
RESEARCH NEWS
Autumn 2010



The School of Health and Social Care Community and Health Research Group (CAHRG) are pleased to produce the first 'Research News' which is intended to communicate the range of activities being carried out within the SH&SC. It complements staff web entries and is intended to increase awareness of current work and expertise. We hope this will promote further interest in research activity and the development of internal and external collaborations.

Last year was a very active period for the SH&SC and the Research Group. During 2009/10 we submitted 30 bids to date to a value of £5,331,020. We were successful in 17 of 25 (68%) of the bids (for which we were notified of an outcome) to a value of £943,935. A further 8 bids are in progress or outstanding and a number of others are being worked up or resubmitted. Colleagues have had a considerable number of successful research outputs over the past year including peer reviewed publications in international journals, conference outputs, editorials and books/chapters.

We intend to build on these very positive outcomes and in supporting further bids and research activity.

Professor Niro Siriwardena

Collaborations

Successful bids have included collaborations with:

- Other faculties such as the Lincoln School of Computer Science, and Lincoln Business School;
- Other universities (Nottingham, Sheffield, Loughborough, Sussex, Institute of Psychiatry, Swansea); and
- Health service/industrial partners (Ultrasix, NHS Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire Partnership Trust, East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust).

Research Fellows

Dr Zowie Davy and Dr Markos Klonizakis started in January 2010. Their activities include:

- Supporting preparation for bids for external funding.
- Work on funded projects.
- Working with project teams to generate further ideas for bids.
- Supporting postgraduate teaching/research degrees through the Masters in Clinical Research programme.
- Dr Davy has recently published a book chapter: 'Transsexual agents: negotiating authenticity and embodiment within the UK's medico-legal system'. In: Hines S and Sanger T (eds). (2010) *Transgender identities: towards a social analysis of gender diversity*. London: Routledge'



[left to right] Fiona Togher (Research Assistant, Zoe Davey and Markos Klonizakis (both Research Fellows)

New research staff

We are recruiting a number of research assistants through externally funded studies: Fiona Togher is working on the Ambulance Services Cardiovascular Quality Initiative (ASCQI: Health Foundation, £475k), Jo Middlemass joins us in November from Nottingham University working on Exploring Social Networks to Augment Cognitive behavioural Therapy (ENACT: EPSRC, £465k) and we are also recruiting for a new study IPVASTIA (Research for Patient Benefit, £103k).

Research Activity

Improving the primary care management of insomnia: Niro Siriwardena

We have been conducting research aimed at understanding and improving how primary care and health services more generally manage people with sleep problems as part of the Resources for Effective Sleep Treatment (REST: <http://www.restproject.org.uk/>) research programme funded by the Health Foundation (£400k). This has led to research on the use of innovative delivery systems for sleep treatments - ENACT: Exploiting social Networks to Augment Cognitive behavioural Therapy (EPSRC: £456k) with academic partners and industry (Lincoln School of Social Computing, Loughborough University Clinical Sleep Research Unit, University of Sussex and Ultrasis) which has the

potential to wider greater use of these treatments.

Improving Pre-Hospital care through research and development of clinical performance indicators: Niro Siriwardena

We have developed, measured and improved clinical indicators for ambulance services. This is the first clinical indicator set for ambulance services to be used for national benchmarking, improvement and regulation of quality of pre-hospital care. One impact has been an improvement in measured performance in 17 out of 19 indicators over the past two years. We have been funded by the Health Foundation (£475k) to develop 'care bundles' of indicators for specific conditions to improve clinical care for heart attack and stroke. We are continuing to investigate methods for improving specific areas of practice, regionally and nationally and this is beginning to have an impact on the quality of care delivered to and received by patients.

Reducing community re-offending by understanding and addressing health needs: Criminal Justice Mental Health Group

Although the Criminal Justice and Mental Health (CJMH) group work across the criminal justice system we have focused a significant strand of our work on the probation service. This is a significantly under-researched area and we are undertaking a systematic review of the relationship between health and offending in order to bring greater clarity to this field. The programme has attracted international attention. One consequence of this assessment was the investment by one primary care commissioning organisation of £500,000 in the development of health care services for probation clients. We have won funding to pilot a method for the formal assessment of mental health disorders in probation clients which is likely to have further practical applications for services.

Care Programme Approach: Christine Jackson and Ian McGonagle

The Mental Health and Workforce Research team has been awarded the contract from the Welsh Assembly Government, Department of Health and Social Services (£250k) to deliver the Care

Programme Approach through a new training resource for adults and children using mental health services in Wales. The programme will be delivered in English and Welsh languages. We will be collaborating with mental health organisations, higher education institutions, service user groups and the Welsh Assembly commissioning team.

Anti-microbial action of the herb Thyme and maggots for possible use with diabetic ulceration: Julie Burton

Through funding of a student under the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Scheme (UROS) this collaboration between Health and Social Care and Forensic Science found their were apparent benefits which needed to be further studied.

Independent evaluation of Greta Ross Sexual Health Clinic in Louth: Ros Kane

NHS Lincolnshire commissioned the Community and Public Health Group to conduct an evaluation of the above service (£12,500). The principal aim of the service is to meet the requirements of the local community and surrounding locality by providing a quality Level 2 Sexual Health Service. The aims of the evaluation were to: assess the extent to which the Greta Ross clinic is achieving its two key aims of widening access and providing a clinical learning environment for host clinicians; conduct a series of qualitative interviews with a small sample of key stakeholders to explore their experiences of setting up and delivering the service; and provide recommendations for the future delivery of the service. The full report has now been completed and is currently being disseminated by NHS Lincolnshire.

Peer Worker Chlamydia Project: Tom Haughton

This joint research project between the University of Lincoln and NHS Lincolnshire aims to promote the uptake of Chlamydia screening in Lincoln students and to improve their experience of using services. The student population within Lincoln was identified as a large, previously untapped population for the promotion of Chlamydia screening which would be done through a number of peer led initiatives throughout the academic year; these included the use of student media publication, 'pee in the pot' sessions and health campaigns

at the three key within Lincoln, namely, the University of Lincoln, Lincoln College and Bishop Grosseteste University College

The Evaluation of the project incorporates the effectiveness of the initiatives in achieving local Chlamydia screening targets and providing a positive user experience throughout all areas of the programme, from education to treatment upon positive results. The evaluation also reviews the appropriateness of service, whether it meets the requirements of the both service and the users, students, identifying any inadequacies of the service in educational and community setting.

Action Learning Sets in a Group Tutorial Setting for Undergraduate Students: Trevor Simpson

The project was a small primary research study carried out on a group of undergraduate student nurses on the BSc (Hons) Nursing Programme. The study design was based on the use of action research to discover good practice and best outcomes using a student led evolving process. Several different methods such as the hologram approach and the gossip approach were used which gave an active and lively approach to the learning theatre within the sessions.

It was concluded that this was a useful approach to learning within a group tutorial setting and indeed the students have called for it to become a regular feature in the tutorial set A paper on this research has been submitted for consideration in the Nurse Education Today Journal.

The use of touch by Intensive Care nurses in practice: Trevor Simpson

This primary research study focussed on the use of touch by intensive care nurses in practice. The results showed that the majority of touch used by nurses was in relation to instrumental touch used to carryout a clinical intervention. However, therapeutic touch, which is touch used by nurses to re-assure and comfort their patients in what could be an emotionally difficult time, was very rarely used. The research concludes that there is an education issue here for newly qualified staff nurses and indeed for the incorporation into a preceptorship programme some theory work around ITU psychosis and the use of touch for

emotional support and clinical work with patients in the critical care environment.

It also leads onto the need for closer bonding between new starters in the ITU area with an experienced ITU nurse who can then support them in their development of the subtle skills required for ITU clinical nursing care. Trevor has been invited to present a paper at the BACCN annual conference, due to be held in Stockport in September.

Nursing Text Book: Nursing Team

Members of the nursing team have recently completed new nursing text book. Edited by Paul Linsley, Ros Kane and Sara Owen the book includes contributions from all members of the team and from many colleagues outside the university.

The book, aimed primarily at pre-registration nursing students reflects the growing need for all nurses to become involved in the promotion of health and well-being of both their patients and of the wider population. The book seeks to provide a clear, academic and practical account of the increasing importance of public health knowledge for all nursing practice. Oxford University Press is due to publish the book in January 2011.

An investigation into the relationship between alcohol consumption amongst young people, and violent crime in North East Lincolnshire: Ros Kane and Paul Linsley

With a grant of £4000 from the Alcohol Improvement Programme (DH) Ros and Paul are developing a project to explore the relationship between alcohol consumption and violent crime by conducting qualitative work with the perpetrators in NE Lincolnshire, specifically we want to gain insight into the specific cultural context and to get an idea of the importance of cultural integration/social capital in influencing specific patterns of behaviour.

'Modernising Russian social work education and teaching' 2009-12: Janet Walker and Michael Rasell

The School of Health and Social Care is the lead partner on a European Union funded TEMPUS (Trans European Mobility Scheme for University Studies) Project. The Tempus programme supports the modernisation of higher education

and creates an area of co-operation in countries outside the EU.

The School of Health and Social Care is leading a consortium of social work departments at 3 Russian universities in the Volga Region of Russia (Kazan State Medical University; Nizhni Novgorod State University; and Saratov State Technical University) and of European partners (Siegen University, Germany; Democritus University of Thrace, Greece and Kethea Therapy Centre, Greece) to support the modernisation of Russian social work education and teaching.

The Project aims to modernise and Europeanise social work teaching in the Russian universities, prioritising 'curricular reform' in social work and 'higher education and society' overall for Russia.

'Ideals and Realities': Ian Mathews, Adrian Croft and Diane Simpson

This FED funded research project examines the way in which the BSc (Hons) Social Work degree programme prepared students for practice.

Students as Producers: Ian Mathews and Diane Simpson

This research will draw on data gathered from current second and third level social work student to examine their role as 'producers'.

Research into Practice Educators and Motivation: Ian Mathews

With Debbie Develin (Sheffield Hallam University) Ian has successfully completed the research for the above project. They have had one article accepted for publication by a peer reviewed journal and have presented findings at 2 conferences. Another article is planned.

Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) as a new treatment for Depression: Colin Robertson

This international research collaboration with the University of Hull and BM-Science based in Espoo, Finland, is a clinical trial designed to improve TMS efficacy by combining TMS and EEG to guide treatment. TMS has shown promise as a new treatment for depression but is not effective for all patients. As depression affects

the whole brain, research by BM-Science has shown that certain regions of the brain have contrasting levels of severity. These regions can be detected in the EEG and represent target area for treatment with TMS. Colin and colleagues are carrying out a clinical trial designed to improve TMS efficacy by combining TMS and EEG to guide treatment. This involves two groups of depressed patients, one group receiving TMS where the EEG provides information about the level of severity and this is used to target treatment. Another group receives TMS over the left frontal region which is standard TMS treatment and acts a control condition. A total of 20 patients will be treated with the aim of completing the trial by July 2010. Should the research provide evidence as 'proof of concept' this will form the basis of a grant application to fund a larger clinical trial to establish EEG based TMS as a new treatment for Depression.

Young Peoples understanding of their experiences of support for leaving care and leaving home: Jenny Dagg

This participatory project with young people involves them at all stages of the research including data collection and analysis. The work will contribute to service development within the local authority.

'Fatherhood': Chris Jarrell

Drawing on his doctoral research Chris is completing an article on father and emotions.

Mental Health: Malcolm Golightley

Malcolm is researching social circumstances reports for Mental Health tribunals.

'Decision Making in Social Work': Terry O'Sullivan

Terry is completing the 2nd edition of his book due for publication later this year. He also plans to begin work on a journal article focussing on 'Social Workers as Critical Realists'.

Homeopathic Pathogenetic Trails (HPT): Jim Rogers

Jim has completed a systematic review of HPT's, with the outcome being submitted for

publication and for presentation at an international Conference.

'Social Pedagogy' and Supervision: Dave Crimmens

Dave is currently researching management and leadership responses to change process involving the use of an educational intervention in social pedagogy, commissioned by Essex County Council. With Greta Bradley (University of York) Dave has recently completed a research project funded by City of York Council about staff supervision in children's social care.

Practice Learning in Schools: Lynne Wilson

This study explored the degree to which schools as professional settings enable social work students to relevant skills and knowledge base for meeting the requirements of the National Occupational Standards for Social Work. Along with disseminating findings at regional and national conferences, Lynne plans to develop a research based practical framework for enhancing learning in such placements.

Widening Service User and Carer Participation: Karen Bayliss

Using a community engagement model, Karen is seeking to widen service user and care involvement in the social work degree. Karen is including young people and is currently investigating opportunities to develop written work about partnerships with service users.

Students' use of the Egan 'Skilled Helper' Model in Practice: Sally Riggall

Sally is researching the use by students of University based teaching in relation to the Egan model whilst on placement. Sally is currently collating the student's feedback to be produced as a paper.

'Adolescent Neglect': Leslie Hicks

With colleagues from the NSPCC, The Children's Society and the University of York Lesley is working on a book manuscript to be published later this year. The book focuses on adolescent neglect and is based on research funded by the (then) Department of Children, Families and School and the Department of Health as part of

their *Safeguarding Children* research initiative. Outputs from the research are soon to be published.

Leslie is presently collaborating with the National Centre for Excellence in Residential Child Care in relation to co-ordinating their inaugural national research seminar to be held in Hull this year.

Dissemination of findings in relation to Adolescent Neglect: Leslie Hicks and Heather Flynn

Supported by funding from the Faculty Research Fund, and by means of a series of focus groups

with professionals from different agencies, Heather and Leslie will involve agencies in disseminating research about adolescent neglect. Heather has plans to publish the results of this dissemination work.

Participative Research Consultancy: Heather Flynn and Jenny Dagg

This is being developed with East Riding of Yorkshire council and topics under current discussion relate to young people and adoption - their experiences and whether or not their education is problematic for them.

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Contact Rosalind Smith (Research Institutional Repository Officer) for a training session - rsmith@lincoln.ac.uk