



Welcome to our March PPIE Newsletter!

The days are finally getting longer and it feels as if Winter is starting to subside. In PSSRU, we are looking forward to many things in Spring, including various webinars and project involvement work.

We will be holding our memorial for Jules Forder at the University of Kent on Friday 25th April. Colleagues will gather to remember Jules and to talk about his contribution to the University and to Health and Social Care policy and research, as well as our personal anecdotes and stories. We shall be planting a cherry tree in his memory. Please let Sarah know if you would like to attend this event.

In this newsletter, there is an overview of the Launch Event for the NIHR Policy Research Unit in Quality, Safety and Outcomes for Health and Social Care (NIHR QSO PRU), which we held in November 2024. You can read more about this in our blog post too! We also provide a link to an announcement about a 3-year research collaboration '£1.6 million research to address value for money in home social care'.

As ever, please contact me with any news or research updates you would like to share with other research advisors in a future newsletter.

Kind Regards, Sarah
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£1.6m Research to address value for money in home social care

Researchers in the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU), University of Kent have been awarded £1.6 million by the National Institute for Health and Care Research Policy Research Programme to assess the value for money social care services provide to people receiving care and to their families.

Dr Florin Vadean from the Personal Social Services Research Unit is leading the 3 -year collaboration, working with researchers from Kings College London, social research specialists IPSOS, analysts at Skills for Care as well as representation from care provider organisations and involvement from our public involvement research advisor network.

The project will be collecting data to understand the value of home care services. Findings from this project will be used to inform policy decision-making on the commissioning of public services, the development of home care option guidance, and support for individuals and families purchasing care to make more informed decisions.

Read the [University of Kent announcement](#) here!



NIHR Policy Research Unit in Quality, Safety and Outcomes for Health and Social Care

Launch Event

Introduction

In November 2024, the NIHR Policy Research Unit in Quality Safety and Outcomes for Health and Social Care (NIHR QSO PRU) team held an event to launch the Unit and to discuss current research and cross-cutting themes. This event was attended by researchers, research advisors, and representatives from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

What did we discuss?

The event '**Creating a Shared Understanding of the NIHR funded Policy Research Unit in Quality, Safety and Outcomes of Health and Social Care**' started with a presentation in tribute to our previous Director, Jules Forder and Deputy Director, Ray Fitzpatrick. Jason Cox (DHSC) and Chiara Gasparini (NIHR) shared information about NIHR-funded Policy Research Units and the focus on research impact from the PRUs. Karen Jones (PRU director) led the overview of the NIHR QSO PRU structure, aims and research themes. The morning was then spent talking about the PRU's cross-cutting themes of equality (equity), diversity and inclusion (led by EDI champion Michele Peters) and Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (led by PPIE manager Sarah Birch), with a round-table discussion of 'How to embed PPIE and EDI in our research'.

During the afternoon, we had research themes presentations - Safety (Rebecca Lawton and team), Outcomes (Michele Peters) and Resolution (Linda Mulcahy), followed by a discussion about 'How to ensure creative dissemination and maximise / demonstrate impact'.

Feedback from the day

The comments and feedback from the launch event have been very positive. Some research advisors were able to feedback on how useful it was to hear about the NIHR QSO PRU structure and what the research areas will be, with one research advisor saying how *'every speaker triggered ideas and prompted questions from me and others in the audience. It was so interesting and worthwhile. Each speaker brought a valuable insight into QSO PRU, its aims, values and ambitions'*. Another research advisor remarked on how *'the new studies are most interesting and I exchanged several emails'*.

Others were keen to find out more about what being a research advisor in NIHR QSO PRU means to them, and registered their interest in sharing details of their research advisor role in a future PPIE newsletter.



What next?

Feedback from the round-table discussions will be shared with the NIHR QSO PRU management team, with the EDI and PPIE champions taking stock and moving forward with suggestions made during the launch event. Read the [full blog article](#) here!

Unit Costs of Health and Social Care Programme

New Webinar series!

The Unit Cost Programme Team at the University of Kent and University of York have launched two lunchtime webinars for people to find out more about the Unit Costs for Health and Social Care.

Have you ever wondered how costs for GP services or social care are calculated?

Now is the chance to find out more about this programme of research and our exciting developments!

Register here for:

- [Webinar 1](#) on Tuesday 6th May, 12-1pm: An Overview of the Unit Costs Programme
- [Webinar 2](#) on Thursday 5th June, 12-1pm: Introduction to the New Unit Cost Adjuster



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE Unit Costs Webinars

How are Unit Costs Used?

Researchers can use Unit Costs to explore if a new health and social care policy provides benefits for individuals and is value for money

Unit costs can inform decision makers in decisions on what support is provided to those who need help.

Assists health and care providers plan for the future of their services.





Two webinars

Do you want to know more about Unit Costs?

Come and join us

Webinar 1 - Tues 6th May, 12-1pm

What Unit Costs are with examples and why these are important?

Do you have any questions for the team about Unit Costs?

Please come along to our webinars to find out more and to ask questions to our team!

Webinar 2 - Thurs 5th June, 12-1pm

Introduction to the new Unit Cost Adjuster

How this Adjuster has been developed?

How you could use this for your future Unit Cost calculations?



How do I register my interest in attending the webinar(s)?

Please register your interest in attending in either or both webinars through our Teams link.

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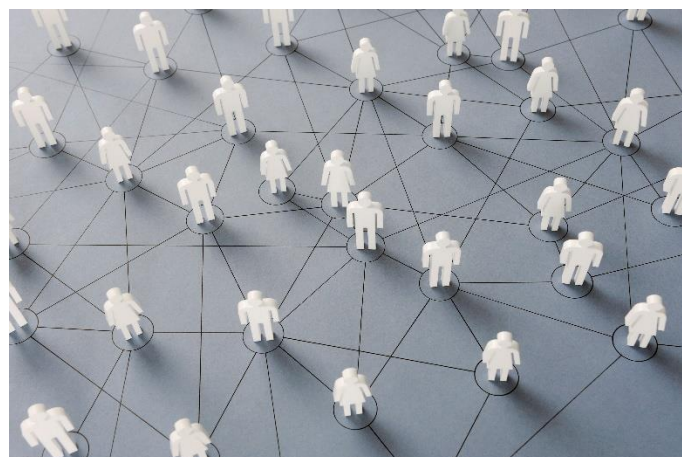
News, Publications and Bulletins

PPIE Training: We were pleased to host a 'Creative Research Methods' training and information session in January. Our Centre for Health Service Studies Researchers introduced innovative arts-based methods of data collection, analysis and reporting.

We are hoping to deliver another training session soon - look out for an email!

NHS Change Survey: In a recent NIHR newsletter, details about [a NHS Change survey](#) were provided, allowing people to share their views on priorities for change and to feed into the development of the 10-year health plan. The survey closes on 14 April 2025, 5pm.

NCCPE Seminar: 'Celebrating and Supporting UK Engagement Practice' – This [YouTube Link](#) provides a seminar video about innovative engagement practices and cultures, including case studies and reflections from University of Suffolk and Robert Gordon University



Please let Sarah know if you are unable to access any of the information provided by hyperlinks in this article, as this information can be sent via email or in the post (email: s.j.birch@kent.ac.uk; Phone: 01227 824967).

Acronyms and links for further information

DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care	'About us'
EDI	Equality (Equity), Diversity and Inclusion	
NCCPE	National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement	'Homepage'
NIHR	National Institute for Health and Care Research	'Homepage'
PIRAN	Public Involvement Research Advisor Network	QSO PRU PPIE
PISIG	Public Involvement Strategy and Implementation Group	QSO PRU PPIE
PPIE	Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement	NIHR Resource Pack
PSSRU	Personal Social Services Research Unit	'About Us'
QSO PRU	Quality, Safety and Outcomes Policy Research Unit	'About Us'