

## NIHR School for Social Care Research

### Research Themes

The School's broad research themes are:

1. Adult social care needs (met and unmet), and prevention
2. Approaches to adult social care and social work practice, particularly new approaches: covering areas such as usefulness of international models and approaches; user-led, carer-led and other innovation, including digital and other new technologies
3. The adult social care workforce: covering areas such as development and retention of the existing workforce, including social workers and occupational therapists; new work roles and new ways of working; challenges to the workforce (diversity, quality, Brexit)
4. Care resources: covering areas such as eligibility; innovative approaches to funding; issues for self-funders; equality and value across self- and state-funded services; financial pressures facing older people and other adults needing support; supporting carers
5. Working with communities and other assets: covering areas such as asset-based working, social prescribing; community and individual capability; personalisation; interdependency
6. Care systems and markets: covering areas such as how local authorities manage volume and quality in local services/markets; market-shaping and the impact on providers and others; impact of major changes (e.g. legislation) to the system of care; the impact of coproduced service provision
7. Diversity, inequality and 'marginalised' communities: covering areas such as variations (including inequity) in accessing adult social care; promising practice and support for specific user groups; coproducing solutions to challenge inequality
8. Adult social care at the interface with other systems (e.g. integration and coordination): covering areas such as housing, criminal justice, hospital inpatient services, primary care, community mental health, employment settings.

We use a broad, inclusive description of adult social care, encompassing the wide range of care and support available to and used by adults; the diversity of services and service providers of adult social care; and care and support provided through and with unpaid care, communities, self-care and self-funded care. We are interested in all aspects of this plurality of care and support arrangements, and their development in the current context of adult social care in England. Areas of overlap and/or integration with other sectors also fall within our remit.