



social care  
institute for excellence

# Social Care Research Ethics Committee

An NRES Research Ethics Committee

Annual report

1 January 2012 to 31 March 2013



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Written by the Social Care Research Ethics Committee

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## 1. Introduction

‘A research ethics committee is a group of people appointed to review research proposals to assess formally if the research is ethical. This means the research must conform to recognised ethical standards, which includes respecting the dignity, rights, safety and well-being of the people who take part.’

(Governance Arrangements for Research Ethics Committees (GAfREC), a harmonised edition, Department of Health, 2011)

‘Research is defined as any form of disciplined inquiry that aims to contribute to a body of knowledge or theory.’

(Economic and Social Research Council, Framework for Research Ethics, 2010)

The Social Care Research Ethics Committee (the Social Care REC) for England reviews adult social care research study proposals, intergenerational studies involving adults and children or families, use of social care databases and some proposals for social science studies situated in the NHS (see item f. below), from researchers based in England. The Social Care REC was developed with support from the Department of Health’s Policy Research Programme and became operational in June 2009 as part of the National Research Ethics Service (NRES) which itself, in 2011, became part of the Health Research Authority (HRA). Although social care is not yet part of the HRA’s remit, the Social Care REC continues to be supported by NRES, uses their application system and audit standards, and, for studies within the REC’s remit (see below), is recognised by the Department of Health as equivalent to other NRES committees. However, the membership, expertise and perspectives of the Social Care REC have been developed to reflect the social care context.

The Social Care REC appointing authority is the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) and it is funded by the Department of Health (DH). Committee members, recruited through open advertisement, include researchers, social care professionals, ethicists, providers and users of social care and carers.

The Social Care REC reviews English applications involving the adult social care sector (e.g. in local authority, private and voluntary care settings), as well as studies which cross sector boundaries. The REC reviews:

- a. Social care studies funded by Department of Health.
  - o research commissioned directly through the Policy Research Programme.
  - o Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) studies (i.e. those to be designed by HSCIC for implementation by councils with adult social

- services responsibilities, who do not then individually need to seek additional review).
- studies commissioned by or through National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) School for Social Care Research (SSCR).
  - social care studies funded through NIHR.
- b.** Social care research that involves people lacking capacity in England and Wales and requires approval under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA). These MUST be reviewed by a recognised appropriate body under the MCA. The Social Care REC is recognised by the Secretary of State for this purpose. (University RECs cannot review research involving adults lacking capacity.) This includes service evaluations that are ‘intrusive research’ as defined under the Act.
  - c.** Social care research that involves sites in England and another United Kingdom country.
  - d.** ‘Own account’ research undertaken by councils with social services responsibilities, where the chief investigator or sponsor feels there are substantial ethical issues.
  - e.** Studies of integrated services (health and social care), provided that there is no clinical intervention involved.
  - f.** Studies taking place in NHS settings with NHS patients where the approach uses social science or qualitative methods, provided that the research does not involve any change in treatment or clinical practice.
  - g.** Intergenerational studies in social care, where both adults and children, or families, are research participants.
  - h.** Adult social care research involving changes in, or the withdrawing of standard care.
  - i.** Other social care studies where there are ethical concerns but the study is outside the remit of other NRES RECs. Such reviews are subject to the capacity of the Social Care REC. The REC would, for example, wish to facilitate service user-led research that fell into this category.

Social care research does not require review by the Social Care REC if it is reviewed by another committee operating in accordance with the Economic and Social Research Council’s (ESRC) Framework for Research Ethics, unless sections (a) to (i) above apply or the research involved NHS patients or service users as research participants. A review is required if there is a legal requirement for REC review e.g. under the MCA. Student research within the field of social care should ordinarily be reviewed by a University REC (UREC). If a UREC review is not available to a student, they can contact the Co-ordinator for advice.

The Social Care REC does not consider any research involving clinical health interventions. Such research should be reviewed by another appropriate REC within the NRES.

NHS R&D offices will come across social science studies reviewed by the Social Care REC (under item f. above) when investigators apply for research governance approval. The opinion given by the Social Care REC has the same authority as that of any other NRES REC. Such applications do not require separate review by other NRES RECs.

It should be noted that the definition of research to which the Social Care REC works is contained in the internationally accepted conventions of the Frascati manual (<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/applying/frascati/>). This is a complex set of documentation but its general description of applied research, 'original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge... directed towards a specific practical aim or objective', fits the generality of social care research. Whilst judgements must still be made, the conventions assist by supporting and authorising our view that we should include evaluation and monitoring if part of the development of a novel process, whilst excluding it if routine and not part of a research project. The REC's functioning is underpinned by the guiding principles of the Singapore Statement on Research Integrity (<http://www.singaporestatement.org/>). Thus, for example, most evaluations would be accepted as suitable for review by the Social Care REC. Investigators and sponsors may have a number of reasons for seeking REC review (such as vulnerable participants; wanting advice on consent procedures; ability to reassure publications editors).

It is the responsibility of researchers and sponsors of research to decide if their study requires ethical review to meet statutory requirements, or whether it might benefit from review. Please contact the Social Care REC Co-ordinator for discussion in the first instance.

The Social Care REC meets monthly (apart from August).

## 2. Committee information

**Chair:** Professor David Stanley, BPhil PhD AcSS FHEA FRSA

**Vice-Chair:** Susan Harrison, PgDip MA MA MHM

**Alternate Vice-Chair:** Professor Malcolm Cowburn, BA MA M.Phil PhD

**Co-ordinator:** Barbara Cuddon

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**Project Manager  
SCIE:** Dr Deborah Rutter  
Senior Research Analyst

## 3. Chair's overview of the operational period January 2012 – March 2013: Issues Identified

### 3.1 Introduction

This is the third report produced by the Social Care Research Ethics Committee for England, now in its fifth year of operation. The REC has become an established feature of the social care research landscape, providing substantial support and advice to researchers in addition to its primary role of delivering research ethics opinions to the sector. In doing so it is in a unique position to reflect upon aspects of the undeniable increase in volume and quality of social care research, albeit in a generalised way.

## 3.2 The Mental Capacity Act 2005

A greater understanding of the purposes and processes involved in meeting compliance with Sections 30-33 is clearly evident in the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) proposals which we now see, compared with those of five years ago. And the vast majority of these demonstrate a confident familiarity with the legislation. However we continue to meet a small minority of researchers proposing to recruit adult participants who lack capacity to give informed consent, and who display little, and sometimes no, knowledge of the Act. We would advise that research into adults who lack capacity can add time and complexity to studies unless the researcher/s have access to the necessary expertise.

## 3.3 Recruitment of social care research participants

An increase in applications, during the period under review, for minor and substantial amendments to studies given a favourable opinion by the Social Care REC indicates the difficulties some research teams are encountering in recruiting participants. This is also apparent from comments in the annual progress reports submitted to the Committee. Reasons are varied but one which is being increasingly cited is the difficulty researchers are having engaging with local authority staff. Local authorities are experiencing cuts in both funding and staff, and with fewer resources available to deliver core services, they have less time to assist researchers in recruiting participants or taking part in research themselves. Another issue raised in the annual reports submitted by researchers to the REC is delay in starting the research due to difficulties in obtaining research governance approval.

## 3.4 Applications based in postgraduate degrees

We see many excellent postgraduate student applications, presented by confident, knowledgeable students and supported by their academic supervisors. However we also review a small but significant number of applications where some students struggle when attending Committee, with a consequent impact on the opinion outcome, if they are not accompanied by their academic supervisors. Such difficulties can be unrelated to students' general research knowledge or professional expertise. Supervisors can respond to material questions concerning, for example, institutional policies, about which students may not be informed; and supervisors will invariably have a more advanced understanding of, for example, the technical requirements of research ethics review or relevant legislation. It is generally regarded as good practice, and we strongly advise, that supervisors routinely attend Committee either in person or by phone in order to support their student.

### 3.5 Proportionate review

Committee members have considered whether to offer proportionate review (PR, an abbreviated review process) and decided against doing so, except in exceptional circumstances where there has already been extensive exchanges between the parties. The rationale for this decision, which is kept under review, is based on two factors: the NRES NMEI (No Material Ethical Interests) tool has not been designed to accommodate social care research, and members are not persuaded that they see proposals which pose no material ethical issues. There are additional issues of the REC's capacity to deliver PR within the prescribed timelines, given the rising number of full studies, and their associated Sub Committees, that the REC members currently assess.

### 3.6 Standards

- The Social Care REC operates to capacity, with most meetings fully booked well in advance (the modal average is six reviews per meeting) and final opinions being delivered well within NRES prescribed maximum of 60 days (our average time from receipt of a valid application to final opinion is 28.8 days).
- The Committee was audited by NRES in mid-2011 to assess compliance with governance arrangements (GAfREC) and standard operational procedures (SOPs) for NRES RECs. Full accreditation by the NRES Accreditation Scheme for the Audit and Continuing Assessment of RECs was awarded in December 2011 and extends until June 2015. The successful completion of this exercise is almost entirely due to the meticulous attention paid to the administration of the REC by our Co-ordinator, Barbara Cuddon. REC members and applicants alike rely heavily on her extensive knowledge and understanding of ethical and NRES processes and procedures.
- We did not undertake a feedback survey during the period under review, although feedback is invited from applicants, and we meet occasionally with researchers and research funders, including the NIHR School for Social Care Research, to clarify issues and to review mutual perceptions. The NRES complaints procedure is available to applicants to the Social Care REC, but has been invoked neither during the review period nor previously.
- The Social Care REC is part of the NRES London administrative region which, for the two years ending March 2012 and March 2013, surveyed the frequency of use of the various opinion types (ie the ranging from Favourable with standard conditions through Provisional to Unfavourable) available to RECs. Whilst there was wide variability at the margins of this



data, overall our rates are very comparable with the others and our figures across the two years were consistent.

- Shared Ethical and Single Issue Debates are NRES network-wide exercises designed to identify and analyse consensus and differing opinions in order to promote quality and greater consistency in the delivery opinions, as well as to foster debate between RECs. The Social Care REC took part in the following Debates which addressed:

*'Collaborative Learning on the Web'*

*'Development of Decision Support for Hyperacute Stroke'*

*'Issues relating to the publication and dissemination of research and research results'*

These discussions are always wide-ranging within and across the network and their outcomes inevitably draw attention to issues of consistency of opinions. In our feedback to NRES, which is circulated in summary form to the network, we take every opportunity to highlight the specific social care perspectives within the study under peer review. The ethics of e-research featured strongly in the first study above, will no doubt occur more frequently in the future, and is a matter which highlights issues of increasing interest to the social care research community as well as to the Social Care REC.

### 3.7 Social Care REC, the HRA, and NRES

The Health Research Authority (HRA), with NRES as the core, was introduced in 2011. HRA is a special Health Authority and not legally permitted to take responsibility for funding or regulation (including REC review) of studies which take place solely with social care service users in social care settings. Such studies in England should be submitted to the Social Care REC if review by an NRES REC is required. As an interim measure the Social Care REC has been funded (from April 2012) directly by the Department of Health (rather than by NRES as was the case), pending the anticipated change in organisational status of the HRA to a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB), and operates on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding between SCIE and NRES at the HRA. When the HRA becomes an NDPB with the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill (probably by autumn 2014), funding and responsibility for social care research may then fall within the remit of the HRA. Discussions have been initiated between the HRA and the Social Care REC to clarify the relationship between the two in the event of the HRA assuming responsibility for social care research.

### 3.8 Recruitment of new members

Following a number of resignations since implementation and the fact that the Social Care REC did not recruit to their full complement of members when the Committee was first established, a recruitment campaign took

place during October – November 2012. Applications were particularly invited from: users of social care services (or carers of social care services); people with expertise in the socio-legal aspects of social care practice and those with expertise in quantitative research methods. A large number of applications were received from people with a range of different skills and experience, enabling the Committee to appoint three new members who started work in November/December 2012.

### 3.9 Alternate Vice Chair

Valerie Lang, who had served as Alternate Vice Chair from 01 June 2011, resigned from the post on 06 July 2012, but continues as a member. The Committee and Appointing Authority are grateful to Valerie for undertaking this role with such diligence. The position has been expertly filled by Professor Malcolm Cowburn.

### 3.10 Conclusion

We believe that the Social Care REC has established, and continues to develop, a valued and effective role in advising researchers and promoting ethical and worthwhile research. A measure of its impact may be seen in its extensive referencing within the Scottish Government's 'Navigating Ethical Approval and Access in Social Care Research' consultation document, a consultation to which we have submitted evidence.

This is my final report as Chair, my period of office expires in December 2013, and I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to all who have contributed to making this project such a successful and worthwhile venture. In an undertaking which has involved so many, it is always invidious to single out individuals, however the Social Care REC would not exist except for the leadership, determination and support of Dr Carol Lupton, recently retired from the DH Policy Research Programme; the early research undertaken by Professor Jan Pahl, now retired from the University of Kent at Canterbury, and funded by DH; and the many organisations whose interested members contributed to the various DH planning and steering groups between 2005-9 which spawned the REC. Dr Janet Wisely, now Chief Executive of the Health Research Authority has been unfailing in her support for the project and in facilitating our relationship within NRES.

Tribute must be paid, too, to the very positive and constructive way in which the social care research community, including our critical friends, have embraced this innovative service. No naming of individuals would be complete without expressing my appreciation of Barbara Cuddon, our unflappable Co-ordinator, whose, technical and interpersonal skills are immeasurable; and to Dr Deborah Rutter, Project Manager at SCIE, for her constant support, sound advice, and good humour. Equally, we value the

essential support provided by the Department of Health for funding, and the Social Care Institute for Excellence for hosting, the Social Care REC. Finally, I owe a debt of gratitude for the support and exceptional commitment of the REC members, who give their time and expertise voluntarily.

### 3.11 A Tribute to Professor David Stanley, foundation Chair of Social Care REC

On behalf of the members and the Co-ordinator of Social Care REC I wanted to pay tribute to Professor David Stanley's leadership of the Social Care Ethics Committee in his role as its chair. Having been instrumental in making the case for a national ethics committee sufficiently expert to deal effectively with the complexities of the social care research world, with its social science academic methodology and its frequent involvement of vulnerable respondents with mental capacity issues, Professor Stanley steered this initiative through to realisation in the agreement by NRES to support the formation of Social Care REC in 2009.

The natural choice to lead this innovative new national organisation, he has set the standard of constructive scrutiny upon which the organisation has built its reputation. Many applicants, initially wary of submitting their applications for such intense professional scrutiny, have become Social Care REC's greatest supporters, and that is due to the unique blend of the highest level of research knowledge in the field of social care and the determinedly-constructive dialogue in which Professor Stanley engaged with all applicants. Whilst his intellectual and academic insights are immense, it is his ability to combine the most rigorous scrutiny with an unswerving resolve to be constructive that epitomised his approach and has set the standards and behaviours for all the members and the committee. The creation and establishment of Social Care REC as a significant milestone in the development of the professionalism of social care research is his legacy to us all, and a legacy for which the nation owes David a great debt of gratitude.

Professor David Croisdale-Appleby OBE  
Member of Social Care REC

## 4. REC members, their interests and activity during the reporting period

### Committee membership and training

#### Social Care REC membership

Name	Occupation	Date appointed	Date membership ended
Professor David Stanley – Chair	Independent	01/01/2009	
Sandra Andrews	Police Officer	12/02/2009	
Jeanne Carlin	Independent	06/12/2012	
Samantha Clemens	Social Researcher	12/02/2009	
Professor Malcolm Cowburn – Alternate Vice Chair	Professor of Applied Social Science at Sheffield Hallam University	12/02/2009	
Professor David Croisdale-Appleby	Wolfson Research Inst. & Chair, Skills for Care	12/02/2009	
Suki Desai	Independent Academic	14/12/2010	
Rachel Dittrich	Research Manager	12/02/2009	
Dr Michael Dunn	Senior Researcher in Health and Social Care Ethics	12/02/2009	
Eleanor Grey	Independent	12/02/2009	05/10/2012
Susan Harrison – Vice Chair	Consultant and Interim Manager in Adult Social Services	12/02/2009	
Claire Hopkins	Independent	12/02/2009	
Claire Lambert	Social Researcher	18/11/2012	
Valerie Lang	Retired	12/02/2009	
Irene Linder	Retired	12/02/2009	
Craig Moss	Research Manager	12/02/2009	
Bridget Penhale	Reader in Mental Health of Older People	12/02/2009	
Dr Suzanne Shale	Independent Ethicist	12/02/2009	13/04/2012
Dr Kathylene F Siska	Social Worker/Academic	17/01/2013	

Member's personal profiles can be viewed on the Social Care REC website – [www.screc.org.uk](http://www.screc.org.uk)

Social Care REC members declaration of interests

Name	Declaration of Interest
Professor David Stanley - Chair	Trustee and Director, Skills for Care. Professor of Social Care, Northumbria University
Jeanne Carlin	Trustee of Short Breaks Network. Works as a freelance disability consultant, mainly in children's services. Editorial Board - PMLD Link. Carer - UCP reference Group for NIHR - School for Social Care Research. Carer - Advisory Group - Social care Workforce research Unit (Kings College).
Samantha Clemens	Employed by the National Centre for Social Research. Member of Social Research Association.
Professor Malcolm Cowburn	Occasional consultancy with St Lukes Hospice Sheffield. Chair of British Society for Criminology Ethics Committee (as such I am an Executive Director of BSC - notified to Companies House). National Trustee Circles UK (notified to Companies House). Unlikely to be health and social care research, but it is actively linked to criminology research. Member of the ESRC Peer Review College. A research-active academic.
Professor David Croisdale-Appleby	Chair of Skills for Care. Chair of Skills for Care & Development. Chairman of Hft. Chairman of Dementia UK. Professor at the Wolfson Research Institute.

Name	Declaration of Interest
Professor David Croisdale-Appleby - cont'd	<p>Professor at the School of Medicine &amp; Health at the University of Durham.</p> <p>Expert Lay Social Science Member of the South East Research Ethics Committee (Medical REC).</p> <p>Social Care specialist representative Member of the Board of AREC.</p> <p>Chair, National Guidance of the Care of People with Dementia at NICE (National Institute for Health, Care and Clinical Excellence).</p> <p>Appraiser of Research Proposals for the Medical Research Council.</p> <p>Inspector of Medical Education for the General Medical Council.</p> <p>Conducting an Independent Review of Social Work Education for the Government.</p>
Rachel Dittrich	<p>Research Manager at Hampshire County Council &amp; Chair of the Research Development &amp; Governance Panel in Hampshire Adult Services.</p>
Dr Michael Dunn	<p>Researcher involved in academic research in a university department related to health and social care. Current or former colleagues may submit applications to Social Care REC that could cause potential conflicts of interest.</p> <p>Peer reviewer of academic journals in the field of ethics and health/social care. These include the Journal of Medical Ethics, Bioethics, American Journal of Bioethics, Ageing and Mental Health, and the Journal of Intellectual Disability Research.</p>
Susan Harrison	<p>Owner and Director of Harrison Consultants Ltd, social care management consultancy which could be commissioned to deliver or contribute to small scale research.</p> <p>Trustee of Cuba Medical electives, an educational charity. It is unlikely that any conflict of interest would arise.</p> <p>Member of the advisory council of Changing Faces, a disfigurement charity. From time to time I advise from time to time on research projects associated with the charity.</p> <p>Shareholdings – None other than a nominal £1 shareholder interest in my own company Harrison Consultants Ltd.</p>

	<p>I am involved in the adult social care research governance arrangements in Camden Council and have responsibility for giving local R&amp;D approval for NHS and Adult Social care studies involving people with Learning Disabilities.</p> <p>I am an external expert member of the University of East London research Ethics Committee.</p>
<b>Name</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>
Claire Lambert	Works for a company that conducts research in the social care sector (Ipsos Mori).
Craig Moss	Research Manager at Addaction. A large national substance misuse charity often commissioning or directly involved with research.
Bridget Penhale	<p>Member of Action on Elder Abuse.</p> <p>Member of PASA (Practitioner Alliance for Safeguarding Adults).</p> <p>Member Ann Craft Trust.</p> <p>Member of Faculty Ethics Committee (university level).</p> <p>A research-active academic in a university department related to health and social care.</p> <p>Current or former colleagues may submit applications to the Social Care REC.</p>

Meetings for Full Ethical Review 01 January 2012 – 31 March 2013:

Month	Date	Number of members present at meeting
January	06/01/2012	10
February	03/02/2012	14
March	02/03/2012	9
April	13/04/2012	11
May	04/05/2012	9
June	01/06/2012	7
July	06/07/2012	13
September	07/09/2012	9
October	05/10/2012	11
November	02/11/2012	10
December	07/12/2012	13
January	04/01/2013	11
February	01/02/2013	11
March	01/03/2013	10

14 full committee meetings were held during the reporting period. All meetings held were quorate.

Proportionate Review Sub-Committee Meetings held 01 January 2012 – 31 March 2013:

Month	Date	Number of Members Present at Meeting
February	06/02/2012	3
September	07/09/2012	3

2 proportionate review sub-committee meetings were held during the reporting period.



Sub-Committee meetings held 01 January 2012 – March 2013:

Month	Date	Number of members present at meeting
January	23/01/2012	2
January	31/01/2013	3
February	w/c 06/02/2012	2
February	w/c 13/02/2012	3
February	17/02/2011	3
April	02/04/2012	2
April	03/04/2012	3
April	w/c 16/04/2012	3
May	w/c 14/05/2012	2
May	w/c 28/5/2012	2
June	w/c 18/06/2012	3
August	17/08/2012	3
September	w/c 03/09/2012	3
September	w/c 10/09/2012	2
September	w/c 24/09/2012	3
October	w/c 01/10/201	2
October	05/10/2012	3
October	w/c 08/10/2012	2
November	w/c 05/11/2012	2
November	w/c 12/11/2012	2
November	19/11/2012	2
November	w/c 26/11/2012 (2)	2
November	w/c 26/11/2012	3
January	w/c 21/01/2013 (2)	2
January	w/c 21/01/2013 (1)	2
February	w/c 11/02/2013	3

26 sub-committee meetings were held during the reporting period.

REC Members training 01 January 2012 – 31 March 2013:

Training/Event	Date	Name of member (s) who attended
Professional Doctorate in Criminal Justice Studies, University of Portsmouth	01/10/2012 – 01/09/2018	Sandra Andrews
Qualitative Research and Ethical Review, NRES	28/02/2012	Rachel Dittrich
Personal Data in Research, NRES	29/02/2012	Rachel Dittrich Susan Harrison

<b>Training/Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of member (s) who attended</b>
The Value of Workforce Development in Tough Times, Skills for Care Annual Conference	08/03/2012	Professor David Stanley
Consent – do you really need to ask, AREC	16/04/2012	Professor David Stanley
Power and Consent, Research and the Mental Capacity Act, North West PR Training conference, Newcastle University	20/4/2012	Professor David Stanley
Research Involving Older People, AREC	03/05/2012	Bridget Penhale
Introduction to Research Ethics	18/06/2012	Dr Michael Dunn
Workshop on Involvement of the Public in the Research Process, Medical Research Council	13/07/2012	Professor David Croisdale-Appleby
Nottingham REC Centre Local training Day, HRA	16/10/2012	Irene Linder
HM Courts Service	22/10/2012	Professor David Croisdale-Appleby
National Children's & Adults Social Care Conference	24/10/2012 – 26/10/2012	Susan Harrison
Charting New Frontiers in Aging, Gerontological Society of America 65 <sup>th</sup> Scientific Meeting	14/11/2012 – 18/11/2012	Professor David Stanley Dr Michael Dunn
Introduction to Research Ethics	21/11/2012	Dr Michael Dunn
Equality and Diversity Training, General Medical Council	27/12/2012	Professor David Croisdale-Appleby

Training/Event	Date	Name of member (s) who attended
Adult Safeguarding Training, Social Care REC	15/02/2013	Samantha Clemens Professor Malcolm Cowburn Dr Michael Dunn Susan Harrison Claire Lambert Valerie Lang Irene Linder Craig Moss Bridget Penhale Dr Kathylene F Siska Professor David Stanley
Induction, NRES/HRA	26/02/2013	Claire Lambert

## 5. Publicity/raising awareness

Officers and members regularly attend events to raise awareness of the Committee including universities, local authority adults' social services and research governance departments, as well as attending relevant conferences and events. The Social Care REC website is continually updated with useful information.

### Meetings/conferences attended

Name	Date	Title of conference/meeting	Presentation
Dr Michael Dunn, Susan Harrison	05/03/2013, 15/04/2013 and 23/05/2013	Academy of social Sciences - A symposium series to explore 'Generic Ethics Principles in social science research'	Symposium Members
Dr Deborah Rutter, Barbara Cuddon	17/09/2013	School for Social Care Research – Research Ethics Workshop	Presentations on What RECs do – and how to keep on the right side of them; Obtaining Ethics Approval from the Social Care REC

Name	Date	Title of conference/meeting	Presentation
Barbara Cuddon	26/04/2012	Social Research Group Vision 2020	Presentation – Obtaining Ethics Approval from the Social Care REC
Professor David Stanley, Dr Deborah Rutter, Dr Michael Dunn, Barbara Cuddon	09/03/2012	School for Social Care Research – Research Ethics Workshop	Presentations on the Mental Capacity Act 2005; why Should social Care Research be Subject to Ethical review; What RECs do – and how to keep on the right side of them; Obtaining Ethics Approval from the Social Care REC

## 6.REC workload and activity during the reporting period (01 January 2012 – 31 March 2013).

### *74 studies were reviewed*

2 withdrawn prior to the meeting

2 reviewed by a Proportionate Review Sub-Committee

70 reviewed by full committee

Table 1: Applications received within the reporting period:

<b>Applications for full ethical review – Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Number of Mental Capacity Act (Section 30) applications	19	25.7
Number of student applications	16	21.6
Number of applications reviewed including children	5	6.8
Number of studies withdrawn prior to the meeting	2	2.7
Number reviewed by a Proportionate Review Sub-Committee	2	2.7
Others	30	40.5
<b>Total applications reviewed</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 2: Decisions given at meetings held within the reporting period:

<b>Decisions taken at meetings following review of applications</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Favourable opinion with standard conditions	0	0.0
Favourable opinion with additional conditions	35	50.0
Unfavourable opinion	14	20.0
Provisional opinion	21	30.0
Invalid	0	0
No opinion pending consultation with referee	0	0
Provisional Opinion Pending Consultation with Referee	0	0
Not requiring review by NHS REC	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100%</b>
Number of studies sent back to full committee meeting for final opinion	1	

Table 3: Decisions given following a provisional opinion within the reporting period:

	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Further information favourable opinion with standard conditions	10	47.6
Further information favourable opinion with additional conditions	11	52.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4: Other management Information for the reporting period:

Mean Average number of applications reviewed	5.
Number of applications for full ethical review over 60 days	1
Number of applications over 60 days as a % of total	1.4
Number of days taken to final decision (excluding PR) – average Calculated from receipt of a valid application to confirmation of the final opinion)	28.8

Number of substantial amendments reviewed	3
Number of substantial amendments over 35 days	0
Number of substantial amendments over 35 days as a % of total substantial amendments	0.0%
Number of modified amendments reviewed	1
Number of modified amendments over 14 days	0
Number of modified amendments over 14 days as a % of total modified amendments	0.0%

Number of proportionate review applications for ethical review over 14 days*	1
Number of proportionate review applications over 14 days as a % of total	50.00%

\*NB – Proportionate Review Service was in pilot phase until September 2011 and was an aim not a target. The review was delayed because the REC cannot meet in August.

Table 5: Applications reviewed within the reporting period:

REC Reference	Application short title	Number of days on clock <sup>+</sup>
11/IEC08/0045	Advancing Knowledge of Telecare for Independence & Vitality in Later Life	42
11/IEC08/0047	The use of Community Treatment Orders in Mental Health Practice - V.2	31
11/IEC08/0048	Social care for physical disability in the Chinese community	34
11/IEC08/0049	Acceptability of and satisfaction with social care among South Asians	32
11/IEC08/0050	PQ learning for social workers and the quality of service delivery	34
11/IEC08/0051	Dementia Talking	42
12/IEC08/0001	Teenage mothers who have been in care	17
12/IEC08/0002	The role of social capital in the personalisation of care provision	24
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12/IEC08/0004	Communication and reflection in social work	18
12/IEC08/0005	Decisions about residential dementia care	21
12/IEC08/0006	Exploring the potential of noise cancellation in ASD sound sensitivity	21
12/IEC08/0007	Personal Social Services Survey of Adult Carers in England - 2012-13	11
12/IEC08/0008	Views of people with LD on moving into supported living	26
12/IEC08/0009	Identifying the Impact of Adult Social Care (IIASC)	28
12/IEC08/0010	A pilot evaluation of a Healthy Futures social prescription service	26
12/IEC08/0011	Exploration of BME satisfaction with social care services	22
12/IEC08/0012	Evaluation of peer support groups for people with dementia	42
12/IEC08/0013	Personal Budgets and older people	44
12/IEC08/0014	ASSET	42
12/IEC08/0015	(duplicate) Do learning disabilities services have an "underlife"?	28
12/IEC08/0016	Domestic Violence and Women with Learning Disabilities	30
12/IEC08/0017	Participatory Video (PV) in Social Care for People with Dementia (1)	27

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12/IEC08/0018	Prevention of challenging behaviour Version 1	26
12/IEC08/0019	Conversational agent memory aid for memory impairment	23
12/IEC08/0020	Effective responses to trauma and abuse	24
12/IEC08/0021	Relocation, portability and practice #1	21
12/IEC08/0022	Family Happiness and Well-Being (FAB) Project	34
12/IEC08/0023	PQ learning for social workers and the quality of service delivery	24
12/IEC08/0024	Process evaluation for the Right to Control Trailblazers (wave 2)	24
12/IEC08/0025	The role of Assistive Technology for ADLs used by people with dementia	55
12/IEC08/0026	The economic implications of social care interventions (v1)	20
12/IEC08/0027	E-inclusion of Older People	26
12/IEC08/0028	Domestic violence and women with learning disabilities	27
12/IEC08/0029	Overcoming barriers: unpaid care and employment in England, version 1	45
12/IEC08/0030	Use of quality information in decision making about services	21
12/IEC08/0031	Outcomes, processes and costs of Shared Lives: Stage 1	20
12/IEC08/0032	Health welfare & social needs of UK veterans who are visually impaired	51
12/IEC08/0033	Research into adults who self-fund their own care and support workers	14
12/IEC08/0034	Participatory Video (PV) in social care for people with dementia (2)	42
12/IEC08/0035	Exploring Inter Agency Child Protection Referrals v1	18
12/IEC08/0036	Outcomes, processes and costs of Shared Lives: Stages 2 and 3	17
12/IEC08/0037	Adult Social Care Survey 2012/13	40
12/IEC08/0038	Dementia and dress	65*
12/IEC08/0039	NDTi Research into Cost Effectiveness of Employment Support	34
12/IEC08/0040	Dementia and sight loss: developing social care practice	34
12/IEC08/0041	Men Living with Long Term Conditions (v1)	47
12/IEC08/0042	Here to Stay Stage2	42
12/IEC08/0043	Taking On and Taking Over v1	27
12/IEC08/0044	What Makes Communities More Welcoming for Adults with ID/DD?	26



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12/IEC08/0045	OxPUP:Pre-Birth Assessment, Version 1	42
12/IEC08/0046	Life Story Work in Dementia Care	28
12/IEC08/0047	Music Therapy with Young Adults with Autism	25
12/IEC08/0048	Why do some women make birth choices 'outside the system'?	34
12/IEC08/0049	Identifying the Impact of Adult Social Care (IIASC) - Stage Two	16
12/IEC08/0050	The use of touchscreen technology in dementia care	18
12/IEC08/0051	ASCOT Feedback Intervention Study (AFIS)	41
12/IEC08/0052	(duplicate) Social Work Decision Making with Vulnerable Adults	15
12/IEC08/0053	Pilot of a new electronic nutrition screening tool for adults with LD	37
12/IEC08/0054	Objects, Reminiscing, Dance-Movement Psychotherapy, Dementia Clients	15
12/IEC08/0055	Care Leavers' Stories	17
12/IEC08/0056	Impact of disruptions to eating on spousal relationships	17
12/IEC08/0058	Social Work Working For Families Evaluation, Version 1	46
12/IEC08/0059	Evaluating and Validating the Disability Distress Assessment Tool	23
13/IEC08/0001	Evaluation of Person Centred Change Programme	22
13/IEC08/0002	Occupational Therapy in Homecare Re-ablement Services	25
13/IEC08/0003	An exploration of communication processes between staff and minorities	25
13/IEC08/0004	Vision Rehabilitation Services	27
13/IEC08/0005	Care Leavers' Stories	21
13/IEC08/0006	Discourses of connectedness between inpatient staff and service-users	18
13/IEC08/0007	The use of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards in learning disabilities	25
13/IEC08/0008	Rebuilding Lives study version 1	21

<sup>+</sup>This is calculated from receipt of a valid application to confirmation of the final opinion.

\* This study was unfortunately delayed because the Social Care REC cannot meet in August.