Transferring knowledge, transforming practice

SCIE annual review 2006/07

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) was established by Government in 2001 to improve social care services for adults and children in the United Kingdom. We achieve this by identifying good practice and helping to embed it in everyday social care provision.

SCIE works to:

- disseminate knowledge-based good practice guidance

- involve service users, carers, practitioners, providers and policy makers in advancing and promoting good practice in social care

- enhance the skills and professionalism of social care workers through our tailored, targeted and user-friendly resources.

Contents

Introduction

Reliable knowledge is the basis for all effective decisions. Without it, good judgements cannot be made. The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) exists to identify and transfer knowledge about what works in social care right across the sector – to people who use services, their families and carers, managers, commissioners, frontline workers and policy makers. Our work covers the whole spectrum of children's and adults' social care.

2006/07 was a time to consolidate SCIE's position as an authoritative source of knowledge on social care good practice, as well as time to look forward to a new direction for the organisation.

SCIE needs to move forward to meet new demands and requirements in an ever-changing landscape. For SCIE, this process of development can only succeed if we listen to our stakeholders. We have put in place a range of listening exercises to discover what you want from SCIE. We carried out an impact survey, focusing on how our resources are used by stakeholders, and whether the quality is both good and accessible. SCIE's products are generally well received and we aim to build on this in the future.

We have strengthened our partnerships with leading health and social care organisations such as the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) and the Department of Health in order to produce guidance on critical issues such as dementia, parenting, recovery in mental health and dignity in care. Our work continues in Wales, and we assisted the Northern Ireland Clinical and Social Care Governance Support Team to produce its social care governance practice workbook.

This year SCIE also worked closely with the magazine *Community care* to produce weekly updates about evidence-based practice. Covering both adults' and children's social care, the articles help SCIE to extend its reach, delivering bite-sized good practice information straight into the hands of frontline workers, managers, commissioners and policy makers.

SCIE hosted its fourth national conference in Birmingham, focusing mainly on carers, participation and people management issues. A successful event, with delegates coming from around the country, it included a diverse range of speakers and workshops that challenged, informed and educated.

785,000 people visited the SCIE website – up **45**% on 2005/06.

The social care sector is continually improving and SCIE must be able to improve with it. We are prioritising the major policy issues such as personalisation of services, removing the stigma of mental illness, dignity in care, and listening to the carer voice. SCIE continues to work on children's issues, focusing particularly on social inclusion and transition from children's to adults' services.

We thank our sponsors, partners, Board and staff for their ongoing support and commitment, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Bill Kilgallon, who retired in March. Chief Executive for four years, Bill led SCIE through major years of development. His dedication and passion were without question and we look forward to continuing his good work and taking SCIE forward into 2007/08 and beyond.

Allan Bowman
Chair

Julie Jones OBE
Chief Executive

'The social care sector is continually improving and SCIE must be able to improve with it. We are prioritising the major policy issues such as personalisation of services, removing the stigma of mental illness, dignity in care, and listening to the carer voice.'

From participation to personalisation

SCIE welcomes the Government's renewed focus on the personalisation of social care. We have always been committed to putting people who use care services at the heart of care and enabling them to become participants in the design and delivery of a coordinated care system.

The increased use of direct payments and the development of individual budgets represent the greatest revolution in social care in decades. SCIE has followed up its earlier guidance on direct payments, with a research briefing on how individual budgets have been implemented overseas. The briefing, which has been well received, has helped to inform the individual budget pilots being held across the country.

We have also published an extensive online guide to involving adults – including older people – in developing social care. The guide focuses on how practitioners and managers can initiate and sustain participation in ways that empower service users and reflect a shared commitment

Image: careimages.com

to developing social care services in a more democratic way. We propose that organisations adopt a whole-systems approach to developing participation. Our current work programme includes a review of how to ensure that seldom-heard service users have a voice in service delivery and development.

We aim to lead by example when it comes to genuine participation. Our Partners' Council – the stakeholder group that advises SCIE on its work programme and activities – includes extensive representation from service users of all backgrounds. To improve its effectiveness, we are refreshing the membership of the council to ensure it fully represents the range of SCIE's stakeholders, and we are looking to improve communication channels between the council and SCIE.

To encourage more people to talk to us, SCIE has commissioned Milton Keynes Citizens Advice Bureau to provide a free and confidential helpline for service users working with SCIE, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, the General Social Care Council, and Skills for Care.

'SCIE's guide to involving children is a valuable practical resource for practitioners.'

Listening to stakeholders

Matthew Taylor Training Officer, Voices from Care Cymru and member of SCIE Partners' Council

'Voices from Care Cymru brings together young people throughout Wales who are or have been looked after by local authorities, voluntary or private organisations. The Partners' Council, like a lot of other SCIE initiatives, provides a forum for sharing of practice experience and exchanging good practice ideas that can improve outcomes for people who use services.

It is very important for national and cross-sector organisations such as SCIE to have advisory bodies like the Partners' Council, which include representation from service users and service user-led organisations from across the three nations. People who currently use or have experience of using services are best placed to advise SCIE on its work programme.

With regard to children and young people, involvement brings about improved outcomes in terms of building resilience, feeling valued, respected and in control, thus making it a more positive experience for those concerned. SCIE's practice guide *Involving children and young people in developing social care* is a valuable practical resource for practitioners and also a positive step towards improving practice around participation for this often vulnerable and seldom-heard group.'

Dissecting diversity

The concept of diversity encompasses acceptance and respect. It means understanding that each individual is unique, and recognising our individual differences. SCIE asserts that in a diverse society like ours, homogenous care services fundamentally fail to understand this concept.

Informed by the discussion at a race equality seminar held by SCIE and by comments received, SCIE updated and re-published the *Race equality discussion papers* in 2006. The issues covered included diversity within organisations, the social care needs of refugees and asylum seekers, and direct payments for black and minority ethnic service users.

Participation within the black and minority ethnic service user community has diminished over the last 20 years, whereas it has increased in the wider service user
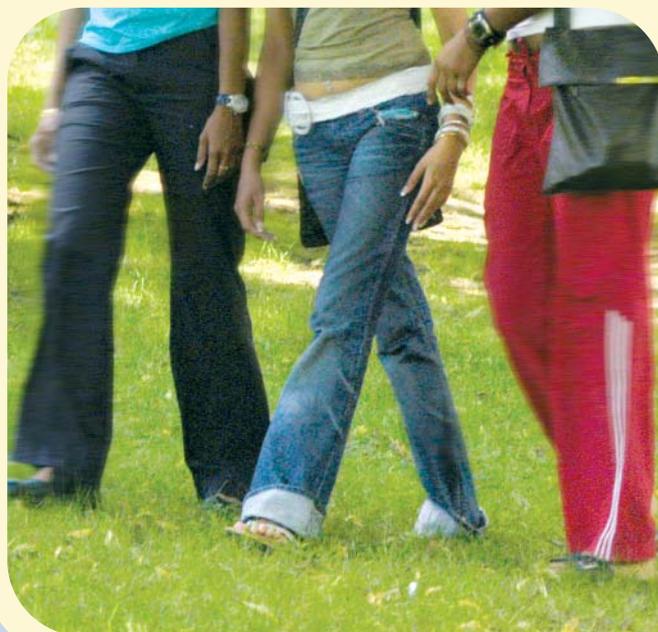
movement. SCIE looked into this disparity and concluded that given the right opportunities, support and resources, there is a genuine commitment and interest from service users to become more actively involved.

To ensure that issues of relevance or significance to black and minority ethnic groups and seldom-heard groups have been addressed by SCIE's work, we have reviewed our publications, resources and websites and prepared a brief synopsis of each product that includes black and minority ethnic content. Please look out for the signposts to this information on the SCIE website.

'SCIE's resources have particular impact on those learning to work in social care. I think the policy makers listen to SCIE '

Coherent information on race equality

Jabeer Butt, Deputy Director, Race Equality Foundation

'The Race Equality Foundation (REF) promotes race equality in social support and social care. SCIE helped to produce the race equality discussion papers with REF. The papers helped raise the issue of race equality in social care and start discussion in the area. This was important as progress in race equality had been limited since the 1990s. A lot of information was available, but this needed to be collated into a coherent, digestible form. In addition, people striving to achieve race equality in social care can find it difficult to locate the evidence that is pertinent to them.

SCIE, through its development of evidence-based practice, is selective and critical and offers those working in the sector options that they can choose from. It's not "one size fits all", but significant parts of it can be applied to practice according to individual circumstances.

SCIE's resources have particular impact on those learning to work in social care too. Students find much of the information accessible and indispensable. I think the policy makers listen to SCIE, too.'

Children's and families' services

SCIE is committed to working across children's, families' and adults' services. We are particularly interested in ensuring a safe transition from children's to adults' services, and supporting parents.

SCIE's current work on children's and families' services focuses on family support, safeguarding children and looked-after children. It looks at effective interventions, managing the boundaries between children's and families' and adults' services, organisational learning and risk management and seeks to address these barriers through the provision of materials to support good practice.

'SCIE offers quick and useful information on issues that are relevant to us.'

SCIE co-hosted the *Futures* event at Tate Britain with A National Voice, Barnardo's, the Prince's Trust and the National Leaving Care Advisory Service. The performances celebrated the achievements of young people in care and raised awareness of the issues they face. The highlight of the evening was a fashion show by A National Voice called *The refuse collection*. The show featured designs by young care leavers made from plastic bags in protest against the practice of using bin liners to move children's belongings.

SCIE is also working to assess the significant number of children who are affected by the loss of a parent or carer to prison. SCIE aims to illustrate how practice in this area of work can best meet the five outcomes of Every Child Matters: be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution; and achieve economic well-being.

Practical advice

Maxine Wrigley, Chief Executive, A National Voice

'A National Voice is an organisation run by and for care experienced young people. We are a small organisation and SCIE has been very supportive of our work. SCIE has supplied real hands-on assistance and helped to promote our *Futures* event for the last three years, and manages our *This is not a suitcase* website.

People working on the frontline in social care are very busy and often underskilled, and SCIE offers quick and useful information on issues that are relevant to us within the children's and families' sector. The regular email updates are a quick and easy way to keep up to date with SCIE's current work and I would recommend anyone to subscribe.

SCIE offers practical and valuable advice from the top down. We have learned considerably from its resources and toolkits and I have no hesitation in saying that SCIE is definitely my favourite organisation.'

We are also assessing the social care problems of children with complex health care needs such as disability, special educational needs and life-limiting or life-threatening conditions. The assessment is exploring how best to meet these requirements in ways that least disrupt the ordinary life of children and their families.

SCIE is working with its partners to offer service users as many opportunities to be heard as possible. Working with A National Voice, the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Rainer Foundation, SCIE is developing a training programme for young people. This aims to build their confidence and skills in working with social care providers to develop and improve services.

SCIE and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) partnership continues to bear fruit – most specifically within the area of parenting. Having jointly produced **Parent-training/education programmes in the management of children with conduct disorders**, we are continuing to work together on the guidance for these programmes, helping parents build their parenting skills and improve their relationship with their children.

'SCIE is working with its partners to offer service users as many opportunities to be heard as possible.'

Our new resource guide, *Working together to support disabled parents* draws on the experiences of parents, families and local agencies that have worked together to produce joint protocols for supporting parents with additional support needs.

It highlights the principles that underpin the development of good practice in the support of families affected by parental disability or ill health. A protocol has already been developed and is being used in Norfolk and Suffolk.

'90% of people in touch with SCIE use our products.'

SCIE Impact survey 2007

Supporting disabled parents

Simone Baker, Vice-Chair, Disabled Parents Network

'Disabled Parents Network (DPN) is a national organisation of, and for, disabled people who are parents or who hope to become parents, and their families, friends and supporters.

SCIE's *Support for disabled parents* publications contain the kind of information that should be read and absorbed by people who provide services for disabled parents. Little helpful information is out there and it isn't always accessible so these SCIE resources are particularly useful. There is a huge gap in knowledge and support material. As a disabled parent, I am able to use my own experiences to assist and empower people who face similar problems, but we need local authorities to understand the needs of disabled people who are also parents, too.

Training for statutory services personnel is vital if they are to understand the problems disabled parents face. They should talk to, and involve, disabled parents in putting together a disabled parents protocol and involve them in staff training. SCIE's work is more valid as they talked to disabled parents as part of their research, bringing in the user perspective. If local authorities want to gear services to the people who actually use them, this is what needs to – and should – happen.'

Improving care for adults

At SCIE, we focus on promoting practice that enhances people's independence and life opportunities – regardless of age, ability or background. That includes ensuring that social care workers, carers and people who use services have the knowledge required to deliver or demand a personalised service.

In the last year, we have developed guidance relating to older people, learning disabilities and mental health services in particular.

Ensuring the safety of people within their care is the top priority for care providers. Eliminating abusive or neglectful staff is absolutely essential. To assist managers with this process, SCIE produced a simple, step-by-step guide to making referrals to the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) list. The guide has been particularly popular with small- and medium-sized independent care providers who may lack the back-up systems of the large voluntary and statutory agencies.

Image: JohnBirdsall.co.uk

We also continued our work to implement the Carers Act 2004 by updating our practice guide. This is part of our ongoing commitment to the six million people in the UK who provide care for a relative, friend or neighbour in need of support on an unpaid basis.

'SCIE should be the first port of call for any social care practitioner or manager who wants to provide a service based on the best knowledge available.'

Richard Jones, Executive Director of Adult and Community Services, Lancashire County Council
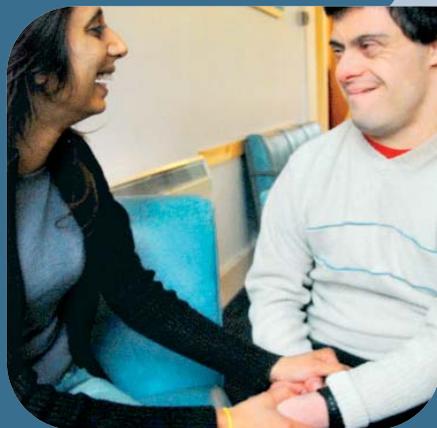
'SCIE's simple, step-by-step guide to making referrals to the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) list has been particularly popular with small- and medium-sized independent care providers.'

Dignity for older people

The number of people over pensionable age is projected to increase from nearly 11.4 million in 2006 to over 13.9 million by 2026. It is estimated that over a million people will be suffering from dementia. This demographic change creates new challenges for health and social care – and, of course, families.

SCIE has worked with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce dementia care guidelines for both health and social care services. The guidelines cover the identification, treatment and care of people with dementia and, crucially, the rights and needs of their carers and families. For the first time, health care and social care workers are now working with the same guidelines.

We all deserve to be treated with dignity – regardless of our age, health or housing arrangements. Our new guide *Dignity in care*, was produced as part of the Department of Health's wider dignity campaign. The guide provides examples of good practice and guidance on the practical changes care services can introduce to ensure the people they care for are treated with respect.

Older people are also more likely to experience events that affect their emotional well-being, such as bereavement or disability. *Assessing the mental health needs of older people* provides guidance on the specific mental health problems that older people may experience and advice on how to manage them.

A successful outcome for an older person receiving care may be very simple – the ability to remain in their own home, to continue to pursue their interests or to maintain a friendship. But not all services take this outcomes-focused approach. SCIE's latest research, *Outcomes-focused services for older people* includes a review of the outcomes valued by older people and the factors that support and inhibit achieving these outcomes.

'The generation that built this country has a right to expect services where personalisation, dignity and respect are not the latest buzzwords but a living, breathing reality.'

Ivan Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department of Health

Caring for carers

Mary Murrell, Volunteer Chair for Alzheimer's Society, Lewisham and Greenwich branch

'I was part of the dementia guidelines group as an independent carer representative. The NICE/SCIE dementia guidelines offer consistent support to those providing services to people with dementia, regardless of where they may be located. They also raise awareness of the major issues to those people who may not have come across dementia.

The guidelines have made responsible bodies understand that they need a united care protocol. There is fairly good support for people with dementia in some areas but the guidelines have crystallised the thinking.

Projects had been initiated before the guidelines were launched but the new information has helped to create a level of consistency and provided parameters.

It has been recognised that training needs to take place to ensure new practice adheres to the guidelines. This is regardless of whether they are part of the public, private or voluntary sectors.

SCIE is an organisation that is in prime position to look at the quality of social care.'

Sustaining mental health

The Office for National Statistics Psychiatric Morbidity report (2000) found that in any one year, one in four British adults experience at least one mental health disorder. Despite this, there is still a great deal of stigma attached to mental health problems, and to treatment.

'This report (Mtetezi) points to models which take a more sustainable, culturally sensitive and holistic approach.'

Dominic Makuvachuma-Walker, manager of the Catchafiya network of black and minority ethnic health services and carers

Early diagnosis can lead to effective, early intervention. That is why we have produced an interactive, e-learning resource on identifying mental health problems for frontline carers working with older people.

We have also worked in partnership with the Department of Health and the Welsh Assembly Government to publish five sets of training materials to support the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The Act works under the principle that a person must be assumed to have capacity unless it is established that they lack capacity. The materials are for use by frontline staff in settings ranging from people's own homes to acute hospitals. We are continuing to support this implementation into 2008.

Image: JohnBirdsall.co.uk

Following the extension of the Department of Health's Dignity in Care campaign to mental health services, we have updated our guide (see page 14) to include examples and practice points on how to provide services which respect the dignity of people with mental health problems.

African and Caribbean men are disproportionately represented in acute mental health services. Yet, according to our report *Mtetezi: Developing mental health advocacy with African and Caribbean men*, they receive very little support. The review, which was undertaken by a project team that included men who use mental health services, revealed that African and Caribbean men look to their own community groups for support, rather than mainstream mental health advocacy services. The review will shortly be followed by a resource guide for advocacy services and mental health care providers.

Social care commissioners, managers and practitioners are sometimes unclear and unprepared to deal with the needs of refugees and asylum seekers. SCIE is working on a guide to working with refugee and asylum seekers with primary and secondary mental health needs.

A common purpose: Recovery in future mental health services is the result of a collaboration between the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP), Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) and SCIE. It is intended to make a positive and supportive contribution to the development of ideas, planning, service development and practice based on contemporary concepts of recovery.

We will be reviewing the literature and existing arrangements between child and adolescent and adult mental health services, and continuing the vital work of assisting implementation of the Mental Health Bill.

'SCIE's report highlights the important contribution that advocacy services can make in supporting African and Caribbean men to experience better, more positive outcomes from mental health services.'

Steve Shrubb, Director of the Mental Health Network at the NHS Confederation

Learning disabilities

There are over one million people with learning disabilities in the UK. Most of them know what support they need and value. In the last year we have produced five resources to enable people with learning disabilities, their families and care workers to support their independence.

Our practice guide, *Community-based activities and support for people with learning disabilities*, provides examples of good practice and practical hints and tips for, among others, planners, commissioners and care managers.

Supporting self-advocacy, which was developed in partnership with a group of people with learning disabilities, demonstrates how people with learning disabilities can act as their own advocates – with the right level of support.

SCIE has also produced the practice guides *Adult placements and person-centred approaches for people with learning disabilities* and *Improving outcomes for service users in adult placement – commissioning and care management*. Both offer practical and easy access to practice knowledge, as well as reinforcing the roles and responsibilities of those involved, from senior managers, care managers and adult placement schemes to ensure successful placements and improved outcomes for people.

We are working to produce a knowledge review that looks at commissioning, providing and regulating services for people with learning disabilities and complex needs or challenging behaviour. It will describe what information is available, highlight the evidence that has emerged and draw practice points from the evidence.

'I have been using SCIE's resources for several years. This has helped me to keep in touch with research and information on best practice and what's going on around the country.'

Informing commissioning

Philip Pragnell, Strategic Commissioning Manager (Learning Disability), East Sussex Adult Social Care

'I have been using SCIE's resources for several years. This has helped me to keep in touch with research and information on best practice and what's going on around the country. Among the resources I have found useful is *Having a good day: a study of community-based day activities for people with learning disabilities*.

This work has been particularly helpful during the development of a new joint commissioning strategy for people with learning disabilities. *Having a good day* provided a very helpful foundation on which to develop a clear vision for future day opportunities. It also provided some practical examples of supporting the difficult transition from traditional building-based services provision to services and supports that help people participate in their community.

The guide has a positive focus on making community involvement sustainable. It also educates those working in the "ordinary service world" on the benefits of including all members of the community, and making their services and activities open to everyone equally. The guide got staff thinking about the quality of services in terms of the service user's answer to the question "Have I had a good day?" In this respect, I think the guide has contributed to a changed mindset among our staff.'

Learning and developing

The social care workforce reports it is more ready to use electronic methods of learning than previously assumed, according to SCIE's new evidence. Historically, employers have been hesitant to adopt such methods, believing that their staff would not be receptive to it.

SCIE urges social care providers to have more faith in their workforce and encourage learning through creative and non-traditional methods such as e-learning. e-Learning is the use of information and communication technologies to support teaching and learning, such as CD-ROM, DVD, web pages, blogs, mobile phones or a combination of these.

SCIE's law and social work e-learning resources are freely available to all users. Through audio, video and interactive uses of technology, the resources bring key aspects of the law, as applied to social work practice, to life. *All In a day's work*, which is part of this series, was named Best e-Learning Resource 2007 by the Association of Learning Technology. SCIE has also produced a series entitled *An introduction to the mental health of older people* and is currently working on a series on poverty and social exclusion.

SCIE's *All in a day's work* was named Best e-Learning Resource 2007 by the Association of Learning Technology.

SCIE is committed to producing effective and accessible resources for those working and training in the social care sector. Our social work student campaign, which provided all first-year degree students with a memory stick containing a range of free SCIE resources, attracted over 10,000 students to our website. The campaign is an investment in the future managers of social care and seeks to encourage students to take an evidence-based approach to their study and practice.

There was a **53**% increase in media coverage of SCIE's work in 2006/07.

Building confidence through e-learning

Karen Burrell, second-year social work degree student, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge

'SCIE's e-learning resources, its guide *Learning, teaching and assessment of law in social work*, and its website have clearly been written by someone who understands the sector and the issues faced by students and practitioners alike. This builds students' confidence through interactive activities, using different formats and scenarios to help put learned theory into practice. Lecturers should point students to SCIE's website a little more so that students can get the maximum benefit from what's available.

SCIE's e-learning resources and website pull together the information needed for revision and more to make all the pieces of the jigsaw fit together. SCIE and its resources provide a platform for updating knowledge and signposting to good practice information. I would certainly recommend it to other students and practitioners and wish that I had known about it earlier in my degree.'

Managing people, developing leaders

A knowledgeable, skilled and well-managed workforce, ultimately results in an improved experience for service users. SCIE's people management programme aims to build the management and leadership skills of the sector.

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In the last year alone we have expanded and reinvigorated our People Management Network – an online community of managers working in social care. Membership has increased sixfold in the last 18 months – we now have over 1,230 members. The network is particularly popular among independent
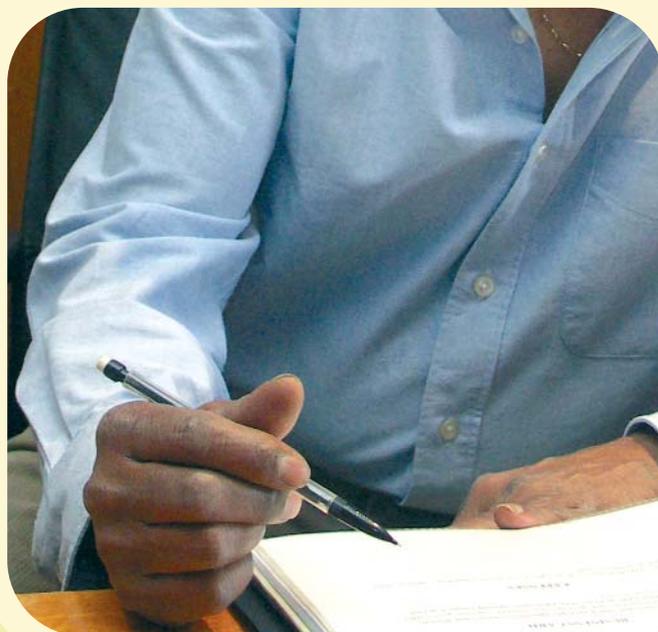
sector providers who may have limited access to human resource expertise. We have redesigned the People Management website and introduced new features such as a rating and comment facility to help other users assess the quality of the resources.

This year also saw the graduation of the first 14 students from the Social Care Leadership Development Programme. The programme, jointly delivered by University of Birmingham, the King's Fund and the Tavistock, builds the leadership skills of senior managers in both adults', and children's and families' social care services in England.

'SCIE is an excellent organisation that is proactively trying to influence change and ensure that change comes about within social care.'

Bhaggie Patel, Phoenix Project Manager, Barnardo's

Quality of social care

Martin Green, Chief Executive, English Community Care Association

'English Community Care Association (ECCA), a registered charity, is the leading representative body for independent care homes and speaks with a unified voice both for its members and community care sector as a whole.

Independent care homes play a vital role in providing high-quality care for vulnerable people. Independent providers can take advantage of SCIE's practical tools and resources to help them deliver a high quality of service.

SCIE's People Management website and audit tool enable organisations to review, monitor and update their procedures and processes. The website is practical, very easy to use and contains a wealth of information for busy home managers. It is a great reference and evaluation tool and it helps to define good practice and as it is interactive, it offers tailored, personalised support.

SCIE is a vital source of information, advice and good practice examples for social care providers and is an essential resource for any independent sector organisation hoping to develop its staff and improve the quality of its services.'

Image: careimages.com

SCIE has also continued to support the Social Care Futures Programme for black and minority ethnic managers in social care, education, housing and health. This programme is run by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA).

Over **7,400** people were registered for SCIE email alerts in August 2007.
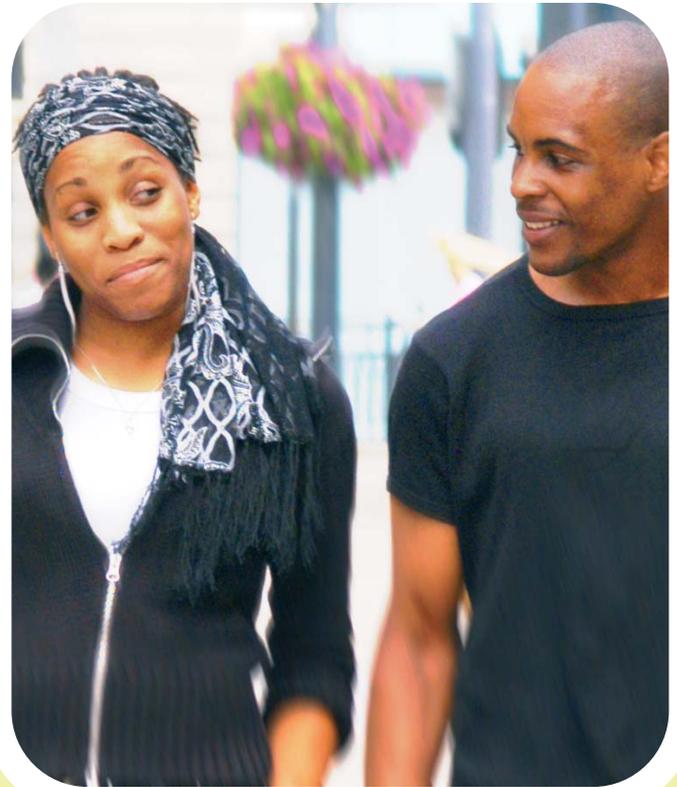
And of course, SCIE works across the whole of the UK. Produced by the Northern Ireland Clinical and Social Care Governance Support Team, with support from SCIE, *Social care governance: a practice workbook* shows how social care governance is made up of many of social care's core activities, familiar to practitioners. We believe that it will be of great interest and help to social care and health organisations in England and Wales as they begin to follow Northern Ireland's lead in developing social care governance.

'SCIE is the only organisation that I am aware of globally where the government funds an organisation that pays attention to transferring research into practice.'

Professor Mike Austin, University of California, Berkeley, and Staff Director of the Bay Area Social Services Consortium

Demystifying governance

Lorraine Simmons, Programme Manager, Social Care Northern Ireland Clinical and Social Care Governance Support Team

'Northern Ireland is unique in that there is a statutory duty to monitor the quality of social care as well as health care. The Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) Northern Ireland identified the need to support frontline staff and line managers in understanding social care governance and their role in its implementation. To take this work forward, the Northern Ireland Clinical and Social Care Governance Support Team went into partnership with SCIE with the aim of developing a workbook. It aims to demystify social care governance by asking questions which would allow staff to reflect on their progress towards implementing social care governance and to prioritise areas for development.

We made contact with SCIE early on in the work. We saw the organisation as the most appropriate partner to help us with the identification of the knowledge base around social care governance. SCIE carried out a very thorough review and discovered that, although there was plenty of existing knowledge about clinical governance, there was very little about social care governance, so our work is developmental in this field.'

Building knowledge

According to our communications audit, our stakeholders value SCIE's rigorous approach to building the knowledge base. It lends credibility to our guidance, which is based on this knowledge.

We aim to:

- **produce high-quality guidance, based on credible evidence**
- **help to build the social care research capacity**
- **encourage a knowledge-based approach to commissioning, planning and delivering care services.**

Maintaining SCIE's commitment to producing rigorous and high-quality products, we have adopted an approach called systematic mapping.

SCIE's first systematic map report looked into the extent and impact of parental mental health problems on families and the acceptability, accessibility and effectiveness of interventions.

SCIE was asked by the four central governments of the UK, and the Economic and Social Research Council, to conduct a UK-wide consultation on how to increase social care research capacity.
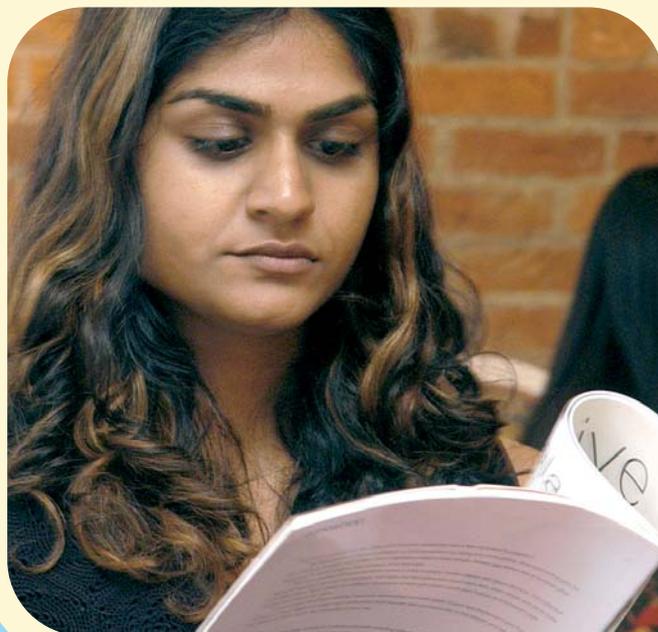
SCIE's Research Register for Social Care (RRSC) records social care research that has been subject to independent ethical and scientific review. This includes ongoing and completed research, and research carried out by students and practitioners.

SCIE has also proposed a framework for assessing the nature and quality of social work research in universities in the UK, offering a reference point for building research capacity in social work.

Social Care Online, SCIE's free online database of social care information now contains over 100,000 records. Improvements to the design have expanded search options and made the site even more accessible.

SCIE continues to produce research briefings which are concise summaries of the research knowledge in a particular topic and which signpost routes to further information. Keele University, co-producer with SCIE, is running a series of academic seminars around dissemination of social care research called Making Research Count, using the briefings as the bases of discussion.

Inclusive research

Heather Straughan, Research Fellow, University of Hertfordshire

'I like the fact that SCIE's approach involves a lot of inclusion. People are encouraged to give feedback and it is taken on board.

I thought the systematic map *The recovery approach in community-based vocational and training adult mental health day services* was an excellent piece of work. It clearly shows the very detailed and methodical research processes undertaken by SCIE and demonstrates the quality of the organisation's work.

SCIE's joint position paper *A common purpose: Recovery in future mental health services*, is also an important piece of work. There is a real need to get this quality work across to a wider population.

I also attended SCIE's Social Care Leadership Development Programme last year, which I thought was very good. Many of the people on the course were working at a high level – there were a number of chief executives and other senior leaders there – and I'm sure they would have a big impact when they went back to their organisations because of what they learned on the course.'

SCIE management and trustees

SCIE is managed by a team of executives and governed by a board of 14 trustees who guide its work and ensure its independence.

Executive management team

Julie Jones OBE
Chief Executive
(from July 2007)

Bill Kilgallon OBE
Chief Executive
(to April 2007)

Amanda Edwards
Head of Knowledge Services
(Interim Chief Executive from April to July 2007)

Stephen Goulder
Head of Corporate Services
(from January 2007)

Trustees

Allan Bowman – Chair of the Board
Allan is a former social worker and was Director of Social Services in Fife, and Brighton and Hove. Allan was Head of Programmes with the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit at the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Ziggi Alexander CBE
An independent management consultant, Ziggi has worked with a number of organisations in the health and social care field. She is a Board member of Nestor Healthcare plc.

Nadra Ahmed OBE
Nadra is Chair of the National Care Homes Association and is also on the Board at Skills for Care. She has 24 years of social care experience, particularly in the private sector where she has developed, planned and opened care homes.

Shokat Babul
Nominated to the Board by the Welsh Assembly Government, Shokat is Chief Executive of Plasgeller Nursing Homes and is Chair of Care Forum Wales.

Professor Peter Beresford OBE
Peter is Professor of Social Policy and Director of the Centre for Citizen Participation at Brunel University. He is Chair of the national user-controlled organisation, Shaping Our Lives.

John Fenton
Nominated to the Board by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland, John is Principal Social Worker (Children's Services) at the Northern Health and Social Services Board.

Professor Jon Glasby
Jon is Professor of Health and Social Care at the Health Services Management Centre, University of Birmingham and Director of Academic Programmes at Birmingham's School of Public Policy. A qualified social worker by background, he leads a national programme of research, teaching, policy advice and consultancy around adult health and social care.

Ann Macfarlane MBE
Ann is a leading disability rights and equalities consultant, focusing on health and social care as it affects older people. She specialises in independent living and direct payments and has been involved in the disabled people's movement in the UK for many years.

Jo Munyard
Jo is a frontline social care worker with 11 years' experience in areas such as mental health, domiciliary care, fostering, domestic violence and learning disabilities.

Andy Nash
Andy is working for the Care Services Improvement Partnership on the DH Regional Presence Programme.

Jenny Owen
Jenny is Director for Adult Social Care at Essex County Council. She has 26 years' experience in the field of social services, 17 in local government and nine years as a senior civil servant at the Department of Health.

Owen Stott
Owen has experience of using social work services in two different areas of the UK. He is keen to use his experiences to inform SCIE's work and is particularly interested in developing standardised measures of good social care practice. Aged 20, Owen is the youngest member of SCIE's board.

Terry Philpot
Terry is a writer and journalist on social policy and was formerly editor of *Community care* magazine. He is a trustee of Rainer and the Centre for Policy on Ageing, and is editorial consultant on *YoungMinds* magazine.

Gail Tucker
Gail runs her own independent social work consultancy and is Co-chair of the British Association of Social Workers' Independents' Forum.

SCIE promises to:

- have a service user focus
- be independent in our research and findings
- promote empowerment and change
- be committed to equality and diversity
- be transparent
- be accessible in all our work
- be accountable to our stakeholders.

To keep up with SCIE's activities and services, register for email updates at **www.scie.org.uk**

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