

NHS SERVICE DELIVERY AND ORGANISATION R & D PROGRAMME

Programme of Research on Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Service Delivery and Organisation

NM2: Review of the literature: User Involvement in Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Research.

The SDO Programme is inviting proposals to review the literature on models of user involvement and participation in nursing, midwifery and health visiting research.

Introduction

The Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Service Delivery and Organisation (NMHVSDO) Commissioning Group was established in April 2002 with a specific stream of funding to support research into the SDO aspects of nursing, midwifery and health visiting services. It is intended to build synergy with research already commissioned and planned under the remainder of the SDO Programme. As with the other SDO Programme commissioning groups, the NMHVSDO Commissioning Group draws its representation from policy, practice, and patient communities as well as researchers. The NMHVSDO Commissioning Group commissioned a prioritisation process (scoping exercise) to identify topics and themes for research. This scoping exercise identified the following five themed areas for research: appropriate, timely and effective interventions; individualised services; continuity of care; staff capacity and quality of care (Ross et al, 2002). Further details of the report are available from the SDO Programme's website at www.sdo.lshtm.ac.uk.

Scope of the review

A further workshop refined the priority areas into a series of research questions of which one is contained in the brief below. As part of that process a scoping exercise on user involvement in research into the delivery of nursing, midwifery care and health visiting is required. Applicants should familiarise themselves with relevant work in the field. The NCCSDO commissioned a scoping report from a team of researchers at the University of Sheffield to understand the extent and quality of existing research in this area. The scoping exercise was designed to advise both the SDO Programme and the Methodology R&D Programme what further R&D should be commissioned. The report found that a significant proportion of research eliciting users' views is poorly conducted. Their recommendations included the need to develop guidance for researchers undertaking SDO research on 'good practice' in eliciting users' views. Potential applicants are advised to read the executive summary of the scoping report and final report on eliciting users' views, and details of our current commissioning programme, both of which can be found at www.sdo.lshtm.ac.uk.

The NMHVSDO Commissioning Group wishes to commission a literature review which will develop a typology of involvement based on different degrees and levels of involvement.

One of the key aims of this strand of work is to ensure that our outputs are of direct value to those working in health services. We therefore want to ensure that the literature reviews we commission do not just critically document the problems associated with user involvement and participation in research, they should also include evidence for actions and interventions which can develop capacity and skills to strengthen user participation in nursing, midwifery and health visiting research.

The review should include three sections, as follows:

- i) the extent of problems and barriers to user involvement in nursing and midwifery research
- ii) evidence of specific, practical, effective interventions, which are available to improve such involvement
- iii) identification of a typology of degrees and levels of involvement

Applicants will need to be able to demonstrate clear conceptual frameworks to consider the issue of user involvement. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate that they are able to draw on a broad range of both evidence and theory. The review should, where appropriate, encompass other types of service organisation. Relevant research may include studies from both the public and private sectors, from voluntary and social services, education and from any country. Such research should, however, be relevant within the context of involvement of users in the research process in the NHS, and this relevance should be made explicit.

Content of the review

The aim of this literature review is to inform the SDO Programme about the extent of theory and evidence in relation to the issue of user involvement and participation in nursing and midwifery research, to provide substantive knowledge which can be directly disseminated within the UK and to advise on further R&D which may be of value in this area.

Reviews should include the following elements:

- A comprehensive review of the available published and grey research literature, including relevant evidence from the United Kingdom and other countries, and from a broad range of service organisations, on user involvement in nursing and midwifery research.

- The literature on theory and evidence should be presented where appropriate, and an analysis of the strength of the relationship between the two provided.
- The review should be sufficiently comprehensive and rigorous to be able to identify the significant research that has been carried out. We are particularly interested that both gaps in the field and relevant methodological issues should be highlighted, so that they can be considered in future commissioning plans by the SDO Programme.
- Consultation with relevant service user and carer advocacy groups should be undertaken to support the identification of appropriate literature and evidence. Researchers may also wish to consult with private and voluntary sector service providers and other researchers with an interest in this area.
- Reviews must be directly policy-relevant. The current policy context of the NHS in England should be made explicit. This will include reference to the full range of health-related initiatives and developments that have been launched in recent years, which will include the NHS Plan and the work of the NHS Modernisation Agency.
- Applicants should familiarise themselves with relevant work in the field such as that undertaken by the Consumers in R&D Programme and the research into Eliciting Users' Views covered in SDO19/2002 (see www.sdo.lshtm.ac.uk/researchmethods.htm) for a lay summary to avoid duplication.

Methods

Applicants should clearly outline their proposed methods for the review of the literature. The following areas should be covered:

- Methods for identifying relevant published and grey literature. It is expected that applicants will plan to use a variety of methods including the research team's prior knowledge; search of electronic databases; and advice from key researchers and practitioners in the field.
- Methods for judging the quality of the literature available and for summarising the results should also be made explicit.
- Methods for identifying relevant service user and carer advocacy groups.
- Methods for consulting bodies at national and local level which have an interest in user and carer issues in relation to research.

- Applicants should demonstrate that they have assembled a team of researchers whose knowledge and skills are sufficiently broad to deal with the variety of topic areas, population groups, disciplines and methodologies that will need to be considered.

Outputs

The principal output of the literature reviews will be a detailed report that should:

- contain a short and coherent executive summary;
- critically describe the methods used and the available literature;
- provide an authoritative, thorough and substantive analysis of the available literature and its implications;
- provide rigorous and detailed conclusions about what is currently known and the strength of the evidence on which this is based;
- clearly identify areas for further research and how they might be addressed. This could include both further reviews of the literature and/or primary research; and
- contain a commentary which indicates how the findings are relevant to current policy and practice in the NHS.

Findings will need to be presented both in an academic format and in a way that will be helpful to other end-users, particularly those with responsibility for increasing access to health care. The audience will include those with responsibilities for implementing the NHS Plan, and those with direct clinical and clinical governance responsibilities.

The final research report will also be used to inform the SDO Programme Board on the approaches to take when commissioning further substantive research in this area, if appropriate. The successful applicants may be required to present their completed work to the NMHVSDO sub-group.

Guidance Notes for submitting a proposal: A Review of the Literature

Applications will be considered in a single stage process. Applicants should therefore submit full proposals by **1pm on July 9th 2003** to:

Daniel Burt
Commissioning Manager
National Co-ordinating Centre for NHS Service Delivery and Organisation R&D
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

99 Gower Street
London WC1E 6AZ

No late applications will be considered. Please note we will not accept electronic submissions, faxed or hand written proposals.

Twenty hard copies of the proposals should be submitted (minimum font 10pt), including:

1. Cover sheet - (Stating the title of project, reference number of the advertisement, names and contact details of the lead researcher and all other applicants).
2. Literature review proposal - (Maximum of five sides of A4 paper, stating the aims and objectives, background, methods and project timetable. Proposal that exceed this page limit will be automatically rejected).
3. CVs - (Brief CV of each applicant, stating relevant knowledge and experience to undertake the work).
4. Costing - (Complete with staff inputs, (including the costs of a co-ordinating managerial role where appropriate) equipment, consumables, travel and overheads. It is the NCCSDO policy to pay overheads at a maximum of 40%, in line with the Department of Health guidelines).

The budget for these literature reviews is expected to be up to **£80,000**.

Projects should start no later than **October 2003** and must be completed within 12 months.

We anticipate that there will be informal discussions with NCCSDO during the period in which the report is prepared to clarify issues as they arise.

Please clearly label the outside of the envelope in which you submit your proposal with the following: '**Tender documents**'. This will enable us to identify proposals and keep them aside so that they may all be opened together after the closing date and time.

Teams should ensure that their proposal complies with the Research Governance Framework which can be found on the Department of Health's website, or via a link on the SDO website under the 'Call for Proposals' page.

Applicants should visit the SDO website : <http://www.sdo.lshtm.ac.uk> to familiarise themselves with the work of the SDO Programme in general and with previous literature reviews in other topic areas.

Addendum

This document was published by the National Coordinating Centre for the Service Delivery and Organisation (NCCSDO) research programme, managed by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

The management of the Service Delivery and Organisation (SDO) programme has now transferred to the National Institute for Health Research Evaluations, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC) based at the University of Southampton. Prior to April 2009, NETSCC had no involvement in the commissioning or production of this document and therefore we may not be able to comment on the background or technical detail of this document. Should you have any queries please contact sdo@southampton.ac.uk.