# Resource Allocation at the Micro Level in Adult Social Care: Determinants, Methods and Guidance

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## BACKGROUND

The Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) at the University of Manchester has been commissioned to develop guidance relating to resource allocation systems in adult social care in England. It will focus on services provided for adults and in particular older people and those with a learning disability.

This study will be conducted in partnership with FACE Recording and Measurement Systems Limited who have developed a standardised tool for use in needs assessment and resource allocation. Additionally it will be characterised by high stakeholder involvement with representation from: local authorities, service user groups and other interested citizens.

## PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The study will produce guidance to inform the resource allocation process in respect of individual service users. Both the guidance and its implications for practice will have a utility for a number of key actors in social care services: commissioners and providers as well as managers and practitioners.

## DESIGN

A five stage mixed methods approach will be employed. In the first, a purposive literature review to collate the existing evidence of resource allocation approaches will be undertaken. Second, a systematic analysis of documentation used by local authorities to determine the level of resources to which an individual is entitled will be conducted. Third, an analysis of routine FACE data from a sample of local authorities will be undertaken to explore the determinants of resource allocation. Fourth, consultations will be held with senior local authority managers and those with an interest in or experience of services to explore their perceptions of important factors in resource allocation in adult social care. Findings from this will be used to create a number of statistical models to explore the influence of different stakeholder views on resource allocation. Fifth, evidence based guidance will be produced.

## DISSEMINATION

The production of guidelines to inform the development of resource allocation systems in adult social care will be the primary output of this study. It is intended that this advice be freely available in electronic and paper formats. Additionally, there will be a report of the study, the production of articles for peer reviewed journals and feedback for research participants in the form of a brief research summary.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

This work is being undertaken by David Challis, Paul Clarkson, Sue Davies, Jane Hughes, Karen Stewart, Chengqiu Xie within the PSSRU and Paul Clifford of FACE. For further information please contact Jane Hughes (email: Jane.Hughes@manchester.ac.uk, telephone: 0161 275 5229).
The Personal Social Services Research Unit was established in 1974 and now has branches at three UK universities: the University of Kent, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the University of Manchester. Its mission is to conduct high quality research on social and health care to inform and influence policy, practice and theory.

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