

The Economic Consequences of Community Capacity-building Projects

- NIHR School for Social Care Research (SSCR) funded project
- Lasts for 15 months (June 2012 – August 2013)
- Martin Knapp, Annette Bauer and Margaret Perkins

Building Community Capacity: the economic consequences....*Why?*

- Policy emphasis on promotion of people's wellbeing and active communities (White Paper, July 2012; DH, 2010)
- Increasing interest in gathering evidence on effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of community capacity-building projects
- Can such projects alleviate pressure on *adult* social care budgets; inform resource allocation
- Need is for more robust evidence; focus to date largely on collecting output data rather than outcome data

.... *Aims and Approach*

- Capacity of projects as major restriction for the research
- Essential to work with projects from the bottom-up
- Involving a range of stakeholders including the beneficiaries of the projects
- Currently involved with 7 projects - e.g. befriending; time banks; community navigators; health champions

....*Research Steps*

.... **done**

1. Initial interviews with programme/ project leads

Project aims and attributes, delivery approach, contextual factors, motivation and capacity for research

2. Evidence assessments (on-going)

Outcome (measures), effect sizes, pathways, cost consequences

3. Workshops with project stakeholders

Discussion and agreement of outcome dimensions (and pathways), scope of data collection

4. Developing data collection framework and tools

Tools, interview/survey method, sample size, etc.

....Research Steps

.... in process

5. Agreement of data collection and data entry process

.... and planned

6. Outcomes and resources data analysis

7. Budget data and (retrospective) cost diaries

8. Modelling and final analysis

....Data Collection

Tools

Service use questionnaire, EQ-5D, WEMWBS, ASCOT,
Short volunteer questionnaire

Method

Postal surveys, telephone interviews, mix

Sample size

From anything between 20 and 700 (...)

Comparison

One person before/after, new vs. existing service users,
Change over 4 to 6 months after entry in project

...Planned contribution

- (Cost-)effectiveness of projects
- Associated potential cost savings
- Some trend information: which model work best/ which groups of people benefit the most
- Data collection capacity of projects

...Challenges & Limitations

- Selection bias
- Counterfactual
- Negative consequences
- Attribution problem

Future Research

To explore conditions under which projects are successful and can be scaled up

References

Knapp M, Bauer A, Perkins MA, Snell TR (In press), Building community capital in social care: is there an economic case, Community Development Journal

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