

Briefing:

The Research Advisory Group

Turning Point's Centre of Excellence has set up a Research Advisory Group to oversee its research and evaluation activities, in particular in meeting its objective to develop a robust methodology for developing Connected Care audits and Connected Care services.

Specifically, the purpose of the Research Advisory Group is to:

- Promote evidence-based best practices for community involvement, cost benefit analysis and community led commissioning
- Review the literature on community engagement models, peer review research reports and papers, and to disseminate research findings
- Advise on the development of Connected Care methodologies and approaches to involving communities, cost benefit analysis, and evaluation.

The members of the group are respected academics in the areas of participatory/community action research and cost benefit analysis.

Professor Gerald Wistow is a Visiting Professor in Social Policy at the London School of Economics and the University of Durham. He was previously Professor of Health and Social Care and Director of the Nuffield Institute for Health at the University of Leeds. He has also served as Vice Chair of a Mental Health Trust, Chair of a PCT and, for ten years, as a Specialist Adviser to the House of Commons Health Committee.

He is currently the academic adviser to the Department of Health individual budgets pilot programme and engaged in a number of research projects focussed on commissioning 'care closer to home'. He is one of the originators of the Hartlepool Connected Care national pilot and chairs its steering group. The project has recently received one of the first Social Enterprise Pathfinder awards. Other members include:

Professor Peter Beresford is Professor of Social Policy at Brunel University. He currently holds a number of posts including Director of the Centre for Citizen Participation, Chair of Shaping our Lives, Visiting Fellow at the School for Social Work and Psycho-social studies at the University of East Anglia, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He is also a Trustee of the Social Care Institute for Excellence.

Professor Beresford is widely recognised for his contribution to the field. In particular, Peter has taken a leading role in developing new directions in user engagement in research at a time when there is growing political and research interest in this issue. Peter has carried out major research projects in collaboration with

service user organisations to identify the factors which support peoples' successful involvement in participatory schemes and initiatives.

Dr José-Luis Fernández is Senior Research Fellow in the Personal Social Services Research Unit at the London School of Economics. His recent work focuses upon the analysis of the variability in local provision of social care services in England, its causes and consequences on local equity and efficiency. He has also carried out extensive microeconomic analysis of equity and efficiency in the allocation of social and health services, in particular concentrating on the development of methodologies for the estimation of the impact of services on the users' welfare. As part of this strand of analysis, José-Luis is collaborating in the evaluation of the national Individual Budgets pilots. Until recently, José-Luis was part of the Wanless Social Care review team, which analysed future funding requirements for long term care for older people in England.

Dr Gill Callaghan is Research Fellow in the School of Applied Social Sciences at Durham University. She completed her first degree in Sociology and Social Administration at Newcastle University and entered Durham University, a number of years later, as a Postgraduate student. She undertook MA and PhD work investigating the transitions to adulthood made by young people living in a de-industrialising city. Immediately following her first degree she qualified and worked for several years as a Probation Officer. She has subsequently worked as a lecturer at Sunderland University and as a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Leeds.

Dr Giovanna Speciale is a freelance community research consultant and community research trainer. Previously she worked as Community Research Officer for The Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector (ARVAC). Her role was to provide the training and facilitation to enable small community sector organisations to conduct their own pieces of community research. Within this role she provided training on all aspects of community research and has had an input into over 40 separate pieces of research working with a wide range of organisations and on a wide range of research topics.

Giovanna has a background in both the academic research and community and voluntary sector work. After completing a PhD (University of Wales) she worked within the voluntary sector both overseas in and in the UK managing projects in northern Ireland, Mongolia, and Brazil.

Professor Carole Truman is Professor of Health and Community Studies at the University of Bolton. Her expertise is in the area of applied social research methodology and, in particular, how this may be used in community based research in the policy areas of health and social care. She has a local, national and international reputation for her work in research training, user-involvement, research ethics, and participatory research and evaluation, and has been published widely.

Professor Truman has conducted research on topics as diverse as community safety, sexual health, community participation, mental health and exercise. In 2002, she was appointed as Visiting Professor in the School of Social Work and Family Studies at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. Since 2001, she holds a Ministerial Appointment as a Board Member of the National Probation Service for England and Wales in Greater Manchester. She is Deputy Chair of the Board of Directors of the charity Partners of Prisoners Family Support group.

Secretariat is provided by **Dr Jane Stafford**, Principal Research Adviser, Centre of Excellence. Jane's current role is to establish and lead Connected Care audits across England and to develop an evidence-based audit model.

Jane has carried out research at Master's and Doctoral levels, completing her Doctorate in social research in 2006. She was formerly based at the Tizard Centre, University of Kent. There she was involved in the design and implementation of a variety of research projects, including participatory research projects, involving people with a learning disability. Jane has also lectured at Diploma, Undergraduate and Post Graduate levels on topics, including Social Research Methods. Jane has worked within the social care field for the past twelve years, in a variety of roles including Care Manager, residential service manager and Community Services Project Manager.