

## **NIHR Health Service & Delivery Research Programme**

**Project title: Mobilising knowledge to improve UK health care: learning from other countries and other sectors**

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### **Summary**

A considerable amount of public money is spent on funding health research but there is a substantial gap between what we know at any one time and the services that patients receive. Some types of health research (e.g. on what medicines to use for a particular condition) are fairly easy to pull together in the form of guidelines to be issued by bodies like NICE (the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence), and the main challenge is then how to ensure that everyone follows them. For many other types of health research, it is much more difficult to summarise what the research says, what it means and how it applies in different circumstances and locations. Examples of this kind of research include research on how to make services safer for patients, research on how ideas that work well in one place can be spread to other health care organisations or research that explores how best to involve patients and the public in improving local health care.

The evidence we have suggests that in order for these kinds of research to have an impact on health services, we need to go about producing and sharing research in new ways. This approach is called several different things by different people but a helpful overall term is knowledge mobilisation. There are examples of these new knowledge mobilisation approaches being used in the UK and worldwide, in health care, social care and education, but it is difficult to get the most out of these examples because so far they have not been collated and analysed in any systematic way. This 18 month project will fill that gap.

We will use a combination of research methods: desk research, telephone and face to face interviews, a web-based survey and two interactive workshops (one early in the study, in month 6 and one towards the end, in month 16). We will look at the major examples of knowledge mobilisation approaches in the UK and worldwide in health care. We will also look at approaches in the UK in social care and education, because these fields share some of the same sorts of challenges as health care and share a similar national context. We will find out what approaches are being used, why their promoters expect them to be effective, what evidence there is for them and what we can learn from them about challenges and pitfalls. Throughout the project we will work closely with key people and organisations involved in funding and sharing health research in the NHS to see how the lessons from this review can be used most effectively in the NHS. Basing future knowledge mobilisation activities in the NHS on the best national and international evidence in this way will mean that the many insights from research about how health services can best be improved can be translated into practice much more quickly and effectively for the benefit of patients.