Context

Sustainable Care: connecting people and systems programme

Focus:
- The ‘crisis of care’: towards sustainable care with wellbeing outcomes
- How care work and caring interact
- How this is affected by diversity, mobility and migration
- The role of technological ‘solutions’
- The consequences of emerging trends in home care
- How support for working carers can be enhanced

Core partnership:

7 Universities: Sheffield (lead partner), Birmingham, Kings College London, Ulster, Swansea, Stirling and Alberta (Canada)

Carers UK: Madeleine Starr; Katherine Wilson; Emily Holzhausen
Aims of the Sustainable Care research programme

- To explore how care arrangements, currently ‘in crisis’, can be made sustainable and deliver wellbeing outcomes
- To support policy and practice actors and scholars to conceptualise sustainability in care as an issue of rights, values, ethics and justice, as well as of resource distribution
- To examine sources of economic and social sustainability in care, especially how wellbeing outcomes can be achieved for care users, their families, carers and paid care workers

Multi-disciplinary, Economic & Social Research Council funded UK focus, with network of international partners
### CARE ARRANGEMENTS: key elements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CARE ARRANGEMENTS</th>
<th>Care Systems</th>
<th>Care Work</th>
<th>Care Relationships</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Diversity, mobility, inequality – the changing face of care</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Relevant policy areas:</strong> immigration; poverty/wealth, portable pensions, equality &amp; human rights</td>
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</table>
| **Care Systems** | Social care law (England) 
Consolidated in Care Act 2014 ‘Wellbeing’ / ‘Prevention’ 
Independent regulator (CQC) | Paid, regulated care work 
Home care 
Residential care 
Community care 
Personal assistance | Formal, professional 
Worker – client/customer 
Worker – employer 
Worker - supervisor 
Worker - co-worker |
| **Social care policy** | Means tested v ‘free’ NHS care 
Local authorities have main role 
Uneven integration with NHS 
Carers’ policies / legislation | Unregulated care work 
‘Grey’ caring labour 
Cash-in-hand / informal schemes 
Migrant labour (some versions) | Informal / grey work 
Quasi-kin / friendship 
24/7 live-in care 
Domestic/househ’d services 
Modern slavery |
| **Public funding** | Austerity and rationing 
Declining role (2010s) 
Needs and means tested | Unpaid (relational) care 
Family members 
Friends and neighbours 
Co-caring relationships | Kin relations 
Co-resident / Local / Distant 
‘Voluntary’ ‘no choice’- ‘active choice’ |
| **Care market** | Profitability / investment 
Recruitment / retention 
Innovation and change | Donated or exchanged care 
Volunteers (NGOs, charities) ‘Shared lives’ 
Care credit schemes | Affective / proximal contexts 
(neighbours, friends) |

**Evolving role of technology - enhancement, replacement, alternative**

**Policies /practices:** innovation, design, industrial strategy, entrepreneurs, global firms, investors
Sustainable Care arrangements: what’s wrong? What are the problems we need to fix?

- Harsher **rationing** and growing **unmet need**
- Uneven standards and quality, despite a regulatory framework
- Funding and staffing crises, adding stress at all levels
- Unacceptable prevalence of loneliness, isolation, neglect, abuse
- Minimal support which cannot generate wellbeing
- ‘Lottery’ outcomes based on condition, place, age and locality
- Inadequate investment, in training, support, technology, advice
- Families and carers under pressure – pressure – pressure !!!!!
  - Financial worries, mounting debts today, inadequate pensions tomorrow
  - Deteriorating health, mental and physical
  - Isolation and exclusion from ‘normal’ life – family, leisure, citizenship, career
  - Daily struggles juggling work, life & care – inadequate workplace support, minimal employment rights (time off to care, leave, flexibilities, return options)
### How can care arrangements become sustainable?

What is sustainability? Whose wellbeing ... and how?

#### WELLBEING in care arrangements

- **Material wellbeing** (the material conditions of the person)
- **Subjective wellbeing** (the meanings which people attach to their life, and how they evaluate it)
- **Relational wellbeing** (supports each person to have positive relationships with others in society)
- **Progress and risks** (to the 3 types of wellbeing) can be measured, assessed and monitored

#### SUSTAINABLE care arrangements

- **Meet wellbeing needs** of those receiving and providing care
- **Enhance caring capability** of others and of future generations
- **Share costs and contributions**: fair, stable, understandable, within a social contract for care framework
- **Respect dignity and choice** (of all involved in care relationships)
- **Value care provision**: carers and care workers are respected and supported, not exploited
Framework for policy options
Model for delivering sustainable and inclusive support for carers

Financial Support
Measures to prevent financial hardship for carers

Work-Care Reconciliation
Workplace and life course flexibility for employees, employers, labour force

Services for Users and Carers
Reliable, flexible, affordable, accessible and technology-enabled

Carer Recognition and Rights
The economic, social moral case → value, respect, inclusion

Evidence
- rationale, scale, focus, targeting, efficacy

NGOs
- Voice of older and disabled people and their carers, listening, envisioning, innovating

*Figure developed by Yeandle & Fast: http://circle.leeds.ac.uk/files/2014/05/Challenge-of-Caring-v6-low-res-WEB.pdf
## Structure of the programme

### NINE SUSTAINABLE CARE PROGRAMME RESEARCH TEAMS

**Sustainable Wellbeing: a conceptual and analytical framework for policy and practice in care and caring**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strand A: CARE SYSTEMS</th>
<th>Strand B: CARE WORK and CARING RELATIONSHIPS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1 Comparing UK Care Systems: prospects, developments and differentiation in the 4 UK nations</td>
<td>B1 Delivering Care at Home: emerging models and their implications for sustainable wellbeing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2 Modelling care system costs and contributions: data for a sustainable care and wellbeing strategy</td>
<td>B2 Combining work and care: workplace support and its contribution to sustainable care arrangements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3 Achieving sustainability in care systems: the potential of technology.</td>
<td>B3 Technologies to support working carers: connecting people and systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4 Migrant care workers in the UK: an analysis of sustainability of care at home</td>
<td>B4 Care ‘In’ &amp; ‘Out of’ Place: towards sustainable well-being in mobile and diverse contexts.</td>
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Our research approach

- Multi-disciplinary research teams
- 9 linked projects, focused on impact and positive change
- Engage with carers / people needing support and with practitioners and organisations across the sector
- Regular dialogue: policymakers, politicians, press and media
- International partners in 16 countries researching similar challenges in their own contexts

Engage with us

- Visit our website
- Follow us on twitter
- Respond to our surveys
- Comment on our outputs
- Advise on our approach
- Write about what can or is changing – for better, for worse – the International Journal of Care and Caring publishes 12 ‘free to view’ short pieces every year and welcomes your contributions
Sustainable Care: connecting people and systems

CONTACT US

- **Funding:** Economic & Social Research Council (Nov. 2017- May 2021)
- **Principal Investigator:** Professor Sue Yeandle

*Please get in touch******

*if you’d like to know more, or to work with us on related issues,*

*contact our programme support team:*

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INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CARE AND CARING

https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/journals/international-journal-of-care-and-caring