

Dr Siobhan O'Dwyer, University of Exeter

£239,000

Caring for a child with a disability or long-term illness can take a serious toll on parents' wellbeing. This project aims to explore parent carers' experience of suicidal thoughts, homicidal thoughts, and self-harm. The researchers want to understand how many parent carers have felt this way, and the factors that contribute to or protect against these experiences, in order to develop better strategies for supporting carers in crisis. They will also gather parent carers' suggestions for research, practice, and policy on these issues. Carers who need urgent support should contact the Samaritans on 116 123.

Professor Joanne Cook, University of Hull

£323,000

Professor Cook is investigating 'preventative interventions' in social care, which are intended to give early support to people using social care services in order to reduce their need to access further services later on. The researchers are looking at the evidence for local area coordination, where coordinators work with people who are at risk of needing social care services, supporting them to engage with their communities and access support resources at the local level, instead of immediately signposting them to social care services.

Professor Dawn Brooker, University of Worcester

£350,000

Professor Brooker's research focuses on supporting people with dementia and their carers. Her team is investigating the best way to run dementia Meeting Centres so that they can thrive long term. These are local social clubs for people affected by dementia, run by community groups. They will study three well-established Meeting Centres to see how they have successfully stayed open, to help develop guidance and materials to help other Meeting Centres succeed.

Dr Alex Hall, University of Manchester

£150,000

Dr Hall's research focuses on what happens when older adults experience difficulties in managing their money. The researchers are investigating how social care practitioners, older adults, and their families attempt to address these difficulties, and how older adults and families can be supported. This project will provide evidence for social care practitioners to develop their skills, as well as producing an information resource for older adults and families who may be looking for help.

Dr Anita Mehay, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

£191,000

Dr Mehay is adapting an existing, successful parenting programme to help support young fathers in prison. The researchers will work with young men, their families and prison and social care staff to adapt the programme and deliver it in a small group of prisoners. The eventual aim will be to pilot the programme in future studies to find out if it can improve mental wellbeing for young men in prison and their families.

Dr Marcello Morciano, University of Manchester

£350,000

Dr Morciano's research focuses on a key element of the NHS Long Term Plan - bringing social care and NHS services together, specifically for care home residents to ensure their complex needs are met. The team aims to identify and classify successful ways to deliver 'integrated care' in care homes, and to understand the barriers that can stop this from happening.

Professor Martin Webber, University of York

£348,000

Professor Webber is looking at social prescribing, which involves providing access to activities and volunteering opportunities to improve wellbeing and reduce social isolation. His team is investigating a new model called Community-Enhanced Social Prescribing, which brings together the networks and resources of local communities to help support people seeking to improve their wellbeing. They will test and evaluate this approach in one voluntary organisation to understand how useful and cost-effective it is.

Ms Caroline Norrie - King's College London

£240,000

Around 2 million people in Britain have difficulties with their gambling, which can lead to problems including debt, problems and work and in relationships, and poor mental health. Gambling is increasingly viewed as a public health issue and social care staff are being asked to help. Currently, social care staff do not have an evidence-based way of asking people about gambling harm to ensure they can identify and support those who might need help. The researchers aim to develop a validated 'trigger question' and use it across three Councils. Findings about numbers of people contacting Councils who are affected by gambling harms can be used to help plan services.