

# Applying Successfully to RfSC: Examples from PSSRU, Kent



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# Two Successful Applications

- Example 1: ‘Developing a scale of work-related wellbeing at work for adult social care staff (ASCOT-STAFF): Phase One’
  - Led by Professor Shereen Hussein (£150,000; 18 months)
- Example 2: ‘Measuring the social care outcomes of people with dementia and their carers’
  - Led by Stacey Rand (£150,000; 24 months)
- Both address well-defined research questions
- Both projects make use of, and build upon, the Adult Social Care Outcome Toolkit (ASCOT), developed by PSSRU Kent
  - Established background, well-supported environment, proven track-record

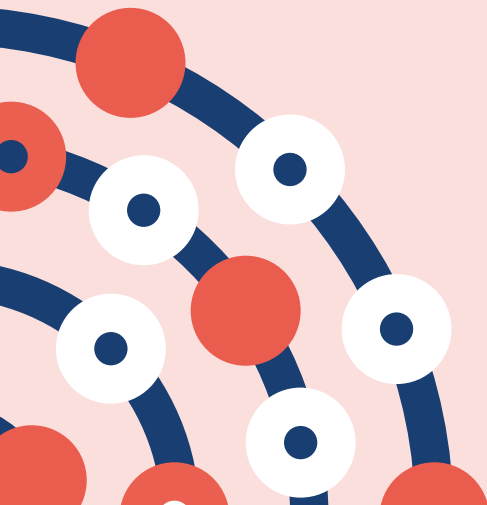
# Keeping the focus

- RfSC aims to support research that demonstrates:
- *‘Strong links to people with social care needs, to social care service users and carers, and to organisations which provide adult social care services.’*

# Example 1, ASCOT-STAFF



Professor Shereen Hussein (PI)  
Team: Ann-Marie Towers, Sinead Palmer, Nadia  
Brooks and Barbora Silarova



# About the project (very briefly)

- The study aims to develop a way of measuring the impact of work on quality of life among people who work in adult social care services
  - Identify key domains necessary to develop a care work-related quality of life tool specific to social care (ASCOT-Staff)
  - Identify potential ‘at work’ supporting mechanisms to improve care staff wellbeing
- We will do this by looking at it from the perspective of care workers and others working in adult social care in England
  - Important to include the views of care users and their informal carers
- It employs a mixed-methods design
  - Each element of the design is suitable for the specific objectives of the study

# Thinking process

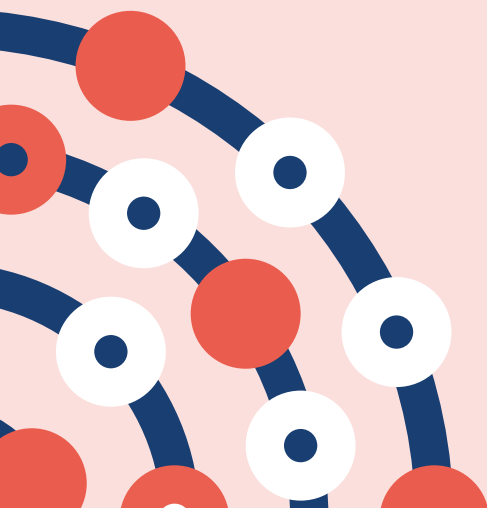
- Identify key theme:
  - Social care practice and workforce
- Referring back to the core aim of RfSC
  - The central focus is: “What’s in it for patients and service users?”
- Here the research is focused on the wellbeing of formal care workers
  - Important to connect improving the wellbeing of staff to improving the organisation and delivery of care and broader quality outcomes
- The key role of public involvement
  - Who are they and how I can actively involve them
- Research quality, team, management and quality assurance
  - The role of the project advisory group

# Example 2, Measuring the outcomes of people with dementia and carers



Stacey Rand (PI)

Team: Ann-Marie Towers & Barbora Silarova



# About the project (very briefly)

- The study will test two social care-related quality of life measures for people living with dementia and their carers (ASCOT-Carer, ASCOT-Proxy)
  - To evaluate construct validity, test-retest reliability and feasibility of the measures
  - Establish the factors related to the social care outcomes of people with dementia and carers in relationship ('dyads')
- It is a quantitative study
  - The design is suitable for the specific objectives of the study
  - Develops previous research

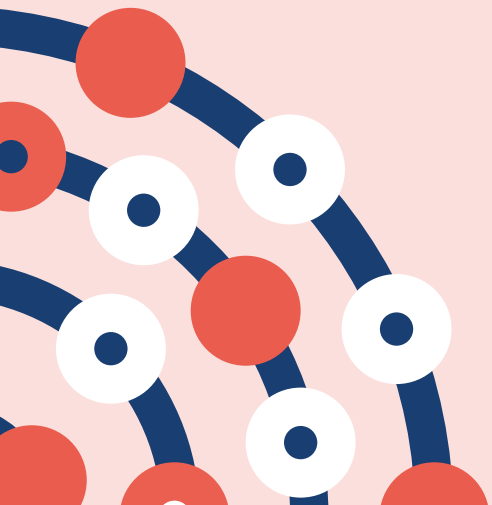


# Thinking process

- Identify key theme:
  - Social care needs and relevant outcomes; family carers and carers' support
- Referring back to the core aim of RfSC
  - The central focus is: “What’s in it for service users and carers?”
- Here the research is focused on the wellbeing of people with dementia and their carers
  - These methods will improve inclusion of people with dementia and their carers in national social care surveys and other data collections
  - These data collections are used to guide and inform decision-making, which affect wellbeing, so it’s important to ensure the views of people with dementia and their carers are included and considered
- The key role of service user/carer involvement
  - Who are they and how I can actively involve them
- Research quality, team, management and quality assurance
  - For less experienced researchers, what support is needed?
  - Route to impact via existing networks, links and relationships



# Developing an application: Key Criteria and Tips



# Key criteria

- The topic is of relevance to the funder and programme aims
- The team, especially the PI, is well-situated with enough expertise to undertake research in this area
- The research design and methodology are sound
- The project activities are feasible within the suggested time frame
- Clear awareness of potential risks and mitigating factors
- There are tangible outcomes that have direct impact on social care service users' outcomes
- Effective Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) throughout the process
- Involvement and collaboration with organisations that deliver social care services (e.g. local authorities, care providers)

# Tips when developing the ideas

- You might have an idea for a while
  - Connect with relevant researchers, discuss and reflect
  - Seek advice from service users/carers and public in a meaningful way
- It is very important to read and follow the application guidelines
- Frame the idea bearing in mind the call specification and application form
  - Essential elements to include and connect them well:
    - Do the research questions follow logically from the identified problem?
    - Are the methods suitable to the proposed questions and objective?
- Make clear connections to outcomes
  - What will your project produce? How are you going to build upon it further?  
What are the short and long term benefits?
- Language and diagrams

# Thank you for listening

Feel free to contact us for further details



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