

# Policy Research Unit in Economic Evaluation of Health and Care Interventions

Director: Professor John Brazier, SchARR, University of Sheffield  
Deputy Director: Professor Mark Sculpher, CHE, University of York

Participating Organisations	Aims	Skills mix of the team
<p>School of Health and Related Research (SchARR), University of Sheffield Website: <a href="http://www.shef.ac.uk/heds">http://www.shef.ac.uk/heds</a></p> <p>Centre for Health Economics (CHE), University of York Website: <a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/che">http://www.york.ac.uk/che</a></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist DH policy-makers to improve allocation of resources in health and social care policy through the Unit's Work Programme.</li> <li>To provide a service with the flexibility to respond to rapid changes in the policy environment.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both centres have access to large groups of experienced health economists, modellers, systematic reviewers and experts in specialist topics within health and social care.</li> <li>The skill mix of the team members will provide the experience and flexibility to fulfil the needs of the programme.</li> </ul>

## Initial Work Programme for the period Jan 2011 – Dec 2012 (3 strands)

Responsive programme to meet <u>shorter-term</u> requirements of DH	Applied work to meet <u>medium to longer-term</u> needs of DH	<u>Methodological development</u> to better meet challenges of conducting economic evaluation
<p>The methodological approaches to this responsive strand of work can take the following forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviews of existing evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rapid reviews or full systematic reviews</li> </ul> </li> <li>Scoping exercises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1: When the research question is clear, an overview of relevant evidence will be produced.</li> <li>Level 2: When the research question is not clear, exploratory or qualitative methods will be used to establish an understanding of the scope.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Gathering and synthesis of expert opinion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exercises could involve problem structuring methods, Bayesian elicitation and value elicitation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Modelling methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision models will be developed to allow consideration of possible consequences of different courses of action and policy implications in the long-term in a broad inter-sectoral context.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Project 1: Evaluating public health interventions for obesity from the perspective of local health authorities</b></p> <p>The aim is to develop an economic model to demonstrate evidence-based strategies in obesity to improve allocation of resources at a local community level to support local decision-making.</p> <p><b>Project 2: The management of long-term depression</b></p> <p>The aim is to develop a decision analytic framework to capture whole treatment pathways with attention to uncertainty to inform decisions about management of long-term depression. Prioritisation and design of future research will be a focus.</p> <p><b>Project 3: Innovations in technology</b></p> <p>Innovations in health may offer immediate benefits but often result in radically new approaches where full benefits are only realised through future developments. This project will develop fresh approaches to economic evaluations to advise on cost-effectiveness of such technologies. It will also inform decisions about future research and development including possible co-ventures with manufacturers.</p>	<p><b>Programme 1: Methods to assess the cost-effectiveness of 'individualised care'.</b></p> <p>This programme aims at developing an framework to assess heterogeneity in cost-effectiveness. In particular, it will address the question of how much resource should be devoted to understanding more about the types of patient for which an intervention is cost-effective.</p> <p><b>Programme 2: Outcome measurement in health and social care</b></p> <p>The aim is to strengthen the measurement of health benefits. We will examine: the appropriateness of EQ-5D across areas of health &amp; care and statistical methods for analysing PROMS.</p> <p><b>Programme 3: Inter-sectoral costs and effects</b></p> <p>This programme will investigate methods used to value the costs and effects of health and social care that fall on sectors, organisations and people outside the NHS.</p> <p><b>Programme 4: A review of methods applied to the economic evaluation of social care interventions</b></p> <p>This will address the current gap in the area of carrying out economic evaluations in the context of complex social care interventions.</p>