

The Named Social Worker Project

Report on the project



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Innovation
Unit

scie

social care
institute for excellence



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What this report is about



This is a report on a project which looked at what happens if people have a new, different type of social worker, called a Named Social Worker



This report looks at:

- What a Named Social Worker means



- What the project tried to do



- What happened



- How the project helped people with learning disabilities



- How the project affected social workers



- Saving money

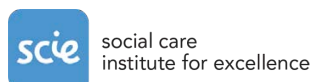


- The future

This project was carried out for the Government's Department of Health and Social Care by:



- Innovation Unit



- Social Care Institute for Excellence



- York Consulting

What is a Named Social Worker?



With a Named Social Worker a person with learning disabilities has one social worker to work with, rather than seeing different social workers at different times



A Named Social Worker:

- Has more time to spend with people and get to know them better



- Tries out new ways to work with people



- Can speak up if they think someone is not getting the best service



- Works with other professionals to help people have more of a say about all the services they get

The project



The project looked at how a Named Social Worker would make things better for people with learning disabilities and their family



The Department of Health and Social Care wants people with learning disabilities to:

- Have more choice about what they want for the future



- Have a good life



- Be as independent as possible



The project aimed to:

- Provide the right support for each person with a learning disability and their carer



- Support and train social workers to provide a high quality service



- Get professionals from different services to work together better

The project tested these new ways of working in 6 places:



● Bradford

● Halton

● Hertfordshire

● Liverpool

● Sheffield

● Shropshire

Looking at what happened

The project looked at what happened in different ways:



- They helped the local areas trying this way of working to check how well it worked



- They worked out a way to look at the project as a whole



The project also looked at:

- How the support for people with learning disabilities and their carers changed



- How social workers were supported and trained to provide a high quality service



- How professionals from different services worked together

A better life

The project found that the people with learning disabilities and their carers who took part in the project:



- Felt that their Named Social Worker:

- Listened to them more



- Gave people more choice



- Worked better with other professionals



- Had more help to make plans for the future



- Had more choice in decisions about their future

Improving how social workers work



The social workers who took part in this project said that they became more confident with working with people with learning disabilities



They said that the project helped them to:

- Spend more time to get to know people they were working with



- Spend more time getting to know the people they support



- Work better with people to make their person centred plans



- Work in a way that helps people to get their rights



- Work better with professionals from other services



People said that they felt much happier in their job

Using the project to work on local issues



The different places used the project to improve their work in different things



Some areas used the project to offer more support to people moving from children's services to adult services



Another area used it to improve the way that social workers worked with other organisations



Others used it to improve the way different professionals work together and offer better services



One area worked with other professionals to explain how to support people in a better way

Saving money



The project looked closely at whether this new way of working was more expensive or saved money

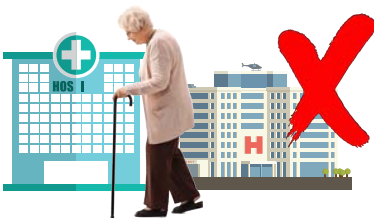


The project looked at the extra costs of social workers spending more time with people



The project also looked at the money saved because:

- People became more independent and needed less support



- People didn't need have to go into hospital so much



- The police didn't have to come and sort out a crisis so much



In one area, the new way of working saved money for other services.



If this way of working were to continue, it seems that for every £1 spent on Named Social Workers:

- The local council would save £2.18



- The NHS would save 49p



- The Government's Department of Work and Pensions (who pay benefits) would save 11p



- The Police would save 2p



Other areas found that helping someone to live more independently could also be cheaper and save money

The future



All the six areas have plans to:

- Carry on having meetings where social workers share good new ways of working



- Ask social workers to train others in their area about the new ways of working



- Look at new ways to support social workers and other staff

For more information



If you need more information please contact us by:



The contact form on our website:
contactus.dh.gov.uk/?openform



Telephone: **0207 210 4850**



Textphone: **0207 222 2262**



Post:
**Department of Health and Social
Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU**