Setting priorities and rationing in health and social care: using evidence to inform practice

30 September 2011

Biographical Notes

Dr Kerry Allen

Dr Kerry Allen is a Research Fellow at the Health Services Management Centre, University of Birmingham. Her current research projects include a European project on health systems and long-term care and several UK-based projects and evaluations around services for older people and preventative approaches.

Sian Davies

Sian Davies worked at the Nuffield Trust as a senior public health trainee from August 2010 until September 2011. She has held training positions at West Kent PCT, Southwark PCT and South East London Health Protection Unit. Previously Sian worked as a general coordinator for Medecins du Monde, setting up an antiretroviral treatment programme in a regional hospital in Tanzania, one of the first of its kind. She has also worked in local government leading on a variety of transport projects and in medical research. She has an MSc from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Whilst at the Trust Sian worked on the prioritisation of health care in the NHS, patterns of health and social care at the end of life and trends in admissions for ambulatory care sensitive conditions. Sian's current placement is at St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust.

Dr Helen Dickinson

Dr Helen Dickinson is Senior Lecturer in Health Policy and Management at the Health Services Management Centre and Senior Researcher, Third Sector Research Centre, University of Birmingham. Helen has research interests in governance and collaboration, priority setting and leadership and heads the health and social care partnership programme at HSMC. Helen is also co-editor of the Journal of Health Organization and Management.
Dr Jo Ellins

Dr Jo Ellins is a lecturer at the Health Services Management Centre, having joined the department in October 2007. Her main interests are in patient and public involvement in healthcare, and two themes in particular are central to her research: understanding and improving patients’ experiences of services; and re-thinking the relationship between the providers and users of health services to ensure that the latter has a stronger voice in the care that they receive. Jo has also worked on issues relating to the emerging primary care market, and to the development of mutuals and employee ownership models in healthcare. Prior to joining HSMC, she managed a national programme of organisational development at the NHS Centre for Involvement and was a research associate at the Picker Institute.

Dr Tim Freeman

Dr Tim Freeman is a lecturer at the Health Services Management Centre and has been involved in health services evaluations since 1991. His main areas of interest include the governance of health and social care services; leadership and identity; and organisational culture (particularly the governance of “safety”). He previously worked as a researcher for the Save the Children Fund and the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health and has experience as an NHS manager with responsibility for service improvement and clinical governance. He leads the Health Services Management Centre’s doctoral programme and is co-director for research for the department.

Dr Suzanne Robinson

Dr Suzanne Robinson is a lecturer in health economics and health care policy at the Health Services Management Centre. Her research interests span the range of health economics and health services management. Her special interests include evaluating the priority-setting processes in commissioning of public services; methodological issues around approaches to valuing quality of life; service improvement in health care; and facilitation and evaluation of learning events. She has designed, delivered and evaluated a range of management and leadership programmes for NHS managers and clinicians, and has been involved in personal and organisation development activities for a number of public sector organisations.
Dr Benedict Rumbold

Dr Benedict Rumbold joined the Nuffield Trust in November 2008 having undertaken a PhD in moral philosophy at Birkbeck College, where he also worked as a sessional lecturer. His current research focuses on ethical questions pertaining to priority setting in health care. He is particularly interested in how health care systems might incorporate modern theories about justice and fairness when allocating resources. Other interests include definitions of health and debates around information governance.

Dr Judith Smith

Head of Policy, the Nuffield Trust, London

Dr Judith Smith is an experienced and widely published health services researcher and policy analyst. Before joining the Nuffield Trust in February 2009, she spent 14 years working at the Health Services Management Centre, University of Birmingham where she was Senior Lecturer and Director of Research, and Academic Director of the NHS Management Training Scheme. Prior to that, she spent eight years as a senior manager in the NHS.

At the Nuffield Trust, she leads a team whose research focuses on the development and effectiveness of commissioning in the NHS, the quest for better integrated care, the role and potential of physician organisations, and the search for health system efficiency in the economic downturn.