



Aim Support the implementation of evidence-based, evaluated service change at national level in adult social care and social work, as identified by care users and carers, practitioners, researchers and the wider public.

£2.5m NIHR funding over five years

2021 Developing consensus about implementation priorities

implementation-focused national programme

2026

Building capacity for applied social care and social work research

A connected national community across health and social care



Reach and collaboration

9 Applied Research Collaborations

11 universities

ARC KSS co-ordinating ARC Kent, Surrey and Sussex

Research activity

6 core projects

5 seed-funded projects

£89k identified impact, seed and involvement funding

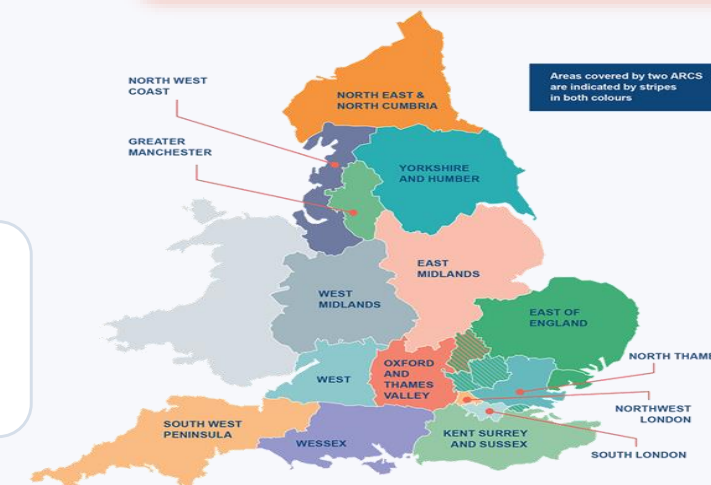
Outputs and engagement

41 published and disseminated outputs

19 conference talks and presentations

26 engagement activities + **4** national gatherings

9 accessible and creative outputs



Lived experience infrastructure

15 Strategic Lived Experience Group public contributors

720h Public contributor involvement

1 EUROPEAN AWARD



6 people with lived experience as co-researchers

7 project-specific lived-experience advisory groups



Practical resources, implementation learning and a stronger national platform for adult social care and social work research

Care planning and well-being in care homes



Digital inclusion and social well-being



Whole family approaches to responding to domestic abuse



Connected Communities and signposting



Community Led Support

Lived experience in research



Implementation-focused research

Projects used implementation frameworks and approaches to understand what works, for whom, in what contexts, and how evidence can be adopted, adapted & sustained in practice

5 Implementation frameworks and sustainability approaches used across projects



SELECTED REFERENCES

Care planning and well-being in care homes (Lead-ARC KSS)

Smith, N, Taylor, J, Prato, L, Damant, J, Jasim, S, Toma M, Hamashima, Y, McLeod, H, Towers, AM, Keemink, J, Nwolise, C, Giebel, C, Fitzpatrick, R. Care planning in older adult care homes: A qualitative study of care staff experience and views, International Journal of Care and Caring doi.org/10.1332/23978821Y2024D000000092

Taylor, Jonathan, Smith, Nick (2025) Quick guide to effective care planning with older care home residents,. <https://kar.kent.ac.uk/115105/>

DITSOW-Digital inclusion and social well-being (Lead-ARC EE)

DITSoW podcast: Wired and wise: What is important to older people when considering technology use and development?

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/1PipFqcPRE7d9jIkrW5Qgc?si=RKodgV3jS2GfKMWTnifPxA>

Whole family approaches to responding to families affected by domestic abuse (Lead-ARC NENC)

McGovern, R., Mayrhofer, A., Sarma, K. Toma M, et al. Implementing Innovative Approaches to Integrating Adult and Child Focused Services when Responding to Families Affected by Domestic Violence: A Case Study Design. J Fam Viol (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-025-00937-7>

McGovern, R., Mayrhofer, A., Sarma, K. Toma M, et al. Whole family approaches to responding to parents and children in families affected by domestic abuse: Implementation Toolkit, <https://arc-nenc.nihr.ac.uk/evidence/whole-family-approaches-domestic-abuse-implementation-toolkit/>

Strengths-based practice: Connected Community and signposting (Lead-ARC NWC)

Berzins K, Weldon JC, Allen D, Boland P, Joseph N, Watkins C, Gabbay M, Community Signposting Services sustainability toolkit: cctoolkit.co.uk (temporarily hosted at: <https://connectedcommunities-865c.temp-dns.com/>)

Christian DL, Berzins K, Weldon JC, Toma M, Gabbay M, Watkins C, Forder J. Connected communities | Learning lessons from person-centred community-based support services implementation. NIHR Open Res 2023, 3:66 doi.org/10.3310/nihropenres

Strengths-based practice: Community Led Support (Lead: ARC WM and ARC SL)

Prunty, J.E., Zhang, J., Toma, M. et al. Effect of strengths-based care: community led support. Eur J Ageing 22, 51 (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10433-025-00884-8>

Mahesh S, Waterman C, Toma M, Jackson C, Mayrhofer A, Tingle A, Miller R (2026), "Community first: a systems approach to implementing integrated care". Journal of Integrated Care, Vol. 34 No. 5 pp. 77–89, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1108/JICA-06-2025-0055>