

1.1 Introduction

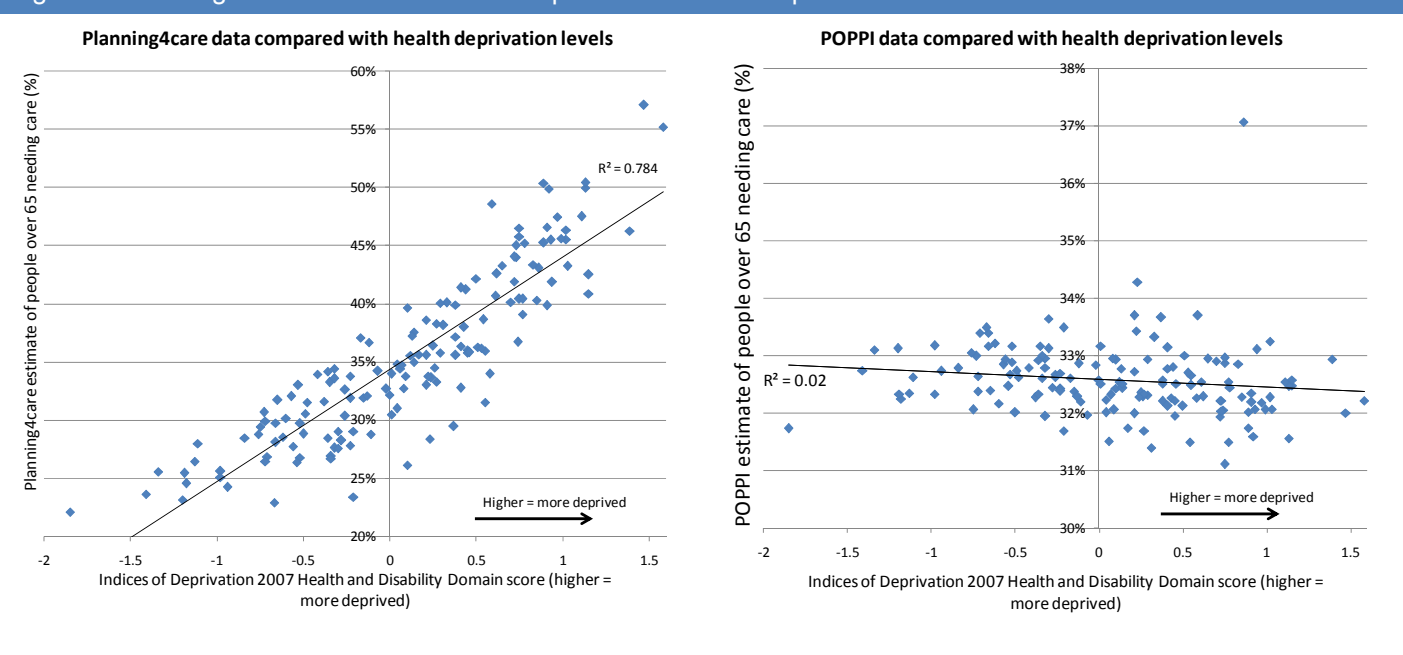
- 1.1.1 This briefing note outlines differences between the Planning4care and Projecting Older People Population Information (POPPI) tools, and highlights the importance of using estimates of local prevalence.
- 1.1.2 The Planning4care and POPPI tools provide estimates of the whole population needs for particular health and social care issues, available to Local Authority District level, and projected over time.
- 1.1.3 Planning4care was developed by Care Equation and Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI), and was piloted with support from the DH Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP). POPPI was commissioned by the DH Care Services Efficiency Delivery Programme (CSED), and developed by the Institute of Public Care. The tool is available at www.poppi.org.uk, and is freely available to public sector users.

1.2 Using local socio-economic factors to identify local needs is critical

“Using national prevalence does not help us understand unmet need locally”

- 1.2.1 The Planning4care methodology takes into account the impact of local socio-economic risk factors: the prevalence of social care needs at local level in the Planning4care model is affected by factors such as deprivation levels. This contrasts with the data in POPPI, which simply applies national prevalence rates to local populations.

Figure 1: Planning4care and POPPI data compared with health deprivation levels



Source: Planning4care (2008), POPPI (2008), Indices of Deprivation 2007 (Health domain population-weighted to District level)

People Population Information (POPPI)

1.2.2 Figure 1 shows the effect of this difference, comparing Planning4care and POPPI data for Local Authorities against health deprivation levels, using the Indices of Deprivation 2007 health domain. The Figure shows that:

- Planning4care data predicts that areas with high levels of health deprivation are more likely to have a higher percentage of older people with care needs. In other words, higher social care needs are highly correlated with higher levels of health deprivation in the Planning4care model (the Planning4care estimates use local socio-economic factors)
- No such link is seen with the POPPI data, where the percentage of older people needing care is roughly constant for all areas (POPPI applies national prevalence to all Local Authorities).

1.3 Financial planning – linking evidence of need to service requirements and costs

1.3.1 The shift to self-directed care and the related Resources Allocation System (RAS) brings into sharp focus the importance of linking evidence of need to service requirements and potential costs. However, this financial analysis, though crucial for sustainable social care planning, is often missing from commissioning strategies.

1.3.2 Planning4care provides future projections of service requirements and costs, based on linking levels of social care need together with representative care packages and costs (from council's social services expenditure returns). This enables councils to incorporate evidence of need into financial planning work.

1.4 Summary: Key differences between Planning4care and POPPI

1.4.1 Planning4care extends the data provided in the POPPI system in a number of ways:

- The key difference is that Planning4care provides local level analysis, taking into account the impact of local risk factors (such as deprivation levels) on the level of social care need. POPPI simply applies national prevalence rates to local populations.
- Planning4care profiles the older population by different levels of social care need, using the Wanless review social care needs classifications. The POPPI estimates do not distinguish between different levels of need, but include all those unable to manage any one self-care task, ranging from feeding to cutting toe-nails.
- Planning4care links the overall level of social care need to indicative service requirements and costs (based on local care packages and unit costs), for both the whole population and those receiving LA funded/commissioned services
- As a strategic assessment tool, Planning4care can explore the impact of different scenarios (such as shifts from residential to community care, or changes in health-levels), on levels of need, service requirements and costs
- Planning4care can identify, and map, the areas of greatest need at sub-District level (based on the estimated impact of local risk factors). POPPI provides data to District level only.