



What is Planning4care?

Planning4care is a strategic needs assessment tool and analytic service that estimates and projects levels of need for social care in the local population. It helps commissioners make sense of the mass of data available by providing the analysis that is needed to support the planning and commissioning of future services. This dynamic tool has been developed by the Planning4care team with social care and data analysis expertise drawn from the consultancies Care Equation and Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI). The tool was piloted with Brighton & Hove, and was launched in October 2007.

How does it work?

The Planning4care service bases its analysis on the LEAP model – Local Evidence Adjusted Prevalence – devised by the development team. The tool follows the PSSRU/ Wanless national projection methodology in adopting a set of clearly defined levels of need for social care support, and then estimating the current and projected numbers of the total over-65 population expected to fall into each of those groups.

A particular innovation is the use of local needs-related risk factors to derive estimates and projections that reflect the profiles of individual localities as closely as possible.

The estimates are then linked to the types of service packages and costs that may provide different levels of support and/or meet specific outcomes. Two standard scenarios are included in the tool, the first projecting continuation of current patterns of care and the second an outcome based scenario. There is also the facility to add further scenarios to explore locally defined service patterns and to project potential consequences of changes in eligibility, health levels, provision of informal care and unit costs.



How will it help commissioners?

Understanding the needs of populations is a key step to effective commissioning. Joint Strategic Needs Assessments are a statutory requirement from 2008 and should include a view of the future, predicting and anticipating the care needs of the whole population, including people funding their own care. This is where Planning4care can help you:

- Planning4care provides robust analysis of current and future need, to inform the planning stage of the commissioning cycle
- Planning4care provides answers to a series of key questions and “what-if...” scenarios which all commissioners are going to need to address as part of their joint strategic needs assessment. The analysis will be available in a standard report that can be produced for any local authority area.
- Planning4care helps commissioners plan both for those requiring publicly funded care and for those who are funding their own care. It also enables support needs of informal carers to be identified and costed.
- Planning4care can provide a clear overview, powerful analysis and decision support at all strategic levels, including for council elected members, directors, executive and non-executive members of PCTs, and local strategic partnerships.

Combined with evidence from user consultation on the kind of support older people will be looking for in the years to come, the analysis produced by Planning4care is an essential basis for ensuring that the right provision is available to meet changing needs and aspirations over the next 10 – 15 years.

Tools and services

Planning4care will provide a combination of standard tools and services that can be tailored to your needs. Typically this will include

- Web-based access to the analysis tool
- Strategic needs assessment report for your local area
- Scenario mapping: Exploration of “what-if...” scenarios
- Briefings on the analysis and the use of the web-based tool
- Annual updates
- Bespoke analysis, e.g. gap-analysis, “what-if...” scenarios
- Workshops and seminars to help develop longer-term commissioning strategies

Indicative costs

Planning4care for a local authority and PCT starts from £5,000, with the basic package including the strategic needs assessment report, scenario mapping, website access and introductory briefing.

About us

The Planning4care team comprises senior consultants from Care Equation and OCSI. We bring specialist expertise in social care research and planning, data analysis and policy development support. Care Equation have longstanding experience in



“It’s going to give us a more sophisticated model for planning demand, and the need for different types of services in the long term, as well as getting a sense of the costs of those services.”

Head of adult social care and performance
and development, Brighton & Hove

developing population needs assessment for social care, from pioneering national and local development work to a wide range of consultancy support to individual councils.

OCSI is a spin-out company from the Oxford University team that developed the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004. OCSI researchers bring specialist skills in statistical modelling, data analysis and interpretation to help the public sector develop and interpret the evidence-base for programme planning, targeting, monitoring and evaluation.

Acknowledgements

The Planning4care team would like to thank the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) at LSE for permission to adopt the structure of the PSSRU / Wanless long-term care finance model and for helpful advice. We are also grateful to Brighton & Hove City Council and PCT for taking part in a pilot, and to the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) for funding the pilot.

Contact us

Tel: 01273 201 316
Email: info@planning4care.org.uk
Web: www.planning4care.org.uk