

2011 Bamford Implementation Commissioned Call

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Title of research project: Effective family support models during the transition of adults with intellectual disabilities (ID) into old age.

Abstract: Background: The majority of people with ID continue to live within their family home with their ageing mother/father or sibling and recent policy supports this. However, there has been little research and planning undertaken to examine the transition of older adults with ID into services more appropriate to their changing needs, and the supports these ageing family caregivers require. Aim: The aim of the study is to determine the most appropriate support services (notably day activity/leisure, respite, domiciliary care) for an older ID population, and their family carers, to facilitate the transition into old age. Indicative costs for these services will also be determined and bench-marked against current provision. Method: This is a four stage study. Stage 1 comprises a series of focus groups with older people with ID asking them how they would like to spend their day and leisure time. Similar groups will be conducted with family carers. Stage 2 involves a series of 1-1 structured interviews with care managers and social workers from both ID and older persons care programmes regarding current and future provision. Stage 3 involves gathering data on a quota sample of older people with ID and family carers as to their current service usage and likely future needs/preferences. This will be achieved mainly by having the key-worker (i.e. social worker, community ID nurse, day-care worker) of older people with ID completing a standard pro forma; preferably through consultation with family carers and/or person with ID. Stage 4 will use a consensus building process to bring together various stakeholders who had participated in the previous three stages of the project to develop service specifications designed to meet the identified needs of older persons with ID and their ageing family carers.