The role of social care in prevention

'Preventive approaches' are about how we can prevent health problems arising in the first place, and support people to be more proactive in maintaining their health, independence, wellbeing and quality of life for longer. This is a big part of the NHS Five Year Forward View.

The Care Act 2014 states that a local authority must provide (or arrange for) services which prevent or delay the need for care and support – they can do this by working with partners in health and social care, welfare, housing and employment services.

Skills for Care is looking at the role of social care in the prevention agenda, as part of their work for the Department of Health and Social Care. We're also working with two local authorities, Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council to think about prevention at a local level.

We've asked research company, Wavehill Ltd., to do a rapid review of the evidence and a mapping study of practice to help with our thinking. The research is focused on these four areas.

1. The role of social care staff in prevention and promoting wellbeing

- What role do social care staff play in this area and what do staff need to know in order to engage with this agenda?
- What existing or new job roles in social care support prevention and reablement?
- What learning and development is available for staff to develop in these areas and how effective is it?

2. The impact of engaging in this agenda on social care staff and employers

- Is there any evidence of impact on social care staff who are active in prevention initiatives or promoting wellbeing? (e.g. does it improve employment outcomes or retention rates?)
- What is the impact on employers (e.g. are employers better positioned with commissioners and regulators?).
- Are there examples of good practice in England to share with others?

3. The effectiveness of prevention and promotion in social care

- How effective is this route in preventing ill health, reducing hospital admissions, maintaining independence/reducing dependence and promoting wellbeing?
- Where can staff supporting prevention be deployed most effectively?

4. The process of embedding preventative approaches in practice

- How can a preventative and enabling approach be mainstreamed across the social care workforce and are there any new ways of working to support prevention work?
- What are the enablers that have supported culture change?

- What barriers have been encountered and how have they been overcome?
- What are the lessons learned from experience to date?

We'd like to see any research publications which cover some or all of these areas. We're also keen to find any examples of good practice in England which could be shared across the sector.

If you'd like to contribute research and/or examples to this study please contact:

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The deadline is **Friday 18 January 2019**.