

## **Integrated budgets by partnership agreements (UK)**

**Means and resources, shared funding**

**Kerry Allen, HSMC, University of Birmingham**



Funded by the European Commission  
under the Seventh Framework Programme  
Grant agreement no. 223037

## Introduction: main objectives, key-issues addressed, status

- Section 75 partnership agreements, legally provided by the NHS Act 2006, allow budgets to be pooled between local health and social care organisations and authorities
- Status



## Why was this project developed/implemented?

- to facilitate a co-ordinated network of health and social care services, allowing flexibility to fill any gaps in provision
- to ensure the best use of resources by reducing duplication (across organisations) and achieving greater economies of scale; and
- to enable service providers to be more responsive to the needs and views of users, without distortion by separate funding streams for different service inputs.

## Main features of the example (description)

- Legislation (Section 75 partnership agreements, NHS Act 2006), allow budgets to be pooled between health and social care planners/providers, resources and management structures can be integrated.
- Within LTC it is community services that have most potential to be developed through pooled budgets and joint action plans. Through joint structures with pooled finance, multidisciplinary nurse-led teams have been established to support older people living in the community.

## What are/were the effects?

- Evidence is limited
- However, the impacts of integration underpinned by partnership agreements have been highly commended include:
  - improved accessibility to intermediate care
  - occupational therapy, physiotherapy and district nurses
  - faster rates of assessment, provision of care and installation of home equipment
  - reduced use of acute hospital services.

## Strengths and limitations

- Versatile, leaves localities to choose partners and shape services to meet local need
- Time intensive paperwork
- Reform and organisational change

## Conclusions

- Integrated services seen to have some benefits for service users and financial savings over time
- Much more research needed on user outcomes of integrated services