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To Jane and Daniel

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Preface

This book builds on research and teaching undertaken since I came to the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1975. The book is not a research manual or research report, although I hope it will be of value to researchers. It is written for anyone with an interest in social care services, or anyone who has to make a decision about the allocation of care resources at whatever level: from professional social workers to their directors and elected committees, from the administrators of small voluntary organisations to the Secretary of State. The book presupposes neither a knowledge of economics nor a familiarity with social care.

Since 1979 I have held a joint appointment as Research Fellow in the Personal Social Services Research Unit and Lecturer in Economics. This has had its drawbacks, but in preparing and writing *The Economics of Social Care* this intellectual schizophrenia has been unusually beneficial. It has given me space to develop ideas and perspectives and to test them in applied research, and subsequently to examine alternative modes of presentation whilst teaching. It has also allowed me to learn from two distinct groups of colleagues, and particularly to exploit both groups when seeking advice, assistance and comments on draft chapters. I am grateful to my colleagues on the Economics Board – especially Colin Cannon, Jim Hughes, David Metcalf and William Smith – for their comments and constructive suggestions on some of my earlier draft chapters. Peter Taylor-Gooby and Clare Ungerson, neither economists nor members of the PSSRU, also kindly gave up their time to comment on draft chapters. Within the PSSRU I have been especially fortunate to be able to call on the expertise and judgement of a number of colleagues and friends. Andrew Bebbington, David Challis, Ewan Ferlie and Robert Walker each made a number of extremely helpful points. Indeed, Ewan even drafted a couple of paragraphs on innovations lest I miss his point. I must also thank Robin Darton, Ken Judge, Spyros Missiakoulis and

Jillian Smith for allowing me to include details of jointly executed research in Chapters 9 and 10. Ken Wright, of the University of York, made a number of recommendations which greatly improved the earlier chapters.

My greatest debts of professional gratitude, however, are to Bleddyn Davies and Ken Judge. Bleddyn's unique style of leadership has benefitted me considerably. His desire always to lead from the front, his encyclopaedic knowledge, and even his back-handed compliments, have forced me to improve successive drafts of the book, if only in a futile attempt to catch up with him or to prove him wrong! His detailed comments at the penultimate stage ensured that some glaring inanities were removed. Ken's contribution has been all that an editor's should be, and more besides. Since signing the contract more years ago than I care to remember, he has cajoled and bullied me into writing and rewriting. Without his encouragement the book would not have been completed. His appreciation of the finer points of social care policy-making and research is surpassed, I suspect, only by his partiality for a couple of pints at the end of an evening's work. I have gained a great deal from both attributes. I must also express my appreciation to Bleddyn, Ken and David Challis for letting me see draft versions of their own books. I have been lucky to have the services of two excellent typists – Carole Phillips and Su Bellingham. Carole's typing of the very earliest of draft chapters helped secure the contract. Su's single-handed translation of manuscript into typescript in record time with a minimum of mistakes ensured that the latter was delivered to the publishers with rather less delay than would otherwise have been the case. Even when a whole chapter disappeared from the word processor, Su kept her smile and her efficiency. Steve Kennedy at Macmillan showed great patience and was even prepared to believe my claims that the manuscript would improve with age. Jack Barnes, for a number of years the PSSRU's liaison officer at the Department of Health and Social Security, provided encouragement – both official and personal – although the views expressed in this book are not necessarily those of the Department. This book is dedicated to my wife Jane, without whose support and encouragement it would certainly not have been completed, and to my son Daniel, without whose interventions it would have been completed much sooner.

Canterbury, Kent
December 1983

MARTIN KNAPP

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