Research use in practice

NIHR School for Social Care Research

Workshop on understanding, enhancing and measuring impact for social care research

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Who are the practitioners?

- 1.6m people in 40,600 organisations
  - Not counting 114,500 jobs via direct payments
- 1.25m direct social care and support
  - 162,000 managers, 110,000 professional, 226,000 administrators
  - 69% in independent sector, 2/3 private. 1/3 voluntary
  - 80% women, 15% minority ethnic staff, 19% born overseas
  - 1/3 in their current job less than 3 years, 1/3 3-7 years
- Historical low levels of training
  - 83,000 social workers, 55,000 registered home managers
  - 67% care staff at NVQ2 and above.
- Increase to 1.8-2.6m by 2025
More about social workers

- c. 77,000 practising social workers in the UK
  - 60% in statutory agencies
  - 1999-2007 24% rise (wte); 2006-7 = 1%

- 2003 change to 3 year degree as minimum
  - 5,700 in training: Master’s = 23% in training, 27% of awards
  - ? research teaching? half the course is spent in practice
  - NQSW established in child welfare, not yet in adult social care

- Current ‘reform’ includes new regulator
  - will the professional code include updating on research?
  - as yet no research route at PQ

- Social workers leave practice to create research-based evidence
research on ‘research use’

- Empirically and epistemologically poor
  - *A Wider Strategy for Research and Development relating to Personal Social Services*, 1994
  - *Evidence-Based Social Care*, 2001
  - Booth et al, 2003
    - ‘The need for information and research skills training to support evidence-based social care: a literature review and survey’, *Learning in Health and Social Care*, 2, 4, 191-201.
research on ‘knowledge in practice’

- articulate selection of interventions
  - study of 2480 interventions
  - ‘professional practice is a rational process in which interventions are carefully selected to maximise outcome attainment.’

- explicit rationales
  - study of 297 clients, 34 social workers, 2347 ‘rationales’
  - 75% of decisions supported by clear rationale

- examples, stories and metaphors
  - intensive, biographical study of 10 social workers
  - knowledge is communicated through examples, stories and metaphors: therefore researching practice knowledge must seek examples, stories and metaphors, rather than explicitly named techniques or references.
Framework (1) practice knowledge

- tacit and holistic
  - the pianist who concentrates on the position of fingers and keys will lose the sonata
- a distinct form of knowledge in its own right
  - subjective, not biased but from the perspective of the knower
  - includes knowing ‘how’ as well as ‘that’
  - reflects values, procedures and law, as well as research
- applied in nature
  - a story by Jack Rothman
  - ‘laboratory’ and ‘clinical’ knowledge
- organisation, team and individual based
Frameworks (2) Mode 2 …

- **applied from the start**
  - [mode 2] knowledge is intended to be useful to someone, whether in industry, or government, or to society more generally, and this imperative is present from the beginning (p.4)

- **includes a range of stakeholders**
  - knowledge is always produced under an aspect of continuous negotiation, and it will not be produced unless and until the interests of various actors are included (p.4)

- **inter- or trans-disciplinary**
  - in mode 2, the shape of the final solution will normally be beyond that of any single contributing discipline. It will be trandisciplinary. (p.5)

- **alliances between knowledge communities**
  - knowledge production is becoming more widely distributed; that is, it takes place in many more types of social settings; …it is no longer concentrated in relatively few institutions, and involves many different types of individuals and organisation in a vast array of different relationships (p.14)
Frameworks (3) models of research use

- research-based practitioner
  - professional autonomy, linear application
  - research literacy acquired during basic education
  - responsibility of social workers: codes of conduct

- embedded research
  - findings embedded in standards and policies
  - inspected through performance management
  - responsibility of managers

- organisational excellence
  - requires a research-minded culture
  - local adaptation of research
  - responsibility of organisations
improving research use in practice

- improve qualifying training on research
- support at the team and organisational level
- access to research summaries, and research
- use problem-focused, multi-media methods
- create practice literacy in researchers
- improve research on research utilisation
- emphasise exchange and coproduction, rather than transfer or translation
Welcome to the Research Mindedness resource.

Welcome to the Research Mindedness Virtual Learning Resource. It has been funded by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), to help students and practitioners of social care and social work make greater and more effective use of research in their studies and in practice.

This website is no longer being updated as of September 2005.
SCIE Athens

What is SCIE Athens?

Athens is a system providing FREE access through a single login to a range of subscription-based electronic information resources, online databases, electronic journals and eBooks. Athens is widely used across higher education institutions and the NHS and is now available to government-funded bodies in England providing social care.

In developing the SCIE Athens service SCIE has purchased 14 social care electronic journals and offers free rental access to a range of social work eBooks.

On registering Athens users will be sent a username and password with which to access the journals and other resources listed below.

A SCIE Athens account adds extra value to the specialist material available through Social Care Online by making more resources available in full text.

Am I eligible for a SCIE Athens account?

Resources available to SCIE Athens users

The following resources are available:

- Journals
- eBooks
- Health information resources
- Search Social Care Online
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The internet and IT are transforming the way we communicate, learn and work. Get Connected is a new support programme to enable providers of care for adults in England to access information and communication technology (ICT) more effectively.

View previous submitted application

If you have previously been successful for a Get Connected grant please login here to view your completed application.

Register for email updates to hear about our latest resources, news and events.
Prevention: Reablement

Social Care TV opening

Prevention: Reablement

Meet Margaret who has recently left hospital following a stroke

Reablement in the London Borough of Sutton

Understanding reablement

Margaret’s assessment

How reablement can help

Widening the reach of support in the community

Meet Anne, who has dementia, and her husband and carer Rob

The difference a small amount of support has made for Rob and Anne

Research shows improved outcomes and longer term savings
... and research-based

About

Key messages for practice

1) Reablement helps people learn or re-learn the skills necessary for daily living that have been lost through deterioration in health and/or increased support needs. A focus on regaining physical ability is central, as is active reassessment.
2) Reablement has the potential to be cost-effective by reducing ongoing support needs through sustaining independent living.
3) Commissioners and service providers should recognise that results for people with different needs vary, although no-one should be excluded from reablement on the basis of their health state. Some reablement services exclude people with dementia, but this film highlights the difference reablement can make to people with dementia and the significant difference it can make to the experiences of family carers.
4) Reablement requires care workers to adopt a ‘hands-off’ approach to supporting people, which is distinct from the practice in traditional home care. Managers should provide appropriate training and supervision to support this ethos.

What is the video about?
The film provides an introduction to home care reablement. Reablement
References