Overview Translational Research and AskFuse

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Getting research into practice

- Research take-up is slow: 17 years to inform practice (Morris et al. 2011)
- Research is often not useful:
  - Takes too long to report
  - No actionable recommendations
  - Fails to address most pressing local issues
- Research evidence only one type of knowledge (e.g. technical expertise and practical wisdom; Ward 2016)

Need for translational activities and spaces to increase and speed up uptake of research evidence in policy and practice
What is translational research?

The *science* and *art* of getting research evidence into policy and practice

- **Science**: study how evidence is (not) used, barriers & facilitators, what works under what conditions

- **Art**: supporting the use of research evidence; working in partnership with policy and practice partners
Science: NIHR KMR Fellowship

Researching knowledge mobilisation:

• Evaluate implementation of a System Led Improvement (SLI) approach across North East on Best Start In Life (BSIL)

• Quality improvement approach based on peer challenge: public health teams visit each other’s to review services and their evidence base

• Ethnographic approach (observations and interviews): what types of knowledge are mobilised in peer visits

Does it help commissioners to make more evidence-informed decisions?
Art: Fuse Knowledge Exchange model

Step 1. Awareness raising

Step 2. Sharing knowledge

Step 3. Making evidence fit for purpose

Step 4. Supporting uptake and implementation

Communication Officer and media tools

QRMs, KES, Fuse conferences, AskFuse

KEB Embedded research

Co-production Structural approaches Capacity building

Academic researchers

Policy and practice partners

PUSH

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The Centre for Translational Research in Public Health
So, what is AskFuse?

- A rapid response and evaluation service launched in 2013
- Acts as a portal to broker access to expertise in five North East Universities
- Free initial conversation(s) to explore needs
- Translate enquiries into feasible research projects
- Match enquiries to relevant academics
- Develop collaborative research and seek funding
- Build long term partnerships

Evidence to the rescue.
Over 300 requests since 2013

Advice on developing interventions (20%)
Rapid evaluations (31%)
Signposting to literature (18%)
Case studies

• **Scarborough and Ryedale CCG**: evaluation of neighbourhood care teams for older people with complex needs (*Teesside*)

• **South Tyneside Homes**: evaluation of a Housing Plus programme for older people with early stage of dementia (*Sunderland*)

• **Fuse**: develop regional network on Housing & Health to scope research agenda for life time homes (*Northumbria & Teesside*)

• Evidence synthesis for tech-enabled befriending scheme for older people to reduce social isolation (*AskFuse*)
We put a new intervention in place – did it work?

Case study: Vulnerable Adults Wrap Around Service Pilot

What we did: Qualitative research on patient and staff experiences around social isolation/care plans

How: Realist evaluation; focus groups with practitioners, interviews and repeated survey with patients, literature review on social network theory

Outcome: Research report with detailed CMO (Context + Mechanism = Outcome) models

Product: Summary Fuse brief with visual of models

Budget/Time: £10,000 over 13 months (alongside pilot implementation)
Interested in working with AskFuse?

• Join Fuse or become an associate (register on www.fuse.ac.uk)
• Write a blog about your research interests
• Attend events (QRM, KE seminars, conferences)
• Submit your own enquiries to AskFuse to:
  • Get support from Fuse students and academics on your research ideas
  • Collaborate with local policy makers and practitioners to access their data, participants or funding opportunities
Top tips for collaborative research

- Get to know practitioners and commissioners: attend their events
- Start conversations about research early
- Be realistic/ set expectations
- Consider different types of evidence
- Quick wins (e.g. advice on collecting base line data)
- Write case studies together
- Try internships/ embedded research posts
Principles for knowledge exchange

1. Clarify your purpose and knowledge sharing goals - What do you want your findings to do, or to change?

2. Identify knowledge users and stakeholders - Who would be interested in this research, or need to know about it?

3. Agree expectations - How will you get a shared understanding what is expected of everyone and what can be achieved?

4. Use knowledge users’ expertise - How will you design the research to benefit from their expertise and knowledge?

5. Monitor, reflect and be responsive - How will you know if your knowledge sharing activities have met your goals?

6. Leave a legacy - How can you develop, capture and sustain any benefits?

(Rushmer et al. 2018)
Thank you!

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Thank you!

“My job is to make decisions. Your job is to make them good decisions.”
References

