

Changing Lives and the Research & Development Strategy

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Imperatives:

- From Changing Lives we need to :

Use info gathered

Learn from mistakes

Base decisions on evidence

Support innovation

Use technology

Learn from good practice

ˆ Scottish Executive, (2006) *Changing Lives*

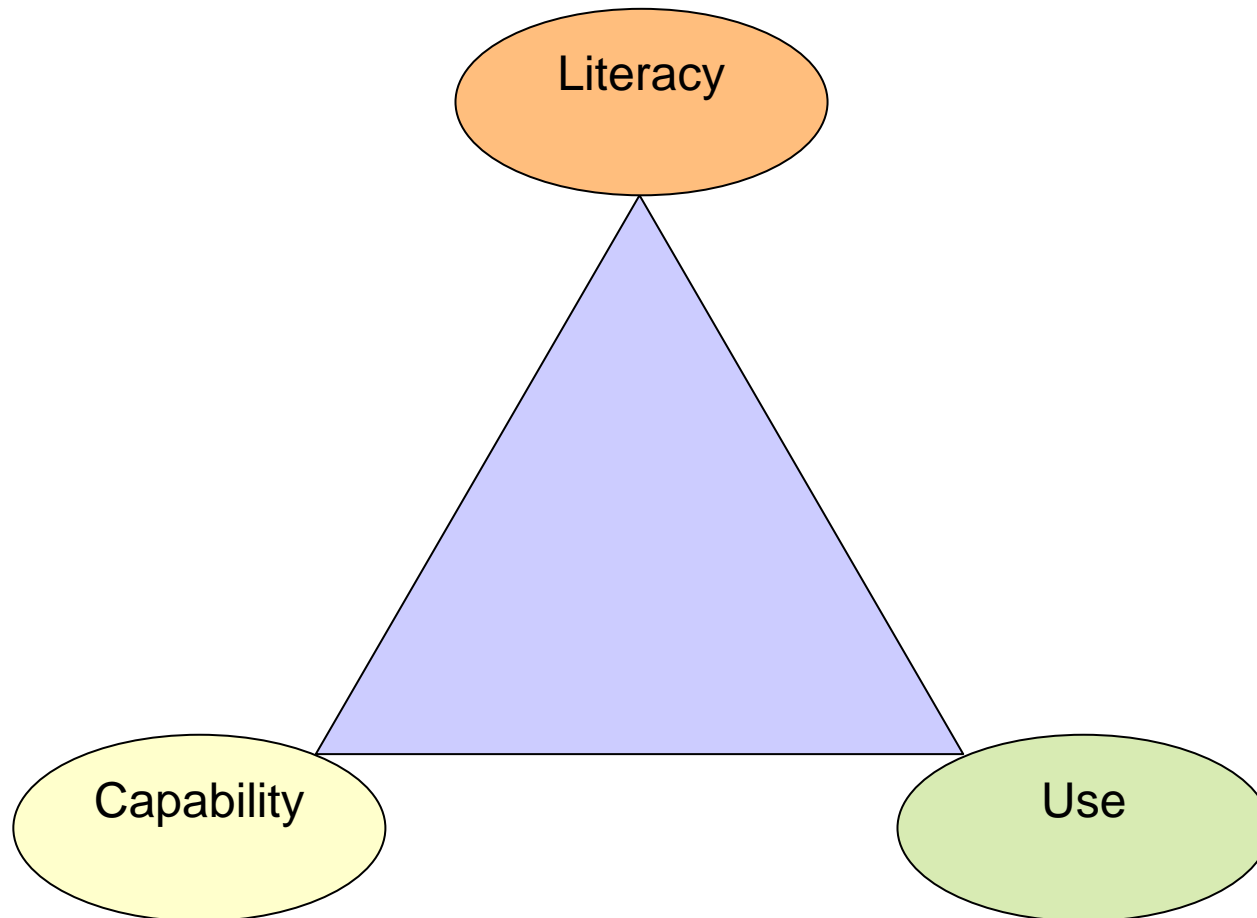
The Ambition is:

To improve the outcomes for service users in Scotland by having the design, development and delivery of social services based on sound research & strong evidence.

The Purpose of the R&D Strategy is:

To increase the quantity and quality of research activity, and its dissemination and integration into practice, in order to improve and develop social services

R&D Strategy is about increasing research:



Some excellent examples of good practice, but we need to:

- Broaden/deepen interest in knowledge as a basis for services
- Demystify research in order to be more inclusive
- Get 'buy-in' at all organisational levels
- Increase overall investment
- Improve research skill levels
- Build effective infra-structure

Major issue:

- Spending on research in social services is at best one eighth of that spent in health
- Desperate need to increase investment in social services research
- Very little money spent by LAs on research

So we have had:

- National Steering Group: Reps (c20) from ADSW, BASW, SSRG, Universities Scotland, SWIA, FE Colleges etc
- 3 Working Groups:
 - Embedding Research into Social Services**
 - Improving the Research Infrastructure**
 - Increasing Research Capacity and Capability**

Group members:

Service users, carers, practitioners, managers, planners, academics, researchers (health, education and social services), vol. orgs, centres of excellence, further education colleges etc – about 50 in all

Timetable

- Papers produced by Working Groups (WG) September 07
- First draft written October 07
- Out to WGs for feedback November 07

Current position:

- Proposals for funding with SG
- Should be put to Ministers end June 08
- Engagement and Implementation July 08 on

So who is interested in research?

There are benefits for:

- » Service users
- » Carers
- » Managers
- » Organisations
- » Policy makers
- » Funders

Benefits for service users:

- Staff who are well-informed
- Services that are up to date
- Staff who are seen to take their job seriously

Benefits for carers:

Carers can be confident that services:

- are evaluated
- up to date
- delivered by staff who have thought about what they do

Benefits for practitioners

- Better outcomes for service users
- Enhanced accountability to stakeholders
- Fairer decision-making
- Raised confidence in and quality of decisions
- Increased credibility of services

(Frost et al., 2006 The Evidence Guide)

Benefits for managers

- Improved services
- More skilful, knowledgeable, stronger and healthier practitioners & teams
- Use resources more effectively

(Frost et al., 2006 The Evidence Guide)

Benefits for organisations

- Can help us avoid investing in approaches or services that do not improve outcomes for service users
- Can help us question ourselves and beliefs
- Can help us choose between approaches

(Frost et al., 2006 The Evidence Guide)

What is research?

- exploring, studying or examining something in a systematic way
- basically it's about asking questions: Is this a good way to be doing this? If so, why?
- uses the past to plan a better future

Research is exciting!

- It gives us the chance to find out so much more about what we do
- It can take place on a big scale - all-Scotland studies - or on a very small scale – like finding out about a service to a group of four people

So the good news is...

Anyone can do it!

Meantime....

Demonstration projects:

- Journal clubs
- Research literacy groups
- Practitioner research groups
- Service evaluations
- Training evaluations
- Evidence-based learning & development days

All these:

- Will be building receptivity for the Strategy
- Contributing to the evidence base for social services
- Developing models for the future
- Sowing the seeds for future developments

Please contact me if you want to
know more

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