

2009 International Campbell Collaboration (C2) Colloquium

Submitter Information

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Abstract Information

Abstract Title:

Building evidence across health and social care – the story of a collaboration

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Symposium

Themes:

Social welfare and public health - how the social and health arenas interrelate

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Abstract:

WE HAVE CHOSEN A SYMPOSIUM FORMAT FOR THIS SUBMISSION AS THERE WILL BE 2 PRESENTATION. HOWEVER WE ARE HAPPY ALSO TO PRESENT AS A PAPER. The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) have been established in the UK to improve the quality of social care and health through the better dissemination and use of evidence about effectiveness. Whilst there are differences in audience and methodology both organisations are committed to using rigorous and systematic methods and to stakeholder involvement in the development of guidance for policy and practice. SCIE and NICE tackle some of the most pressing social policy, public health and health care problems. There is a strong commitment from senior levels in both organisations to joint work in areas of overlap where there is clear added value, reflecting the reality of people's experience of using services and the benefit of health and social care staff working to the same guidance. Unsurprisingly joint working has presented considerable challenges about systematic review methods and the process of guidance development. Standard NICE methodologies rely heavily on quantitative reviews and meta analysis and look at cost as well as clinical effectiveness. SCIE methodologies rely on systematic qualitative analysis with an emphasis on the centrality of the user, carer and family perspective and include a survey of practice. Initially joint work incorporated social perspectives through adaptations to language (e.g person with dementia replaced patient) and to the NICE methodology to include qualitative analysis of the evidence. Current work on the health of looked after children takes this a step further by developing a joint methodology which incorporates effectiveness reviews, a qualitative review, a practice survey stakeholder consultation and participation of looked after children and young people and their carers. The questions to be addressed by the guidance focus on the effectiveness, including the acceptability of public health and social care interventions to promote the health and well being of looked after children and young people, and their access to services. The paper will show how the different elements of the joint methodology will provide evidence to address these questions. It will also discuss stakeholder engagement, including the active participation of young people who have been looked after and the organisational challenges of joint work within a tight timescale. The paper will address the process and underpinning theoretical framework. The paper will conclude with a consideration of the role of empiricist and rationalist knowledge in the process of developing recommendations and refer to the philosophical origins of this epistemological distinction.
