

Campbell Collaboration Colloquium Oslo 2009

Building Evidence across health and social care – a
story of a collaboration

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Summary

- Guidance is for the real world
- In order to produce guidance for the real world that is sound, helpful and relevant we need to
 - a) challenge and adapt methodologies for reviewing evidence
 - b) understand better the process of reasoning that informs the judgements that become recommendations


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Common Ground

- Ambitious policy and practice agendas in social care and health services

Key Challenges

- Narrowing the gap in children's outcomes
- Reducing health inequalities
- Improving the quality of care
- More personalised, user centred services

Help people make better decisions

Common Ground – SCIE and NICE

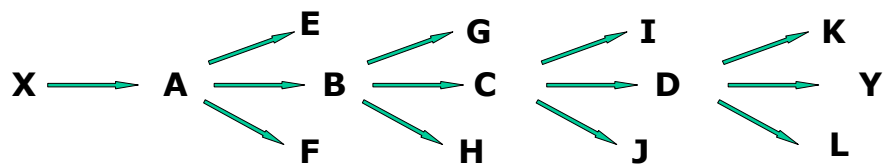
- Both organisations established to improve the quality of social care and health
- Better use and dissemination of evidence and knowledge is fundamental to good practice
- Commitment to rigour, transparency, and stakeholder and service user involvement in guidance development

Common challenges – the practical problems of preparing guidance

- Different understandings of what it means to be scientific and rigorous.
- What counts as evidence is contested
- In public health two separate levels of causation are important – individual and social.
- Different levels of intervention –population, organisational, community, individual.
- Different levels of outcome.
- The Evidence
 - May not answer the question
 - Gaps in the evidence base
 - Uncertain findings
- The hierarchy of evidence as the dominant paradigm

The relationship between interventions and outcomes

- Where X is, for example, advice about the dangers of being overweight and Y is weight loss.



More than effectiveness...



- effectiveness is vital, but we also need evidence on....
- feasibility in everyday practice
- acceptability to people who use services
- accessibility
- affordability

Common challenges-guidance development

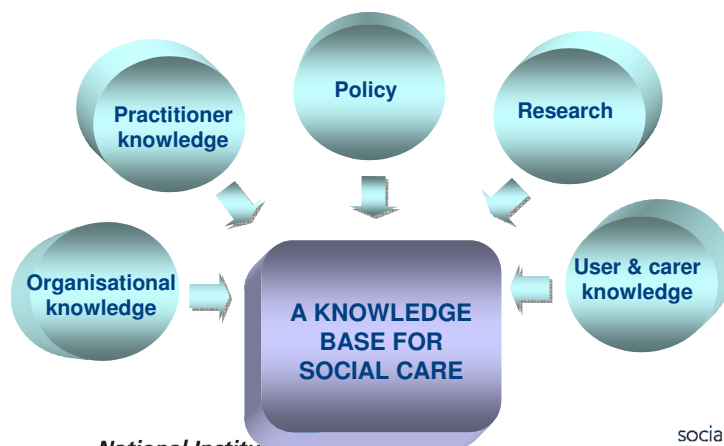
- Guidance recommendations are judgements
- Judgement is “Making the decisions that do not make themselves”
- Process for reaching those judgements needs to be clear, robust, and transparent

SCIE approach to knowledge reviews



- an inclusive approach to types of knowledge
- systematic review guidelines
- systematic mapping guidelines
- practice relevance
 - knowledge for everyday practice
- user involvement in knowledge production
 - including in systematic reviews
- economic analysis

What counts as knowledge?



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KNOWLEDGE REVIEW



Types and quality
of knowledge in
social care

SCIE

Share the evidence for excellence
Enter knowledge for better practice

NICE - reviewing the evidence

- Review of effectiveness
 - assess quality and strength of evidence
 - assess applicability
 - try to take as broad approach to the evidence as possible
- Economic appraisal
 - economic evaluations and modelling
 - public sector perspective, QALYs
- Evidence also then consulted on.


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An early partnership

- Recognise importance of working together
- Have established a framework agreement to underpin the work we do
 - Identifies a shared interest and purpose
 - Acknowledges that we can learn from each other
 - Builds in capacity for review



The story – adaptation to innovation

Adaptation

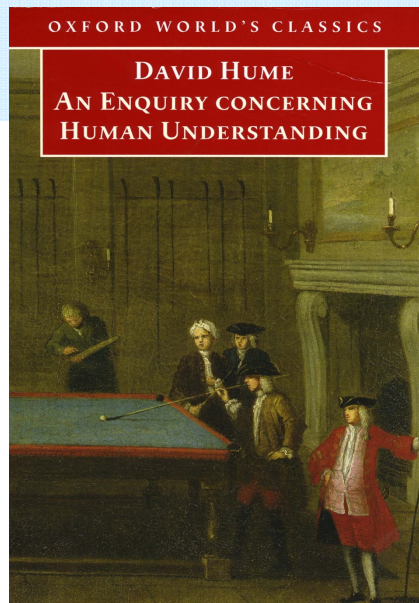
- NICE processes, adapted for joint guidelines
- Strong social care representation on guidelines development group and chairs from social care and health
- Integration of qualitative evidence that looks to capture directly the voice of the service user and carer to complement the conventional approaches to guidance development based on statistical evidence.
- Language

Adaptation – the results

- The first recommendation of the dementia guidelines is that the service should be available without discrimination in terms of age, disability, race or culture.
- Guidance on parent training for conduct disorders describe the characteristics of effective programmes.
- Adds value
 - Using sources of evidence that address social as well as health questions provides a whole picture of people's needs
 - Integrating qualitative with quantitative evidence, can tell you not only what works, but why

The story- innovation

- A joint methodology for joint guidance on the health of looked after children which includes 3 evidence reviews (NICE), rapid appraisal of practice (SCIE), practice survey (SCIE), stakeholder consultation (NICE), qualitative review (SCIE), expert witness (NICE)
- Can current systems, frameworks and processes used to identify and monitor health, emotional and social outcomes for looked after children, young people and their families be improved?
- Sources of evidence
 - Practice survey
 - Rapid appraisal of practice
 - Stakeholder consultation
 - Review 3 – improving access to services



- Rationalism –

- Demonstrative reasoning is deductive and involves relations between ideas.
- This type of reasoning can proceed with absolute certainty based on the logical relations between ideas
- Geometry, algebra, logic, method

- Empiricism

- Factual reasoning is inductive and involves drawing apparently reasonable but not logically certain conclusions

- Producing evidence based guidance involves both kinds of reasoning – the problem has been a failure to articulate the two approaches, and to confine much which is scientific to the realm of opinion down the bottom of the hierarchy of evidence..