

2009 International Campbell Collaboration (C2) Colloquium

Submitter Information

Kevin Marsh

Email: kevin.marsh@matrixknowledge.com

Abstract Information

Abstract Title:

The value of training the children's workforce: An example of the use of modelling techniques to sup

Format:

Paper

Themes:

systematic review, economic evaluation, modelling techniques

Authors:

Dr Kevin Marsh, The Matrix Knowledge Group Evelina Bertanou, The Matrix Knowledge Group Miguel Garcia-Sanchez, The Matrix Knowledge Group Sarah Dobbing, The Matrix Knowledge Group

Abstract:

The Children's Workforce Development Council commissioned the Matrix Knowledge Group to construct an economic framework for assessing investment in skills development for people who work in the children's workforce. Given the dearth of economic evaluations of improvements in the skills of the children's workforce, a review of the literature was insufficient to answer this question. Consequently, a review of the literature was supplemented by decision-analytic modelling techniques, an approach that corresponds with the recommendations of the Campbell and Cochrane Economic Method Group Policy Brief. The method adopted comprised two stages. A rapid evidence assessment was undertaken to identify studies on the relationship between the skills and/or qualifications of the children's workforce and improvements in children's outcomes (defines as those contained within the Every Child Matters Outcomes Framework). Building on the review, an economic model was then built to estimate the number of children in England who could benefit from the improvements in skills identified in the literature, and the value to the English economy and society of investing in such improvements in skills and/or qualifications. The construction of the economic model was informed by supplementary searches. The results of the study include an assessment of the effects and value associated with investments in the skills of the children's workforce, including an assessment of the distribution of the benefits of such investments, both between different stakeholder groups and over time. The discussion considers the implications of the study for how review methods can be used to inform economic analysis. In particular, this reflects on the lessons for the use of economic modelling techniques to supplement review methods where there are substantial gaps in the literature.
