



Producing a Research and Development Strategy

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Where does the imperative for a R&D Strategy come from?



- 21st Century Review of Social Work (*Changing Lives* Implementation Plan 2006)
 - Practice Governance Change Programme (1 of 5)
- Need to: oversee/lead/direct/co-ordinate/stimulate/increase investment in/raise the quality of research activity to underpin improvement & development of Scottish social services

Purpose of the R&D Strategy



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

Who are the stakeholders?



Very wide list:

Service users, carers,
practitioners, politicians,
trainers, research councils, other
funding bodies, managers, planners,
regulatory bodies, educational
institutions, policy makers (local
and national), government
departments

A long way to go?



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

How do we build the strategy?



All of the stakeholders need to identify with & 'own' the strategy and, therefore, be involved in its production

Three main areas of activity required:



- **Embed research in social services organisations**
- **Create a social services research infrastructure**
- **Increase research capacity & capability**

Work plan:



Setting up working groups, under these 3 headings, to produce proposal papers on how the principal issues should be tackled.

- Embed research in social services organisations
- Create a social services research infrastructure
- Increase research capacity & capability

These include:



- Ensuring decisions are evidence-based
- Supporting all staff to be critical and intelligent consumers of research
- Generate more practitioner research
- Make research relevant to practice

AND



- **Contribute to next generation of social services academics**
- **Increase volume and quality of research**
- **Improve accessibility of research**
- **Stimulate communities of practice as step towards improved organisational learning**

Important to:



- Make R & D strategy more than a document - demonstration projects
- Collect data to tell us about 'the state of the nation'
- Create interest in advance of the consultation on the Strategy

Draft Timeline



Jan 07	Feb 07	Apr 07	Jun 07	Sept 07	Nov 07	Feb 08
Overall feedback ex SCIE consultn	Analysis, Scotland data ex SCIE consultn	Feedback on Scottish Data	Initial reports from working groups	Papers from working groups	Full draft strategy agreed	Strategy finalised
Working groups set up	Develop brief for working groups	Working groups continue	Revised group activity	Core strategy content agreed	Consultn begins	