

MULTI-PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATIONS FOR BUILDING RESEARCH CAPACITY IN SLT PRACTICE

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For the past 3 years, Hazel has been commissioned by NHS England to lead a collaborative Research Strategy agenda on behalf of 14 UK registered Allied Health professional associations. The key focus is to improve quality of all services, by equipping practitioners at all career stages with research capabilities that are established as an integral component of all practice roles, not an elite interest only for academic careers.

Aim

The session will incorporate an overview of this strategic national agenda and highlight key take-home messages from recently published seminal work that underpins the rationale for the essential value of a research-engaged workforce in health and social care. That includes both engagement with research (EBP) and engagement in research (service evaluation, quality improvement and practice-based research activities).

There is an acknowledged “fragile research eco-system” for practitioners to access support to build their research capabilities and grow a sustainable critical mass. Whilst there has been significant recent investment, the priority is to address historic interdisciplinary disparities for practitioners to access research support, resources and mentorship.

Methods

Collaborative multi-professional examples from UK will be used to illustrate benefits of generating collective, transferable research training and development resources, and establishing cross-professional networks for research mentorship for a range of specified purposes. These initiatives particularly benefit the smaller professional associations that have more constraints on the support they are able to offer to their own membership.

Results

This structured workshop session will build a “Heatmap” of existing sources of both uni-professional and multi-professional research capacity building support for SLT practitioners, as reported by the workshop delegates. Delegates will also identify prospective collaborative partnerships to access additional specified support in their own national contexts.

Conclusions

The outcomes of the workshop will be shared with ESLA, to inform future strategic planning.