

research
in practice
for adults

promoting the use of evidence-informed policy and practice in adult social care

learning events publications network exchange change projects www.ripfa.org.uk research in practice

Dartington

ripfa

**helping our Partners use
evidence from research
and other sources to
improve outcomes for
service users and carers**

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we aim to:

develop effective models of research utilisation

focus on the key areas essential to an individual's quality of life - social support, housing, health care, transport, training and employment

build expertise in integrating the views of service users into our operations and those of our Partners

create networks that will enable Partner agencies to share experiences

incorporate the knowledge and experience of social care practitioners into learning programmes

promote a multidisciplinary and interagency perspective

**focusing on issues
essential to a good
quality of life**



six strands to our work

research in practice *for adults* provides a range of resources to assist with the development of evidence-informed practice. These include events and publications, support networks, Change Projects, communication through a website, and joint activity with **research in practice**.

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learning events

research in practice *for adults* provides a programme of learning events for staff from Partner agencies. These range from smaller workshops to larger conferences and are targeted at different groups of staff. They are held in a variety of locations throughout the country.

- > Delivering the outcomes valued by service users
- > The future of the social care workforce
- > Working with users
- > Commissioning and contracting for outcomes

research in practice *for adults* develops an annual programme of events building on suggestions from Partner agencies. Events offer presentations and debate on key practice and policy issues, informed by the best available evidence.

Events are designed to be interactive and informal. They provide an opportunity for participants to share experiences and to reflect on implications for their own work and workplace.

research in practice *for adults* is developing a range of publications targeted at practitioners, managers, user-led organisations, councillors and trustees. These are designed to provide authoritative summaries of available evidence in key areas of adult social care.

publications

research in practice *for adults* has produced research briefings on topics including health needs of individuals with learning disabilities, assistive technology, self assessment, housing for people with dementia, commissioning for outcomes and support brokerage.

Publications are commissioned from specialists for each topic. The OutLine series answers core questions in adult social care. The Key Issues series explores topical areas where evidence may be limited, and the Councillors' Briefings series highlights the essential information on key topics.



- > **OutLines**
- > **Key Issues**
- > **EiP for Councillors**
- > **Evidence Stories**

'authoritative, accessible and available to all'

network exchange

research in practice *for adults* offers excellent networking opportunities across Partner agencies. It seeks to maximise the sharing of knowledge that will assist in the provision of effective adult social care, and provides resources for both individual and peer support.



research in practice *for adults* provides Partners with a Discussion Forum, Help!ine, monthly Research and Policy Update, and twenty hours one-to-one support per year. Annual residential events are organised for Link Officers, for Directors of Partner agencies and for Councillors and Trustees.

- > **Information and debate**
- > **Events and newsletters**

We are constantly exploring the most effective ways for people to share and disseminate knowledge and experiences and work with our Partner agencies to develop new strategies.

change projects

research in practice *for adults* works with individuals from Partner agencies on Change Projects. These projects identify an area of practice, appraise existing evidence, pilot new ways of working and evaluate the impact. Effective practice is then rolled-out nationally.

research in practice *for adults* works with two groups of Partner agencies during a Change Project. An initial group develops a pilot handbook of different tools and approaches. These are then piloted further by a second group prior to publication of the final handbook.

Change Project topics are selected following consultation with Partner agencies. The first Change Project, *Safety Matters*, focused on safeguarding and the second, *SDS360* on the change process for staff in responding to the self-directed support agenda.

- > Initial expert knowledge exchange
- > Development work with group of six to eight Partner agencies
- > Production of pilot resources
- > Piloting with second agency group to produce final resources

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website
ripfa.org.uk

research in practice *for adults* has a dedicated website at www.ripfa.org.uk. This is used for regular communication with staff in Partner agencies. The search facility can be used to access the latest evidence on key topics. The website hosts an on-line discussion forum.



research in practice *for adults* offers a range of resources through its website: evidence clusters; forthcoming events and past presentations; resource and policy links and a resource bank; copies of all our publications and Research and Policy Updates, and the Evidence Base for Integrated Care.

The website lists all our Partner agencies together with contact details for the Link Officers who act as the first point of contact and an outline of their role.

- > Evidence and information clusters
- > Policy and research links; resource bank
- > Evidence Base for Integrated Care

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'bookmark the website to keep on top of all developments'

research in practice *for adults* is modelled on its sister organisation for children's services, **research in practice**. The 'sixth strand' comprises joint activity between the two organisations to address common issues and to ensure that areas such as transition are not neglected.

**research
in practice**

research in practice *for adults* and **research in practice** provide a unique resource on evidence-informed practice. We are able to share methods and approaches and with the separation of adult and children's services can work together to bridge potential gaps.

Joint activity includes the annual Councillors and Trustees seminar, joint events, for example on Working with Users and Bridging the Gap, and joint publications, for example on transitions.

- > Annual Councillors and Trustees seminars
- > Joint publications
- > Joint seminars
- > Common approaches

research in practice *for adults*

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research in practice for adults
is a department of Dartington - an
international centre for the generation
and application of new ideas.

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