Knowledge exchange: making the most of scoping reviews

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KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE: MAKING THE MOST OF SCOPING REVIEWS

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1. The context

- A wealth of national and international knowledge around the role and contribution of family carers BUT it is fragmented, disparate and lacked accessibility and utility.

- Had never been synthesised or comprehensively reviewed.

- 2016 National Institute for Health Research School for Social Care Research (NIHR SSCR) funded scoping review of national and international carer-related knowledge.
2. Why a scoping review?

1. To achieve the aims of the study

2. Because of the nature of the research and evidence in the carer field:
   ● offers the most effective means of coherently capturing an evidence and knowledge base that is of considerable breadth and depth
   ● facilitates detailed and wide-ranging mapping, as well as active analysis and interpretation of findings, from an extensive multi-source landscape
   ● especially relevant in fields where there is emerging evidence rather than in those where evidence is well established, and where knowledge beyond the confines of traditional ‘research’ literature is sought
3. The scoping review itself

- adopted a broad definition of knowledge, drawing on a wide spectrum of sources e.g. articles, projects, reports, data sets, official statistics, conference proceedings, digital resources, policy, practice and guidance documents, web-based advice/information sources and consultations

- all items identified were saved and organised into categories and themes using EndNote data management software

- report which uniquely, synthesised and mapped carer-related knowledge and evidence and offered an overview of its range and type alongside a coherent commentary of its content, dimensions and nature

- the report was widely disseminated
4. Using the scoping review

- at that point in time those who needed could not access and exchange relevant carer-related information, research and evidence

- central to the development of good quality care and evidence-based practice

- given the global significance of caring and its policy prioritization, this lack of access and knowledge exchange had significant implications

- recognition that carer research and knowledge needed to be and shared by those who need it e.g. *International Journal of Care and Caring* and *international Carers Research collaborative network*

- BUT no co-ordinated and comprehensive source of carer-related knowledge or platforms for sharing and exchanging knowledge between relevant stakeholders.
5. CAREN - Carer Research and Knowledge Exchange Network

http://wels.open.ac.uk/research-project/caren/

‘a freely accessible knowledge exchange resource for all those across the globe who require any form of carer-related knowledge e.g. governments, carers, employers, policy makers, practitioners, researchers, TSOs and research funders around the world’
Setting up CAREN

• adapted existing knowledge exchange models

• transferred the items captured on Endnote during the review to create the database for CAREN

• used the same system of organisation i.e. four major categories:
  ➢ *Impact of care*
  ➢ *Carer variables*
  ➢ *Type of care*
  ➢ *Support and carers*

• database updated every 4 months

• in the past 12 months there have been 18,000+ visits to the CAREN website. One in three are return visitors
CAREN – the go to place to find out about the carers world

- a reliable and independent database for carer research and knowledge

- translation of research and evidence into evidence-based improvements in health and social care services

- a source of information about policy development and evidence for government departments and TSOs

- the provision of information and evidence to support cost-effectiveness in decision-making and service development

- the facilitation of informed exchanges between stakeholders

- help researchers reduce duplication of effort and quickly acquire knowledge about existing research

- ‘international noticeboard’ for promoting events and conferences
The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) ‘Carers’ hub’

co-designed an innovative ‘Carers’ hub’ based on the scoping review in partnership with the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) https://www.scie.org.uk/carers
The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) ‘Carers’ hub’

- this sustainable resource is hosted and updated by SCIE as part of their resources to support the implementation of the Care Act 2014

- section on the scoping review
  https://www.scie.org.uk/carers/knowledge-review

- streamlines commissioning processes by providing social care commissioners with a centralised source of evidence and research

- on average there are 1000 (worldwide) visitors each month (over half of these are returning visitors)
a scoping review has been used to produce two accessible knowledge exchange networks for use by a wide range of stakeholders

both address significant systemic deficits in a specific field

one has international reach, the other national reach

both have the ongoing potential to improve the lives of the ever-increasing number of carers, by enhancing the relationship between carer research and evidence and policy and practice

both illustrate the value of scoping reviews in facilitating knowledge exchange, particularly in relation to enhancing evidence-based policy and practice
QUESTIONS