



Knowledge Organiser - Year 13 HSC

Unit 4: Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care

<u>Types of issues where research is carried out in the health and social care sector</u> • The purpose of research – to improve outcomes for people using services, informing policy and practice, extending knowledge and understanding, identifying gaps in provision. • Examples of research that have led to an improvement in practice and policy, e.g. changes in treatment of health conditions, changes in practice in providing care and support. • Health conditions, e.g. how effective certain types of treatment are, health trends in certain areas or among certain age groups and why this should be the case, strategies for avoiding certain health conditions and the success of these strategies. • Lifestyle factors, e.g. prevalence in certain age groups, how far lifestyle factors contribute		1
<u>Research methodologies</u> • Organisations involved in research, to e.g. health authorities, local authorities, social service departments and charities • Research methods, including questionnaires, interviews, case studies, scientific experiments, checklists, observation. • Analysis of data, e.g. data compiled from local authorities and GP surgeries, to identify whether methods of care and support or treatment for health conditions are successful, to identify trends. • Conducting effective literature searches. • Identifying, analysing and evaluating source material.	<u>Planning Research</u> How to plan a piece of research, including: • rationale for the research • deciding on achievable objectives • selecting appropriate research methods • selecting target group and sample • deciding realistic timescales • deciding how monitored and modified • deciding measures for success • considering ethical issues	3
<u>Ethical issues</u> • maintaining confidentiality of participants, including of any settings • Consent of participants and consent from parents or carers if under 18 • research conduct, including keeping a professional distance • data protection legislation, policies and procedures • human rights legislation, policies and procedures and how this relates to conduct of research (legislation must be current at time of delivery) • the use and misuse of results, including statistics that inform practice, informed consent from participants and the 1947 Nuremberg Code in relation to ethical research, misuse of results, e.g. Andrew Wakefield and the MMR research • conflicts of interest in research and how to avoid them, disclosure and whistle-blowing • role of organisations, e.g. National Social Care Research Ethics Committee.		4

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Research skills • Time management, organisational skills. • Non-judgemental practice. • Showing connections between sources of information. • Methods of analysis and drawing conclusions. • Recognising potential sources of bias or error. • Distinguishing between fact and opinion, and identifying bias. • Interpreting graphs and tables produced by others. • Selecting relevant numerical data. • Analysis of results, including compilation of data, results and findings • Making notes and keeping records from source material. • Reading techniques, e.g. skimming, scanning. • Conventions for presenting bibliography and reference lists. 5		Carrying out and reviewing relevant secondary research • Selecting sources of reliable secondary research, including professional journals, professional bodies, textbooks, periodicals, websites, research organisations. • Conducting electronic searches using academic search engines, databases, keywords, advanced search tools, refining search data to narrow range of information to manageable size. • Consideration of the suitability of the sources, including reference to ethical principles, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, fair representation of people using services. • Selecting relevant numerical data, to include graphs, tables and statistics. • Examining and interpreting graphs and tables produced by others. • Recognising bias in graphs, tables and statistics. 6	
7 Evaluation of research • Examining content of secondary materials including introduction, body of text, conclusion. • Academic reading, to include surveying structure of source materials. • Advantages and limitations of research sources and methodologies, e.g. access to data. • Validity and reliability of results, including possible bias error, use and misuse of statistics, ethical principles, generalisability. • Recommendations, as a result of the research, for work with people who use services. • Potential areas for further development of the research. • Potential for development of working practice and provision of services.		Wider applications of research • Making recommendations for potential future areas for research. • Implications of research for health and social care practice. • Implications of research for health and social care service provision. 8	

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