

Rapid-response evaluation

At the forefront of evaluating complex system change: NHS England's approach

Laura Freeman & Sam Hinks (NHS England)

Using a large NHS transformation project- the New Care Models vanguards programme- as a case study, the presenters will talk through NHS England's emerging approach to evaluation of large scale, complex programmes of change and will share their reflections and learning on the approach from the first two years of evaluation work.

The evaluation of two pilots for the 30 hours free childcare policy

Rachel Murphy (Dept for Education) & Gillian Paull (Frontier Economics)

This workshop will focus on the Department for Education evaluation of two pilots for the 30 hours free childcare policy. An innovative mixed methods approach and the integrated working of independent evaluators, government analysts and policymakers with rapid dissemination of evidence was key to provide timely evidence to inform delivery, nationally and locally, as the policy developed in parallel.

Qualitative approaches to marginalised groups

'Tales on the Beat': Through the looking glass of male sex work

George Dake (University of Central Lancashire)

This paper discusses a research project exploring the lived experiences and everyday lives of male sex workers in Manchester. The study uses map making and mobile methods to explore the historical, physical and psychological journeys and survival strategies of a group of vulnerable young men.

Generating data at a distance: Lessons from online qualitative research

Eppie Leishman (University of York)

Online research methods offer researchers the opportunity to be both innovative and involve participants in the research process. This paper will discuss the methodological findings of my PhD research into Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT+) people's perspectives on resilience. Drawing on my experiences of combining online questionnaires and distance interviews the implications for future research will be considered.

Involving participants with impairments

How to conduct meaningful and robust research among people with cognitive impairments

Laura Thomas (Ipsos MORI)

With careful development and testing it is possible to conduct research among people with cognitive impairments. Working closely with the Alzheimer's Society and their volunteers, we surveyed 957 people with dementia who access services and conducted 32 depth interviews. This flagship project has far reaching implications for the future.

How can we involve service users as programme evaluators whilst ensuring robustness?

Zoe Khor (OPM Group)

Presents practice-based learning from experience of involving service users as evaluators, developed through a recent evaluation of a Leonard Cheshire Disability's programme. We will discuss how we trained and supported Customer Action Network representatives (users of the disability services) to collect process learning and impact data from interviews with residents and staff.

Improving response rates

Maximising take up to the Labour Force Survey with an initial online mode invitation

Andrew Phelps (ONS)

ONS is investing heavily in researching the most effective way of maximising response to an initial invitation to take part in its social surveys online. This presentation will summarise the experimental work that has taken place to date, across two large Labour Force Survey quantitative tests. It will discuss the implications for further development of mixed mode surveys at ONS.

Fighting falling response rates: The GPPS Survey, a continuous programme of research

Alex Kong & Harriet Fowler (Ipsos MORI)

The GP Patient Survey, funded by NHS England, is a large-scale postal survey providing GP practice level data on patient experiences. In a context of declining response rates, the presentation will review a continuous programme of research, encompassing methodological innovations and a body of work to improve survey accessibility. In combination, this work serves to ensure the GPPS remains relevant.

Co-creation

Beyond burden – Engaging research participants as equal partners

Bethan Peach (OPM Group)

The session will stimulate discussion about the assumption that the ‘burden’ of research on participants should always be minimised. Specifically, we draw on a recent case-study to show how embedding research tools within an intervention can benefit the commissioner, the researchers and the participants.

Ensuring substance: experiences of using participants’ skills and strengths to create positive collaboration

Kate Merriam & Rachel Wooldridge (Ecorys UK)

Using three of our current projects as case studies, we will talk about the key ways that working with research participants has strengthened our research. Utilising participants’ unique role while maintaining our agility as professional researchers enables us to ensure that we go beyond tokenism in participatory evaluation. We will reflect on the practical elements of success and the challenges to involvement.

Evaluation without a counterfactual

Analysing the impact of the Sentencing Council’s burglary guideline

Sarah Poppleton & Caroline Nauth-Misir (Office of the Sentencing Council)

This presentation will outline how we assessed the impact of the guideline for sentencing burglary offences. We will explain how we used statistical analysis to examine the effect of the guideline on sentencing practice, plus analysis of survey data, supplemented by qualitative analysis of Crown Court judges’ sentencing remarks, to venture explanations for the reasons behind the trends.

Using innovative theory based evaluation methods in energy efficiency policy

Emily Sumner (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy)

What do we mean by theory based evaluation methods? This presentation will give an insight into how BEIS is evaluating some energy-related policies using theory-based methods. The presentation will cover why traditional experimental methods are not always suitable, and provide case study examples of theory based methods being used in practice.

Visual storytelling

A new (old) tool to present research evidence to policy-makers

Jamie Guth (World Health Organization/TDR)

This workshop presents lessons learnt on how and when to use a video of research subjects as a research dissemination tool with policy-makers. It is based on qualitative research that examined the perceptions of policy-makers on the acceptability of using narrative approaches so that research participants could explain their impressions of the study and how it affected them.

Exploring 'the space between' - The visualisation of qualitative data

Hen Wilkinson (University of Bristol) & Dr Bobby Stuijzand (Jean Golding Institute)

We present visualisations of nonverbal dynamics in group interactions. Group dynamics, coded on engagement and mood, are visualised as a function of time. Sequential overlays representing qualitative source data (i.e. written and audio) enrich the visualisation, adding transparency and allowing readers to directly engage with the data themselves, so accessing some of the many stories of a qualitative dataset.

Taking advice from participants

Making change happen together: Involving young cancer patients in our research

Anna Christina Carnegie (CLIC Sargent)

This presentation will speak about some of the ways that young cancer patients and their families are encouraged to get involved in our research and policy work at every stage of the process – from inception and early scoping of themes and questions, right through to final publication and dissemination.

Engaging with an advisory network: A new direction or problematic participation?

Louise Isham, Dr Caroline Bradbury-Jones & Dr Alistair Hewison (University of Birmingham)

There is limited reporting about the role of advisory groups in research. In this presentation we reflect on the challenges and opportunities of working with an advisory network. We evaluate the strengths and limitations of the network approach and make recommendations about its future development for researchers working across different disciplinary and organisational contexts.

Improving impact measures

Impact evaluation of the prison-based Core Sex Offender Treatment Programme: A success story

Dr Laura Di Bella, Mark Purver & Aidan Mews (Ministry of Justice)

A cross-disciplinary team at the Ministry of Justice was put together to tackle this high-profile evaluation. The team overcame many methodological challenges commonly found in the field, ensuring a high-quality evidence-based product. Working closely with experts and practitioners, the team produced a narrative that was mindful of strengths and limitations.

A new way of measuring impact? Using hyperlocal survey data and the Community Life Survey

Ailbhe McNabola (Power to Change Trust) & Alice Fitzpatrick (Kantar Public)

To test out a new way of measuring the social impact of community businesses in their local area, a 'hyperlocal' version of the Community Life Survey was conducted in early 2017 in 6 pilot areas and compared with data from the national survey. This workshop will share insights into the data and the method, its challenges and benefits.