George Julian has been Director of research in practice for adults for the past two years, having joined the organisation when it was established in 2006. Her experience prior to working at ripfa includes posts as a Senior Research Officer at the Office for National Statistics, a Researcher focusing on early childhood education, and three years as a Lecturer in Special Education in Ireland. George has a BA in Education, a PGDip in Social Science Research Methods and a PhD in the Psychology of Special Education that saw her looking at educational provision and curriculum for profoundly disabled children in England, Wales and Ireland. Her passion is ensuring that research is useful to people who need to use it, be they social workers, teachers or those using services. She has a particular interest in the role that technology can play in supporting this endeavour and believes that the best way to make research useful is to collaborate and engage end users from the beginning. When she is not working, reading research reports or ploughing through her email inbox, George is an occasional blogger, a rugby fan (with confused allegiances having lived in Wales, Ireland and being English), a very irregular runner, and an infrequent baker. She is also an avid user of social media as a platform for networking and can be found over on twitter @georgejulian