



# **Making Research Count**

## **Annual Report 2012-13**

**UNIVERSITY** *of York*

## Introduction

Making Research Count (MRC) is a national collaborative research dissemination initiative, established by a network of Universities and operating from bases at ten regional universities. All the universities in the network have a proven track record in social work and social care research as well as providing social work education at qualifying and post qualifying levels.

The other universities involved in Making Research Count are Bedfordshire, Brighton, Central Lancashire, East Anglia, Keele, King's College London, Northumbria (in partnership with Teesside), Salford, University of the West of England, and the Open University.

This is the 2012-13 annual report for the Making Research Count programme run by the University of York. Making Research Count is funded regionally via subscriptions from member agencies, including local authorities, health and voluntary organisations. In addition any organisation or independent individual may purchase a place at any event, subject to availability.

Each university determines the shape of its programme, and this is largely dependent on the wishes and requirements of its subscribers, as well as what is practical and achievable within the subscription income. The objective of Making Research Count is, however, consistent nationally in promoting knowledge-based practice in social work and social care.

Currently, the University of York's Making Research Count programme is funded by subscriptions from 7 agencies in Yorkshire and the Humber – these being East Riding, Hull, Leeds, North East Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Wakefield and York. All 7 are subscribers for both the Adults and Children & Families programme streams.

## National update

Meetings of the MRC partners take place several times per year and provide an opportunity to exchange information on seminar topics, national developments and changes to the partnership. This year a relationship is being developed with The College of Social Work, to promote MRC events to their members and to involve them in delivery of MRC events; the February 2014 event at the University of York will be chaired by Ruth Allen, Chair of the Mental Health Faculty at the College.

## The 2013-13 University of York programme

### Overview and Update

The programme of events delivered by the University of York was based on:

- Attracting staff with operational, policy or training responsibilities
- Ensuring the programme met the wishes and requirements of subscribing agencies
- Covering the full range of service areas and user groups across social work and social care
- Providing a range of different types of events, including research briefings, events with a joint focus on both adults and children's services, and larger seminars.

## Events held

From September 2012 to July 2013, the following events were delivered by Making Research Count (York).

### Childrens events

- 15 November 2012

#### **Someone on Our Side: Advocacy for Disable Children and Young People**

Dr Anita Franklin, Senior Research, The Children's Society

Chaired by Paul Dyson, Independent Social Worker

- 7 March 2013

#### **Child sexual exploitation: problems and perspectives**

Margaret Melrose, Professor of Social Policy and Applied Social Research

Dr Helen Beckett, Research Fellow

Dr Lucie Shuker, Research Fellow

Institute of Applied Social Research at the University of Bedfordshire

Chaired by Paul Dyson, Independent Social Worker

- 23 May 2013

#### **Relationship-based Practice in a Digital World**

Professor Corinne May-Chahal, Department of Applied Social Sciences, University of Hull

Dr Jo Bell, Department of Social Sciences, University of Hull

Chaired by Dr Margaret Bell, Independent Social Worker

- 2 July 2013

#### **Defining Risk, Managing Vulnerability: Questioning the certainties in interventions with 'problem' young people**

Professor Jo Phoenix, School of Applied Social Studies, Durham University

Dr Kate Brown, Lecturer in Social Policy, University of York

Chaired by Professor Nick frost, Leeds Metropolitan University

### Adults events

- 24 October 2012

#### **The Right To Be Heard: Independent mental health Advocacy for People Detained under the Mental Health Act**

Stephanie de la Haye, Karen Newbigging and Dr Julie Ridley, University of Central Lancashire

Chaired by Dr Martin Webber, Reader in Social Work, University of York

- 23 January 13

#### **Self-Neglect: The Challenges for Adult Safeguarding**

Professor Michael Preston-Shoot, University of Bedfordshire

Chaired by Dr John Brown, Honorary Fellow, University of York

- 8 February 2013

**Community In Focus: Social Work Making Connections; Working with communities and networks to enhance the well-being of vulnerable people**

Dr Martin Webber, Reader in Social Work, University of York

Professor David Morris, University of Central Lancashire

- 24 April 2014

**Personalisation and carers: Whose assessment? Whose support plan? Whose budget?**

Wendy Mitchell, Jenni Brooks and Caroline Glendinning

Social Policy Research Unit, University of York

Jeanne Carlin – Carer

Chaired by Dr John Brown, Honorary Fellow, University of York

- 5 June 2013

**Council-Managed Personal Budgets: Choice and Flexibility of Home Care for Older People**

Parvaneh Rabiee, Kate Baxter and Caroline Glendinning, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York

Chaired by Dr John Brown, Honorary Fellow, University of York

## Joint events

- 3 October 2012

**Examining Communication during home visits: A Discourse Analytic Approach**

Dr Chris Hall, School of Medicine, Pharmacy and Health, Durham University

- 16 January 2013

**Supporting Teenage Parents in Challenging Times: Qualitative Longitudinal Research with Young Fathers and Mothers**

Dr Aniela Wenham, Lecturer, University of York

Dr Carmen Lau Clayton, Director of ESRC Following Young Fathers Study, University of Leeds

Chaired by Dr Margaret Bell, Independent Social Worker

- 1 March 2013

**Making Sense of the Professional Capabilities Framework: a new approach to social work development and practice**

James Blewett, Research Director, Making Research Count, King's College London

Daisy Bogg, University of York

Chaired by Martin Webber, Reader in Social Work, University of York

## Attendance and evaluation

During the year, a total of 534 people registered to attend events, representing a decrease of 4% on the previous year.

Overall attendance at events was 88%, a decrease on the previous year's rate of 92%

Evaluation forms are provided at all events, and a total of 394 were completed during 2011-12, representing a response rate of 84% compared with 74% the previous year.

Evaluation forms cover a number of items, a summary of the main findings shows that, across research briefing seminars:

- The content and quality of research presentations was rated as excellent or very good by 90% of respondents (compared with 86% in 2011-12)
- 99% reported that they thought the University's pre-event administration was either excellent or very good (94% in 2011-12)
- Satisfaction with the pre-event processes within member organisations was reported as either excellent or very good by 93% of delegates (88% in 2011-12)
- 98% of delegates had plans to disseminate their learning to colleagues

The following is a selection of quotes from delegates attending events:

- *Venue very suitable and good size of group, not too big. I really like the contacts provided for on-going networking. Would hugely recommended and will look at attending future events*
- *Thank you, very relevant to my area of practice and teaching/research, thought provoking, and great for sharing ideas what's happening around UK*
- *This is the third event I've had the opportunity to attend overall, and I have found each of them immensely relevant to practice both as AMHP and trainer, thank you*
- *Very very useful and thought provoking, lots of questions to take back to employer*

## Finance

The subscription to Making Research Count remained unchanged from 2011-12 at £2500. This will continue for 2013-14 with a review for 2014-15. We will discuss funding options with existing and new subscribers, with the possibility of a tiered subscription to improve the flexibility of our offer.

## Plans for 2013-14

### Context for the year

This has been a challenging year for Making Research Count staff, as we have unforeseen turnover of staff and illness. Angela Portz joined us as Co-ordinator in November 2013.

### Programme delivery

At the time of producing this annual report, the programme for 2013-14 is almost finalised, and will be confirmed after the annual subscriber meeting in February 2014.

Topics include;

- Connectedness as a component of recovery
- Loneliness and ageing
- Supporting young people from care into adulthood
- Social work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with the 2 chief social workers
- Managed personal budgets
- Transitions for physically disabled young people
- Welfare reform and social work in a time of austerity

In addition, the following topics have been identified for 2014-15 and approaches will be made to academics and researchers in order to design appropriate events;

- Neglect
- Serious case reviews – adults
- Integrated care and re-ablement
- Risk assessment/positive risk
- Transitions
- Autism
- Dementia
- Child sexual exploitation

We are also discussing with subscribers how we can meet their staff Continuing Professional Development needs in other ways, e.g. via lunch-time seminars, webcasts, bespoke events on 'hot topics'. In addition we now map each seminar against the College of Social Work Professional Capabilities Framework and the Standards of Proficiency held by the Health and Care Professions Council.

We are offering our first paid internship to a University of York student, to support our marketing function, and if successful we will repeat this opportunity.

We are migrating our event administration to a bespoke system provided by the University, which will support our event management and enable us to improve manipulation of data and reporting.

## Conclusion

The University of York is confident that Making Research Count offers a valuable service to social work practitioners. We are actively seeking new subscribers, not only to sustain the programme but to broaden the range of skills and experience available to delegates at our events. Our future plans include a responsive offer that will meet the CPD needs of staff, whether employed in local authority, health or voluntary and community settings. This reflects the increasing nature of multi-disciplinary and partnership working in the field.

### **Angela Portz**

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