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Engaging with Policy

Professor Andrew Webster, Programme Director

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Engaging with policy at different levels:

Local/regional

National

International

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Local/Regional level:

Via the Programme: working with Trusts, social services and patient groups (e.g. special Social Science Week event in the York region 2003)

Via the projects: working closely with end-users

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Via the projects: a few examples…

- Seymour et al. : working closely with care providers in region to develop strategies for palliative and end of life care

- Flowers et al. : working with service providers in Glasgow, London, Brighton to develop guidelines for health services needs for those living with HIV

- Pickstone et al. : working closely with museums in Leeds and Wrightington Hospital

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National level: a few examples…

Programme-wide commentary on UK government White Paper on genetics

Developing joint strategic approach to research in the area of ICTs

Cross-funding agency research : building new networks on ageing, space and health technologies

Translating technology/findings – Medlink; National Screening Committee, etc

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International level: a few examples…

- Links with policy initiatives in Canada and Australia

- Impact of Fellowships in Comparative and Evaluative Analysis

- Contribution to international HTA

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Policy engagement via the Programme management:

- The role of the Programme Advisory Committee

- Dissemination via PD membership in different policy arenas

- Major dissemination in April 2004 in the NHS/DoH

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Engaging the findings…some examples:

Parr: *Access to the Internet for people with communication disability*

Barriers similar for many disabled people but especially so for those with aphasia

personal narrative determines information seeking priorities

Engagement with web sites depends on person's subscription to a particular definition of disability

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Engaging the findings…some examples:

Armstrong: *QoL as an IHT*

QoL measures disturb centrality of pathology and symptoms

QoL measures and instruments lag behind patient definitions of QoL

QoL measures have direct impact on the meaning of medical practice

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Engaging the findings…some examples:

Heaton et al.: *Technology and time*

Family routines structured around the technologies

Dependability was as much socially as technically defined

Serious shortage of respite care for families

Siblings need to be considered in evaluating such technologies

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Focus for User Conference 2003:

Genetics and Informatics

Both relate to 'technologies of
   citizenship'

Both have 'visions' – e-topia and
   gene-topia

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Engaging with policy in two senses and at multiple levels:

government: the management of health

governance: the 'conduct of conduct'

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