

Interim progress report: Encouraging applied research in Health Services

The overall aim of the project was for the applicant to work with other interested staff, in NHS Borders to:

- a. develop an informal clinical research community of practice where applied research ideas can be shared and developed and where areas of existing good practice, suitable for publication can be identified
- b. develop an informal buddy system to encourage practice based research ideas to be implemented
- c. produce at least 2 papers to be submitted for publication at the end of the funded phase of the project.
- d. increase the research skills and confidence of the staff involved.

To date (midway through the project) the following has been achieved

- a. An informal clinical research community of practice has been developed. This has initially centred around staff working within child services in NHS Borders, but has also been extended to involve practitioners in Lothian and Tayside as common areas of interest have been identified and project proposals developed. In addition, links have been made with volunteers to help increase the research capacity of staff.
- b. The author has acted as a facilitator and research buddy with the aim of facilitating practice development. In this context, practice development has been conceptualised as placing an emphasis on getting research into practice and carrying out evaluation, audit and small scale research activities. As part of this process 4 projects have been identified that could be written up for publication, all of which derive from existing practice/ work that has been carried out in the clinical context.

To date, 4 papers have been written up and submitted for publication, 3 of which have been accepted for publication. In addition, 1 additional paper is in preparation. The group is also working on a clinically based research proposal. The total number of publications/papers that have been written up for publication which have resulted from the various NHS Borders funded projects that the author has been involved in that include other NHS Borders staff is 12.

- Rae, H., McKenzie, K & Murray, G.C. The impact of staff training on the knowledge and confidence of teachers working with children with a learning disability and challenging behaviour *British Journal of Learning Disabilities* (In press)
- McKenzie, K., Murray, G.C., Prior, S., & Stark, L. An evaluation of a school counselling service with direct links to Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) Services. *British Journal of Guidance and Counselling* (In press)
- McKenzie, K. & Megson, P. A review of child learning disability screening tools. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities* (In press)
- Rae, H., McKenzie, K & Murray, G.C. The attitudes of teachers towards inclusion of children with a learning disability and challenging behaviour *Learning Disability Practice* (In press)
- Rae, H., McKenzie, K. & Murray, G.C. (2010) Health care workers' knowledge of current child protection legislation and child discipline practices. *Child Abuse Review*, 19(4), 259-272.

- McKenzie, K. & Patterson, M. (2010) The evaluation of an Assertive Outreach Team: implications for challenging behaviour British Journal of Learning Disabilities. DOI: 10.1111/j.1468-3156.2010.00612.x
 - Davidson, L. & McKenzie, K. (2010) The care planning process for children under two in Scotland. Adoption and Fostering 34(1) 33-39.
 - McKenzie, K., Davidson, L. & Wade, R. (2010) The young parents' group: supporting vulnerable parents. British Journal of Midwifery, 18(9), 594-597.
 - McKenzie, K., Davidson, L. & Wade, R. (2010) Promoting Social Support for Parents with a Learning Disability Learning Disability Practice, 13(4), 30-33.
 - Wright, J., McKenzie, K. & Murray, G.C. Emotional Recognition, Executive Function and Pragmatic Communication in Children with a Diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (In preparation)
 - Rae, H., McKenzie, K. & Murray, G.C. The impact of staff training on the knowledge and confidence of teachers working with children with a learning disability. Journal of Intellectual Disabilities (submitted for publication).
 - Murray, A.L., Crawford, K., McKenzie, K. & Murray G.C. The Challenge of Promoting Positive Nurse-Patient Relationships in the Treatment of Anorexia Nervosa (Under review)
- c. The skills and confidence of the 11 staff currently involved in the informal research community of practice vary from those with no experience and no publications, to those who hold doctoral level qualifications, but have limited experience in writing up research for publication. Six of the staff involved had no previous publications or experience of writing for publication.

Dr Karen McKenzie
November 2010