

For SSRG Newsletter OCT 2009

Calling all Research Governance Leads! Developing the Research Register for Social Care

Chris Russell, an independent consultant, is just beginning a six months development project with a special focus on the Research Register for Social Care. Chris may well be contacting you- in the near future...(see below). The project is funded by the Department of Health and managed by the Social Care Workforce Research Unit at Kings College London.

Following the introduction of the Research Governance Framework (RGF) in social care in 2004, the Department of Health has funded a number of development projects to support local implementation. These have included a Resource Pack (currently being revised); three sets of regional and national training workshops; and a national Research Register for Social Care.

The Research Register for Social Care (www.researchregister.org.uk), developed and maintained by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), has the potential to become a major resource for everyone with an interest in evidence based practice and policy. To fulfil that potential, however, requires continued input of newly approved research proposals – one of the key requirements of the Research Governance Framework. In practice, uptake is variable and as a result the Register is not as widely used as it might be. *Ad hoc* feedback from councils suggests that whilst technical support from SCIE has been excellent, a number of practical difficulties and organisational constraints are continuing to limit progress.

The aim of the current development project is to identify the best ways of overcoming these difficulties and promoting the use of the Register. Linked to this, the project will explore how an online Community of Practice might be used in conjunction with the Register site to facilitate an ongoing network of research governance leads.

Chris Russell will be seeking feedback from Research Governance leads (many of whom will be SSRG members) in all of the Councils with social care responsibilities. This includes those of you who have been involved in setting up and running the research governance arrangements for your Councils since the RGF was introduced in 2004 and those who are relative newcomers to the world of research governance.

Chris will be working closely with the Register team at SCIE and she will also be looking to set up a small reference group of RGF leads with varying levels of experience of the Register. To find out more about the project, you can contact Chris by email chris@barn.abelgratis.co.uk or telephone 01588 680545. For enquiries about the Research Register, contact Sue Jardine: sue.jardine@scie.org.uk
<http://www.researchregister.org.uk/>