

Poster – #EIE2021

Towards an evidence-informed model for implementation of new practice in complex settings- A case study evaluation

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Research aim

Using an Action Research Project (ARP) as a case study, the aim of this research is to describe and evaluate the implementation strategies embedded in the ARP to bridge the gap between policy, research and practice reform. The research will determine if and how a new model can best describe the implementation efforts of the ARP.

Methods

1. A theory-focused examination and description of the ARP implementation strategies embedded in the research design.
2. A literature review to examine existing philosophies and theories of policy and practice innovation and implementation across multiple fields.
3. Triangulation of theory to develop a model for implementation of new practice in complex settings.
4. Identify an appropriate framework to test and evaluate the model. Planned testing of the ARP model will involve the triangulation of qualitative data to evaluate implementation outcomes.

Key findings

Preliminary findings suggest that trust governance and relationship building strategies are an integral part of the research design and require a range of associated activities to create a sense of shared purpose, ownership, genuine buy-in and enthusiasm for implementation. Routinely gathered real-time data from the broader study indicates that motivation remained at an almost constant high level across the 16 participating trial sites throughout the first phase of the research.

Discussion

The complex nature of the ARP has seen the overall strategy for implementation develop into a multi-faceted ‘intervention’ in its own right with several overt, inferred, implied and hidden components and activities becoming integral to the implementation process. Trust governance features as one of the principle implementation strategies in the transformational endeavours of the ARP to foster working relationships between the policy maker, the research team and the practitioners. Associated activities included co-producing a trust statement to support a working partnership for joint risk taking, genuine co-design and implementation. A unique characteristic of the research has been the implementation of practice change whilst still developing the core intervention.

How did the ARP strategies support policy objectives and practice wisdom to meet in the middle and progress implementation? What implementation activities supported the trust governance strategy?