The case for a knowledge exchange network (CAREN)

Conference or Workshop Item

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THE CASE FOR A CARER KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE NETWORK (CAREN)

Dr Mary Larkin,
The Open University
mary.larkin@open.ac.uk
CARING – Carer Research and Knowledge Exchange Network’ and the rationale for its development

http://wels.open.ac.uk/research-project/caren/

a freely accessible knowledge exchange resource for all those across the globe who require any form of carer-related knowledge e.g. governments, carers, employers, policy makers, practitioners, researchers, NGOs and research funders around the world
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

● CONTEXT

● RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR CARER RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

● CAREN

● EXAMPLES OF CAREN’s ROLES

● FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

● KEY REFERENCES
• now a wealth of national and international knowledge around the role and contribution of family carers BUT it is fragmented, disparate, lacks accessibility and utility

• this has significant implications e.g. in relation to supporting carers’ capacity to make informed decisions; achieving policy goals; maximising the value and impact of research
● International Carers Research collaborative network (using JISCmail).

● International Journal of Care and Caring

● Review of national and international carer-related knowledge
Carers Research collaborative network

JiscMail

Email discussion lists for the UK Education and Research communities

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Short Course at University of Oxford - Practice of Evidence-Based Health Care  |  University of Oxford CPD Centre <p@health@CONTED.OX.AC.UK>  |  Thu, 13 Apr 2017 12:14:19 +0100
Supporting adult carers - NICE guideline scope consultation  |  Mary Larkin <mary.larkin@OPEN.AC.UK>  |  Tue, 11 Apr 2017 11:35:52 +0100

CARER-RES

Carers Research collaborative network

A place for researchers, carers, service users, third sector organisations, practitioners and policy makers to share and exchange information on the evidence base for carer services, research and policy.

- April 2017
- March 2017
- February 2017
- January 2017
- December 2016
- November 2016
- October 2016
- September 2016
- August 2016
- July 2016
- June 2016
- May 2016
- April 2016
- March 2016
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- December 2015
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Review of national and international carer-related knowledge

Carer research and knowledge

Utilising carer-related research and knowledge: a scoping review and information resource
● adapted existing knowledge exchange models

● transferred the items captured and coherently organised on Endnote during the review

● used same organisation system as the review i.e. 62 themes classified into four major categories:
  ➢ *Impact of care*
  ➢ *Carer variables*
  ➢ *Type of care*
  ➢ *Support and carers*

● **DEMO** - http://wels.open.ac.uk/research-project/caren/

● webinars, online forum, Facebook, twitter, blog and podcasts
EXAMPLES OF CAREN’s ROLES

● a reliable and independent database for carer research and knowledge
● translation of research and evidence into evidence-based improvements in the quality and cost-effectiveness of both health and social care services and practice with carers (researchers, policymakers and practitioners)
● a source of information about policy development and evidence for government departments and NGOs
● the provision of information and evidence for carers, service commissioners, NGOs, policymakers and practitioners to support cost-effectiveness in decision-making and service development
● the facilitation of informed exchanges in relation to consultations and innovative practice (e.g. carers, NGOs and government departments)
● help researchers reduce duplication of effort, quickly acquire knowledge about existing research
● an ‘international noticeboard’ for promoting conferences and events
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

- regular updating of resources
- extend knowledge exchange facility
- feedback and evaluation
- team to lead it (preferably international!)
- sponsorship
IN SUM……

- CAREN addresses a significant systemic deficit in the carers field
- step change in the way carer-related issues are captured, disseminated and addressed
- has the ongoing potential to improve the lives of the ever-increasing number of carers, by considerably enhancing the relationship between carer research and evidence and policy and practice
- it is a network whose time has come!
KEY REFERENCES