

Social Care Managers Forum

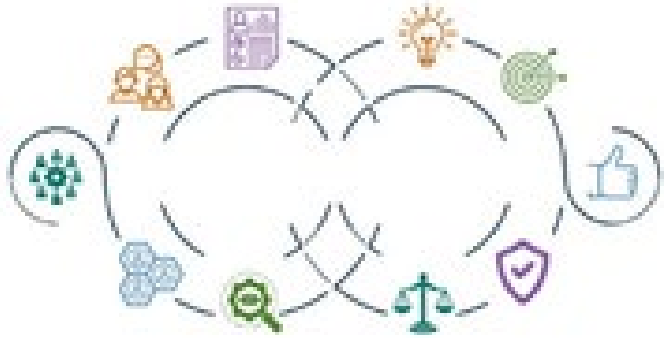
Curiosity in Social Care
by Anne McGlade

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Northern Ireland Social Care Council

Social Work and Social Care Research, Evidence, Innovation and Improvement Strategy

From curiosity to practice



Scan the QR code to view the full Strategy

A summary of the strategy is also available. Scan the QR code to view



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What does this mean in practice and management of social care?



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Social care also necessitates knowledge

Knowledge that is generated by a jigsaw of evidence:



- Professional
- Managerial
- Organisational
- Personal, and
- The voices of those who use our services

But social care also needs evidence which are provided by research.

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Being curious about social care practice

This is asking questions about:

- Why are we doing this?
- Why are we doing it this way?
- What works about this service or intervention?
- What doesn't work?
- What can we do to continually seek to improve services?



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Research Leadership

Research and evidence leadership is not confined to academic or career structures, it is about having:

- ✓ **a vision about research**
- ✓ **supporting and facilitating the production of research**

Research leadership and influencing others is about:

- ➢ **recognising the value of research and its contribution to improvement**
- ➢ **convincing others**
- ➢ **making research visible and embedding it in strategic planning and business delivery**

Managers are instrumental but research leaders can operate at all levels in organisations



Social Work and Social Care Research, Evidence, Innovation and Improvement Strategy

Why did we bother developing a new strategy?

- It aims to put research and evidence-informed practice at the core of how we work.
- It offers that outward commitment.
- We want people who use our services to feel confident that social work and social care practice, innovations and improvements are informed by the best available evidence and research.
- This builds confidence in the profession, and contributes a better outcome for everyone.



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Our Vision

Our Research, Innovation and Improvement Framework is built on six pillars (the Six Pillar Framework).
People with lived experience and carers, practitioners, leaders, managers and educators each have a vital role to play.
Each pillar will demand different types and levels of activity dependent on role but all are important. Delivering on this ambition requires aligned responsibility at both an organisational and individual level.



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The Six Pillar Framework

	Meaning	What it looks like in practice
V Valuing	Research, innovation and improvement are core to everyday work.	Using evidence to guide every day practice decisions.
I Inclusion	Equality, equity, diversity and inclusion are built in to all that we do.	Ensuring research reflects all groups, removing barriers to participation.
S Systems	Structured, visible systems support research at every level.	Providing clear plans for different roles and functions.
I Implementation	Turning ideas into real change.	Carrying out small pilot programmes, checking what works and scaling innovation.
O Ownership	Staff, people with lived experience and carers all feel included in the research and evidence process.	Giving voice to and valuing ideas from all contributors.
N Nurture	Build a research mindset from the start of learning and development and onward. Keep curiosity alive.	Offer continuous learning, mentorship and co-production opportunities.

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Opportunities for staff to engage in research

Research Methods Programme at Ulster University

Information also from the University post-qualifying social work office:

pgresearchmethods@ulster.ac.uk

Employer partnership with the University

Since 2014 with the strategic drive for evidence-informed practice, the Research Methods Programme provides modules developed for professionals and a similar set of modules for service users and carers.

Includes three modules for professional

- *Evidence Informed Professional and Organisation* ***Postgraduate Certificate 9 months.***
- *Research and Evaluation Methods* ***Post Graduate Diploma 1 year.***
- ***Accreditation at MSC level.***
- ***Knowledge Transfer via Independent Assessment Route (MSC in Co production for Service Users – 1 year.***

Check out our website



Click on image to view more information about our research community group, presentations, or how to become a member.



Click on image to view more information about how you can get involved in research, our Research and Evidence Partnership and the Research Methods Programme.



Click on image to view previous research newsletters, research protocols and previous strategies.



Click on image for our Call for abstract for our Research Conference in March 2027.

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Are you interested in social work and social care research and evidence?



- **Maintaining a curious mind to discover and understand day-to-day problems affecting people's lives?**
- **Providing the best solutions for each individual you work alongside?**
- **Ensuring that your professional decisions are evidence-based?**
- **Delivering confident and safe practice?**

As the regulator for social work and social care in Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Social Care Council, focus on how what we do can support better outcomes for the people who use services and provide them.

It is our aim that our work is informed by evidence and that evidence is constantly examined and updated.

Research can sometimes seem out of reach or something that only academics can do, but that is not the case. Research and evidence is for everyone.

Have you ever considered how research and evidence might help you to do this?

Research is about us all being curious in what we do and asking straightforward questions such as **'what if?'** and **'why not?'**

These questions are important in a learning culture.

If you'd like to find out more, please email us at: swresearchsistrategy@hscni.net.

What we do?

Scan QR code to Learn more.

Research and Evidence Partnership

Scan QR code to Learn more.

Research Strategy

Social Work and Social Care Research, Evidence, Innovation and Improvement Strategy

Read Research Strategy now.

Read summary report now.

Research community

Scan QR code to Learn more.

Working together.
Making a difference.

Thank you

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