

Running a successful network to support methodologists and guideline developers: sharing experiences from UK evidence synthesis networks

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BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

We established the ‘North West Evidence Synthesis Network’ (NWESN) to bring together guideline developers, health researchers and policy makers from across our region in order to share knowledge and expertise and raise awareness of methodological developments. Several other UK networks have been initiated including the ‘Liverpool Evidence Synthesis Network’ (LivEN). Feedback from members has been positive with both personal and institutional benefits.

Other networks include:

- Health Research Methodology and Implementation (HeRMI)
- Bangor Evidence Synthesis Hub (BESH)
- Peninsula Systematic Review discussion group (PenSR)

OBJECTIVES

- To advocate the role of networks
- To discuss the practicalities to establishing/running networks
- To explore what guideline developers needs from networks

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKSHOP

Short presentations to compare and contrast the remit, structure and function of different networks.

Group discussions to explore:

- What guideline developers want from networks
- Challenges to establishing/running networks and strategies to overcome these.
- Future directions for networking
- How networks can be better connected

Group feedback and conclusions

TARGET GROUPS

All staff involved in evidence synthesis and guideline development.

IMPLICATIONS FOR GUIDELINE DEVELOPERS

- Our presentation at the Global Evidence Summit 2017 demonstrated the benefits of membership of the NWESN. Implications for guideline developers included general education and updating on new methods; a key benefit is the opportunity to share skills, information and support across researchers and institutions.

CONCLUSIONS

- The workshop intends to raise awareness of the benefits of networks and what they can offer methodologists and guideline developers. We hope to encourage more people to connect with and establish methodological networks.