Evidence based social work

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No computers and is that a secretary?
Discussion and 2 tasks

• From building up the case FOR social work to building up the case for the EVIDENCE of social work
• Measuring with meaning
• What works – but what’s tractable?
• Building a learning organisation – is research the brick or mortar?
• Task 1 – have ‘outcomes’ been helpful?
• Task 2 – sharing ‘top tips’
The case FOR social work

• Appears unarguable
• But what is being described?
• The social worker (advocate, co-ordinator, trouble shooter?)
• Their intervention (therapy, intervention, resource?)
• And what or who is special or unique?
The EVIDENCE for social work

- Tendency for reports not to say who did what
- eg Reports on CBT not specifying who did intervention
- Challenge to separate out effectiveness of individual professionals within multidisciplinary teams
- Informants (inc other professionals) often unclear about what social workers do
What works - important

‘The need to understand what works in current social work practice is vital if we are to understand the effectiveness of social work’
But also what’s tractable?

- Will the future be ‘what can be changed’ and not what are more general problems?
- Are other professions better at declaring their limits?
- Not letting people down... but making effort for max gain
Measuring with meaning

- Becoming more familiar with terms and concepts (DemQual, GHQ, MMSE)
- Learning from Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework
- Process and outcomes
Building a learning organisation – is research the brick or mortar?

- Using research to ask questions
- Putting evidence into practice
- Doing the right thing – research tells us what is the right thing to do
- Learning organisations puzzle over competing priorities
Task 1 -

We often talk about outcomes – is this helpful and meaningful?
Task 2

Sharing ‘top tips’

• What do you turn to when seeking evidence or research?
• What would you recommend?
• Who do you ask?
Thank you for listening

Disclaimer & Acknowledgements

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