Developing a Programme of Research Linked to the HEF

The Health Equalities Framework (HEF) has been developed over the past three years and is now being used in a number of services to determine the outcomes of professional interventions. However, to further support its development there is a need to build evidence in two key areas:

- Identifying and critically appraising the evidence that underpins interventions that might be used to address issues of concern identified via the HEF.
- Identifying the outcomes of interventions used within the HEF framework

Previously learning disability nursing research has been criticised for lacking clear programmes of research meaning that studies have often been undertaken in a disjointed and uncoordinated manner. Therefore this paper seeks to identify a possible range of studies that practitioners undertaking dissertations at either pre-registration or post-graduate levels might wish to focus on. Those considering MPhil/ PhD might also wish to pursue studies in these areas. Individuals would thus be able to achieve their own academic goals whilst also contributing to a wider programme of research at a UK level.

The following have therefore been identified as some potential areas where research would be helpful:

1. The Confidential Inquiry and the HEF
2. What evidence do we have to underpin interventions to address priority areas for action identified via the HEF?
3. What evidence do we have regarding the effectiveness of interventions as determined by reassessment using the HEF?
4. Can change be sustained following interventions? Longitudinal study of implementing the HEF
5. Use of the HEF to address issues arising post Winterbourne
6. Exploring the links between use of the HEF and the implementation of policy initiatives
7. The HEF and health checks
8. The HEF and care pathways
9. Safeguarding and the HEF
10. Use of the HEF by family carers
11. Family carers perceptions of HEF
12. Use of the HEF by people with learning disabilities
13. People with learning disabilities’ perceptions of the HEF
14. Gathering workforce data on desired skill mix and expertise using data from the HEF

15. The use of the HEF in integrated teams

16. The use of the HEF in public health

17. The utility of the HEF in supporting the decision making of non LD specialist in health and social care settings

18. The impact of the HEF on both LD and non LD services

19. The use of the HEF in social care settings

20. The HEF and care pathways

21. The use of aggregated data arising from the HEF to inform service development and its impact on change

This list is not definitive but provides a starting point for what could be an interesting, useful and important programme of linked research projects.

If you (or one of your students) choose to focus their work on one of these areas please could you notify Sue Turner at sue.turner@ndti.org.uk who will maintain a record of research projects so that there is a central coordinating point for this programme. This will then act as a central point for others wishing to access research in relation to a particular aspect of HEF.