

Building research capacity across the region: ARC KSS academy

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Aims of todays session

- To introduce and discuss the concept of Communities of Practice
- To invite individuals to give short presentations of their research with the objective of discussion leading to:
- Sharing of ideas, networking, building partnerships and stimulation of learning and knowledge brokerage.
- To introduce the idea of using online methods of building a Community of Practice
- To consider how we go forwards with Communities of Practice for researchers in health and social care in the ARC-KSS





- NIHR candidates

Communities of practice

- Networking, development of knowledge and skills
 - Topic based knowledge
- Implementation, collaboration
 - and co-production

Communities of Practice

 Developing CoPs for ECRs and PhD students session being presented on 12 July during Researcher's Week.

 ARC KSS Collaboration Hub (Glasscubes) – encouraging the use of the platform as a tool to share resources and network. **NIHR** Applied Research Collaboration Kent, Surrey and Sussex



What are Communities of Practice?

Communities of practice are groups who share a concern and passion about an issue, and deepen their knowledge and expertise about their profession by interacting regularly (<u>Wenger, McDermott, & Snyder, 2002</u>).

 Communities of Practice offer the essential opportunity for evidence (explicit knowledge) to be integrated with individual and collective tacit knowledge, with the result that evidence can be implemented to produce a change in practice (Sandars, 2006)



Communities Of Practice In Health Research

- Communities of practice have a wide application as a social theory of learning, focusing on how people learn in a social environment (Lave and Wenger, 1991) and develop mutual engagement, joint enterprise and a shared repertoire as they deepen knowledge and expertise by interacting on an ongoing basis (Wenger, 1998; Wenger et al, 2002).
- In health, communities of practice avail practitioners with the opportunity share and reflect upon practice while drawing up on and melding together expertise from research, clinical experience, patient, clients and carers and the local context, to build a robust evidence-base (Rycroft-Malone et al., 2004)
- Online CoPs can help health professionals improve networking, dialogue and promoting life-long learning especially where teams are generally distributed or professionally isolated (Koh et al., 2007; Urguhart et al., 2002)



Added benefits of developing an Online Community of Practice

- Means of sharing tacit knowledge Instinct, gut feeling, hunches etc.
- Support mobile/remote working
- Facilitate team work- especially among distributed workforce
- Enhance members awareness of wider issues
- Provide horizontal exchange of knowledge and bridge gap in information exchange between novices/newcomers and experts
- Increase access to technical resources and research
- Provide a repository for document exchange
- Provide a means for knowledge to cross boundaries (geographical, Interprofessional etc.)
- Innovate and create breakthrough ideas



Glasscubes as a way of developing the CoP

