

NESSIE: NIHR Evidence Synthesis Scotland Initiative

Interest holder involvement and knowledge mobilisation



1. Background

NIHR Evidence Synthesis Scotland Initiative (NESSIE) is one of 13 evidence synthesis groups (ESGs) funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Evidence Synthesis Programme. The aim of the ESGs is to address knowledge gaps or to answer a specific need for healthcare, public health and social care interest holders/audiences.

3. Results and Conclusion

To date, we have worked on a variety of evidence synthesis projects, including:

a. The impacts and experiences of mandatory non-custodial drug and alcohol treatment orders on health and well-being

- Two complementary evidence syntheses (one qualitative and one quantitative)
- We worked with people with lived experience, significant others and topic experts, using online meetings and email consultation
- Dissemination activities included two journal publications, a series of 4 blogs, a presentation, social media posts, a project web page and evidence submitted to the Scottish Government



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c. Exercise for secondary prevention and health-related quality of life in people with existing vascular disease

- A systematic review of randomised controlled trials
- We worked with people with lived experience, carers, charity representatives, and health professionals, using online meetings and email feedback
- Dissemination activities included a journal publication, presentations, conference posters, a web page, social media activity and a series of 5 blog posts

4. Reflections

- Plan your interest holder and knowledge mobilisation activity at project inception
- Identifying interest holders who have time to participate can be challenging
- Allow sufficient time for meaningful interest holder involvement to ensure your review meets the needs of those who use, plan & deliver services
- Use a wide range of dissemination activities, taking advantage of technological innovations to share your findings



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2. Methods

We undertake evidence synthesis projects in response to requests from the NIHR. The evidence synthesis projects have a direct impact on decision-making, patient and client care, reducing inequalities and identifying future research needs.

Core aims are to incorporate interest holder involvement, including patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) and other relevant interest holders, and knowledge mobilisation in the evidence synthesis projects.



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Qualitative treatment order review



Quantitative treatment order review



ME/CFS review



ME/CFS map



Exercise review



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b. Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome: an evidence map

- An interactive map of ME/CFS evidence, including key research characteristics
- We worked with people with lived experience, representatives from the Department of Health & Social Care working group, a patient advisory group and researchers using online meetings, map demonstration and document consultation
- Dissemination activities included a journal publication and the creation of an online map with a video explanation. Our evidence featured in the Department of Health & Social Care ME/CFS Delivery Plan