Tail and dog: the role of research in developing integrated children’s services

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A virtuous circle?
Heads, tail and dog?
Research and modernisation

- Commissioned studies and evaluations
- Applied research and evidence-based practice
- ‘Implications for policy’ and ‘recommendations for practice’
Integrated children’s services

- The preventative state
- Messages from research
- Pilots and evaluations
- Models of integration
- Needs and outcomes

Parton, 2006; Mason, Morris & Smith, 2005
DOH, 1995; Hardiker, Exton & Barker, 1991
NESS, 2008; Lord et al., 2009
Atkinson, Jones & Lamont, 2007
Organisational systems

The Children’s Trust
DCSF 2010: 8
Care/case management

The Kaiser Permanente Triangle DH (2007)

Targeted services within a universal context
Continuum of needs and services

The ‘Windshield’
DCSF 2007: 11
Tiered intervention

The Team Around the Child
DCSF 2008: 48
Impact on practitioners

- Managerialism
- Proceduralisation
- Inspection, indicators and targets
- Information technology (ICS, eCAF)
- Autonomous to automatons?

Ayre and Preston-Shoot, 2010
White, Hall and Peckover, 2009
Unnecessary dualisms? Science and art in professional work

- Managerial control vs professional discretion
- Case management vs direct work
- Evidence-based vs critical thinking
- Procedures vs expert judgement
- ‘To ensure that’ vs ‘My assessment is...’
Concluding comments

• Research and evaluation: a slippery slope?
• Tail and dog: rethinking social work’s institutional setting
References


References


Department for Children, Schools and Families (2008), *Building Brighter Futures: Next Steps for the Children’s Workforce*, Nottingham: DCSF

Department for Children Schools and Families (2010), *Children's Trusts: Statutory guidance on cooperation arrangements*, London: TSO

References


