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The Centre for Translational
Research in Public Health

Overview Translational Research and AskFuse

Peter van der Graaf

www.fuse.ac.uk



Getting research into practice

- Research take-up is slow: 17 years to inform practice (Morris et al. 2011)
- Research is often not useful:
 - Takes too long to report
 - No actionable recommendations
 - Fails to address most pressing local issues



➔ Need for translational activities and spaces to increase and speed up uptake of research evidence in policy and practice



What is translational research?

*The **science** and **art** of getting research evidence into policy and practice*

- Science: study how evidence is (not) used, barriers & facilitators, what works under what conditions
- Art: supporting the use of research evidence; working in partnership with policy and practice partners



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Science: NIHR KMR Fellowship

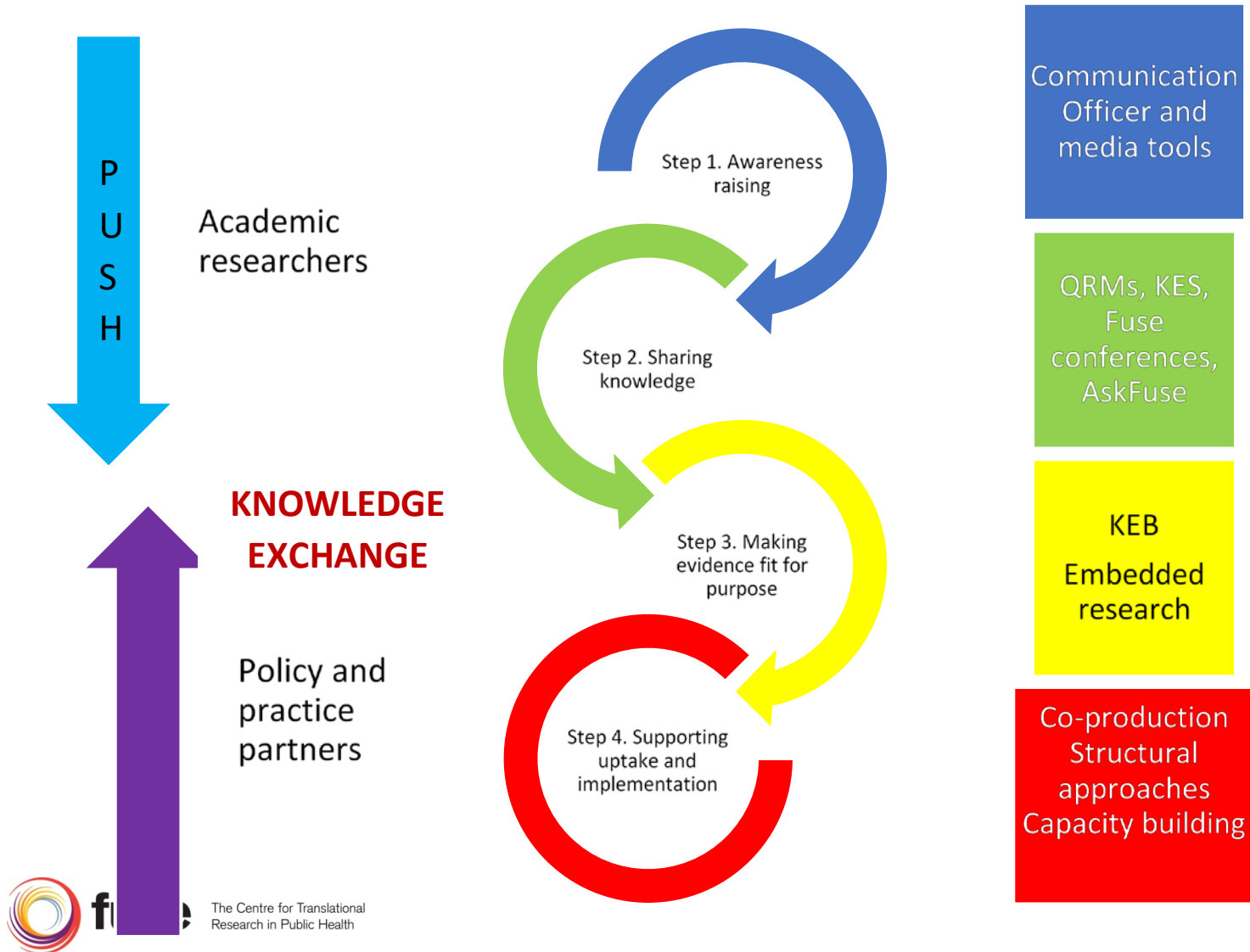
Researching knowledge mobilisation:

- Evaluate implementation of a System Led Improvement (SLI) approach across North East on Best Start In Life (BSIL)
- Quality improvement approach based on peer challenge: public health teams visit each other's to review services and their evidence base
- Ethnographic approach (observations and interviews): what types of knowledge are mobilised in peer visits

➡ *Does it help commissioners to make more evidence-informed decisions?*



Art: Fuse Knowledge Exchange model



So, what is AskFuse ?

- A rapid response and evaluation service launched in 2013
- Acts as a portal to broker access to expertise in five North East Universities
- Free initial conversation(s) to explore needs
- Translate enquiries into feasible research projects
- Match enquiries to relevant academics
- Develop collaborative research and seek funding
- ➔ Build long term partnerships



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Over 300 requests since 2013

Advice on
developing
interventions
(20%)

Rapid
evaluations
(31%)

Signposting
to literature
(18%)

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Case studies

- Scarborough and Ryedale CCG: evaluation of neighbourhood care teams for older people with complex needs (*Teesside*)
- South Tyneside Homes: evaluation of a Housing Plus programme for older people with early stage of dementia (*Sunderland*)
- Fuse: develop regional network on Housing & Health to scope research agenda for life time homes (*Northumbria & Teesside*)
- Evidence synthesis for tech-enabled befriending scheme for older people to reduce social isolation (*AskFuse*)





We put a new intervention in place – did it work?

Case study: Vulnerable Adults Wrap Around Service Pilot

What we did: Qualitative research on patient and staff experiences around social isolation/ care plans

How: Realist evaluation; focus groups with practitioners, interviews and repeated survey with patients, literature review on social network theory

Outcome: Research report with detailed CMO (Context + Mechanism = Outcome) models

Product: Summary Fuse brief with visual of models

Budget/Time: £10,000 over 13 months (alongside pilot implementation)



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Interested in working with AskFuse?



- Join Fuse or become an associate (register on www.fuse.ac.uk)
- Write a blog about your research interests
- Attend events (QRMs, KE seminars, conferences)
- Submit your own enquiries to AskFuse to:
 - Get support from Fuse students and academics on your research ideas
 - Collaborate with local policy makers and practitioners to access their data, participants or funding opportunities

Top tips for collaborative research



- Get to know practitioners and commissioners: attend their events
- Start conversations about research early
- Be realistic/ set expectations
- Consider different types of evidence
- Quick wins (e.g. advice on collecting base line data)
- Write case studies together
- Try internships/ embedded research posts



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Principles for knowledge exchange

1. **Clarify your purpose and knowledge sharing goals** - What do you want your findings to do, or to change?
2. **Identify knowledge users and stakeholders** - Who would be interested in this research, or need to know about it?
3. **Agree expectations** - How will you get a shared understanding what is expected of everyone and what can be achieved?
4. **Use knowledge users' expertise** - How will you design the research to benefit from their expertise and knowledge?
5. **Monitor, reflect and be responsive** - How will you know if your knowledge sharing activities have met your goals?
6. **Leave a legacy** - How can you develop, capture and sustain any benefits?

(Rushmer et al. 2018)



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Thank you!

ask@fuse.ac.uk

www.fuse.ac.uk

[@fuse-online](#)

fuseopenscienceblog.blogspot.com

Thank you!



**"My job is to make decisions. Your job
is to make them good decisions."**

References

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