

**Fuse: The Centre for Translational Research in Public Health
Knowledge Exchange Group (KEG)
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Brief

The Fuse renewal bid of 2012 included six research themes of which translational research is one. In the renewal bid it was stated that:

“The programme aims to: explore what translational activities work under what conditions; develop methods to explore these issues (from experimental designs to ethnographic approaches); and work with policy and practice partners to facilitate evidence-informed practice and policy, and practice and policy informed research agendas.”

This approach acknowledges that:

- Multiple types of knowledge exist and are held by stakeholders across many contexts Exploring and incorporating such knowledge is vital to developing acceptable, realistic and feasible services and interventions in public health
- To achieve effective services, expertise must be shared across professional, organisational and sector boundaries
- Opportunities for sharing knowledge need to be actively created and fostered
- Linkages across stakeholders groups could lead to: multi-directional information flow; higher levels of trust between professional groups; more holistic appreciation of health issues; improved capacity building in public health; and the co-creation of knowledge to achieve results better than any one group could achieve alone.
- Knowledge translation work of both an academic and practical nature will help Fuse develop a regional, national and international reputation.

Aim of the Knowledge Exchange Group

To create a community of practice around Public Health in the North East which will share learning, help build research capacity and contribute to the evidence-base on how best to ensure that research evidence is accessible and shared in a way which will benefit the development of policy and practice.

Organising Principles

In the first Fuse quinquennium a small team of 7-9 academics from across Fuse ‘kick-started’ KEG by identifying early activity to engage others. Over time the team has grown in order to be inclusive, and widen the expertise available to the group to make progress on its work, and has continued to keep its membership and agenda structure under review. KEG reports to Fuse’s centre management group (CMG). KEG meets approximately every two months.

KEG's work will be responsive to local need and emerging opportunities as well as proactive and may include:

- ***Promoting theoretical and methodological development***

Developing and reporting mechanisms which enhance knowledge translation, transfer and exchange. Establishing a forum to discuss the potential to apply a range of such activities to research design. Exploring and developing a range of theoretical underpinnings for knowledge exchange in public health.

- ***Identifying research opportunities***

Developing research collaborations. Identifying potential sources of funding for knowledge exchange work. Networking to build collaboration with knowledge exchange researchers outside the North East. Brokering access to gather data, build the evidence-base to inform theory and practice and build research capacity in what facilitates translational research.

- ***Sharing learning and dissemination activities***

Being responsive to requests for input on translational elements of research design. Proactively creating local forums for sharing learning; presentation of projects, methodologies or ideas; brokering contacts; wider systems learning: organising visiting speakers and conferences. Actively pursuing links with the other five UKCRC's centres of excellence to explore opportunities to share learning and synthesise knowledge more widely.

- ***Building the network***

Widening the membership, contacts and circulation lists; encourage participation and representation by drawing-in a wider membership to work on particular work-streams / group activities.

- ***Capacity and capability building***

Developing and extending the capacity and capability of those involved in Fuse to engage with and undertake a range of knowledge translation, transfer and exchange activities; brokering shadowing / mentoring opportunities.

Team Membership

Vera Araujo-Soares (Senior Lecturer, Newcastle); Mandy Cheetham (Research Associate, Teesside); Ann Crosland (Professor, Sunderland); Duika Burges-Watson (Lecturer, Durham); Louisa Ells (Reader, Teesside); Natalie Forster (Researcher, Northumbria); Karen McCabe (Research Associate, Sunderland); Laura Ritson / Terry Lisle / Sue McAsey (Fuse administrators); Andy Robinson (Association of NE Councils); Rosemary Rushmer (Professor, Teesside – KEG Chair); Janet Shucksmith (Professor, Teesside); Peter Van Der Graaf (Askfuse Research Manager, Teesside); Shelina Visram (Lecturer, Durham); Mark Welford (Fuse Communications Officer, Teesside).

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