

Evaluation for policy development in the devolved Scottish health care system

Dr Helen Alexander
Professor Kevin Woods



UNIVERSITY
of
GLASGOW

Evaluation and the SHSPF I

- Before 1999 Scotland had a separate Health Department, although health is now devolved to the Scottish Parliament
- Need for 'policy villages' around UK linking policy analysis and health service practice
 - via policy debate, evaluating policy implementation and ensuring results influence practice

Evaluation and the SHSPF II

- Our interests are wide, but evaluation is integral to everything we do
- Formal and informal evaluations of health policy and its implementation
- There is a need to fill the ever-present vacuum between policy evaluation and changes in practice

Policy evaluation



Content of presentation

- The Scottish Health Services Policy Forum
- Evaluation research interests
- Challenges ahead

The Scottish Health Services Policy Forum

- Established September 2000
- Post-devolution need for systematic health services policy evaluation
- Brings together diverse interests - academics, health service, government, consumers, health care industries etc.
- Links to international context, especially Europe

What does the SHSPF do?

- Provides a forum for debating policy alternatives and evaluating implementation
- Opens up learning opportunities for all participants
- Three products
 - 1 New insights/ideas - links and networks
 - 2 Identification of research questions/proposals
 - 3 Publication of Forum proceedings/research

Forum meetings

- Guest speaker(s), invited audience, Chatham House Rule, open discussion
- Five meetings so far
 - Policy Futures - health trends towards 2015
 - Health care funding
 - Poverty, income, inequality and health
 - The NHS workforce of the future
 - Thoughts of a former Minister of Health

Evaluation research interests

- Impact of political devolution on health services policy
- Organisation and funding of health care systems
- Health services integration

Impact of political devolution on health services policy

- Devolution and Health project - policies similar or divergent?
 - NHS or National Health Services?
 - Free personal care for the elderly in Scotland - English repercussions?
 - Different governance arrangements
 - **Scotland - 15 NHS Boards**
 - **England - cutting two thirds of RHAs**
 - **Wales 22 Health Boards (co-terminus)**

Organisation and funding of health care systems

- **Rationing**

- NHSScotland consumes 25% of Scottish Executive expenditure
- Resource allocation - social, political and management issues

- **Health system performance**

- Different PAFs
- WHO Report 2000 - international league tables comparing health systems

Health services integration

- Policy directives throughout UK
- In Scotland
 - Mental Health integration in primary care
 - MCNs e.g. SCAN, West of Scotland
 - Partnership between health and social services and others e.g. Domestic Abuse/
Cancer Prevention paper

SHSPF - the first year

- Established the Forum
- Funding - currently have four staff
- Five Forum meetings + proceedings
- Progress on all three areas of evaluation research interest

The future

- Continue to build up critical mass
- Some major pieces of evaluation work beginning
- How to determine success of policy to practice link?
- Hopefully our website goes live 10th December