

THE CASE FOR A CARER KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE NETWORK (CAREN)

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INTRODUCTION



Welcome to the Carer Research and Knowledge Exchange Network (CAREN)

- CAREN - Carer Research and Knowledge Exchange Network' and the rationale for its development
- <http://wels.open.ac.uk/research-project/caren/>
- a freely accessible knowledge exchange resource for all those across the globe who require any form of carer-related knowledge e.g. governments, carers, employers, policy makers, practitioners, researchers, NGOs and research funders around the world

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- CONTEXT
- RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR CARER RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE
- CAREN
- EXAMPLES OF CAREN'S ROLES
- FUTURE DEVELOPMENT
- KEY REFERENCES

CONTEXT

- now a wealth of national and international knowledge around the role and contribution of family carers BUT it is fragmented, disparate, lacks accessibility and utility
- this has significant implications e.g. in relation to supporting carers' capacity to make informed decisions; achieving policy goals; maximising the value and impact of research



RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR CARER RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

- International Carers Research collaborative network (using JISCmail).
- International Journal of Care and Caring
- Review of national and international carer-related knowledge

Carers Research collaborative network



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Supporting adult carers - NICE guideline scope consultation	Mary Larkin <mary.larkin@OPEN.AC.UK>	Tue, 11 Apr 2017 11:35:53 +0100

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Review of national and international carer-related knowledge



Carer research
and knowledge



Utilising carer-related research and knowledge:
a scoping review and information resource



CAREN

- adapted existing knowledge exchange models
- transferred the items captured and coherently organised on Endnote during the review
- used same organisation system as the review i.e. 62 themes classified into four major categories :
 - *Impact of care*
 - *Carer variables*
 - *Type of care*
 - *Support and carers*
- **DEMO** - <http://wels.open.ac.uk/research-project/caren/>
- webinars, online forum, Facebook, twitter, blog and podcasts

EXAMPLES OF CAREN's ROLES

- a reliable and independent database for carer research and knowledge
- translation of research and evidence into evidence-based improvements in the quality and cost-effectiveness of both health and social care services and practice with carers (researchers, policymakers and practitioners)
- a source of information about policy development and evidence for government departments and NGOs
- the provision of information and evidence for carers, service commissioners, NGOs, policymakers and practitioners to support cost-effectiveness in decision-making and service development
- the facilitation of informed exchanges in relation to consultations innovative practice (e.g. carers, NGOs and government departments)
- help researchers reduce duplication of effort, quickly acquire knowledge about existing research
- an 'international noticeboard' for promoting conferences and events

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

- regular updating of resources
- extend knowledge exchange facility
- feedback and evaluation
- team to lead it (preferably international!)
- sponsorship

IN SUM.....

- CAREN addresses a significant systemic deficit in the carers field
- step change in the way carer-related issues are captured, disseminated and addressed
- has the ongoing potential to improve the lives of the ever-increasing number of carers, by considerably enhancing the relationship between carer research and evidence and policy and practice
- it is a network whose time has come!

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