

expertise that is required to facilitate and support effective partnerships.

- How, across London, do we facilitate the achievement of outcomes that are common to a number of authorities especially in light of the levels of mobility across London, the effect that changes such as the housing benefit cap will have the vulnerability of children and families and so on?
- C4EO are likely to have a role in supporting commissioning following

the end of the Commissioning Support Programme – how can this be used to facilitate change to encourage authorities to keep their eyes on the prize (quality of life for children) and the tools to achieve this at a time where the short-term focus may be on spending cuts?

Thanks to Tania Townsend, Islington Council and Chair of the SSRG Children's Standing Committee for providing this summary report - Ed

Research Methods: Manual for Reviewers available for license

Paul Dolan Chair of the Midlands Research Governance Group, and Sue Williams, Chair of SEARIG write:

As part of the Department of Health Research Governance start-up process the Midlands Research Governance Group and SEARIG commissioned a manual for reviewers to use when appraising research in social care. Under the title **"Reviewing and Reading Social Care Research: From Ideas to Findings"** it offers thorough guidance on the full range of research methods and their theoretical backgrounds. It therefore complements the SSRG's recently published Guidance Pack for Research Governance, 2nd edition, which is especially detailed on risk assessment and guidance on ethical review issues and processes.

"Reviewing and Reading Social Care Research" has as its lead author Professor Ron Iphofen, and it draws also on the work of his colleagues at Bangor University. A 457 page publication, with a CD-ROM version, it is now available to be purchased for licensing outside the two regional research governance groups.

Though intended for reviewers and being used that way by Councils, the Manual is an excellent means for researchers and students to become aware of social science methodological issues and literature. Also University staff supervising projects are likely to find it useful for their own review and guidance activity.

For these reasons we are inviting organisations to express interest in licensing the Manual, for a single payment. Income generated from such payments (other than to Bangor University) will be ploughed in to support the regions' research governance activity, and will be their only source of income for this.

Two universities are already planning to license the Manual, and any other organisations potentially interested are invited to contact Andy Bekenn at Dudley Council.

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People in Research is a web-based resource for members of the public who are looking for opportunities to get actively involved in research where you can:

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If you have any questions please contact Helen Hayes, Knowledge and Communication Manager, INVOLVE, hhayes@invo.org.uk 02380 651088

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