Partnerships in practice? Engaging users and providers in ESLR

Peter Dwyer Nottingham Trent University
Two examples of collaboration

The role of promoting employability in the resettlement of single homeless people

ESRC CASE PhD Studentship in Collaboration with Framework Housing Association PhD student Jenny McNeil

Three years fees plus funding at £17 approx pa (inc £2k from partner) and an additional £2k in support in kind from Framework

Understanding the support priorities of multiply excluded homeless people and their compatibility with support agency agendas a.k.a the HOME project

£93+k 12 month project under the Multiple Exclusion Homelessness programme funded by ESRC (RES-188-25-0001) and DCLG, JRF, DoH, funded
ESRC CASE STUDENTSHIP: The role of promoting employability in the resettlement of single homeless people

Joint supervisory team: Graham, Me, Rachel

Access to anonymised service user records to inform subsequent for qualitative longitudinal interviews

Access a group of appropriate respondents

Induction into Framework projects; visiting a number of projects shadowing staff members training workshops organised e.g. on lone working/safety.

Work that is relevant to local and national policymakers and (hopefully?) Framework and other practitioners in housing/homelessness support.

Reports, data, presentations made available to Framework

Framework is an active partner in the studentship and with NTU more widely
RESEARCH PROJECT: Understanding the support priorities of multiply excluded homeless people and their compatibility with support agency agendas a.k.a the HOME project

An abductive, user participatory methodology

Two housing charities:
  - Framework (Nottingham)
  - ThamesReach (London)

A team of 5 academics researchers from Nottingham Trent University

Recruiting and training teams of peer researchers with previous experience of MEH to inform and be involved in and the project

Semi-structured interviews with 50 MEH people in both Nottingham and London i.e. Boroughs of Southwark, Lambeth and Lewisham (total 100 respondents)

Parallel interviews with 20 key informants from selected agencies in both Nottingham and London (total 40 respondents)

Focus group discussions of key findings with peer researcher teams
Some issues to be aware of:

**Time**: it is resource intensive in terms of project management,

**Money**: you need to cost in payment for partner organisations, training and work of peer researchers

**Flexibility**: variations in approach of partner, support agencies and also the different capacity of peer researchers to undertake interviews etc.

**Commitment**: is required from all sides, meaningful involvement of all partners

**Realism**: you and those you are collaborating with will not always agree

**Compromise**: academic, partner organisation and service user approaches and agendas can and do collide on occasions
Is it empirical socio-legal research?

• Neither project is set up with a specific ESLR approach but elements of the research project which is ongoing are concerned with the following housing issues:

Local connection

Intentionally homeless

Priority need

Eligibility for assistance

Anti-social behaviour orders

• Such debates are informed by legislation, individual cases and appeals etc.

• Socio-legal issues/judgements impact directly on the service users involved in the project and the partner organisations’ roles as support agencies and social landlords