



Recurrent Care Change Project Key Points about Evaluation

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Evaluation is **IMPORTANT**

- > To provide regular evidence of activities and effectiveness to senior managers and commissioners
- > To help you describe your service
- > To help you publicise and gain support for your service - 'the charismatic facts'

Have evaluation in mind from the beginning

It helps you to clarify what you want the service to achieve

It helps you to think about what information you will need to collect in order to demonstrate your achievements

It helps you think about how you are going to measure what you have achieved.

Some potential challenges

- > In a small, intensive service, finding the time to collect and input data
- > How best to capture flexible packages of support for each parent
- > Having a data system that enables you to evaluate
- > Managing the expectations of senior managers

Methodology

> **Quantitative data**

- > Numbers using the service
- > Statistical information about presenting needs/problems
- > Statistical information about improvements at end of intervention

> **Qualitative data**

- > Feedback and experiences from interviews or focus groups with parents, staff, other professionals
- > From observations
- > Descriptions of activities and interventions
- > From file information

Demonstrating effectiveness

- > Some form of comparison is helpful, but may be difficult to achieve
- > Gold standard is randomised control trial but other forms of comparison possible
- > Key is to ensure you are comparing like with like