

Support your organisation's engagement with Research in Practice

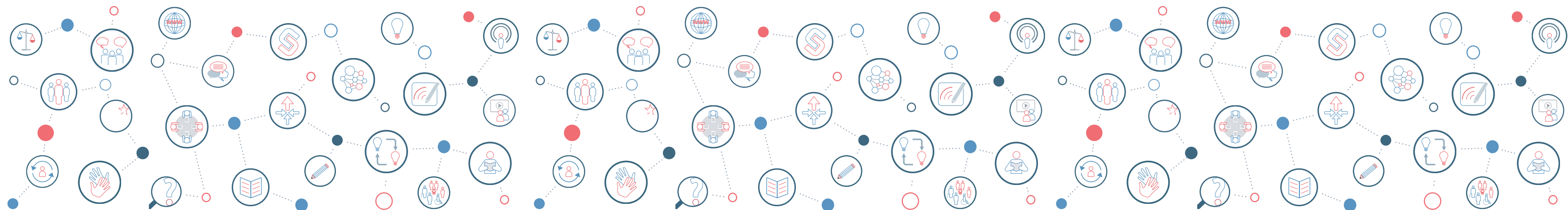
Link Officers play a key role in promoting the use of evidence-informed practice across an organisation and ensuring value from your partnership with us.

Each of our Partner organisations work in unique contexts in terms of size, levels of support, resources available, or if they are new to Research in Practice. These top tips will be helpful in supporting engagement with Research in Practice when working with colleagues across your organisation.

These top tips were coproduced with Link Officers at the adults Link Officers Annual Meeting (2019).

research
in practice

Top tips for Link Officers



Quick wins

- activities that can quickly grab people's interest.

1. Deliver a Research in Practice launch event/introduction to colleagues.
2. Create a library space for colleagues with hardcopy/online publications and resources.
3. Include Research in Practice updates in a monthly internal newsletter and use other internal social tools.
4. Include Research in Practice resources in enrolment and induction materials for new starters and those in assessed and supported year in employment (ASYEs).
5. Arrange regular learning sessions (e.g. 'lunch and learn') for multi-disciplinary teams to view and discuss online webinars and related resources.
6. Promote Strategic and Leaders Briefings to senior staff, especially those who are not social workers.
7. Map your organisational/local training activities to Research in Practice resources.

Strengths-based approaches

- to support strengths-based working within your organisation.

1. Have multiple Link Officers and/or Link Officer Assistants who can lead on specific areas and support one another.
2. Hold Link Officer drop-in sessions to help colleagues to register and familiarise themselves with resources.
3. Develop a team of Research in Practice Evidence Champions across different teams, who can disseminate resources and learning to diverse areas.
4. Target relevant teams with new and specific resources.
4. Support the development of practice networks for key professionals across different organisations.
5. Have rewards and reminders of good engagement statistics.
6. Use the additional 25 Research in Practice accounts by arranging access for external partners who support service delivery.
7. Ask colleagues to write blogs about how they have used learning and development resources and training to support their practice.
8. Embed Research in Practice materials and practice tools in your organisational training.
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Most impactful

- things that take more time and effort, but ensure a good reach and get individuals engaged.

1. Ensure colleagues have protected time for Continuing Professional Development (CPD).
2. Use specific Research in Practice materials to reflect on cases in supervision.
3. Use Research in Practice as an ASYE coordinator, or as part of other relevant roles.
4. Ask the Principal Social Worker/Principal Occupational Therapist to send out regular updates, highlighting useful and relevant resources.
5. Highlight resources and support individual development in teams that may not have professional qualifications (e.g. early help teams).
6. Strategically consider and plan workshops to prioritise areas that may need improvement and to support the reach and dissemination of learning.
7. Develop and cascade a suite of learning resources on a specific topic to target learning.
8. Incorporate Research in Practice learning into supervision sessions and annual appraisals, where colleagues can regularly use resources for their own development.