

Unit 6: Health and Social Care Research Project

Learning hours: 60

NQF level 4: BTEC Higher National – H2

Description of unit

This unit requires learners to integrate knowledge, skills and, where appropriate, competence across units.

Learners will explore a range of perspectives that influence research design and analysis of data. The uses of research in health and social care and the importance of ethical practice in research will be considered. Learners will be required to prepare a proposal for a research project, obtain data from both primary and secondary sources and present findings. Learners will critically evaluate their project and make recommendations for further study. Learners will be required to prepare and carry out individual research project.

Summary of learning outcomes

To achieve this unit a learner must:

- 1 Explain the **values and processes** used in health and social care research
- 2 **Conduct** a piece of research in health and social care
- 3 **Analyse and present** findings of the research
- 4 **Evaluate** the research carried out.

Content

1 Values and processes

Perspectives: positivism, interpretivism, scientific method

Ethical codes and ethics committees: accountability, validity, informed consent, confidentiality, dissemination of results from the research

Ethical dilemmas: beneficence and non-maleficence, reliability and authenticity, privacy, confidentiality and dissemination of results, selection of participants

Benefits of research in health and social care: eg developing practice, provision of services, personal and professional development

2 Conduct

Proposal: aims, objectives, rationale, methodology for data collection and analysis, selection of participants expected outcomes

Design: purpose, approach, scope, methodology, research instruments

Consents: course leader, required protocol of any organisation(s) involved in the research (eg college head of department, voluntary agency management committee, NHS Trust ethics committee), participants

Primary methods: observation, interview, questionnaire, experiment

Secondary sources: journals, textbooks, public media, internet

3 Analyse and present

Research data: primary, secondary; qualitative, quantitative

Formats: text, tabular, chart/graphical

Academic referencing: eg Harvard system

Review: how to review papers/journals, abstract journals, electronic journal, electronic searches, conferences etc

Conclusions: validity, reliability, objectivity of method, advancement of knowledge and understanding

Recommendations: methodology, for the advancement of knowledge and understanding, research into practice

4 Evaluate

Values and perspectives: eg philosophical perspective, theoretical model of used, personal

values

Ethical considerations: protection of participants, accountability, resource limitations (eg funding, time, sample size)

Outcomes and assessment criteria

Outcomes	Assessment criteria for pass To achieve each outcome a learner must demonstrate the ability to:
1 Explain the values and processes used in health and social care research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• describe different perspectives that can influence the design of health and social care research• explain the role of ethical codes and ethics committees in research• explain ethical dilemmas arising in research in health and social care• discuss the benefits of research to practice
3 Analyse and present findings of the research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• analyse the research data obtained• present the findings of the research using a range of formats and an academic referencing system• draw conclusions from the research• make recommendations for further study
4 Evaluate the research carried out	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• evaluate the research design and methodology• discuss how the values and perspectives influenced the research outcomes• analyse the influence of ethical considerations on
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the conclusions drawn from the research• critically assess how the research findings could be used to advance health and social care practice

Guidance

Delivery

A review of research terminology and basic methodological techniques is recommended to introduce the unit. Learners will be expected to understand the processes involved in research including action planning and presentation of findings. Tutor input will be required for learners to gain a basic understanding of the philosophical perspectives that can underpin research in health and social care. Tutors should guide learners carefully regarding the appropriateness and feasibility of the planned primary research.

Discussion and analysis of contrasting reports of health and social care research, input from research-active professionals, scrutiny of different ethical codes and of procedures for gaining

local ethics committee consent would be helpful. Research to be carried out in the learner workplace must be approved *in advance* by written consent from workplace managers and/or relevant ethical committees and tutors should check that this has been obtained. Tutors will need to monitor the progress of the individual projects through tutorials to ensure that each learner's project will enable the assessment criteria to be met. Support from workplace supervisors/managers during the conduct of research carried out in the workplace is also recommended.

Assessment

Evidence for assessment will be in the form of an analytical report together with a selfevaluation and supporting artefacts (eg consent documents, questionnaires, interview schedules, transcripts, presentation tools eg PowerPoint printout, overhead transparencies, witness testimony etc).

Links

The unit builds on an understanding of basic principles and concepts used in social research. Links might be made to any of the units within the Higher National programme, depending on the topic chosen for research. If appropriate, the research project may be designed to meet workplace/employer purposes provided all assessment criteria can be fully met. Links may also be made to S/NVQ Level 4 in Care Unit CU7: Develop One's Own Knowledge and Practice.

Resources

Tutors should have experience of research in social sciences and preferably related to health or care. Learners should have access to academic literature on health and social care as well as to specific journals. Learners will need access to statistical data and should be able to use IT data handling software and the internet.

Support materials

Textbooks

Bannister P et al — *Qualitative Methods in Psychology* (Open University Press, 1994)

ISBN: 0335191819

Bell J — *Doing Your Research Project, 3rd Edition* (Open University Press, 1999)

ISBN: 0335203884

Blaxter L et al — *How to Research* (Open University Press, 1996) ISBN: 0335209033

Bowling A — *Research Methods in Health* (Open University Press, 1997) ISBN: 0335206433

Denscombe M — *Ground Rules for Good Research* (Open University Press, 2002)

ISBN: 0335206514

Denscombe M — *The Good Research Guide, 2nd Edition* (Open University Press, 2002)

ISBN: 0335213030

Fowler F J — *Survey Research Methods, 2nd Edition* (Newbury Park: Sage Publications, 1988)

ISBN: 0761921915

Gomm R, Needham G and Bullman A — *Evaluating Research in Health and Social Care* (Sage/The Open University, 2000) ISBN: 0761964916

Green S — *Research Methods in Health, Social and Early Years Care* (Cheltenham, Stanley Thornes, 2001) ISBN: 0748754628

Haralambos M and Holborn M — *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives, 5th Edition* (Collins, 2000) ISBN: 000715447X

Hinton P — *Statistics Explained: A Guide for Social Science Students* (London: Routledge Publishing, 1995) ISBN: 0415332850

Hosker I — *Social Statistics* (Studymates, 2002) ISBN: 1842850040

Sapsford R and Abbot P — *Research Methods for Nurses and the Caring Professionals* (Open University Press, 1992)

Walsh M — *Research Made Real* (Cheltenham Stanley Thornes, 2001) ISBN: 0748758410