

Workshop: ESRC Following Young Fathers Study

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<http://followingfathers.leeds.ac.uk>



The project

- 3 year ESRC funded research project
- Develops earlier work on the Young Lives and Times strand of the Timescapes research programme
- QL research with sample of 35 young fathers
- Secondary analysis of existing data sets
- Mapping of service provision
- Working with practitioners to co-create knowledge
- Case study of local service provision

Our research questions are focused on finding out:

- how fatherhood is understood and practiced by the young men in the sample
- why they become parents at an early age
- what values they hold about parenthood
- what impact policy interventions or other kinds of support may have on these processes

Defining research impact

Research Councils UK (RCUK) defines research impact as:

'the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy'

Impact

- **Academic**
 - The contribution research makes to scientific advances
- **Economic and societal**
 - The contribution to society and the economy, of benefit to individuals, organisations and nations

Source: www.esrc.ac.uk

Impact of social science research

- **Instrumental:** influencing the development of policy, practice or service provision, shaping legislation, altering behaviour
- **Conceptual:** contributing to the understanding of policy issues, reframing debates
- **Capacity building:** through technical and personal skill development.

Knowledge to action approaches

- **Knowledge transfer:** sharing research findings and making them known more widely
- **Knowledge translation:** interpreting research findings and putting them in language that is more easily understood by policy-makers, practitioners and the public
- **Knowledge exchange:** creating a conversation about research findings between different stakeholders

(source: www.fuse.ac.uk)

- **Knowledge mobilisation:** getting different forms of knowledge (research and practical expertise) used to best effect
- **Co-production of knowledge:** different stakeholders working alongside each other on research projects
- **Co-creation of knowledge:** different stakeholders working collectively throughout a research project to create something new that one group could not have achieved alone.

(source: www.fuse.ac.uk)



How have we worked collaboratively?

- Worked closely with practitioners in the local authority where the fieldwork has been based
- Advisory group of practitioners, policy makers and service managers from across the UK meets bi-annually to guide and support our research work
- Run focus groups with those working with young fathers

- Contributed to training in the local authority around father inclusive practice
- Presented our research at the APPG on Fatherhood and sit on the steering group for the APPG
- Developing materials for dissemination

Discussion and activity

