Workshop: ESRC Following Young Fathers Study

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@ESRC_FYF
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