

<p>Institution: London South Bank University</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy</p> <p>a. Context</p> <p>The main objective of all our research is impact on and delivery of benefit to service users through improving the quality and effectiveness of the health care they receive. The main beneficiaries of the research carried out are NHS Trusts and other health care providers such as care homes; Clinical Commissioning Groups; health care professionals; professional bodies such as the Royal College of Nursing (RCN), Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), British Acupuncture Council, Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC); Government bodies and policy makers such as Department of Health, special commissions; Charities, for example Age UK, British Renal Society, Children with Cancer UK; Service user groups.</p> <p>Most of the impact is derived through improving the organisation and delivery of health care services and the understanding of the professionals who deliver these services. The benefits to patients are substantially about the way they receive care, interventions and services rather than the actual technologies (such as drugs or devices) that they receive. The immediate impacts of our research are informing and changing practice, policy and professional behaviour which then impacts on service users.</p> <p>Examples of impacts on a selection of beneficiaries and related to a range of our research activities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research by Gibson on assessment of oral health has been integrated into a guideline on mouth care for children being treated with cancer developed by a national inter-professional specialist group including Gibson. This has been widely disseminated and adopted by children's cancer centres in the UK and has changed the mouth care advice and treatment that is routinely given to parents and children, reducing medication and oral infections. This has led to a cost reduction for the NHS as well as improving the quality of life for children being treated for cancer. 2. Research undertaken by Baillie investigated the effectiveness of using simulation for developing clinical skills in nursing students as a replacement for some of the practice placement hours. This research, being the largest research study and the only one across all branches of nursing, provided the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) with the most substantial evidence to underpin the NMC's change in policy that was embedded in the 2010 'Standards for pre-registration nursing education'. The change allows for up to 300 hours simulation to be part of the 2300 hours of required practice placement. The use of simulation as part of practice placement hours is now wide spread in UK nurse education programmes, with the benefits of simulation for developing nursing skills now accepted nationally. 3. Research undertaken by Robinson on Public and Patient Engagement (PPE) in commissioning sexual health services engaged widely with stakeholders and has resulted in a web-based toolkit to help Commissioners and services with engaging the public. The toolkit is part of the NHS London Sexual Health Programme website, servicing all their PPE activity. 4. Research undertaken by Crichton to investigate the effectiveness of the Redbridge exercise on referral scheme gathered views from service users and GP referrers. This led to changes in the programme such as the regularity and way in which information was fed back to referring practitioners, the way in which exercise facilitators were trained and their contracts of employment thus ensuring better continuity of support for participants. The positive feedback and evidence of effectiveness led to the Commissioners continuing funding for the scheme. 5. Research by Wills exploring the attitudes, motivations and priorities of people who are obese in Barking and Dagenham is being used to inform the Borough's obesity strategy and the development of services. 6. Research by Baillie on patient dignity was disseminated through professional nursing journals and the RCN and underpinned the RCN campaign on dignity. The resources packs provide across the nation were very influential in focusing professional attention on how to support and maintain patient dignity and helped staff with developing local initiatives. Baillie's definition of patient dignity is widely adopted and used extensively in policy and guidance documents.
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Impact template (REF3a)**b. Approach to impact**

Enabling impact in the period 2008-13 has been through individual researcher's links with practice, either personal links or through those of departmental colleagues. Since 2010 we have developed a more formal structure of key contacts with members of the Faculty Executive having formal links with an identified senior staff member from each of our 48 NHS partner Trusts and two Academic Health Sciences Centres (now two Academic Health Science Networks) who they meet regularly. This network of links has started to be used as a mechanism for dissemination of our research and creating wider researcher-practitioner links than simply relying on individual researchers own networks. The benefits of these links for the research strategy and research collaboration are now established, but many of the partner projects have not yet finished and the benefits for impact of the formal links are only just beginning to be tested.

The Faculty has always encouraged all staff, including research staff, to engage with and take an active and leading role in professional bodies. It is through her relationship with the RCN that much of the impact of Baillie's work on patient dignity has been realised (see case study 1). The reach of the RCN in the nursing profession meant that the dignity campaign in 2008-09, which was built on Baillie's research was substantial. The engagement of Gibson in the specialist RCN forum group and the link of this group to the mouth care guidelines provided a national nursing network through which the guidelines could be disseminated and promoted, enhancing the national impact (case study 2) During the period 2008-13 we have established staff in leading roles in many professional bodies, for example in, RCN Forum groups; the NMC (the Dean of the Faculty is Deputy Chair); the College of Occupational Therapy and the Society of Radiographers.

The two Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) projects held by the Faculty in the period have been supported in the preparation of the grant proposals and developing impact plans by the University Research and Knowledge Transfer team.

c. Strategy and plans

The strategy for achieving impact begins with the conception of the research and our close working relationship with 48 NHS partner Trusts across London. Our research strategy is aligned with and responsive to the research priorities of these Trusts. Regular key contact meetings with the partner Trusts provide opportunities for maintaining research dialogue. Our staffing strategy is to have research active Heads of Departments working with Clinical Professors who spend significant amounts of time in Trusts providing research mentorship and partnership. This ensures a direct route for our research from academia to practice; that our research is conducted through an academic-practice partnership; and that it addresses issues which practice partners prioritise and for which they have plans for implementation of the findings.

All research projects have practice partners and most have service user engagement through the Faculty service user group or through a Trust service user group. We aim to have service user involvement in the advisory group of every research project from proposal through to dissemination and impact planning by September 2014. The Faculty funds service user involvement in research and offers training to support service users with this role.

Researchers are encouraged to publish their findings in both high impact academic journals and also in widely read professional journals which will better reach the practitioners who will use our research to impact on patient care. Staff are encouraged to offer specialist training, development and updating days in relation to implementation of research findings for health care professionals. We circulate a bimonthly Faculty newsletter to all our partner Trusts in London and these always have research features. Training initiatives that arise from research are made widely available through our extensive CPPD portal used by all our partner Trusts.

The Faculty will maintain strong links with all the key Health and Social Care professional bodies, particularly NMC (of which the Dean is Deputy Chair), RCN and HCPC. The Faculty actively supports staff through allowing time to be able to work and engage with professional bodies and their specialist interest groups and encourages them to take a leading role. Increasing use of these links will ensure our research has national and increasingly international reach.

Impact template (REF3a)

As the largest provider of both pre and post registration nurse education in London we can ensure that our research is taken into practice through our courses. All our research is disseminated through the Faculty staff as part of our research informed teaching imperative. This ensures our research is additionally introduced in practice by our students; particularly our post-graduate students who are often themselves leading teams or in positions allowing them to influence change in practice in their organisations.

The University opened the Clarence Enterprise Centre in August 2013. This represents a £13 million investment in supporting enterprise. Within the Centre there is a business support manager dedicated to supporting staff and students from the Faculty of Health and Social Care with enterprise development. We will use this support to assist with development of impact plans; to scope commercial opportunities and to assist with linking to business partners both within but particularly outside of the NHS. The University Central Research Support Office (CRO) will be developing training to help staff to better understand impact and its importance and will also set up mechanisms to capture, measure and report impact. All research staff will attend this training, be expected to have an impact plan for each research project and to engage with the mechanisms for capturing impact established by CRO. The Faculty Research Committee will monitor the impact data captured by CRO and develop Faculty specific models of best practice.

In summary our impact strategy is:

- All research projects will have practice partners and service users engaged from conception through to dissemination and implementation.
- An impact plan will be provided for each research project as part of the study proposal and is reviewed and updated as the study proceeds.
- The publication plan for every project will include both academic and professional journals and features in the Faculty newsletter.
- There will be regular exchange between the researchers and Faculty Executive to maximise the benefits of key contact meetings with all 48 NHS partner Trusts. All Faculty staff will be kept informed of research findings and encourage use of this information in teaching.
- To ensure we maintain strong active representation on professional bodies.
- Researchers will regularly meet with the business support manager to capitalise on enterprise opportunities.
- Researchers will attend training offered by CRO about capturing, measuring and reporting impact and comply with the systems in place to monitor impact.

d. Relationship to case studies

The impact of Baillie's work on patient dignity illustrates the benefits of publishing in professional journals as well as academic journals. Whilst publishing in an academic journal demonstrates the rigour of the research it is the professional journals that have greater reach and was picked up by professional bodies. The endorsement and joint working with the professional body was highly influential in enabling wide reach within nursing and health care organisation. A professional body campaign also provides publicity and political opportunity, this political engagement led to an opportunity for Baillie's work to influence policy change in relation to discontinuing mixed sex accommodation. The continued work of patient dignity groups that arose from the campaign shows the sustainability of impact through the professional body. The achievements of this case study provide evidence for the importance of engagement with professional bodies for maximising the impact of the work we do.

The impact of Gibson's work on mouth care in children being treated for cancer again illustrates the importance not only of rigorous research to provide convincing evidence but also of the importance of inter-professional specialty links and again the influence of the professional body. Being part of the Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (CCLG)/RCN Working group was the key to getting recognition for the mouth care guidelines (based on Gibson's research), getting them adopted by nationally and used by nurses and other professions. This has led to benefits for children and their families and cost savings for the NHS. This case study also indicates the importance of specialist professional networks in substantiating the impact achieved.