Research Project Lifecycle

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Allowing effective research and implementation to be conducted in the Public Sector



Common Issues What was going wrong? Public sector organisations often struggle to produce high These factors led to unwanted outcomes. These outcomes quality research, with common issues being present: are present in the vast majority of public sector Short funding deadlines lead to less planning implementation and research projects: Analysis not planned before implementation Not being able to say what works, or what effect has been • Lack of tracking of delivery had for the money/resource Fear of running randomised trials Asking for someone to evaluate something after it has Control groups are usually not pre-planned already been finished Issues with interventions not being picked up until later No baseline measurements taken Eligibility criteria not easily identified **Rushed implementation** Group sizes not based on prior evidence Inefficient or insufficient levels of resourcing Finalise Experimental **Planning Document** Research Research **Business** Pilot Test **Research Idea Final Analysis** Development Scoping Research Idea Full Research Plan Baseline Research Document / Initial Literature Sign Off Measurement. **Outcomes Report** Presentation Review and Cohort Design examination of and Business best practice to Draft Experimental Capabilities date **Planning Document** Main **Benefits** Experimental Assessment Design Tracking Delivery Set Research Solutions Requirements Gate 1 Gate 2 Gate 4 Gate 0 Gate 3 This research This research 'Research was d Idea, worth Research is read conducted as project is project is scoping' to conduct' feasible worthwhile intended' Implementation Research Outcome Next Iteration Root Cause and Sustainability Presentation / Analysis of Research Publication Decisions

What does this do?

The research project lifecycle provides a structure which allows for an organised approach to: **encouraging testing of new ideas, reviewing available evidence**, utilising strong data science to ensure that an **appropriate cohort exists** to deliver an intervention to, with **sufficient resource** to deliver it, and that **research is planned out in advance**, and **evaluated as intended**

It is a project management approach to ensuring that research and implementation projects are delivered as intended and produce the desired impact

Our experiences

Using the Research Project Lifecycle in Thames Valley has allowed us to run **6 randomised controlled trials**, alongside **in excess of 15 other research projects** of various types (Data analysis projects, Rapid Evidence Reviews, Natural Experiments and Quasi-experimental designs)

This methodology makes it possible to **run research as intended**, and **problem solve implementation before it begins**, **reducing problems** and **ensuring that impact is maximised** for the public we serve



Reference: Olphin, T.P.A. (2023). *Research Project Lifecycle: A Structured Approach to Conducting Research in the Public Sector.* Reading, UK: Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit @Crown Copyright 2023

