Knowledge for health: future directions

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Healthy Ireland and Making Life Better: evidence-informed and evaluated

“Actions should be informed by the best available evidence and should be subject to evaluation.”

“An important feature of Healthy Ireland is its focus on research, to ensure that goals, programmes and funding decisions are based on robust evidence…….”
Knowledge for health: future directions

• What is knowledge?
• The digital revolution
• New frontiers in public health knowledge
• Citizen knowledge
• And the future?
Knowledge is like water

“In the nineteenth century health was transformed by clear, clean water. In the twenty-first century, health will be transformed by clean clear knowledge.”

Sir Muir Gray Kt, CBE, DSc, MD, FRCPSGlas, FCLIP
What is knowledge?
What is knowledge?

• Public health practice is based on knowledge.
• The term knowledge as the product of the component parts, that is the result of knowledge translation.
• Nonaka (Nonaka 1995) sees knowledge as information combined with human dynamism, implying that knowledge is an active social process, whereas information is passive.
Public health knowledge and its translation

- Routine data
- Research
- Experience
Knowledge translation

Getting the right information, to the right people, at the right time, and in the right format, so as to influence decision making.
The knowledge society

The digital revolution

What changes we have seen over the last 10 year?
The changing landscape of knowledge

- Data: Big Data and data presentation
- Research: A new paradigm
- Experience: Capturing knowledge from experience
- Citizen knowledge
- Knowledge management
Knowledge from data
Research: the limits of hypothesis testing

With thanks to Harry Rutter for use of his slides
Public health experience

Explicit knowledge

Tacit knowledge
Citizen knowledge
Knowledge management

People

Technology

Culture

Content

Processes

Better Value Healthcare
....and in 10 years time?
The future is here, it’s just not evenly distributed. (Gibson)
Sir Tim Berners-Lee’s predictions

• Information needs to be regulated and controlled, especially our health data.
• Business will need to practice greater transparency
• Banks need to practice better security
• Pixels will get smaller
• Public data is important and we will have more access to it
• There will be a need for an Internet bill of rights to protect users
Thankyou!