Whose, what, how and why? A simple model for thinking about knowledge mobilisation

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What is Knowledge Mobilisation?

- Knowledge mobilization involves making knowledge readily accessible – and thereby useful to any number of individuals and groups in society – by developing ways in which groups can work together collaboratively to produce and share knowledge. (http://whatiskt.wikispaces.com/Knowledge+Mobilization)

- The term **Knowledge Mobilization** (KMb) refers to moving available knowledge into active use. More than just "bridging the gap", KMb seeks to make connections between research/expertise and policy/practice in order to improve outcomes in various organizations or sectors. KMb, or knowledge mobilization, is the term most often used by the social science and humanities fields in Canada. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knowledge_mobilization)
Knowledge mobilisation & public health

• Public health/health & wellbeing is everyone’s business which requires coordination and collaboration

• Landscape characterised by uncertainties (i.e. often no ‘right’ answer)

• Public health knowledge rarely explicit/codified

• Multiple sources of knowledge and experience which need to be mobilised in order to work out ‘what to do’
• KM literature
  – Ferlie, 2012 – 684 papers on KM work in the social sciences (including business and management)
  – Davies, 2014 - 71 substantial reviews of KM research literature (health, social care, education)

• KM models
  – Ward, 2009 – 28 models
  – Mitchell, 2010 – 47 models
  – Tabak, 2012 – 61 models

• KM terminology
  – McKibbon, 2010 – 100 terms
A simple model for thinking about knowledge mobilisation

I want to help [WHO] to mobilise [WHAT] by [HOW] in order to [WHY].
• 47 KM frameworks & models
• 4 sets of distinguishing features
• Not mutually exclusive
WHO
Whose knowledge do you want to mobilise?
WHO
Whose knowledge do you want to mobilise?

DMs
Decision makers responsible for commissioning services and/or designing local/regional/national policies and strategies – e.g. commissioning managers, policymakers

SU3
People in receipt of services and/or their advocates and representatives – e.g. community groups, charities, service user groups

Pra
Frontline service providers responsible for delivering services to members of the public – e.g. health and social care professionals, teachers

KPs
Professional knowledge producers – people who focus on producing robust scientific knowledge and evidence – e.g. researchers, academics, evaluators

Dev
Product and programme developers responsible for designing, producing and/or implementing tangible products, services and programmes – e.g. operational managers, service providers
WHAT type of knowledge do you want to mobilise?
WHAT
type of knowledge do you want to mobilise?

Scientific/factual knowledge – i.e. research findings, quality and performance data, population data & statistics and evaluation data

Technical knowledge – i.e. practical skills, experiences and expertise

Practical wisdom – i.e. professional judgements, values, beliefs and intuition
HOW

do you want to
mobilise knowledge?
HOW do you want to mobilise knowledge?

Con
Making connections between actors – e.g. establishing networks, brokering relationships between research users and producers

Di
Disseminating and synthesising knowledge – e.g. online databases, communication strategies, evidence synthesis services

Int
Facilitating interactive learning and co-production – e.g. participatory research projects, action learning sets
WHY do you want to mobilise knowledge?
WHY do you want to mobilise knowledge?

Po: To develop new policies, programmes and/or recommendations

So: To develop local solutions to practice-based problems

Imp: To adopt/implement clearly defined practices and policies

Kno: To produce useful research/scientific knowledge

Ch: To change practices and behaviours
I want to help frontline service providers to mobilise their factual knowledge, technical knowledge and practical wisdom by facilitating interactive learning in order to solve practice-based problems.

How about you?

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Vicky Ward is funded by a National Institute for Health Research Knowledge Mobilisation Research Fellowship. This presentation represents independent research funded by NIHR. The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health.