

**Adult and Health Services and  
Children and Young People's Services**



**Step 1 - A basic outline of the research process**

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## **The basic research process**

This document provides a basic outline of the research process.

## **Identifying research problems**

Research problems need to be researchable and can be generated from practice, but must be grounded in the existing literature. They may be local, national or international problems that need addressing in order to develop the existing evidence base.

## **Searching the existing literature base**

A thorough search of the literature using data bases, internet, text and expert sources should support the need to research the problem. This should be broad and in depth, showing a comprehensive search of the problem area.

## **Critical appraisal of the literature**

A critical appraisal framework should be employed to review the literature in a systematic way.

## **Developing the questions/ and or hypothesis**

A more specific research question and /or hypothesis may be developed from the literature review that provides the direction for the research, which aims to provide answers to the question /hypothesis posed.

## **Theoretical base**

The research may employ a theoretical base to examining the problem, especially seen in masters level research and in many research studies. In the health and social care field this might come from the social sciences, psychology or anthropology.

## **Sampling strategies**

Sampling is the method for selecting people, events or objects for study in research. Non-probability and probability sampling strategies enable the researcher to target data collection techniques. These may need to be of a specific size (sometimes determined by a power calculation) or composition.

## **Data collection techniques**

These are the tools and approaches used to collect data to answer the research question /hypothesis. More than one technique can be employed, the commonest are questionnaires and interviews.

## Approaches to qualitative and quantitative data analysis

Approaches could involve qualitative and quantitative techniques and methods dependent on the type of data collected.

## Interpretation of results

The results are interpreted, drawing conclusions and answering the research question /hypothesis. Implications for practice and further research are drawn, which acknowledge the limitations of the research.

## Dissemination of research

The research and results can be presented through written reports, articles, papers and conferences, both in print and electronic forms.

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.



[ResearchApprovalGroup@durham.gov.uk](mailto:ResearchApprovalGroup@durham.gov.uk)

03000 267 362 (Children)

03000 268 421 (Adults)