



Acknowledgments

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YARN TOOLKIT

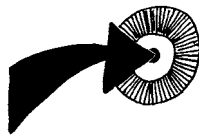
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NETWORK

Stage 3:

Planning for change

Key Words: Critique, Policy, Practice, Research, Campaign, Systematic



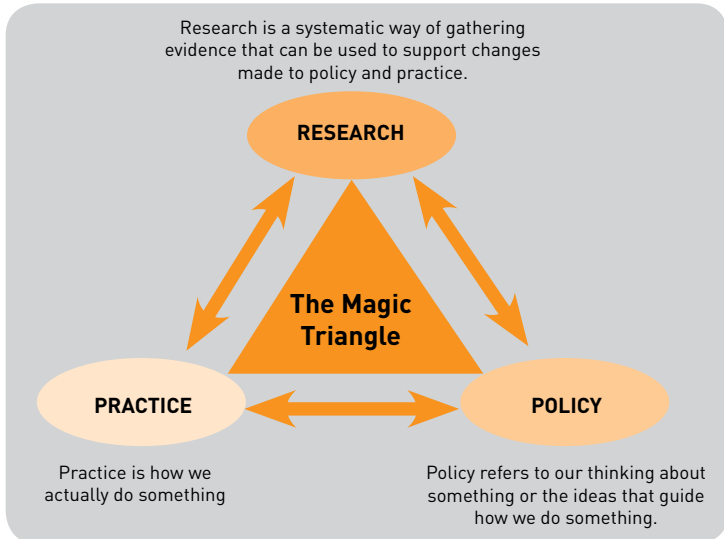
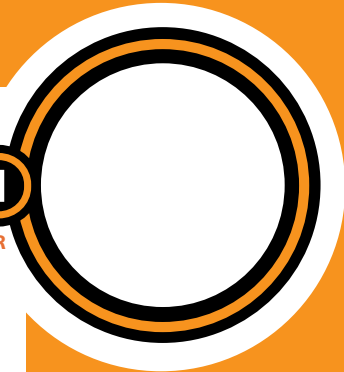
What is 'planning for change'?

Research is sometimes used as part of a larger campaign for change. In this instance research can be used as evidence to show that a problem exists or that there is a better way of doing something. Knowing what type of evidence your research can be used for is the first step towards giving your research a definite goal. You can then begin to plan how your research fits in with campaigning for change.

Why do we plan for change?

Research is an important part of what is sometimes called the magic triangle. The magic triangle consists of research, policy and practice, all of which are interlinked and feed into and from each other. Please see the Magic Triangle Resource for more information.

STAGE 3



It is important to know where your research sits on the magic triangle.

Knowing if your research is about making a change in policy, or practice will help you to:

- Be very clear about why your research needs to be done.
- Argue effectively why your research should be done (this may be especially important if you are asking for funding).
- Understand how your research may be useful in bringing about change as part of a larger campaign.
- Know what type of evidence you are looking for.
- Be prepared to write your research question!

How do you plan for change?

Think of this stage as a big sieve. The thinking that you do in this stage helps you to really focus down so you are left with the core argument, ideas and questions that your research is based upon.

The best way to do this is to 'interrogate' yourself about your research so that you know that you are clear.



STAGE 3

Answer these important questions

What do you want to change? And why?

This will help you to be clear on what you want to happen as a result of your research. Remember though that the research itself is unlikely to bring about change as it is usually only one part of a bigger campaign or strategy.

Do you want to change policy or practice?

This will help you to be clear what **type of evidence** you will need to gather, and begin to start thinking about who might be interested in your research findings.

Who do you want this research to influence?

Who has the power to make the changes that you wish to see made? These are the people that you need to persuade. Are some of them already supportive? Or do you need to challenge their view and use your research as evidence?

Top Tips:

- Don't rush this stage! Make sure that you are all clear as a group and can clearly state what needs to change or what is the problem.
- Ask people if what you think makes sense.
- Check if there are any existing campaigns locally or nationally that could be helpful or fit with your research.