

The Children's Trust Research Strategy

2020-2025

Children, young people and families that The Children's Trust support will receive services that are built on best evidence, and excellence to ensure their lives are enriched and that they achieve the best possible outcomes. Through growth in the research programme, and partnership with families, we aim to build the research base for children with brain injury and neurodisability.

This ambitious 5-year research plan has been developed in consultation with families and external partners and sets out the building blocks for promoting clinical excellence locally, nationally and internationally.

Research contribution to Aim 1: Build on our specialist knowledge to grow our services in Tadworth and help more children and young people

What do we want to do?

The research team will support innovative approaches to the service delivery for children, young people and their families. The impact of the research team in Aim 1 will be to present evidence, support new ideas, introduce innovation, and collaborate on analysis and evaluation. The research team will undertake and disseminate research that informs service provision. The team will involve young people and their families in the development and delivery of our research programme and collaborate with other organisations to develop and share best practice.

Why do we need to do this?

The Children's Trust wants to ensure that research drives excellence in the delivery of child-centred, family- focussed, flexible services. This approach provides a platform for The Children's Trust to grow quality services at Tadworth that will help more children and young people.

How will we do this?

The Research team objectives will be to:

- Build The Children's Trust research programme that responds to national and international research priorities, supports and leads on original hypothesis driven research
- Evaluate and review interventions and innovations to support services for children young people and their families
- Build comprehensive partnerships with clinical and educational colleagues, families, academic peers and funding bodies to support and disseminate research activity

- Grow a networking role regionally, nationally and internationally with academic, educational and clinical colleagues in children's neurodisability, commissioners and leaders of policy.

Research contribution to Aim 2: Support every child in the UK with an ABI

What do we want to do?

The research team will ensure that the information, support and advice children and families affected by ABI receive, reflect the published evidence. They will utilise their academic and clinical collaborations and partnerships to guide the planning of integrated care pathways that will improve outcomes for every child in the UK with an ABI.

The research team have subject expertise that they will share through a variety of media channels. They will use experience of involvement and engagement with families to ensure the information they provide is appropriate at the time of need.

Why do we need to do this?

The research team will ensure that new services are evidence based and reflect the needs of children, young people and their families in order that The Children's Trust can support every child in the UK with an ABI.

How will we do this?

The research team objectives will be to:

- Gather research evidence and lead critical thinking to inform organisational decision-making about UK wide service delivery models
- Guide service recommendations and evaluation methods
- Lead on Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) including upskilling colleagues on the importance and benefit of PPI in research
- Build on the contribution of our professional knowledge, skills and expertise to the information resources available, including to The Brain Injury Hub and other media channels
- Guide choice of outcome measures and long-term surveillance mechanisms
- Review potential for research opportunities aligned to the long-term trajectory of young people post-ABI

Research contribution to Aim 3: Improve outcomes for children and young people through integration of our specialist skills and approaches

What do we want to do?

The research team will ensure that the highly specialist skills and expertise of the education, healthcare and therapy teams' practice align with best available evidence. The research team are committed to informing the evidence-base through evaluation and outcome

measurement. As the teams and approaches become more integrated, the research team will ensure that they provide innovative learning opportunities and experiences in order to embed best practice into service delivery. They commit to a culture of critical thinking and integrated reflective practice across education, healthcare and therapy.

Why do we need to do it?

The research team will ensure that they have the methodological approaches and tools across the integrated teams to demonstrate the improved outcomes for children, young people and their families.

How will we do this?

The research team objectives will be to:

- Ensure that they are a research active organisation and that the research activity provides a setting that optimises child outcomes
- Research the evidence for integrated working and support the critical thinking for models of practice within The Children's Trust
- Support the critical evaluation of new outcome measures and the impact on new integrated ways of working.
- Optimise research learning and development across the organisation through the maintenance of a library, supervision and mentorship, and partnership with internal and external professionals across education, health, therapy and care
- Deliver post-graduate training opportunities, internships and secondments including support to newly qualified staff to gain skill in interprofessional practice and exposure to research and audit skills.
- Share knowledge and expertise of research methods and skills across the organisation for the purpose of improved child outcomes

Research contribution to Building Excellence

Going forward, the research team will have a role in building excellence across the organisation. The wide range of skills and expertise that the team bring in relation to critical thinking, analysis, and the reporting of data will help to support the organisation to provide evidence of its impact. The team's knowledge of behaviour change frameworks will support transformation and sustainability plans.

The research team will ensure that they remain visible and accessible to the wider organisation in order to advance the excellence agenda. We will facilitate learning and development, and share practical skills of project management, research methods, quality processes such as evaluation and audit. The team will mentor staff across the organisation and encourage them to explore early-stage research ideas, in order to help develop critical thinking and bring project ideas to fruition.

The team will continue to celebrate staff achievements and the research profile through peer review publications, presentations and social media platforms. Our aim is to showcase

excellence at The Children's Trust, making us employer of choice in this specialist field of children and young people with neurodisability.

Evaluation

This strategy is supported by plans that are evaluated annually by the Research Governance Committee.

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