

# Practical Planning for Peer Research

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Research

# What is Peer Research?

- Training local people (young or old) to gather community intelligence

# Why Peer Research?

- *Strong and Prosperous Communities* aims to ensure

*“responsive services and empowered communities”*

- Advantages of Peer Research:
  - Adept at accessing those ‘not yet reached’
  - Bequeaths a legacy of skills

# Choose the right methodology



- Appropriate for the evaluation/ research project
- Appropriate for the community
  - Engaging
  - Takes account of their previous skills / confidence



## Detective Quiz

When you arrive at the project...

What is the first thing you see when you come in?



What sounds can you hear?



What smells can you smell?



# Recruit keen peer researchers



- Ensure researchers are keen to:
  - Volunteer
  - Learn new skills
  - Play an active part in their community

# Over-recruit

- This allows:
  - For greater flexibility in data collection
  - Researchers to work in pairs if they feel more comfortable
  - For drop out / sickness

# Explain, explain, explain

- Why is the research being conducted?
- What will happen with the results?
  
- Manage expectations
- Minimise researcher bias

# Design research tools together

- Take advantage of:
  - Researchers' local knowledge
  - Knowledge of culture specific concepts / language
- Ensure researchers are comfortable with using the tools before you start
  - *“It just kept repeating the same thing – before birth, after birth, and first few years. I didn't know the difference between after birth and first few years and nor did the people I was interviewing.”*

# Boost confidence through training



- Training should cover:
  - Interview techniques & avoiding bias
  - Ethics and reassuring respondents
  - Researcher safety
- Training should:
  - Be relevant to researchers' lives
  - Give researchers confidence
  - Provide opportunities to pass on information about the project / topic being researched
  - Be practical





Research

Daily record sheet Child's name Ben Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Time of arrival \_\_\_\_\_

Time	Food intake	Fluid intake	Initial
8:30	Cornflakes (au)	milk	
12:00	Sausage, mash, y-pudding, cabbage. Fresh fruit + cream (au)	water	
2:30	Biscuit + Banana (au)	water/milk	
4:00	Chilli con carne + rice (au)		

Comments: Fresh fruit (au)

#### Nappy changes

Time	Wet	Dry	Soiled	Creams applied	Comments	Initial
10:25	✓					L.S
12:35	✓		✓			K.B
3:50	✓					R.B

#### Sleeps

From	To	Length	Position	Comments	Initial
10:30	11:30	1 hr			

Ben has been very happy  
and cheerful today.

He has eaten and  
slept well. Ben has  
had lots of fun playing  
with various toys such  
as the construction tools,

musical instruments,  
beach balls and rocking  
horses.

After his meal Ben  
enjoyed playing outside  
kicking beach balls  
around.



Research

# Tackle time pressures

- Allow enough time!
  - Less stressful, more enjoyable: better data
  - Allows for contingency planning
- Peer researchers can be resourceful

# Support peer researchers

- Notify the local police
  - Reassure researchers and respondents
- Provide a contact name and number
- Give day to day support
  - Feedback and problem solving
- Have a contingency plan ready
  - Outsource
  - 'Buddying'

# Encourage two-way communication

- Feedback sessions with interviewers / report writers
  - Doorstep issues
    - “Off the record...”
  - Interpretation of data
    - Be aware of alternative perspectives



# Get help to promote the research



- Encourage researchers to contribute to:
  - Analysis
  - Dissemination
- Returning to aims and being involved with outcomes:
  - Empowers peer researchers
  - Gives peer researchers more credibility
  - Enhances skills and legacy

# Top ten tips

- Choose the right methodology
- Recruit keen peer researchers
- Over-recruit
- Explain, explain, explain
- Design research tools together
- Boost confidence through training
- Tackle time pressures
- Support peer researchers
- Encourage two-way communication
- Get help to promote the research

# Questions



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