

Steps to Evaluation: How to set up an evaluation with external organisations

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Registration date 16/01/2018	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 07/06/2018	Condition category Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

A lot has been written about how to evaluate programmes to establish if they are effective in achieving their aims. However there is little guidance on how to actually work with organisations to identify which programmes they offer are suitable for evaluation and the steps involved in setting up those evaluations. Research evaluating programmes or interventions rarely discuss the steps involved prior to evaluation to identify suitable projects for evaluation and describe the steps required, often with academic institutions working in partnership with external organisations, to set up an evaluation. The aim of this study is to help determine the steps used to evaluate projects.

Who can participate?

Children under five as well as stakeholders working on the identified interventions.

What does the study involve?

Four interventions have been identified as a consequence of following the steps outlined in this protocol. Sign 4 Little Talkers/Big Feelings teaches sign language and stories for pre-school children during a two month intervention period. Data is collected at baseline and after two months. Follow-up visits are conducted up to three months post intervention delivery. The HENRY programme is an 8 week course for parents with children with concerns regarding weight and eating habits. Surveys containing a number of behavioural measures are completed at the end of the 8 week course and again after 3 months. Incredible Years is a 14 week programme for parents with children with behavioural problems. Parents fill in behavioural measures at the beginning and end of the course, and are followed up after 3 months. Parents as Partners is a 16 week course offering group counselling to parents to improve couple relationships to in turn improve child wellbeing and developmental outcomes. Relationship measures are taken at the beginning and end of the course and 3 months afterwards.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

As this protocol details the stages required prior to setting up evaluations, participants are not involved and consequently there are no direct benefits or risks. Any impact on participants would be anticipated when each programme identified by the steps described in this protocol is described in detail in separate, forthcoming protocols.

Where is the study run from?

1. University of Bedfordshire (UK)
2. Flying Start Luton (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

May 2016 to November 2018

Who is funding the study?

1. University of Bedfordshire (UK)
2. Flying Start Luton (UK)

Who is the main contact?

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Contact information

Type(s)

Public

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Additional identifiers

EudraCT/CTIS number

IRAS number

ClinicalTrials.gov number

Secondary identifying numbers

UoB_FS_EvProto_4Projects

Study information

Scientific Title

Steps to Process and Outcomes Evaluation: The Flying Start Luton approach

Acronym

STEPS

Study objectives

Much has been written about how to evaluate projects, yet there is little on the steps required prior to this to identify suitable projects for evaluation. This is particularly salient when working in the community with partner organisations who wish their provision to be evaluated in order to build an evidence base and rationale behind their work.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

This is a protocol to allow evaluators to get to the stage where they can identify projects and thereafter seek ethical approval to evaluate a specific project, therefore no ethical approval is needed at this stage. Ethical approval will be sought for the next stage of the evaluation, where the projects have been identified, allowing us to give specific details to ethics committees.

Study design

Observational study

Primary study design

Observational

Secondary study design

Cohort study

Study setting(s)

Community

Study type(s)

Quality of life

Participant information sheet

No participant information sheet available, however forthcoming participant information sheets will be made available for each intervention identified as a consequence of this evaluation approach.

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Early years health and well-being.

Interventions

Four interventions have been identified as a consequence of following the steps outlined in this protocol. Sign 4 Little Talkers/Big Feelings teaches sign language and stories for pre-school children during a two month intervention period. Data is collected at baseline and after two months. Follow-up visits are conducted up to three months post intervention delivery. The HENRY programme is an 8 week course for parents with children with concerns regarding weight and eating habits. Surveys containing a number of behavioural measures are completed at the end of the 8 week course and again after 3 months. Incredible Years is a 14 week programme for parents with children with behavioural problems. Parents fill in behavioural measures at the beginning and end of the course, and are followed up after 3 months. Parents as Partners is a 16 week course offering group counselling to parents to improve couple relationships to in turn improve child wellbeing and developmental outcomes. Relationship measures are taken at the beginning and end of the course and 3 months afterwards.

Intervention Type

Behavioural

Primary outcome measure

Sign 4

1. Listening and Attention, Speaking, Managing Feelings & Behaviour, and Understanding are measured using Early Years Outcomes at baseline and 6 month follow-up

HENRY

1. Self reported measures relating to parenting skills and healthy lifestyles are taken at baseline and 3 month follow-up.

Incredible Years

1. Children's behaviour is measured using the Strengths & Difficulties questionnaire at baseline and 14 weeks

Parents as Partners

1. Parenting style is measured using the Revised Parenting Index at baseline and 16 weeks

Secondary outcome measures

Sign 4

1. Children's well-being is measured using Leuven Well-being scales at baseline and 6 month follow-up.

HENRY

1. Group facilitator and parental views of HENRY sessions are measured using surveys and interviews at 8 weeks and 3 month follow-up

IY

1. Group facilitator and parental views of Incredible Years sessions are measured using surveys and interviews at 14 weeks

Parents as Partners

1. Group facilitator and parental views of Parents as Partners sessions are measured using surveys and interviews at 14 weeks

Overall study start date

05/05/2016

Completion date

01/11/2018

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Participants are children under five as well as stakeholders working on the identified interventions.

Participant type(s)

Other

Age group

Mixed

Sex

Both

Target number of participants

200

Key exclusion criteria

Any other human participants who do not fit the inclusion criteria detailed above.

Date of first enrolment

05/05/2017

Date of final enrolment

01/06/2018

Locations

Countries of recruitment

England

United Kingdom

Study participating centre

University of Bedfordshire

Institute for Health Research

University Square

Luton

United Kingdom

LU1 3JU

Study participating centre

Flying Start Luton

The TOKKO Building

7 Gordon Street

Luton

United Kingdom

LU1 2QP

Sponsor information

Organisation

University of Bedfordshire

Sponsor details

University Square

Luton

England

United Kingdom

LU1 3JU

Sponsor type

University/education

Website

<https://www.flyingstartluton.com>

Organisation

Flying Start Luton

Sponsor details

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7 Gordon Street

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LU1 2QP
+44 1582 548356
flyingstart@luton.gov.uk

Sponsor type

Government

Website

<https://www.flyingstartluton.com>

Organisation

University of Bedfordshire

Sponsor details

Sponsor type

Not defined

Website

<http://www.beds.ac.uk/>

ROR

<https://ror.org/0400avk24>

Funder(s)

Funder type

University/education

Funder Name

University of Bedfordshire

Alternative Name(s)

Funding Body Type

Private sector organisation

Funding Body Subtype

Universities (academic only)

Location

United Kingdom

Funder Name
Flying Start Luton

Results and Publications

Publication and dissemination plan

Steps to Evaluation article submitted to BMC Medical Research Methodology awaiting response. Two outcome and four process evaluation articles are planned from the subsequent evaluation of the projects selected in the above protocol.

Intention to publish date

16/01/2018

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are/will be available upon request from Dr Rosemary Davidson (rosemary.davidson@beds.ac.uk).

IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request