

Unit 5 - Research in Health and Social Care (M/618/4171)

Level 3

Related Qualifications: ATHE Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care (603/6568/7) 2020 version

Assignment

You must propose and carry out a short research **project** related to health and social care and explain how research informs practice. You may choose an opportunity or a problem at a health and social care setting you know, or a current issue in health or social care. Consult with your tutor/supervisor to determine a suitable area of research.

The Study Skills used, developed and assessed through this assignment are as follows:

- Critical thinking
- Planning, organising and time management
- Research
- Gathering information, note taking and summarising
- Analysis
- Oral and written skills
- Academic skills, including referencing
- Application of IT skills
- Reflection

Task 1

Identify and agree a topic for research and produce a research project proposal. Your proposal should:

- Show that you have agreed the research topic with your tutor
- Explain the importance of the aims and objectives of the research.
- Explain ethical considerations that apply to the area of the research project.
- Explain the links between the research and evidence-based practice.
- Analyse the contribution of research and evidence-based practice on decision-making.
- Explain the contribution of research to health and social care provision.

Extension activities:

To gain a merit grade you must also:

- 1M1 Analyse potential uses for the research findings within practice.

To gain a distinction grade you must also:

- 2D1 Analyse own current skills and knowledge in being able to conduct a literature review in health and social care towards evidence-based practice

LO1 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1M1 LO2 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2D1

Task 2

Carry out a literature review related to your chosen area of research and **produce a report** summarizing and commenting on the literature reviewed and drawing out main themes and issues identified.

Extension activities:

To gain a distinction grade you must also:

- 3D1 Examine the value of the literature review process in influencing positive change in health and social care practice

LO3 3.1, 3D1

Task 3

Carry out research for your chosen area, collecting suitable data and recording your findings:

- Create a sample of data from the findings.
- Apply suitable data analysis methods for the data collected.

Extension activities:

To gain a merit grade you must also:

- 3M1 Analyse the importance of validity and reliability of data used within research

LO3 3.2, 3.3, 3M1

Task 4

Produce a set of slides and notes for a presentation on the findings of your literature review and research that:

- Presents the data and information from findings to produce results.
- Draws conclusions and recommendations from research findings.

LO3 3.4, 3.5

Guidelines for assessors

The assignments submitted by learners must achieve the learning outcomes and meet the standards specified by the assessment criteria for the unit. To achieve a merit or distinction grade, the learners must demonstrate that they have achieved all the criteria set for these grades. Where work for the pass standard is marginal, assessors can take into account any extension work completed by the learners. The suggested evidence listed below is how learners can demonstrate that they have met the required standards.

Task number	LOs and AC	Suggested evidence PASS	Suggested additional evidence MERIT	Suggested additional evidence DISTINCTION
1.	LO1 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1M1 LO2 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2D1	Learners must agree a suitable topic with their tutor. Proposals should clearly set out the aims and objectives of the research and why they are important. Any ethical considerations should be identified. These may include issues of confidentiality and agreement of participants where applicable. The links between the research and health and social care practice should be made as well as more general commentary on the contribution of research and evidence based practice to decisions made in health and social care and the provision of care.	1M1 The learner must, with reference to their research, analyse potential uses for the research findings within practice. For example identifying skills strengths/ shortfall, opportunities to address skills needs and the identification of short- and long-term goals.	2D1 Learners must provide an analysis of their own current skills and knowledge in being able to conduct a literature review in health and social care towards evidence based practice. This should include the contribution to findings in practice, drawing conclusions from the data. In addition the actions that future researchers should take as a result of the project and benefits to the organisation.
2.	LO3 3.1, 3D1	The literature review should summarise a number of research papers/articles relevant to the chosen area of research and draw out the main themes and issues. This should be used to inform their research.		3D1 Learners must examine the value of the literature review process in influencing positive change in health and social care practice. For

				<p>example the process of planning, writing, reviewing and editing academic assignments. Reading strategies for academic study. Reading and understanding data: graphs, diagrams and tables. Preparing findings from interpretation of texts and data. The organisation of ideas and arguments in a clear and logical manner in order to present findings.</p>
3.	LO3 3.2, 3.3, 3M1	<p>Data collected and analysed should be relevant to issue/topic being researched. Findings should be recorded in a suitable report format. Learners should have carried out some analysis of the data in order to make recommendations/draw conclusions.</p>	<p>Learners should critically evaluate data to assess its validity and reliability e.g. commenting on sample size, restrictions on access to data subjects, lack of availability of suitable data etc.</p>	
4.	LO3 3.4, 3.5	<p>Findings from the research should be presented on slides with accompanying notes – the presentation may be carried out in person or virtually or may simply be assessed as a set of slides and notes. Findings should be related to the data collected and literature review carried out.</p>		

		Presentations should draw some conclusion and make recommendations based on the findings.		
--	--	---	--	--

Indicative Reading list

Aveyard, H., (2014). *Doing A Literature Review In Health And Social Care: A Practical Guide*. Open University Press.

Becker, S and Bryman, A (2004) *Understanding Research for Social Policy and Practice* . Bristol. The Policy Press

Bowling, A. (2002) *Research methods in Health: Investigating health and health services* (2nd ed) Milton Keynes: Open University Press

Coolican, H. (1999) *Research Methods and Statistics in Psychology*. London. Hodder and Stoughton

Economic and Social Research Council (2002) *Research Ethics Framework*. London HMSO

Health Research Authority (2015) *Draft UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research*