



## Poster 1 – 2018 Nordic Implementation Conference

### An evaluation of a healthcare modelling capacity building programme

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#### *Background*

This qualitative evaluation understood who and how a pilot programme to develop modelling capacity influenced decision making within 6 UK healthcare organisations. The 12-month programme seconded healthcare analysts, for one day per week, to work on projects from their own organisation with an academic mentor. This novel programme is an example of closer working between universities and providers

#### *Project aim*

The primary aim of the evaluation was to explore how the programme informed decision making and changes in the practices of the healthcare organisations. The evaluation also aimed to consider the context, process and mechanisms associated with the transfer of modelling knowledge between mentor and healthcare analyst (modelling associate). To understand if and how the programme had successfully developed modelling skills in the associates, and explore what was perceived as a successful outcome, along with any evidence of unexpected consequences.

#### *Project methods*

This evaluation adopted a realist approach to explore how the 6 modelling associates, workplace supervisors and mentors perceived the process and outcome of the programme. The evaluation comprised of interviews with participants at the start and end of the programme. Additional data were collated from monthly project reports, a project issues register and an evaluation questionnaire. A thematic coding framework was developed informed by a realist approach and the evaluation aims. The framework informed the analysis to explore the mechanisms and contexts of relevance to the programme outcomes.

#### *Project results*

The evaluation suggests the programme has been successful in developing skills in modelling and in using the modelling software supplied. Evidence of improvement is suggested from increased confidence in associates to apply modelling to projects beyond those originally proposed, effective engagement to complete models that contributed to collaboration on and communication of existing system issues, and secured resources to modify existing services. Associates and workplace supervisors perceived a significant improvement in the quality of information and analysis of organisational data.

#### *Preliminary or final conclusions/discussion*

The evaluation highlighted four themes as significant to the perceived success of the programme: 1. transfer of modelling knowledge 2. facilitation of collaborations 3. technical modelling training and 4. organisational learning in the use of modelling to solve problems. The quality of the collaborations created by modelling is suggested as key to the facilitation and co-production of knowledge to solve healthcare issues. However, not all forms of facilitation required were anticipated by mentors.