

Theme 2: Unit 5

Link Time

Link Time for Theme 2: Unit 5

The Link Person has a summary of the focus and content of Theme 2: Unit 5, including personal exercises that participants have been asked to do.

Purpose of the Theme 2 Link Time

The main purpose of this link time is to:

- Explain the service's approach to research and development activity
- Describe and discuss the opportunities for user involvement in the different stages of the research and development cycle that are available in the service or region:
 - ω Consulting about research
 - ω Commissioning research
 - ω Doing research
 - ω Managing research
 - ω Disseminating research
 - ω Evaluating research
- Negotiate user consultants' involvement in research and development activities that are of interest to them

- Discuss user consultants' next steps in beginning their user involvement work with the service

The Link Person will cover the first general area on research and development and the last one on negotiating user consultants' next steps for involvement with your service regardless of whether training participants have done some or all parts of Theme 2.

Which stages of the research and development cycle are covered will depend on whether or not they were included in the user consultant's training programme and which stages of the cycle are of most interest to user consultants.

Recommended areas to cover

Part A: Approach to research and development

The Link Person will consider including the following points:

- What research and development activity happens in the service
- Why this is important to the service
- How this work influences what happens in the service
- What the service's goals or hopes for user involvement in research and development are

- Of the six main research and development stages, which ones are available in the service for user involvement work

Part B: User involvement in consulting about research

The Link Person will consider including the following points:

- What user involvement already occurs or has occurred in consulting about research
- What user involvement opportunities already **exist** for consulting about research - they will ensure user consultants have enough information on the ones that interest them
- What user involvement opportunities are being **planned** for consulting about research - they will ensure user consultants have enough information on the ones that interest them

Part C: User involvement in commissioning research

The Link Person will consider including the following points:

- What user involvement already occurs or has occurred in commissioning research
- What user involvement opportunities already **exist** for commissioning research - they will ensure user consultants have enough information on the ones that interest them

- What user involvement opportunities are being **planned** for commissioning research - they will ensure user consultants have enough information on the ones that interest them

Part D: User involvement in doing research

The Link Person will consider including the following points:

- What user involvement already occurs or has occurred in doing research
- What user involvement opportunities already **exist** for doing research - they will ensure user consultants have enough information on the ones that interest them
- What user involvement opportunities are being **planned** for doing research - they will ensure user consultants have enough information on the ones that interest them

Part E: User involvement in managing research

The Link Person will consider including the following points:

- What user involvement already occurs or has occurred in managing research
- What user involvement opportunities already **exist** for managing research - they will ensure user consultants have enough information on the ones that interest them

- What user involvement opportunities are being **planned** for managing research - they will ensure user consultants have enough information on the ones that interest them

Part F: User involvement in disseminating research

The Link Person will consider including the following points:

- What user involvement already occurs or has occurred in disseminating research
- What user involvement opportunities already **exist** for disseminating research - they will ensure user consultants have enough information on the ones that interest them
- What user involvement opportunities are being **planned** for disseminating research - they will ensure user consultants have enough information on the ones that interest them

Part G: User involvement in evaluating research

The Link Person will consider including the following points:

- What user involvement already occurs or has occurred in evaluating research
- What user involvement opportunities already **exist** for evaluating research - they will ensure user consultants have enough information on the ones that interest them

- What user involvement opportunities are being **planned** for evaluating research - they will ensure user consultants have enough information on the ones that interest them

Part H: Negotiating user consultant roles

The Link Person will clarify and negotiate the following things:

- Details on the sort of user consultant roles available or planned in one or more of these areas
- Expectations of user consultants who take up these roles
- The type and amount of support available and how that compares with what the person needs
- The level of influence in decision-making
- Strategies to support user consultants in being accountable to the wider group of people they represent
- What the **Link Person** needs to do next to assist user consultants in taking up a user involvement opportunity in the stage(s) of the research and development cycle that most interest them
- What **user consultants** need to do next to assist themselves in taking up a user involvement opportunity in the stage(s) of the research and development cycle that most interest them