

***“Nothing about us without us”***

## **Stakeholder Engagement in Impact Pathways**

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# Why stakeholder engagement

Why do research if nothing changes?

As academics, we do robust research but we need others to inform our research and translate it into impact.

For REF 2021, research impact was defined as **the effect on, change or benefit to** the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, **beyond academia.**

## KEY QUESTION

What is the impact of your research on **processes** (attitudes, knowledge, understanding, behaviours), **people** (individuals, families, communities) and **places** (regionally, nationally or internationally)?

REF requires HEIs to submit impact case studies demonstrating the impact of their research beyond academia.

**NOTE** One 4\* ICS = six 4\* papers or £333,000 until the next REF.

# Key messages

- Engage with the people whose lives you are trying to impact  
*“Nothing about us without us”*
- Engage with others who are working to impact the same population group
- Engage early, engage authentically and remain engaged. Are you a ‘hit and run’ researcher?
- Prioritise stakeholders.
- Involve stakeholders in all stages of the research and impact journey
- Engagement can be challenging e.g. stakeholder with different priorities
- Engagement should never be tokenistic
- Build relationships based on mutual respect and trust
- Include stakeholder engagement in your costings
- Engage with the outstanding Faculty Impact Team at UU



# Things to consider in stakeholder engagement

- Who will be affected by the research and what are the potential/actual impacts on them?
- How will you engage with stakeholders (frequency, format, environment)?
- Will the impact be local, national or international?
- Who can facilitate or impede the research and its impact through their participation, non-participation or opposition.
- Are there people whose voices or interests in the issues may not be heard?
- Who will be responsible for managing the engagement outcomes? (identify actions, person responsible, add engagement and impact to team meeting)
- How can you best describe and evidence the pathway from research to impact

# Types of stakeholders

Service users ✓  
Government departments, agencies ✓  
Non-governmental organisations ✓  
Commissioners ✓  
Politicians ✓  
Industry/commence ✓  
Special Interest/Lobby Groups ✓  
Media ✓  
Research organisations ✓  
Professional Groups and representative bodies ✓  
Schools ✓  
National representative and advisory groups and networks ✓  
Trading partners  
The Arts ✓



Reed M (2018) *The Research Impact Handbook*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Aberdeenshire: Fast Track Impact.  
Fast Impact Tracker Podcast  
<https://www.fasttrackimpact.com/podcast>

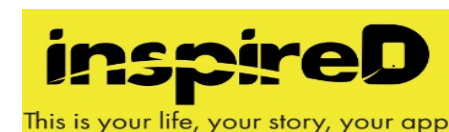
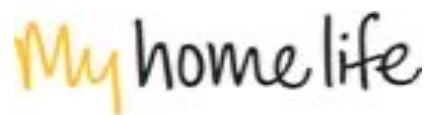
# Impact Case study submitted for REF 2021

## Changing Policy, Culture and Understanding in Dementia Care

**Research Programme 1:** Improving quality of life for residents, relatives and staff by implementing the My Home Life leadership support Programme in care homes

**Research Programme 2:** Improving quality of life and relationships for people living with dementia and their carers using the InspireD reminiscence app. “The Songbirds” play based on the findings of the research and seen by over 2000 people with pre and post test evaluation results evidence a significant increase in dementia awareness.

Parallel research programmes ...common denominator ‘dementia’



# Changing Policy, Culture and Understanding in Dementia Care

## Corroborating evidence of impact

Ulster's research *"convinced us that the InspireD reminiscence app reminiscence should be widely deployed across Northern Ireland and beyond"* (Dr Soo Hun, Digital Health & Care NI)

Extensive media (print, social and TV) coverage of InspireD app featuring Davie McElhinney, an app user living with dementia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbm2YFymMhg>

*"A very powerful performance of #Thesongbirds in AccidentalT tonight. Great portrayal of people's journey with #Dementia. Well done to all who pulled it together"* (The Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland)

*The play was superb!"* (Alzheimer's Society)

*"When you see this play you will get an understanding of the person who has dementia, it gives a 100% perfect representation of a person with dementia, that is the truth"...* (person living with dementia)



# Changing Policy, Culture and Understanding in Dementia Care

## Corroborating evidence of impact

UU Research cited as an example of best practice in ‘[Power to the People: Report of the Expert Advisory Panel on Adult Care and Support](#)’ (DOH, 2017)

UU research on the concept of ‘*nursing homes as home*’, commended by the Irish Minister for Health, Simon Harris (2017) was subsequently raised during parliamentary questions.

*“The DOH will “support implementation of initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for people living in care home such as “**My Home Life**” (press release by DOH, Permanent Secretary), 2018*

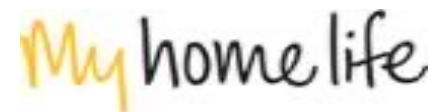
*“The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority actively supports the **My Home Life** programme” (Breege Donaghy, CEO, RQIA)*

The **MHL** programme makes “*a positive impact on the quality of care experienced by residents in care homes* (Linda Robinson, CEO, AgeNI, 2010)

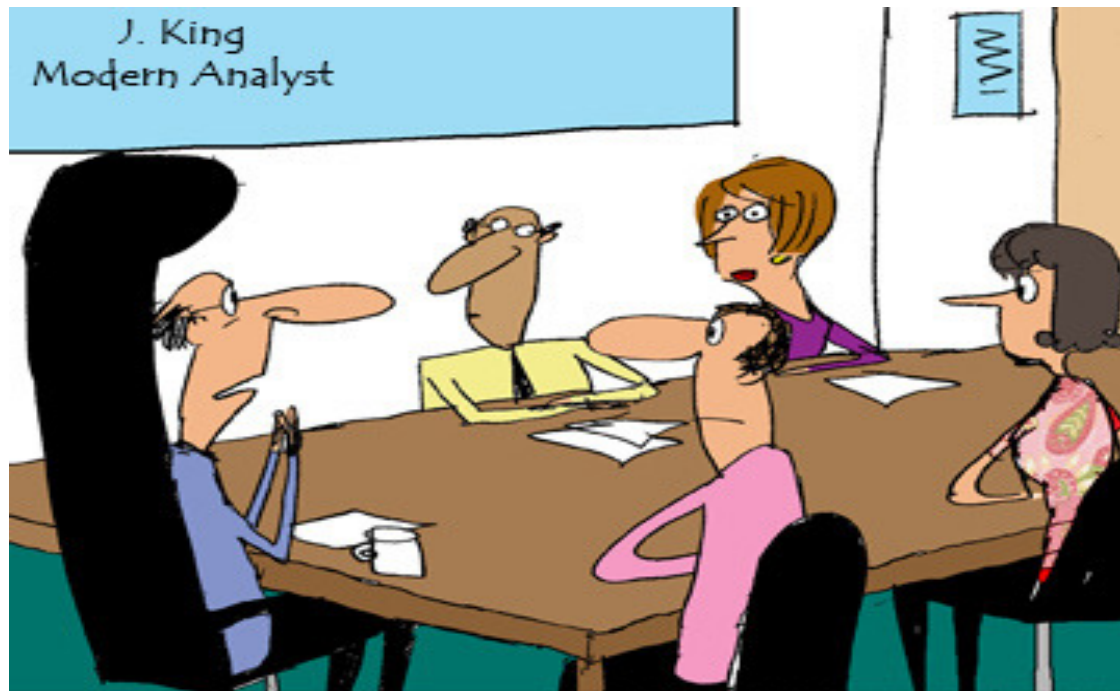
Direct impact on policy, e.g. current [Reform of Adult Social Care in NI](#) (2022) consultation document states: ‘*The Department proposes to continue the rollout of the “**My Home Life**” programme*

*“The **My Home Life** programme will contribute to the rebuilding of health and social care services for those residing in a care home setting” (Robin Swann, Minister for Health, 2022) .*

My Home Life programme was recommended as a catalyst for remedial change in three DOH reports (DOH, 2020, 2022a, 2022b culminating in additional funding (£2.7m) over 5 years all to UU and as a direct result of stakeholder engagement which started in 2009.







*"Our main goal is to please our stakeholders... except when their processes are complex... or when they have too many requirements... or when they are hard to deal with."*