

Evidence Islington Strategic Delivery Board: January 2025

Date and time

22 January 2025, 2pm–3:30pm

Agenda

1. Progress updates

- **Progress since October includes:** final recruitment to the core HDRC team; ongoing bids for community researcher work; increased collaboration with other HDRCs; ongoing all-colleague survey; and completion of the Evidence Islington page on the Council intranet.

2. Baseline evaluation: learning so far

Presentation on baseline evaluation

- The Strategic Delivery Board were given an overview of the **background, methods, and findings so far** for the Evidence Islington baseline evaluation.
- The Evidence Islington team offered three overarching reflections from the evaluation:
 - **Divergent understandings of research:** Council staff did not always recognise 'research' as key to their role, despite giving multiple examples of evidence seeking and evidence use. These were primarily to guide service delivery and legitimise decision making.
 - **Barriers to evidence generation and use:** Individual barriers included lack of skills and confidence, but this varied depending on staff members' level of seniority. Organisational barriers included limited access to analytical software, lack of protected time and lack of consistence or clear standards with regards to research.
 - **Partnership research:** There are lots of partnerships already, but these are often separate from activities which aim to inform and guide service delivery.

Questions and initial discussion

- The Strategic Delivery Board had a short **initial reflection** on their views of the findings, including whether they thought anything was missing and whether anything resonated with them.

Group discussion

- The Strategic Delivery **Board discussed the baseline findings** as a group, specifically focusing on how Evidence Islington should **address structural barriers** to using evidence and participating in research; what the **priorities are for training and capacity building**; and how Evidence Islington should galvanise **existing partnership working** to do research that benefits residents.

Actions

- **Action 1:** Board members to contact Evidence Islington team if there are funding opportunities that they or their department are considering applying for and that they might benefit from support with.
- **Action 2:** Evidence Islington team to develop an outline of the programme of work going forward, to be shared at the July 2025 SDB meeting.
- **Action 3:** Results of all-colleague survey to be shared at the July 2025 SDB meeting.
- **Action 4:** Council Board members to complete all-colleague survey and share it with colleagues.

Upcoming meeting dates:

- 23 April 2025, 2pm–3:30pm
- 23 July 2025, 2pm–3:30pm