2\textsuperscript{nd} International Conference on Practice Research

Practice Research in Social Work – Producing Robust Knowledge

May 30-31, 2012, Helsinki, Finland
the Salisbury statement 2008
What is the problem?

- Practice could be more effective
- EBP often fails to provide robust knowledge
- Practice-based evidence may be more useful
the Salisbury statement 2008

• an equal dialogue between research and practice – and service users
• practice issues lead research priorities
• involvement of practitioners
• applied orientation
  – problem-solving knowledge

• http://www.socsci.soton.ac.uk/spring/salisbury/
What has changed?

- a global financial crisis
- integration of health and social work
- increasing emphasis on effectiveness
- new conceptual work - Austin, Julkunen
- new opportunities for practice research
Conceptual work - Austin

• capitalise on curiosity
  – one of the first steps toward identifying research-minded practitioners … may include consulting with staff to locate practitioners who display considerable curiosity about the services provided…

• provide organisational support
  – putting in place organizational supports that promote the pursuit and application of information and knowledge is also needed for the research-minded practitioner to succeed
Conceptual work - Julkunen

• models for understanding practice research
  – practitioner-oriented model
  – method oriented model
  – democratic model
  – generative model
new opportunities

- Innokylä
new opportunities

• Good practice exchange SCIE
five functions of practice research

- reclaim the rationality of practice
- interpret meaning to inform outcomes
- embed involvement in knowledge production
- interpret research for practice
- generate problem-solving knowledge
work needed!

develop a critical mass of research-minded practitioners

use conceptual models to ensure organisational support

develop evidence from practice as high quality science

test whether evidence from practice improves outcomes

