

KNOWLEDGE UTILISATION COLLOQUIUM 2011 (KU11) BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND – 14-16TH June 2011

Café Theme 1: Blended and collaborative approaches to KT

Meta-Question: What are ‘blended and collaborative’ approaches to KT and are they needed?

Sub-questions/statements:

- What examples of blended and collaborative approaches exist in KT practice, evaluation and research and how effective are they?
- Blended and collaborative approaches (e.g. co-production, mode 2, integrated KT) ...
 - ... bring new, important and exciting dimensions to the field of KT
 - ... are messy compromises, signs of woolly/wishful thinking, lack rigour, don't produce generalisable knowledge and are of little value
 - ... compensate for and help overcome the weaknesses of existing approaches to KT
 - ... are time-consuming and overly obsessed with process to the detriment of outcome
 - ... bring a depth of understanding to ways of overcoming the perceived enablers and barriers of effective KT
 - ... epitomise epistemological and theoretical confusion and are not helpful to KT
- What strategies are needed to overcome the potential weaknesses and drawbacks of blended and collaborative approaches
- If we sign up to blended and collaborative approaches, we need to be cognisant of the implications:
 - For commissioners
 - For capacity building
 - For spread and sustainability strategies
 - For approaches to evaluating impact

Before the session:

Participants are asked to think of a specific example of a ‘blended and collaborative’ approach to KT. This example can be drawn from your own work or from the work of others. Using this example, you are asked to reflect on:

- What was the added value (if any) of the approach used?
- What challenges in using the approach were experienced?
- How were the challenges overcome?
- What methods were used to balance process with outcome
- What learning occurred and would you do it again?