

PhD Student Experiences: Working as a Research Fellow in Government

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What's Next DTC Conference
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THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK

Overview

The Team

- What they do and how they do it

My Experiences

- Projects I worked on and skills I gained

The Team



CabinetOffice

Nesta...

What BIT Do

- Use insights from the behavioural sciences to design policies and interventions that can encourage, support and enable people to make better choices for themselves and society
- Rigorously test the efficacy of these policies and interventions

For Example...

- Informing people who failed to pay their tax that most other people had already paid increased payment rates by 15%
- This equated to £1.2 million pounds in revenue in the first month of the trial alone
- In the 2012/13 financial year the use of these and similar messages brought forward £210m of tax revenue

Core Process

1. Define the outcome
2. Understand the context
3. Build the intervention
4. Test, learn, adapt

Requires people with our skills set!

My Experiences



Areas of Application

- Economic growth
- Education
- Employment
- Environmental issues
- Health
- Home affairs
- International development
- Finance

Crime



- Interventions to reduce burglary, reoffending, cyber crime and false mobile phone theft reporting
- Making communications to criminals and victims more effective

Employment



Essex Job Centre Plus Trial

Social Work



Clinical Judgement and Decision-Making in Children's Social Work: An analysis of the 'front door' system

Research report

April 2014

Elsbeth Kirkman and Karen Melrose - The
Behavioural Insights Team

Miscellaneous...

How can we

- Reduce alcohol harms
- Reduce social isolation and loneliness
- Increase cancer screening attendance

Skills Gain

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Writing
- Research
- Interpersonal
- Experience working with stakeholders

Other Teams Doing Similar Work

- Government: Behavioural insights teams in other government departments (e.g., DoH and PHE)
- Other organisations: BE Works, Ogilvy Change, Ideas42, BVA Nudge Unit, Design Council, KL.7, Which, The Hunting Dynasty, Capita, Barclays.

Thank you!
Any questions?