

Evidence into excellence in practice

Barnahus Network Strategy for Knowledge Mobilisation



Introduction

The Barnahus Network is committed to ensuring that children affected by violence, abuse, exploitation and trauma receive responses that are rights-based, evidence-informed, multidisciplinary and centred on recovery and participation. As Barnahus continues to develop across diverse legal, social and institutional contexts, it is essential that practice development is grounded not only in experience and professional expertise, but also in robust research, evaluation and the lived experiences of children and families.

This strategy serves as a strategic direction for how the Barnahus Network will translate research and evidence into practical improvements in policy, systems and frontline practice. It recognises that evidence alone does not create change. The strategy rests on an assumption that meaningful impact requires deliberate processes to interpret findings, engage practitioners and decision-makers, adapt knowledge to local realities, and support implementation over time.

The strategy therefore focuses on knowledge mobilisation (KM) as an ongoing and reciprocal process between research, policy and practice. It is designed to strengthen the Network's collective capacity to learn, adapt and continuously improve the quality of responses provided to children. Through this approach, the Network seeks to ensure that emerging evidence informs concrete action, contributes to the development of Barnahus Quality Standards, and supports sustainable excellence in practice across Europe.



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What do we mean by knowledge mobilisation and translating evidence into action?

Knowledge mobilisation (KM) refers to the intentional and collaborative process of transforming research, evidence and lived experience into practical action, organisational learning and systems change. It addresses the persistent ‘knowledge-to-practice gap’ that often exists between academic research and frontline implementation.

Within the Barnahus Network, KM is understood as a two-way and ongoing exchange between researchers, practitioners, policymakers, children and survivors. It goes beyond dissemination of findings. It includes co-creation, interpretation, adaptation, implementation support and continuous feedback loops.

The purpose of KM is not simply to generate knowledge products, but to support meaningful improvements in how professionals work with children and families. This means translating evidence into approaches, tools and systems that are practical, accessible and responsive to operational realities across different contexts.

Knowledge mobilisation process

The Barnahus Network recognises that meaningful change in multidisciplinary systems depends not only on what knowledge is available, but on how organisations and professionals are supported to apply it in practice.

To ensure that this strategy leads to measurable change in practice, activities to support implementation will be embedded within the Network’s existing structures and professional exchange mechanisms. Rather than creating parallel processes, the strategy seeks to strengthen and connect existing opportunities for learning, reflection and support, by:

- Supporting research;
- Translating evidence into clear and actionable recommendations for practice;
- Supporting members with implementation, adaptation and peer learning;
- Creating practical tools that reduce complexity and increase usability;
- Strengthening feedback loops between frontline professionals and researchers;
- Monitoring uptake and identifying barriers to implementation;
- Building sustainable communities of practice and long-term organisational learning.

The Barnahus Network’s approach to KM is guided by the following principles:

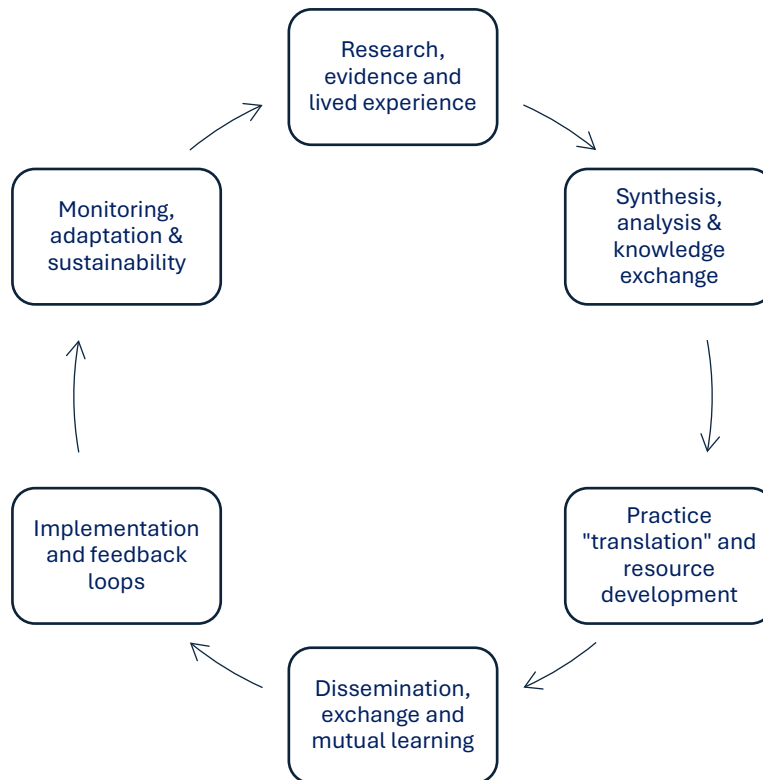


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- Child-centred and rights-based
- Grounded in evidence and lived experience
- Co-created with practitioners and stakeholders
- Focused on implementation and “real-world” practical application
- Adaptive, reflective and sustainable
- Designed to strengthen collaboration across disciplines and systems

The Barnahus Network will work through an iterative cycle in which research, evidence and lived experience is continuously translated into learning, implementation, practice reform and systems improvement. The process is designed to support practical uptake by members while also strengthening collective learning across the Network.

Figure 1. Barnahus Network knowledge mobilisation process



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Research, evidence and lived experience

The Barnahus Network will actively commission, support and participate in research and evaluation initiatives that strengthen understanding of what contributes to quality and impact on participation, protection, justice and recovery for children affected by violence.

Recognising that evidence is strengthened through dialogue with those directly involved in implementation, the Network will facilitate ongoing dialogue between researchers, practitioners, policymakers and other stakeholders to identify emerging themes, implementation challenges and opportunities for strengthening practice. Particular emphasis will be placed on understanding how multidisciplinary collaboration functions in practice and how systems can better support child-centred and trauma-informed responses.

The Network will foster close collaboration with researchers, academic institutions and multidisciplinary practitioners to ensure that research is informed by operational realities and emerging practice needs across Europe. The Network will also promote cross-country learning by identifying common patterns, transferable practices and shared implementation challenges across diverse Barnahus contexts. This approach supports collective learning while recognising the importance of adapting evidence and recommendations to local systems, legislation and service environments.

The Network will continue to strengthen its approaches to child participation and learning from children's lived experiences. This includes supporting safe, ethical and meaningful opportunities for children and young people to influence research, evaluation, service development and implementation processes. The Network will continue to develop methods, guidance and professional capacity to ensure that children's perspectives are not treated as supplementary, but as essential to understanding quality and improving Barnahus practice across Europe.

Synthesis, analysis and knowledge exchange

The Barnahus Network will establish structured processes to analyse, synthesise and exchange knowledge emerging from research, implementation experience and professional practice across the Network. The purpose of this stage is to ensure that evidence is not treated as isolated findings, but is collectively interpreted, contextualised and transformed into shared learning that can inform practical action and systems improvement. An important aspect of this work is the development of concise, audience-agnostic summaries synthesising complex evaluation results into core findings and high-level implications for the Barnahus model.



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Through collaborative analysis and exchange, the Network will support a deeper understanding of what contributes to effective multidisciplinary responses for children and how evidence can be meaningfully applied within different national and organisational contexts.

Knowledge exchange activities will include thematic learning sessions, peer exchange, consultations and collaborative reflection processes that enable members to share experiences, innovations and lessons learned. Particular emphasis will be placed on creating reciprocal feedback loops between frontline practice and research processes, ensuring that practitioner knowledge and operational realities continue to shape research priorities and interpretation.

Through synthesis, analysis and knowledge exchange, the Network seeks to strengthen a culture of continuous learning, reflective practice and evidence-informed collaboration across the Barnahus community.

Resource and asset development

The Barnahus Network will translate research findings, evidence and lived experience into practical, accessible and actionable resources that support excellence in multidisciplinary practice. Resource development will focus on strengthening the capacity of Barnahus professionals, teams and systems to apply evidence in ways that are meaningful within diverse national and operational contexts.

The Network will develop evidence-informed toolkits and handbooks, guidance materials, practice briefs and training resources and implementation supports tailored to different professional audiences and levels of responsibility. These resources will aim to bridge the gap between research and everyday practice by presenting complex findings in formats that are practical, user-friendly and directly relevant to operational realities.

Resource development will be undertaken collaboratively with researchers, practitioners, children and strategic partners to ensure that materials are grounded in both evidence and “real-world” experience. Particular emphasis will be placed on creating resources that support implementation of the Barnahus Quality standards, including multidisciplinary collaboration, child participation, trauma-informed practice and organisational learning.

The Network will prioritise modular and adaptable resources that can be used flexibly across different systems and stages of Barnahus development. This includes practical implementation tools, visual materials, case-based learning resources, peer-learning formats and training curricula designed to support both initial uptake and long-term sustainability.



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Through this work, the Network aims not only to disseminate knowledge, but to strengthen the practical ability of members to translate evidence into improved outcomes for children and families.

Translate research findings into practical tools, briefs, learning resources, implementation guidance and targeted communications tailored to different audiences.

Dissemination, exchange and mutual learning

The Barnahus Network will actively disseminate emerging evidence, resources, tools and learning across the Network through accessible, practice-oriented and collaborative formats. The purpose of this stage is to strengthen collective understanding, promote peer exchange and create opportunities for mutual learning between professionals, researchers and member organisations.

The Network will facilitate training, webinars (including the Lunch & Learn series), professional and thematic exchanges, and peer-learning activities, including in the Barnahus Forum, that support reflection, dialogue and shared problem-solving across countries and disciplines. Dissemination activities will prioritise accessibility, relevance and practical applicability, ensuring that research findings and our practical resources are communicated in ways that support engagement and professional learning.

Particular emphasis will be placed on reciprocal learning processes, recognising that knowledge flows not only from research to practice, but also from frontline professionals, children and member organisations back into the Network's collective understanding. Through this approach, the Network seeks to strengthen collaboration, shared ownership and continuous learning across the Barnahus community.

Implementation and feedback loops

The Barnahus Network will support members in translating evidence, learning and guidance into concrete changes in policy, organisational development and frontline practice. The purpose of this stage is to strengthen the practical uptake, adaptation and sustainability of evidence-informed approaches across diverse Barnahus contexts, and to support practice, policy and law reform that create an enabling environment for Barnahus excellence in practice.

Implementation support will include practical guidance, technical assistance, training, peer support, and opportunities for collaborative problem-solving. The Network will work with members to identify barriers and enabling factors for implementation and to support context-sensitive adaptation while maintaining fidelity to child-centred and rights-based principles.



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Particular emphasis will be placed on implementation of the Barnahus Quality standards, including by strengthening multidisciplinary collaboration, child participation, trauma-informed approaches and organisational learning processes. The Network will also promote mechanisms for monitoring uptake, reflecting on implementation experiences and continuously refining approaches based on feedback and emerging evidence.

Through this work, the Network seeks to move beyond dissemination alone and support meaningful, sustainable improvements in the quality and impact of Barnahus practice across Europe.

Sustainability

The Barnahus Network is committed to ensuring that knowledge mobilisation and evidence-informed practice become embedded as ongoing and sustainable elements of organisational and professional development across the Network. The purpose of this stage is to strengthen long-term capacity for continuous learning, implementation, reflection and improvement within Barnahus systems and multidisciplinary practice.

The Network will work to institutionalise structures and processes that support ongoing exchange between research, policy and practice beyond individual projects or funding cycles. This includes strengthening internal capacity, developing sustainable learning mechanisms and embedding evidence-informed approaches within existing professional networks, governance structures and processes for monitoring and evaluation.

Particular emphasis will be placed on supporting communities of practice, peer-learning structures and train-the-trainer approaches that enable members to continue sharing knowledge, supporting implementation and building expertise over time. The Network will also promote sustainable mechanisms for child participation, practitioner feedback and collaborative reflection to ensure that lived experience continues to inform future development.

To support continuous improvement, the Network will strengthen systems for monitoring uptake, identifying emerging needs and evaluating the practical impact of knowledge mobilisation activities on policy, organisational development and frontline practice. Lessons learned from implementation and evaluation processes will be used to refine approaches, inform future research priorities and strengthen the collective capacity of the Network.

Through this work, the Barnahus Network seeks to foster a culture of shared responsibility, adaptability and continuous learning, ensuring that evidence-informed practice remains dynamic, responsive and sustainable across diverse European contexts.



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Conclusion

This strategy positions the Barnahus Network as a learning-oriented community committed to evidence-informed practice and continuous improvement. By investing in knowledge mobilisation, the Network seeks to ensure that research findings do not remain static outputs, but become practical tools for strengthening systems, supporting professionals and improving outcomes for children.

The strategy will continue to evolve alongside emerging research, practitioner learning and member needs. Its success depends on active engagement, collaboration and shared ownership across the Network.

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