Interdisciplinary Research and Antimicrobial Resistance workshop

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A bit of recent history

- 2013 Govt Strategy: recognises importance of research, including behaviour relevant research
- Wider activities raising profile of AMR e.g. funder meetings
- Social science seen as relevant: often narrow view of potential contribution
Social Science Research at that time (2013)

- Very few ‘antimicrobial’ or ‘AMR’ specific grants
- Larger number of relevant grants e.g. health seeking behaviour; global trade including pharmaceuticals; zoonoses
- Overall: sense that high quality social science had a lot to offer
ESRC working group on AMR: 2014

“The mechanisms which lead to antimicrobial resistance are biological. However the conditions promoting, or militating against, these biological mechanisms are profoundly social. How our farmers, vets, and regulatory systems manage livestock production for human consumption; how regulatory and fiscal frameworks incentivise or deter antimicrobial development, production and use; how the public and healthcare professionals understand, value and use antimicrobials; the context in which animals and humans interact […] Social science therefore has a key role to play […]”

Professor Dame Sally Macintyre

http://www.esrc.ac.uk/files/funding/funding-opportunities/amr/anti-microbial-resistance-setting-the-social-science-agenda/
Beyond Social Sciences: parallel activity

- 2013: Funders Forum for AMR
- Launched June 2014: Cross Research Council Initiative
- July 2014: O’Neill Review of AMR
- 2015 JPI (European) Analysis published showing research often in silos

Antibiotic resistance: Cameron warns of medical 'dark ages'

UK research councils join forces in 'unprecedented move' to tackle rise of antibiotic-resistant 'superbugs'
Overall sense…. 

Widening arena, need for complex research, funding opportunities on horizon 
….need for social science to rise to challenge
AMR Research Champion

- advocacy amongst social scientists
- a database of interested social scientists
- reviews and briefing papers
- Website; blogs; twitter
- Focused networking events
Where ESRC is now:

- Part of a cross funder collaborative on AMR; social science very much embedded, all funders work together
- Funded grants with other RCs eg grant on diagnostics, and on optimising antibiotic use in China.
- Soon be announcing new grants under theme 4 initiative - c£13m of funding.
- Launching more calls in future. Future very much interdisciplinary and global.
Thank you

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