

Applied research and working at the interface of academia and practice

How research can help tackle the grand challenges in adult social care

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Contextual complexities

- Research being undertaken in an environment marked by:
 - High and increasing demands on the social care system
 - Financial constrictions
 - Fast-paced political and policy change
- Three complexities ([Michgelsen et al., 2023](#) – cf. integrated care):
 1. What is it that we should measure if we are to understand impact?
 2. Methodological challenges – are there adequately sensitive ‘tools’ that can capture data within the complex dynamics of systems in context that change over time?
 3. Context-specific evaluation is key recognising and reconciling different perspectives and viewpoints
- Role of principles?

Introducing the map

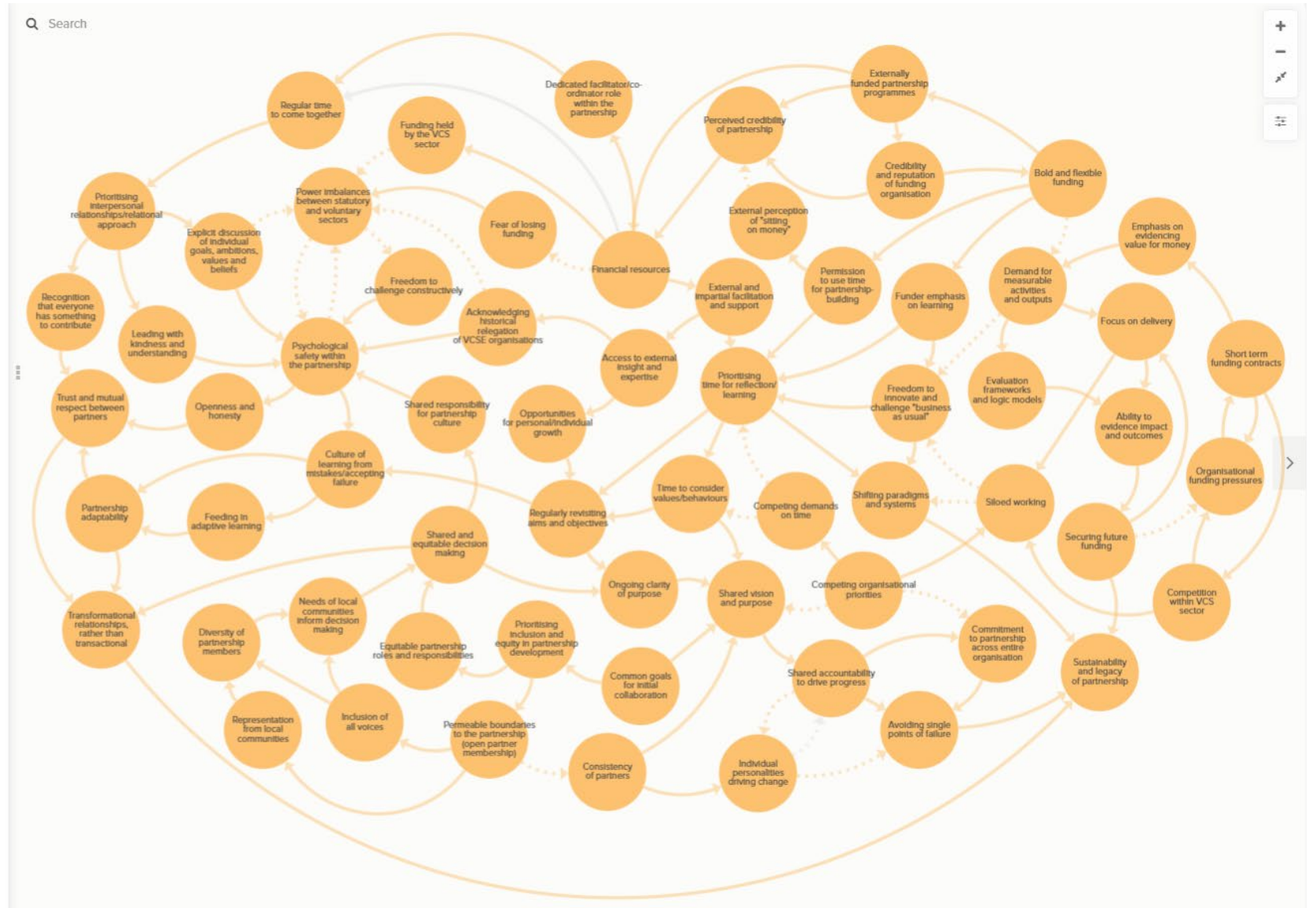
The programme-level map is an example of a causal loop diagram, showing the relationships between different elements that were identified by HCT partners in answer to the question:

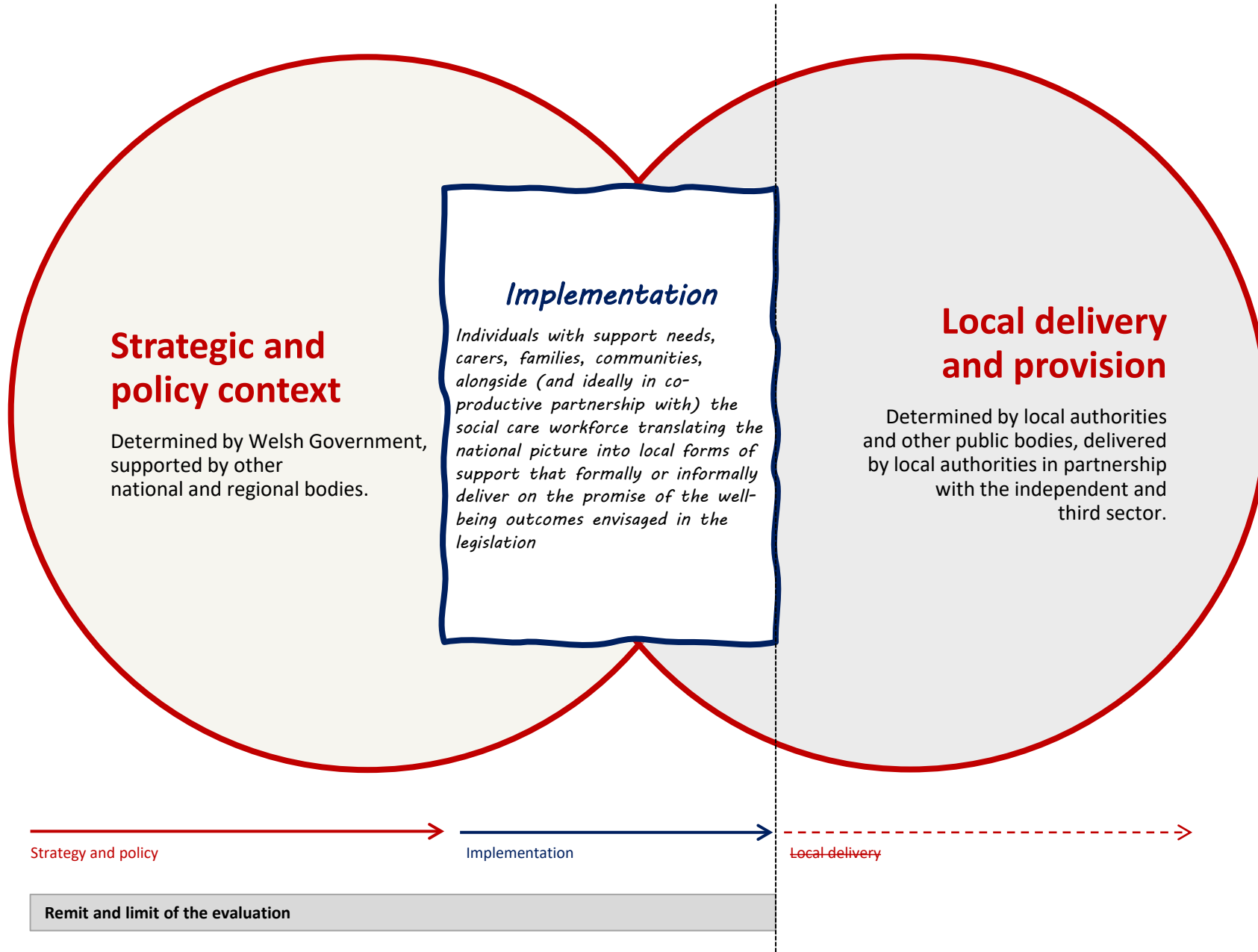
"Which factors help or hinder cross-sector partnership working?"

To interpret and navigate the map:

1. A solid arrow means a positive correlation (*an increase/decrease in x increases/decreases y*).
2. A dashed arrow means a negative correlation (*an increase in x decreases y, or a decrease in x increases y*).
3. Zoom in by clicking the + and - buttons in the top right.
4. Isolate a factor and its linked factors by hovering over it.
5. Click the double arrows in the top right to make the map fill the screen.
6. Click the three dots to the right of this text pane to make it disappear or reappear.

Please do explore the map by interacting with the factors and connections yourself. Once you are done, click the arrow on the right hand side of the screen to go through to the next slide. The rest of this presentation explores various themes from the map in more detail. N.B. the factors on the map represent the views of HCT partners and are not intended to imply absolute facts about partnership working.





Michael Patton (2018) *Principles-Focused Evaluation*

“The distinguishing characteristic of principles-focused evaluation is the focus on principles as the object of evaluation, what we call in evaluation jargon the evaluand” (2018, p.55).

P-FE explores the **process, utility, and impact** of principles-based developments:

- Complexity
- Messy and dynamic worlds
- Implications for attribution, contribution and judging the value and worth of something

Three key questions:

1. To what extent have meaningful and evaluable principles been articulated?
2. If principles have been articulated, to what extent and in what ways are they being adhered to in practice?
3. If adhered to, to what extent and in what ways are the principles leading to the desired results?

(Patton, 2018, p.55-56)

Elements of the GUIDE framework	Overarching research questions
<u>G</u>uiding	<p>What directions are being prescribed by the principles of the programme / project / intervention?</p> <p>What does the programme / project / intervention require to be done in order to fulfil the guiding direction and values of the principle (i.e. duties, practices, processes and expected outcomes)?</p>
<u>U</u>seful	<p>How are the principles of the programme / project / intervention being interpreted and used in national, regional and local contexts?</p>
<u>I</u>nspiring	<p>What do the principles of the programme / project / intervention inspire that is different?</p>
<u>D</u>evelopmental	<p>What are the emergent issues that are influencing what is being done, and how the principles are being adapted in national, local and regional contexts?</p>
<u>E</u>valuable	<p>What has been the early results and impact of the implementation of the principles in different contexts?</p> <p>What can be measured and evaluated?</p>

Challenges and ways forward?

Reflections:

- Funders making decisions based on the (perceived) capacity of the sector
- Complexity, uncertainty and variation – new ‘givens’
- Context matters – Realist approaches
- Role of Implementation Science? ([Leeman et al., 2021](#))
- Building research capacity in social care – Health Determinants Research Collaborations in Wales

Questions? Thoughts? Comments?

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