

UK WWCs STUDY

A quick overview

EIPPEE Meeting
London, 13th June 2018

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<http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk>



UK WHAT WORKS CENTRE	MIAN POLICY AREAS
Centre for Ageing Better	Improved quality of life for older people
College of Policing What Works Centre for Crime Reduction	Crime reduction
Early Intervention Foundation	Early intervention
Educational Endowment Foundation/Sutton Trust	Educational achievement
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)	Health and social care
What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth	Local economic growth
What Works Centre for Wellbeing	Wellbeing
Affiliate: Wales Centre for Public Policy (Previously Public Policy Institute for Wales)	Potentially any policy area
Affiliate: What Works Scotland	Potentially any policy area

RESEARCH AND DECISION MAKING

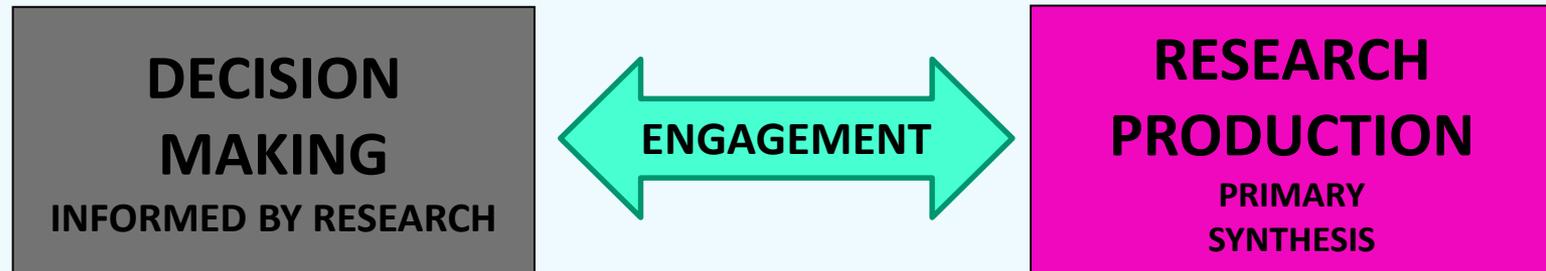
**DECISION
MAKING
INFORMED BY RESEARCH**

RESEARCH AND DECISION MAKING

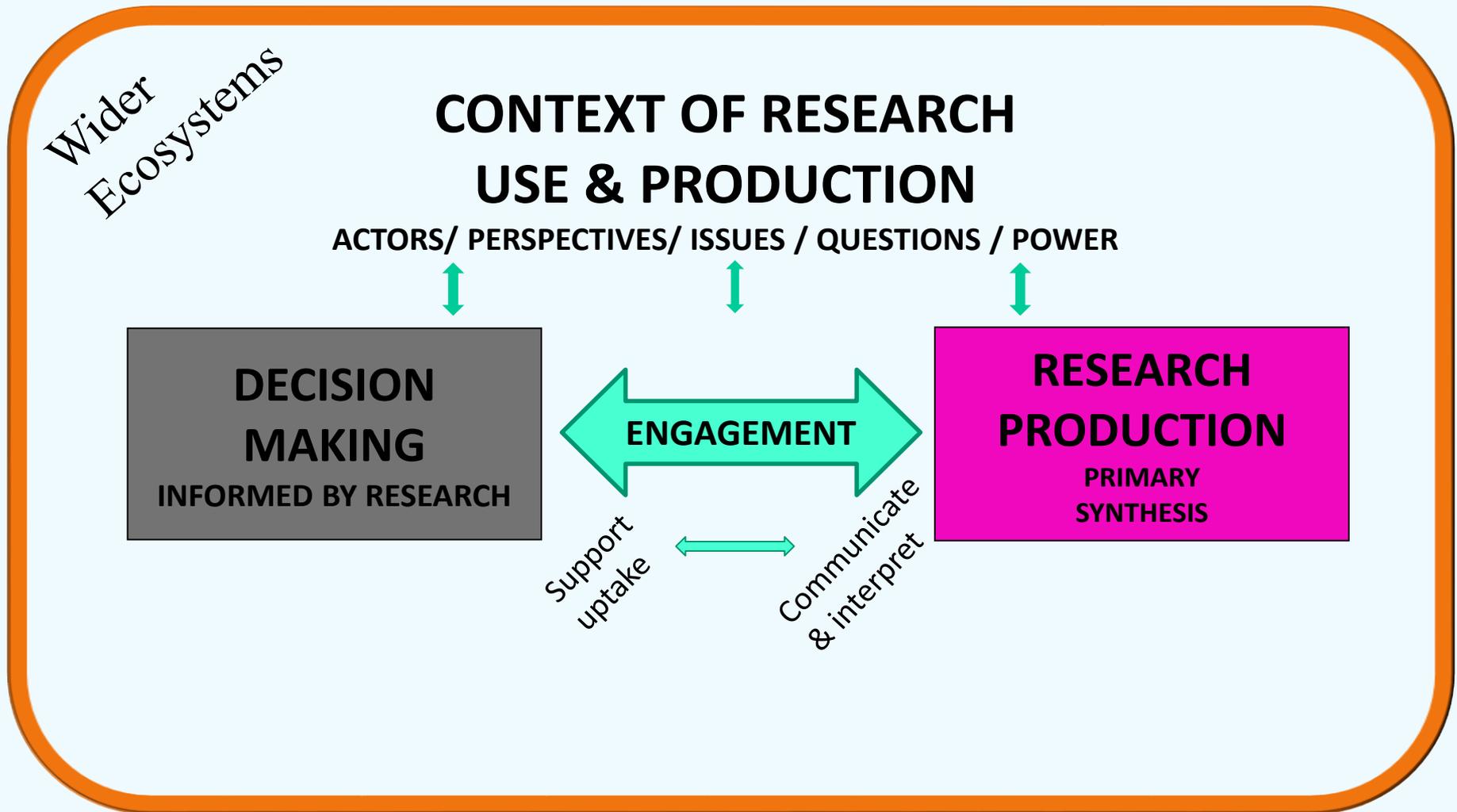
**DECISION
MAKING**
INFORMED BY RESEARCH

**RESEARCH
PRODUCTION**
PRIMARY
SYNTHESIS

There is a pre-existing evidence ecosystem system (even if dysfunctional)

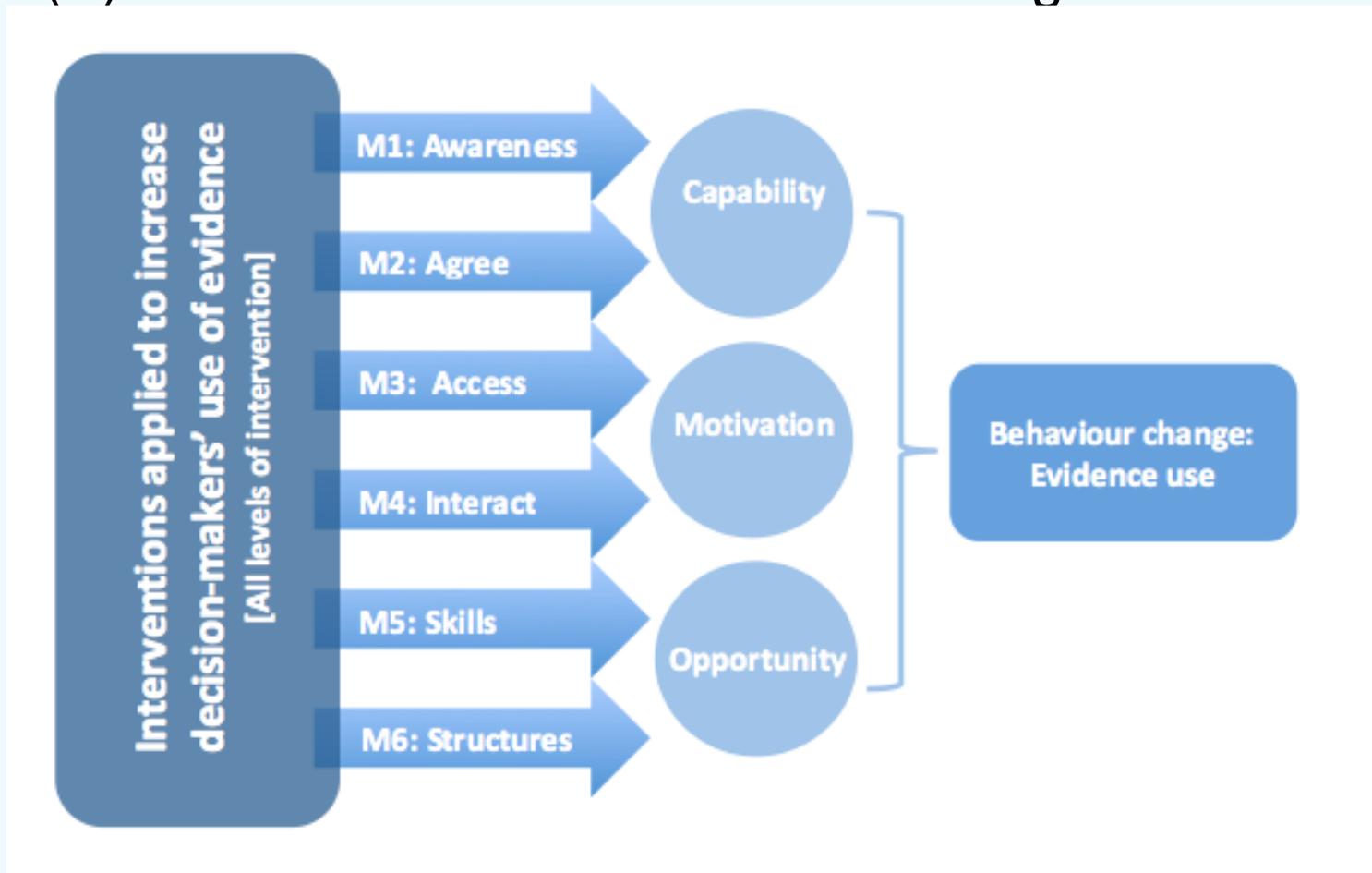


RESEARCH USE ECOSYSTEM

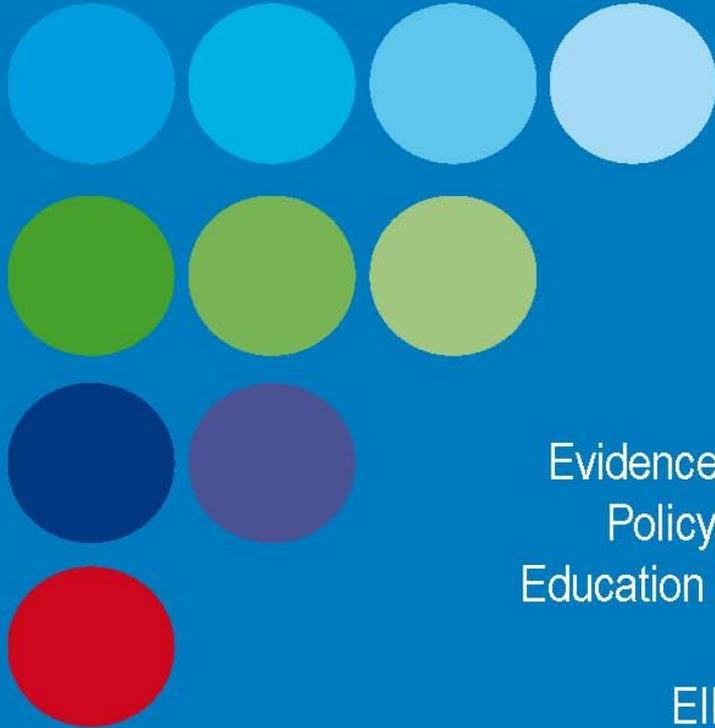


Enabling evidence use: SOUS Conceptual Framework

(i) Levels of intervention; (ii) mechanisms to achieve EIDM; and (iii) and the COMs for behaviour change



From Langer et al 2016



Evidence Informed Policymaking in Education in Europe

EIPEE Final Project Report

David Gough, Janice Tripney, Caroline Kenny and Elisabeth Buk-Berge

June 2011

Informed by the work of:

- Best A, Holmes B (2010) Systems thinking, knowledge and action: towards better models and methods. *Evidence and Policy* 6(2): 145–159
- Levin B, Sá C, Cooper A, Mascarenhas S (2009) Research use and its impact in secondary education. *Canadian Education Association/Ontario Institute for Studies in Education*.
- Walter I, Nutley S, Davies H (2003) Developing a taxonomy of interventions used to increase the impact of research. Discussion Paper 3. St Andrews: Research Unit for Research Utilisation, University of St Andrews.

(8 mechanisms and 32 interventions Vs EIPPEE's 9 mechanisms and 27 activities)

WWC study strategy

- WWCs are an intervention into existing evidence ecosystems
- So describe Centre activities according to the position in the 4 domains of the system

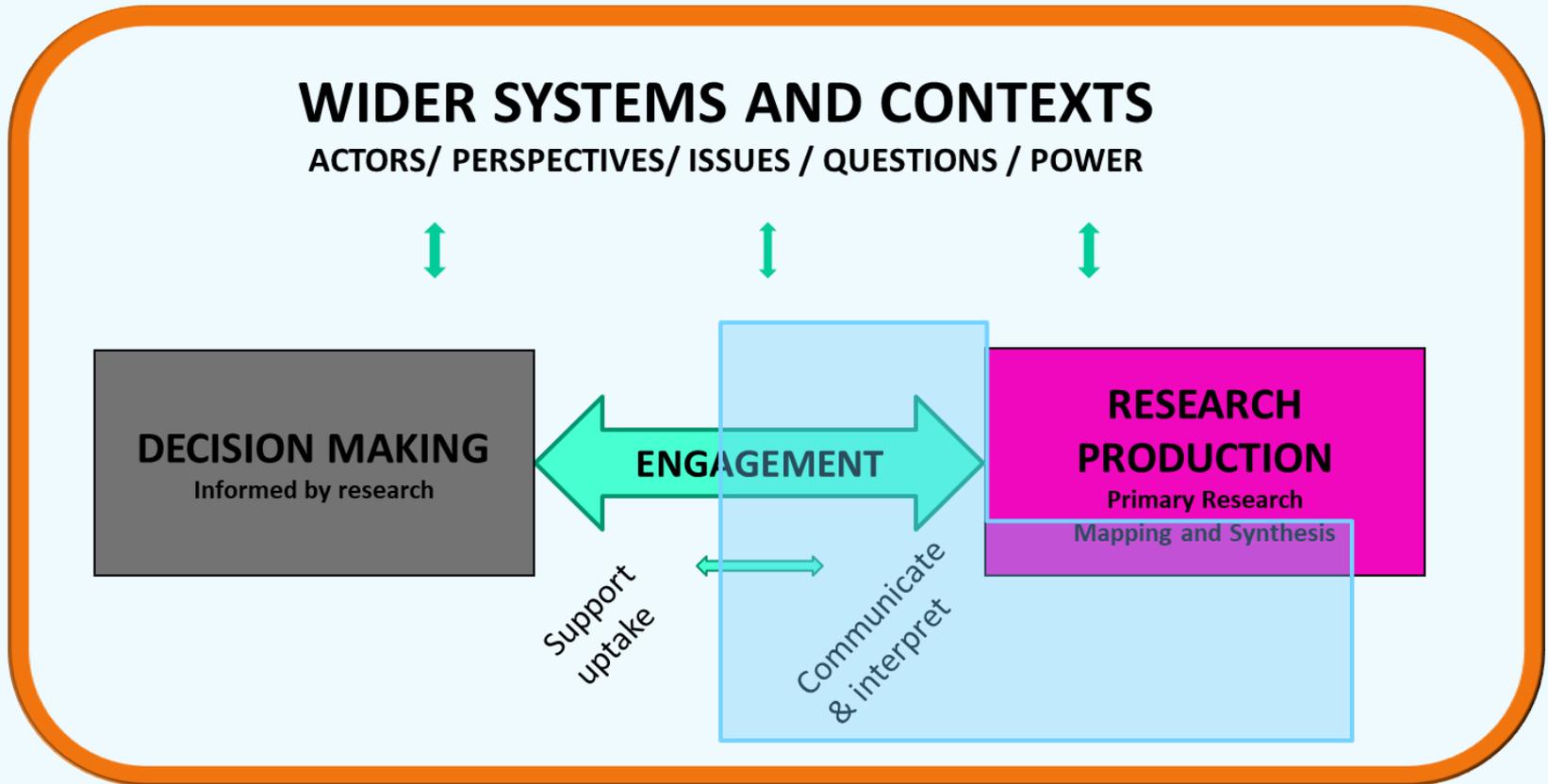
Plus:

- Overall aims, ToC, governance, finance
- Evidence standards
- Self monitoring and evaluation

Focus of WWCs work across the system

- Mostly on communication, access, synthesis
- Developmental spreading to uptake
- EEF has most spread
- NICE as an exception (non developmental with specific remit for guidance)

What Works Network activities across the research use ecosystem



Little primary research, but advantages

- Fill necessary gaps
- Ensure appropriate designs
- Consistency in methods, measures, evidence standards
- Strategic developmental model
- Encourage intended end users to become involved in research

Do or influence primary research

User engagement and supporting uptake

- Increasing move towards uptake of research

But:

- Choice of users and beneficiaries
- Use = (i) Consider; (ii) See that part of decision; or (iii) implement 'recommendations'?
- Part of ecosystem engaged
- Power of users
- Theory of change

Variation in evidence standards

- Processes for undertaking a study or other research product.
- Methodological approaches and standards.
- Report specific or manualised systems for applying standards.
- Specific criteria for grading the quality of a product.
- Quality assurance from: internal processes; external criteria; or external reporting standards.
- The parts of the evidence ecosystem to which the most explicit evidence standards are applied.
- The types of research questions to which the standards are applied.
- The level of detail provided for each of such processes and criteria.

Centres	Support uptake	Guidance	Access	Synthesis	Primary
1	Report specific	-	-	Report specific	Report specific
2	-	Piloting new process	Own manual (& criteria)	Report specific	Report specific
3	Report specific	Report specific	Own manual (& criteria)	Report specific	Own manual
4	-	-	Own manual (& criteria)	Report specific	Report specific
5	-	--	Based on synthesis	Own + External manual (& criteria)	-
6	-	Own manual + External manual	Based on synthesis standards	Own manual + External manual	-
7	-	-	Based on synthesis standards	Report specific	Own manual
8	Report specific	-	-	Report specific	Report specific
9	-	Own manual+ External manual	Based on synthesis standards	Own manual+ External manual	Report specific

How evidence standards used to advise that evidence based

- Synthesis of primary research or existing syntheses
- The best quality synthesis available
- Overview of primary studies
- At least one good quality relevant study

Monitoring and evaluation

Study:

- The ultimate beneficiaries (such as crime reduction or pupil attainment)
- The intended users in increasing the use of evidence to inform decisions
- Intermediate outcomes such as accessing Centres' resources or users' knowledge of research findings

- Evidence standards of self evaluation
- Use of research on research use

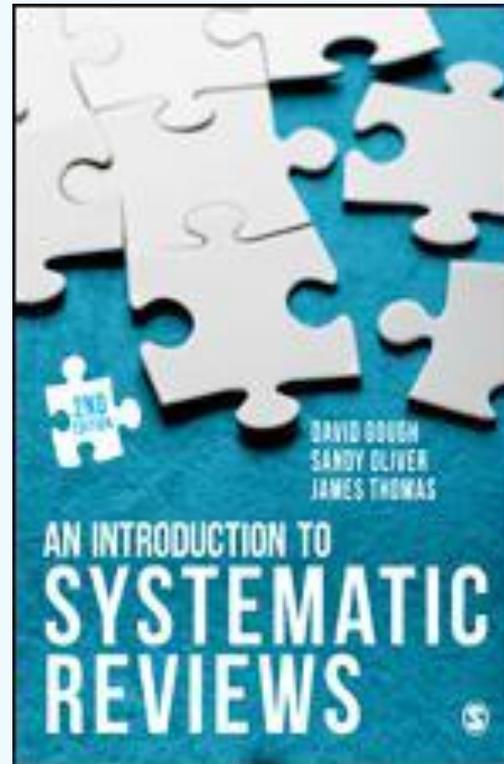
Wider systems and contexts

- Big fish: accountability, funding, and policy systems
 - Infrastructures and cultures not receptive to research evidence
 - Align with existing systems or create new ones?
-
- Relationship with government
 - Nature and extent of funding
 - Point in development
 - Collaboration across Centres

So what is the basis of Centres' planning?

- Strategic choices from analysis of their evidence ecosystem + theory of change of WWC's work?
- The context and remit of their role?
- Serendipity: opportunities that happen to present themselves?

The Science of Using Science + Systematic Review Methods



<http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/cms/Default.aspx?tabid=3504>

<https://www.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/an-introduction-to-systematic-reviews/book245742%20>

<https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/systematic-reviews-and-research/book245986>