

Evaluating research policy interactions

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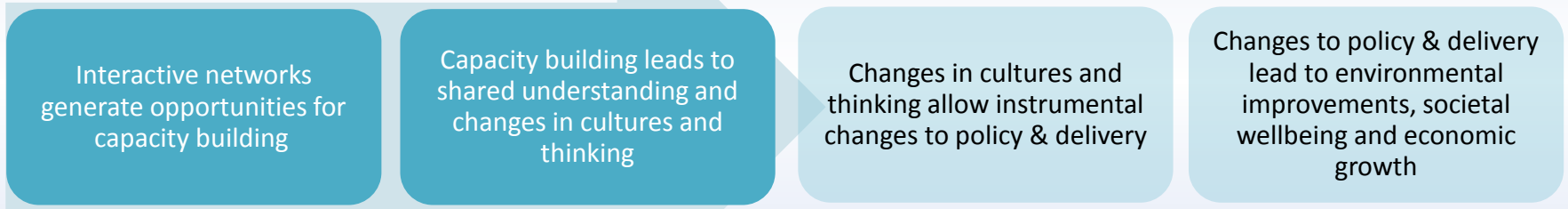
- New form of funding from Scottish Government
- *“to connect research and policy, delivering objective and robust research and professional opinion to support the development and implementation of water policy in Scotland”*
- Purpose:
 - deliver timely and accurate advice
 - co-ordinate research, analysis and interpretation
 - stimulate innovative thinking
- Honest broker
- £1 million a year

Why evaluate?

- Evidence informed policy
 - Stronger connections
 - Better relationships
 - Trust
 - Co-construction of research
- So we know how to do it better
- Demonstrating value for money

Methods

- Formative evaluation
- Baseline questionnaires & post-project interviews
- Conceptual framework to guide approach



Findings

- Existing knowledge not capability
- Problems with capacity and timing
- Appreciation of co-produced questions to get better policy solutions
- Deeper but not wider networks?
- Examples of impacts on policy development and implementation

Lessons learnt: capacity building

- Often a funder requirement
- But what is it?
- How to conceptualise and evaluate

- Need a shared understanding
- Networks and relationships

Lessons learnt: co-construction

- Fundamental to success!
- Basis for more informed policy
- Needs to happen throughout the process
- Shared understanding of working cultures

- Takes time and resources
- Requires buy in from all involved

Lessons learnt: impact

- Objectives and engagement well planned
- Relationships, networks and trust
- Co production
- Good infrastructure and management support

- Who defines impact?
- Attributing impact
- Indirect, reliant on other factors, time lags
- Establishing the counterfactual
- Even the best outcome may have no impact

Conclusions

- Need both process and outcome variables
- Assessment over time vs. snapshots
- CREW is constantly evolving
- Making what is important measurable
- Moving from KT > KE > co- production