

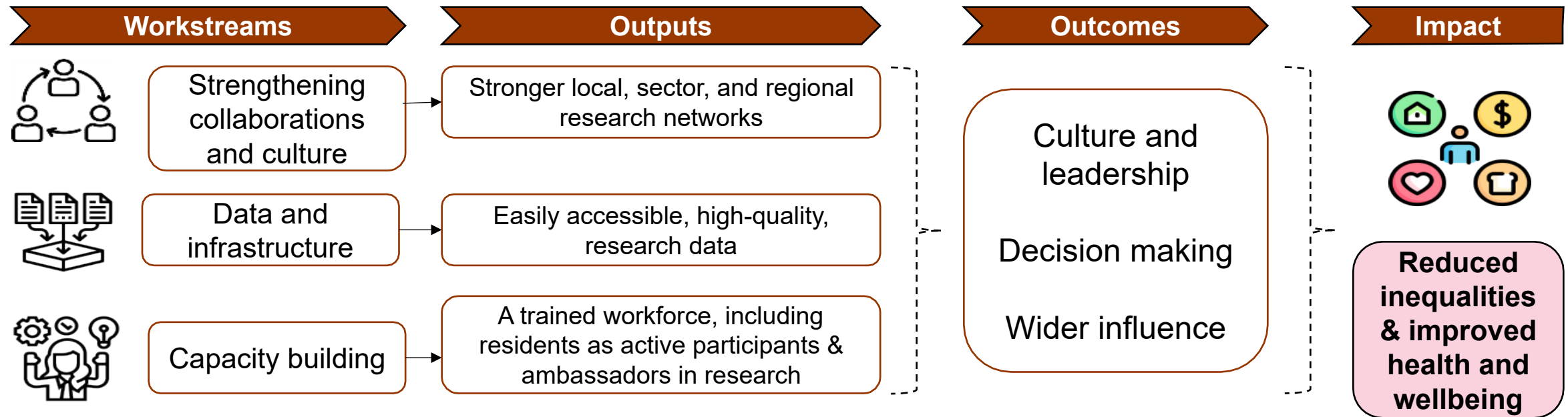
Evidence Islington: Update

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Evidence Islington pathways of change

We will work towards the long-term impact of reduced inequalities and improved health and wellbeing through three interconnected workstreams, which will lead to the following outputs and outcomes.



Achievements over last 12 months

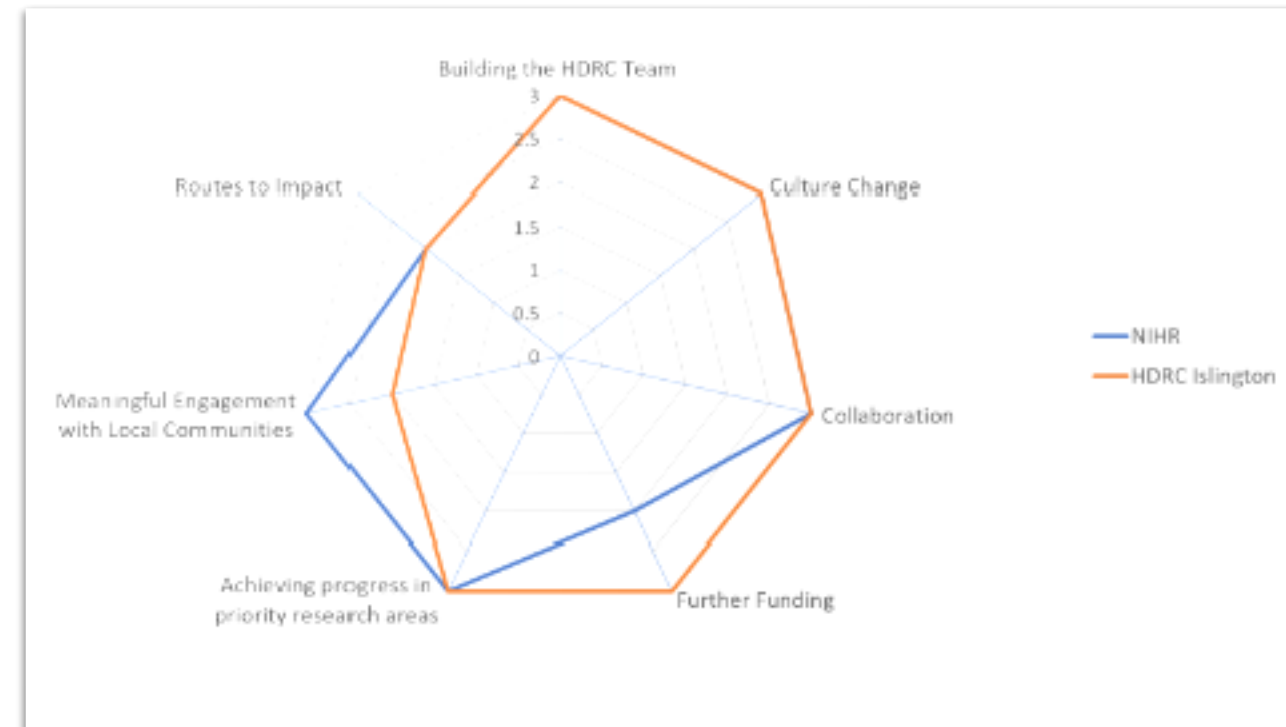
- Majority of core team now recruited
- Embedded researchers working in environment and housing departments
- Two of the delivery team have won prestigious fellowships – which will increase the capacity of the Evidence Islington team
- Strategic Delivery Board established – representatives from across the Council, Voluntary Action Islington, Islington Healthwatch, academic partners and residents
- Commissioned provider to establish a data insight hub for the Council, with a ‘go live’ date of autumn 2024. This is being launched earlier than initially planned reflecting the local need that exists for this.
- Evaluation baseline nearing completion – all colleague research survey planned for early 2025
- Strengthening academic collaborations e.g. creation of a joint post, and joint bids with Islington as costed partner or co-applicant
- £3mn funding secured through fellowships, external evaluations and funding bids (e.g. working with children's services in a successful bid to Violence Reduction Unit)
- Activities to support research skills development and support: evaluation toolkit, evaluation surgeries, demand-driven training sessions on survey design and analysis, rapid evidence reviews, introduction to evaluation
- Progressing the development year co-designed Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Strategy e.g. EI community research programme, EI resident network, co-production of accessible materials on Council decision making, EI engagement video
- Collaborating and sharing across London: supporting LA public health research network conference, London HDRC Advisory Board

Embedding a culture of evidence across the council

- **Baseline focus group discussions** using the Seeking, Engaging with & Evaluating Research (SEER) tool: Joint Board, Directors Forum, EI Strategic Delivery Board, Housing, Environment, HR and Public Health Dep Management Teams
- **Scrutiny Committee evidence reviews:** factors contributing to persistent absence in Islington secondary schools
- **Capacity building:** evaluation drop-ins, surgeries, LA-tailored toolkit, monthly journal club, 'researchers lunch' seminars, tailored training, mentoring
- **Formalising processes:** ethics review, managing requests from academics, calculating LA direct and indirect costs
- **Local Democracy Week:** co-designing sessions & publicly available materials explaining local authority decision-making processes

Funder feedback

- Good progress in all areas
- Encouraged by our collaborations with housing and environment
- Positive on how we were involving residents in decision making
- Felt our approach to measuring culture change and impact across the council was thoughtful and measured – despite the complexity of this issue.
- Areas flagged for development:
 - early development of research bids relating to Evidence Islington priority areas
 - development of a strategy around culture change and sharing impact more widely.



Priorities next 12 months

- Completion of baseline evaluation and dissemination of findings – using this to shape our approach to delivery and informing the work around capacity building.
- Completion of the data maturity assessment.
- Launch of the new Data Hub
- Development and dissemination of research projects in priority departments.
- Completing the training and development assessment. This will then be used to set priorities, develop a training schedule, and map and adapt ARC Academy resources to apply research skills training to those within the council (officers and members) and wider Evidence Islington partners.
- Establishment of Evidence Islington intranet and internet pages.
- Research and dissemination strategy developed and shared.
- Working across departments and with academic partners to identify opportunities and apply for research grants to support core work programmes.

Questions?