THRIVING LIVES FOR SERVICE CHILDREN

In collaboration with

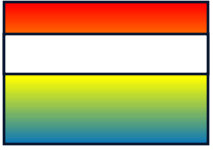# Demonstrating what's working
Making evaluation practical and robust

Dr Liam Satchell
Director of the Impact Centre, SCiP Alliance
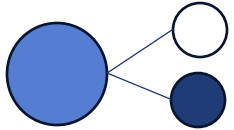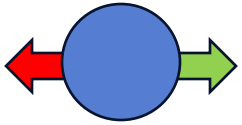liam.satchell@winchester.ac.uk

The Service Children's Progression Alliance is led by the University of Winchester & supported by the MoD

www.scipalliance.org

Three points to take away from today

1. No evaluation is perfect

2. Rigorous evaluation also enhances practice

3. Evaluation is a message to policy and research

Rigorous evaluation

Collecting data* to inform effectiveness of current practice

December 25

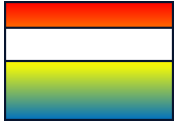Service
Children's
Progression
ALLIANCE
IMPACT CENTRE

Rigorous evaluation

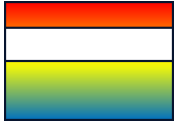Collecting data* to inform effectiveness of current practice

- Systematises impact-checking – what is working?
    - What do we want to do more of?
    - What is not our best use of funding/time?

- Informs the sector and collaboration
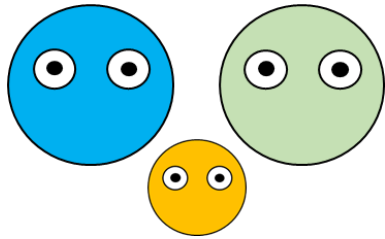
- Supports discourse with funders and policy makers

Service Children's Progression
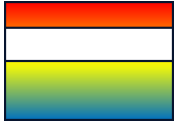ALLIANCE IMPACT CENTRE

No evaluation is perfect

No evaluation is perfect

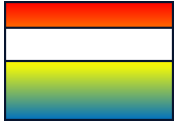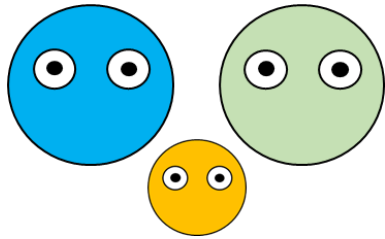Organisations will do many things...

Direct support

No evaluation is perfect

Organisations will do many things…

Direct support
Presence and social contact
Redirection to other resources

No evaluation is perfect

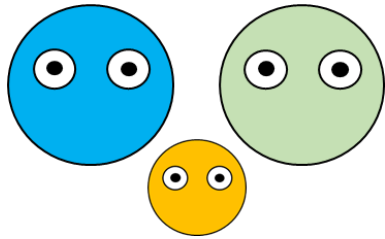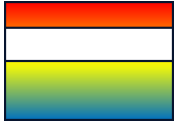Organisations will do many things...

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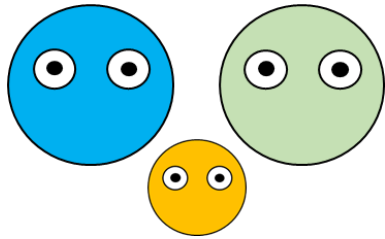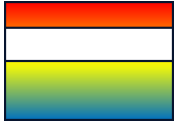

Evaluated activities

No evaluation activity can pick up on all this work.
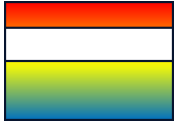And that's normal

No evaluation is perfect

Evaluations that work best:

No evaluation is perfect

Evaluations that work best:

- Reflect the organisational theory of change
  - What is your core activity?
  - What is not your core activity?
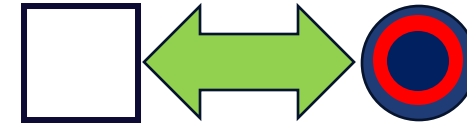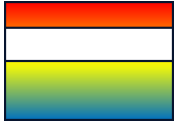
No evaluation is perfect

Evaluations that work best:

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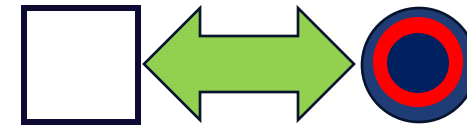 - What is not your core activity?

- Use a variety of methods
  - Outcomes, questionnaires, quotes, and expert judgment
  - All offer something useful

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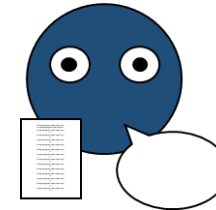# No evaluation is perfect

Evaluations that work best:

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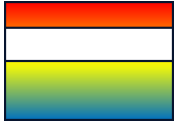 - What is your core activity?
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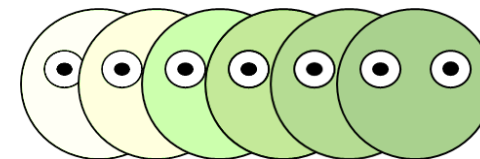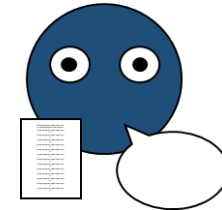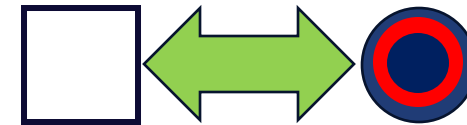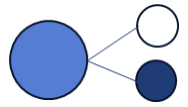 - All offer something useful

- Match typical organisational practices
  - How and when do you talk to your beneficiaries?
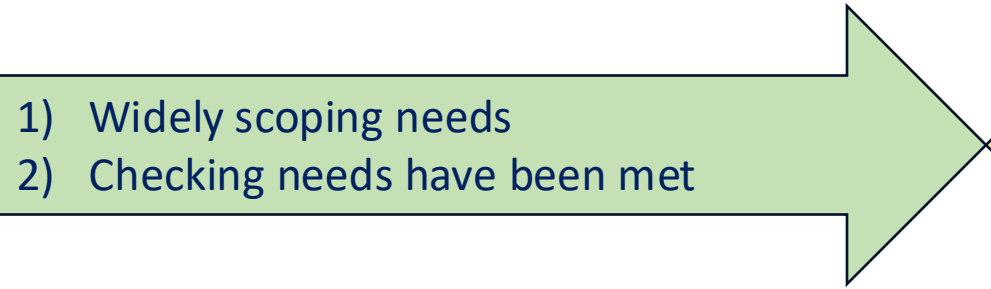 - What data do you already collect?

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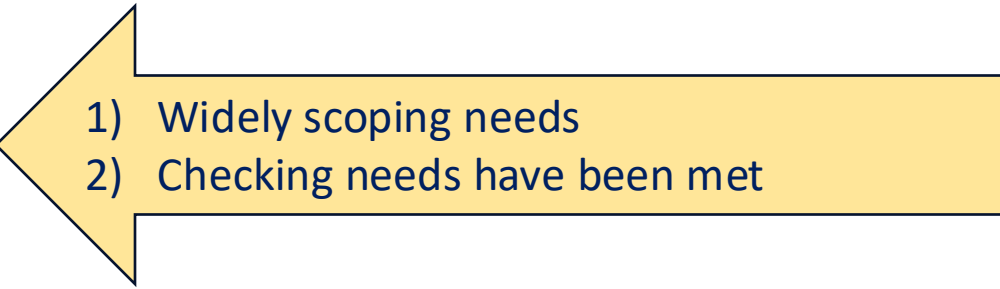IMPACT CENTRE

Rigorous evaluation also enhances practice

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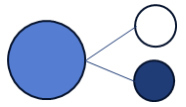
Effective practice

1) Widely scoping needs
2) Checking needs have been met

Rigorous evaluation

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Rigorous evaluation also enhances practice
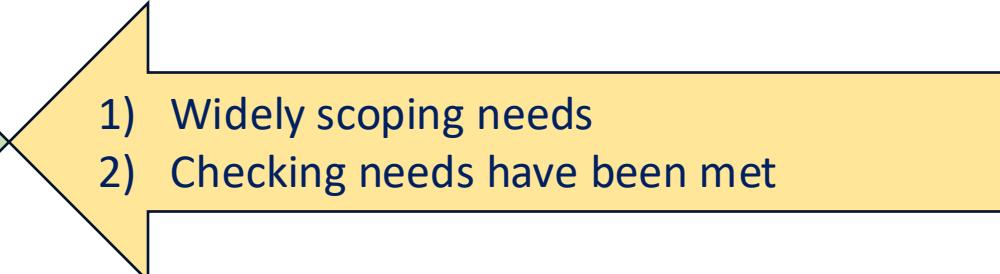
Effective practice

1)	Widely scoping needs
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Wwtw

Rigorous evaluation

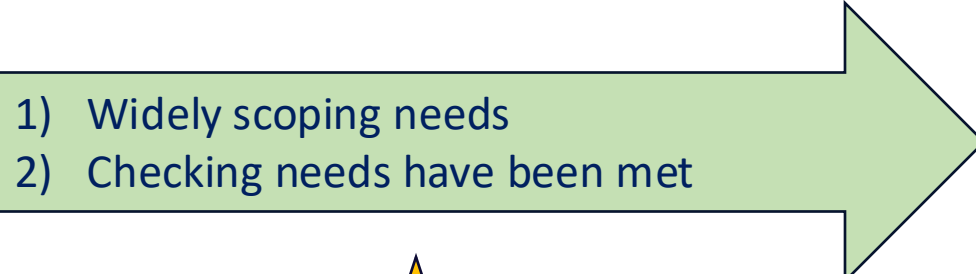|	
1)	Widely scoping needs
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Rigorous evaluation also enhances practice

Evaluation frameworks can enhance 'discovery' conversations in practice

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Rigorous evaluation also enhances practice

Evaluation frameworks can enhance 'discovery' conversations in practice

Identifying immediate needs ⬤, underlying issues ⬤ and non-issues ◯

Unstructured
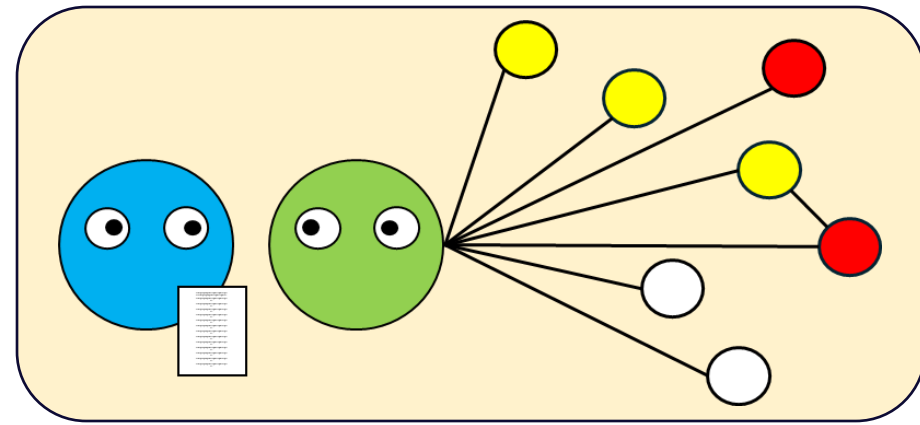
Structured

Evaluation is a message to policy and research

Evaluation is a message to policy and research
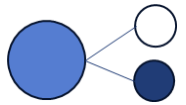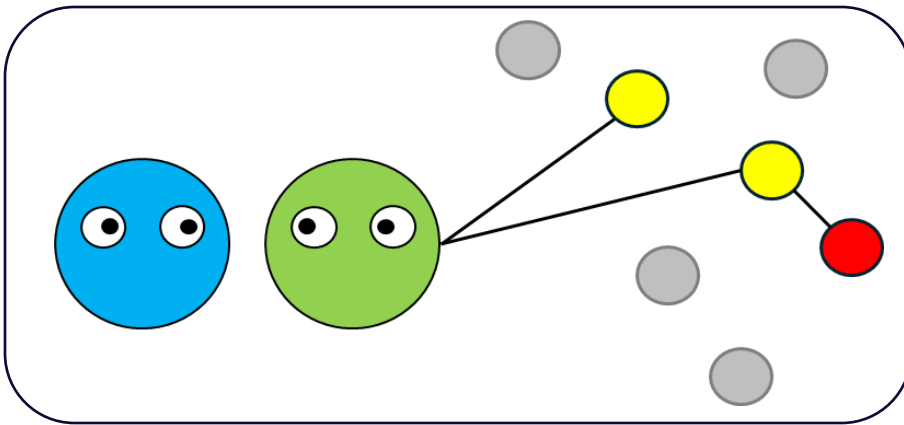
Evaluation will have a role in annual reporting and discussions with funders.

Further, systematic compilation of evaluation is also useful for informing:

- The sector
- Research
- Policy

Researchers, funders, and policy makers have vested interests in coordinated evaluation

Evaluation is a message to policy and research

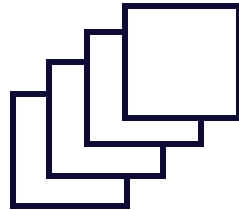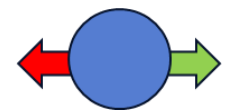Evaluation will have a role in annual reporting and discussions with funders.

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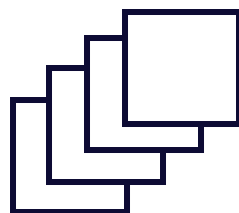
Rigorous evaluation *is* advocacy

Three points to take away from today
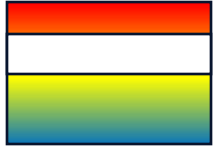
1. ## No evaluation is perfect
   - Reflects ToC
   - Multimethod
   - Easy to embed

2. ## Rigorous evaluation also enhances practice

3. ## Evaluation is a message to policy and research

Service Children's Progression
ALLIANCE IMPACT CENTRE

Some thoughts for discussion

What is your organisation's core goal?

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Some thoughts for discussion

What is your organisation's core goal?

What are your core **activities**?

Service Children's Progression
ALLIANCE IMPACT CENTRE

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What is your organisation's core goal?

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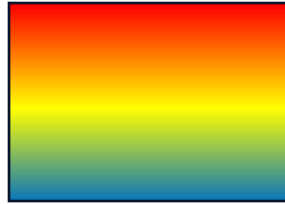How are you **measuring** your impact?

Service Children's Progression
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Some thoughts for discussion

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How are you **measuring** your impact?

To what extent do they connect to?

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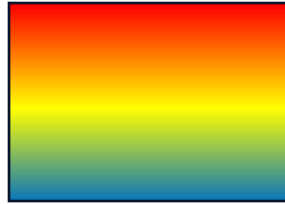
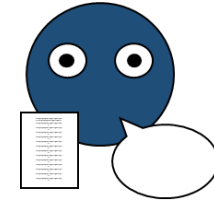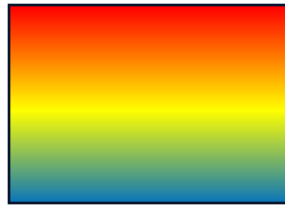Service Children's Progression ALLIANCE IMPACT CENTRE
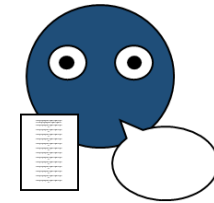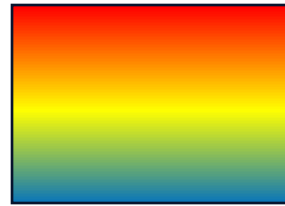
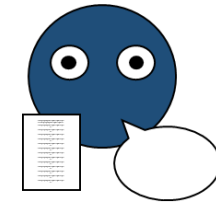# Some thoughts for discussion

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Demonstrating what's working

Making evaluation practical and robust

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KING'S CENTRE FOR MILITARY HEALTH RESEARCH

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