

Participatory Action Research

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Overview of the evaluation

The Family Hubs Evaluation Innovation Fund

Origins:

In Budget 2020: new research into the integration of services for families, including family hubs, complementing the work of the National Centre for Family Hubs.

Objectives:

1. supporting the national evidence base
2. learning for policy and practice
3. supporting local authorities delivering family hubs with evaluation capacity
4. generating replicable tools & approaches

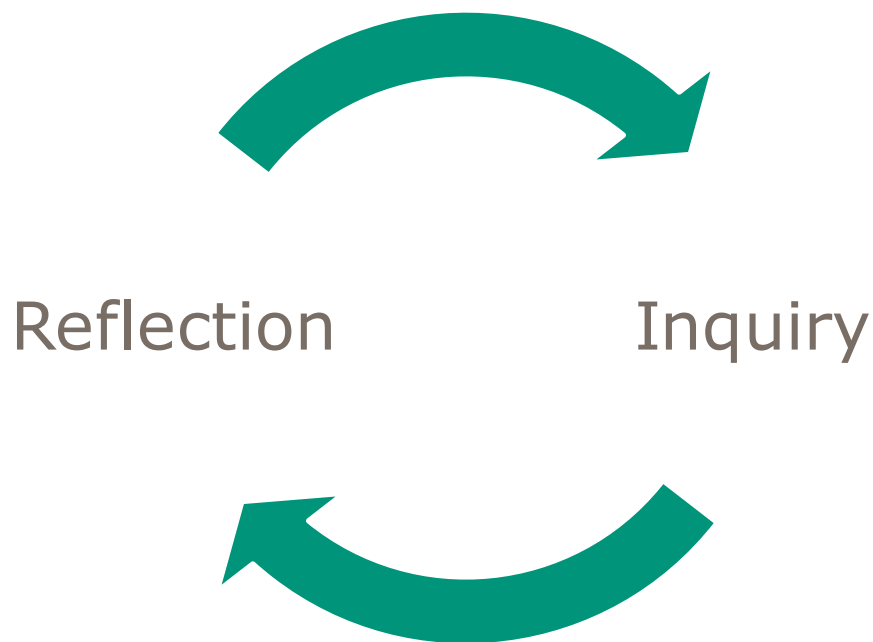
The Ecorys Partnership

- **Independent evaluation** of (a group of) local authorities developing family hubs. From April 2021 – March 2023.
- **Five LAs at different stages of hub development.** Diverse local contexts, histories and partner configurations.



Participatory Action Research (PAR)

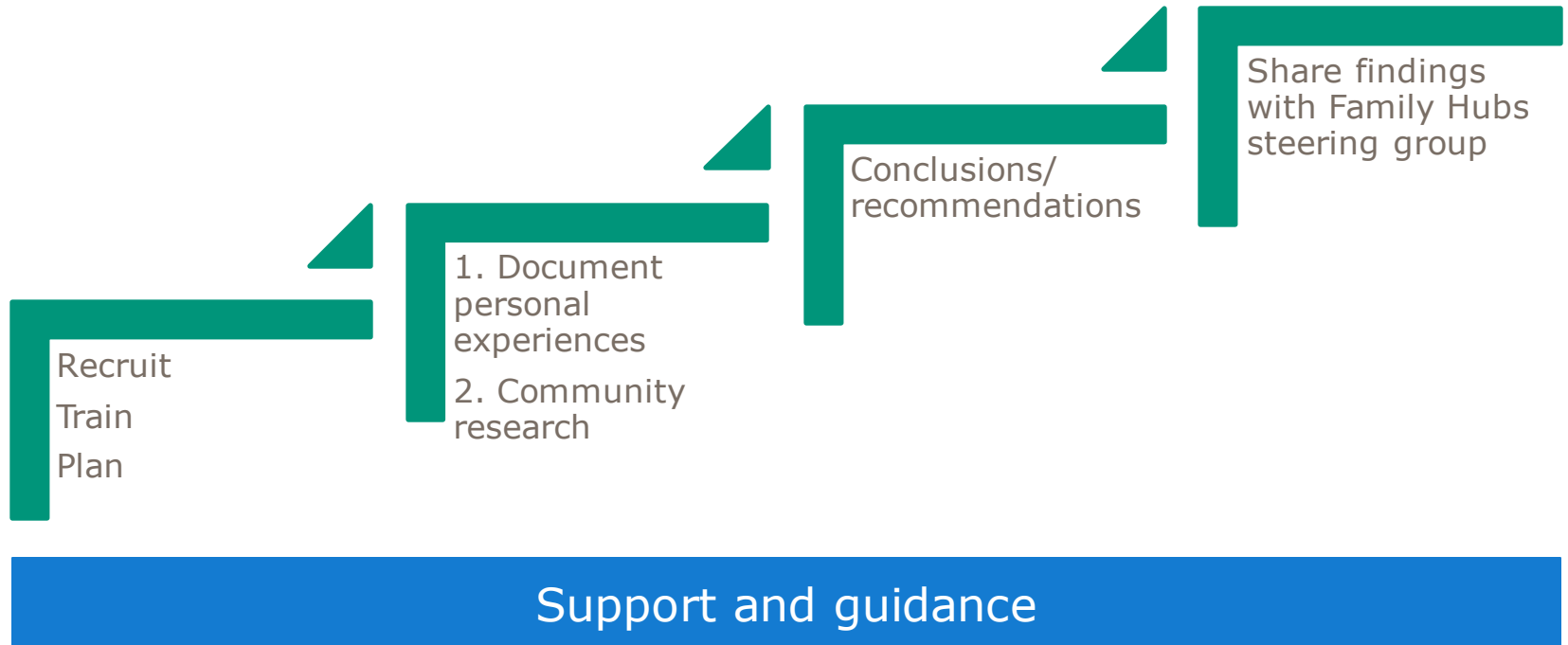
Families are 'experts in their own lives' (Reason and Bradbury, 2001)



- Amplify family voices
- Meaningful family participation in evaluation
- Insights that may otherwise be missed



Bristol Family Hubs PAR plan



Recruitment of families

Who to include?

12-15 parents/carers - 4 to 5 from each Family Hubs locality

Identified and engaged together with Bristol City Council and partner organisations

Representation

- ✓ From the North, South and East/Central Bristol
- ✓ Black, Asian and minority ethnic
- ✓ Those with children who have special educational needs and disabilities
- ✓ Longstanding users of family services who can reflect on business as usual
- ✓ Types and contexts for service use



Workshop 1: Training and orientation spring 2022

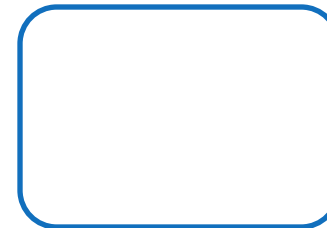
- Scene setting
- Select and formulate research questions
- Choose how to gather and analyse the data, and from whom
- Outline ethical and safeguarding boundaries



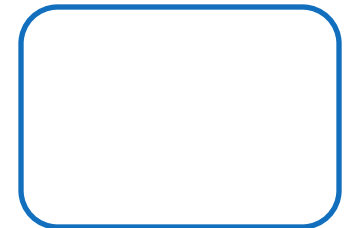
Diary



Interview



Observation



Pictorial/
Creative

Workshop 2: Emerging findings

summer 2022

- Share emerging findings
 - Identify similarities and differences
 - Make sense of findings together
- Revisit and reflect on
 - Research questions
 - Methods
 - Experience of researcher role
 - Ethical and safeguarding boundaries

Workshop 3: Conclusions

spring 2023

- Produce a final set of recommendations for Bristol Family Hubs, grounded in the findings
- Present and discuss findings with the Family Hubs steering group

Participatory Action Research – considerations

