

Re-imagining research capacity building

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**Kent
Research
Partnership**

Building research capacity
in adult social care



Introductions

HELLO
MY NAME IS

- What is your role/organisation?
- Have you been involved in research capacity building before?
- What was your involvement in research capacity building?

What is research capacity building?

Research capacity building is the process of developing and strengthening the skills, infrastructure, resources, and systems needed to conduct high-quality, sustainable research.

It can include:

- Developing research skills
- Improving infrastructure and organisational support
- Creating and developing partnerships between institutions
- Ensuring the funding of research organisations



Why is research capacity building in care important?

- Helps inform evidence based-policy and practice, as well as innovation.
- Can help ensure that research reflects challenges and issues that are important to practitioner, policymaker, people who draw on services, local communities.
- Can play a part in democratising research.
- Can help improve services, and outcomes for those treated/supported by them.
- Can improve staff retention.

Examples of capacity building in health and social care

- National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR) aims to "improve the health and wealth of the nation through research"
- Increasingly supporting research capacity building
- NIHR academy (2018)
- ARCs and Schools with capacity building programmes, fellowships etc.

Examples of capacity building in health and social care, contd.

- HS&DR – six social care capacity building partnerships KRP ([link](#))
- [Health Determinants Research Collaborations \(HDRCs\)](#)
- [Newcastle's Researcher Development](#) (nurses, midwives, allied health professionals)

What research capacity building initiatives have you been involved in or know about?

What do you think these initiatives have achieved?

What have they achieved?

- Despite initiatives and some successes, research capacity still limited in health and social care.
- “NHS staff are not always able to deliver research as part of their day-to-day activities. Research can also be seen as ‘someone else’s business’, reserved only for clinical academics and specialist research” ([The Future of UK Clinical Research Delivery 2021](#))
- [Decrease in medically trained clinical research staff](#)
- Research capacity in primary care still limited

Research capacity in health and social care

Social care research capacity less well developed than health care.


Local authorities reported receiving little support or resources to develop research capacity. Some authorities did not see research capacity building as needed or their responsibility.

Barriers include:

- low level of resources.
- practice focus.
- low value placed on research.
- complexity of a mixed economy of care.

Do we need to rethink research capacity building?





What are the assumptions that current approaches to research capacity building rely upon?

What's expected in typical capacity-building initiatives in terms of process and outcomes?

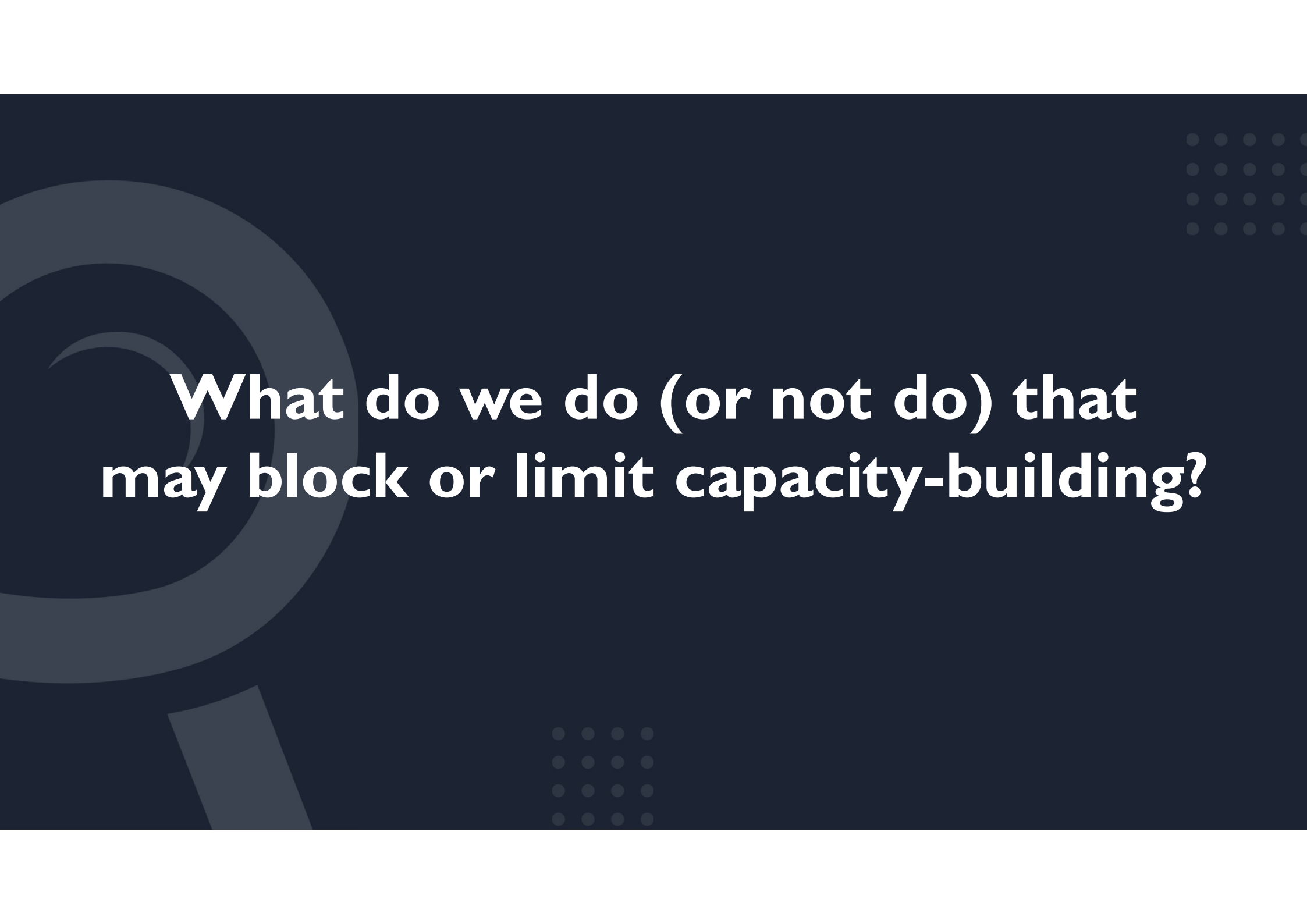
What assumptions does this approach rely on?

Research training for care practitioners

Knowledge of research methods will enable practitioners to conduct research.

Practitioner generated research ideas

Shared understanding on what research is



**What do we do (or not do) that
may block or limit capacity-building?**

CONSTRAINT CARDS

CONSTRAINT
CARD
1

CONSTRAINT
CARD
2

CONSTRAINT
CARD
3

YOUR RE-IMAGINED MODEL OF RESEARCH CAPACITY-BUILDING

Sketch or describe your ideal model of research capacity-building that works within the constraints and embodies your chosen values.

- Who is involved?
- How is it structured?
- What activities or support are offered?
- What makes it different?
- How does it respond to your values and constraints?

VALUE
CARD
1

VALUE
CARD
2

VALUE
CARD
3

VALUE CARDS

Re-imagining research capacity building

- Form a small groups
- Pick 3 constraint and 3 value cards
- Design your re-imagined model based on the cards and the questions
- Pitch your model to the whole group

