

# How to successfully scale improvement work:

## Improving therapeutic engagement and observations across a large organisation



**East London**  
NHS Foundation Trust





Why is scaling up quality improvement so hard?

Deep dive into a case study from East London NHS  
FT

Identifying the enablers to effective scale-up

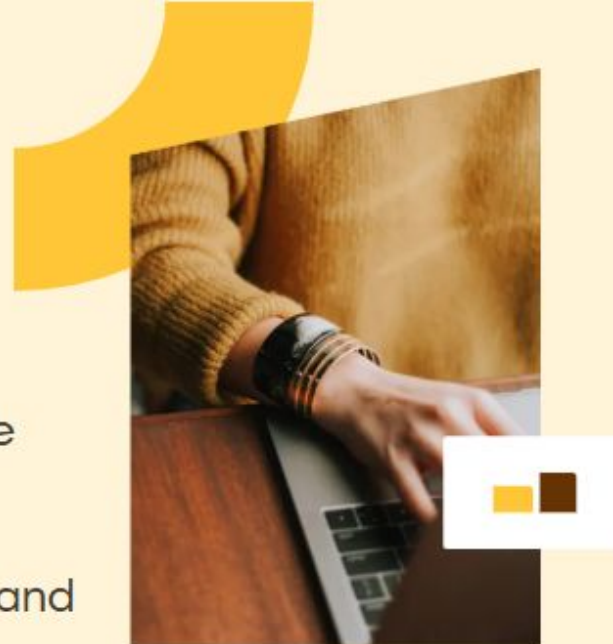
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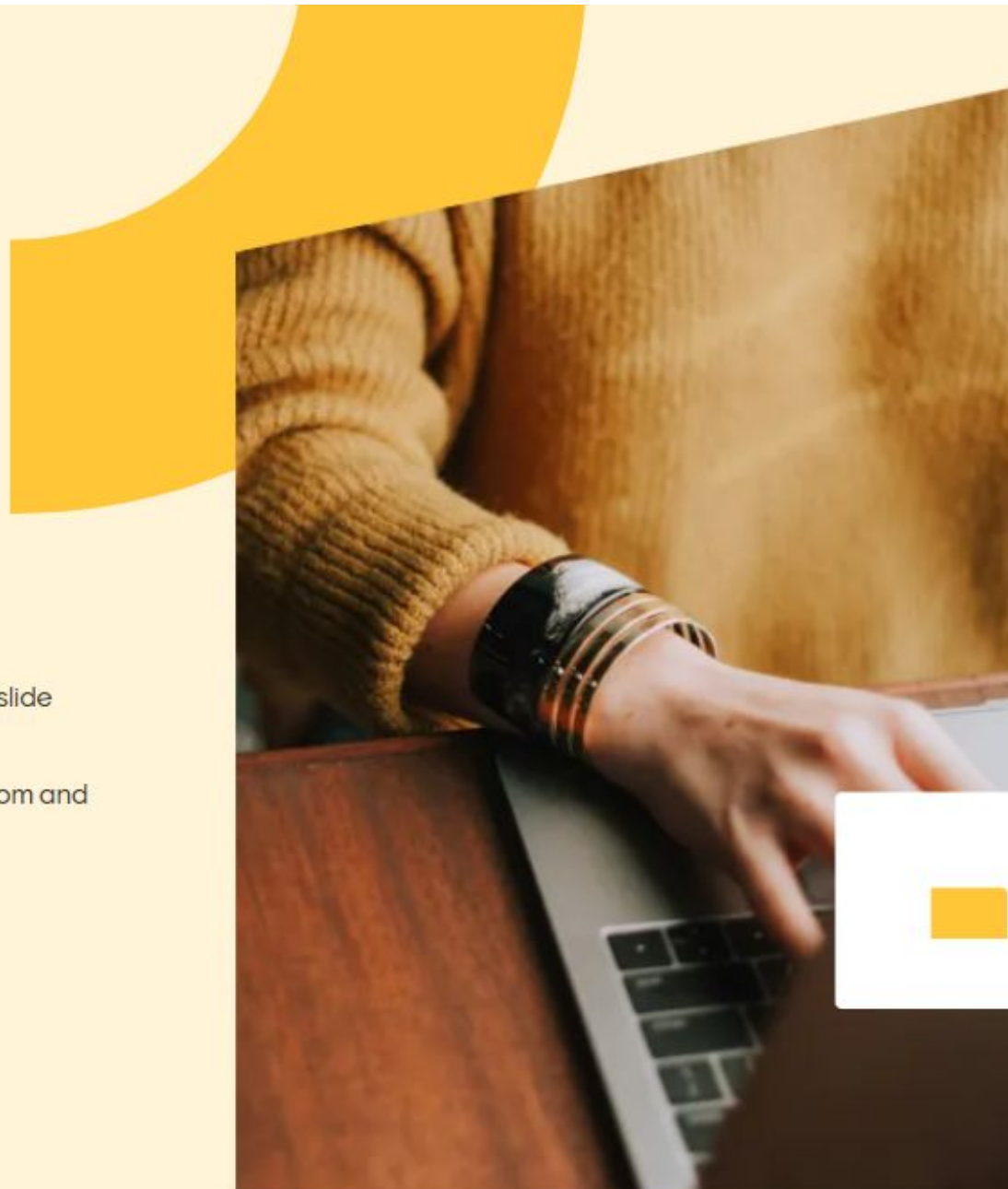
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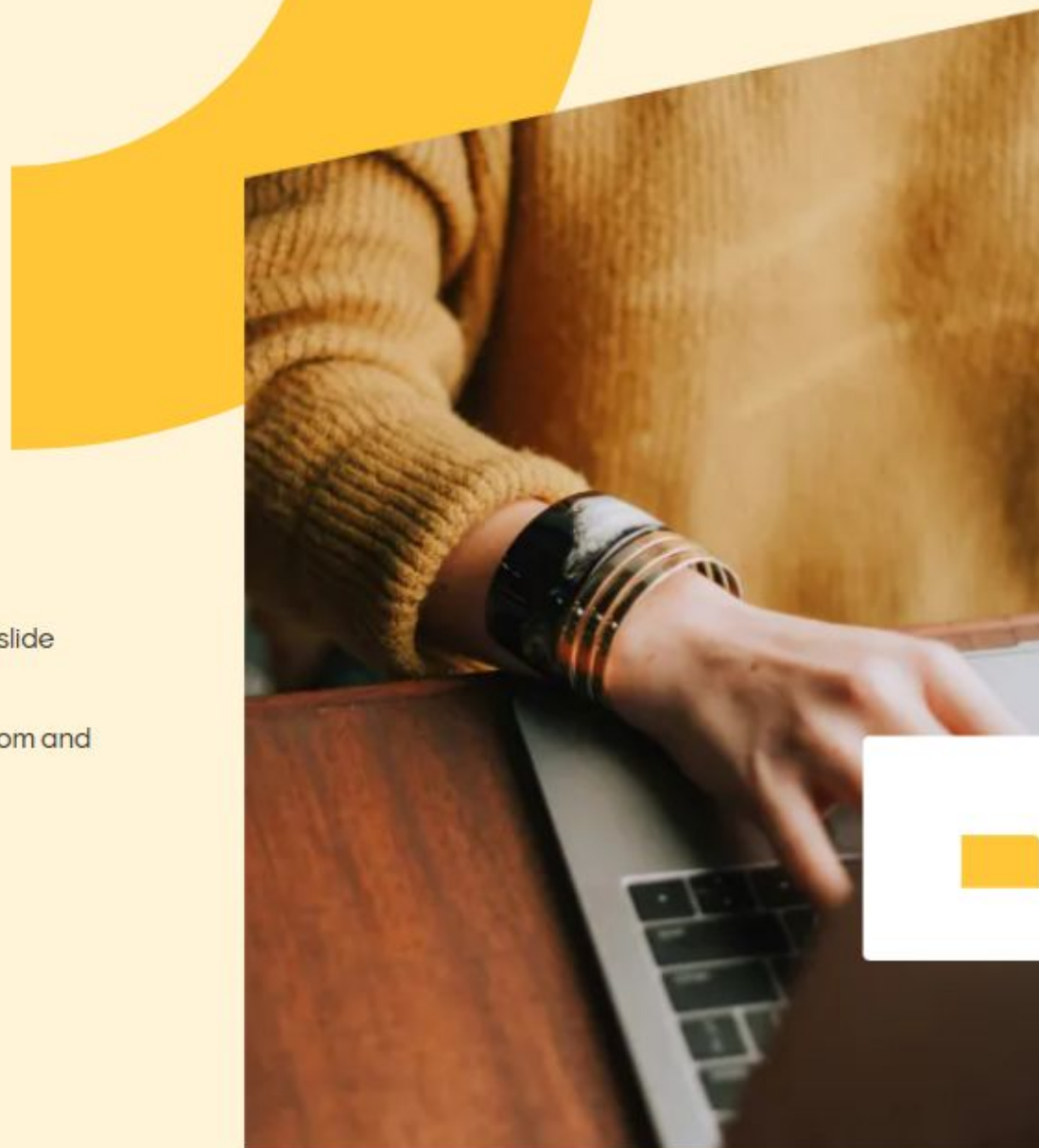
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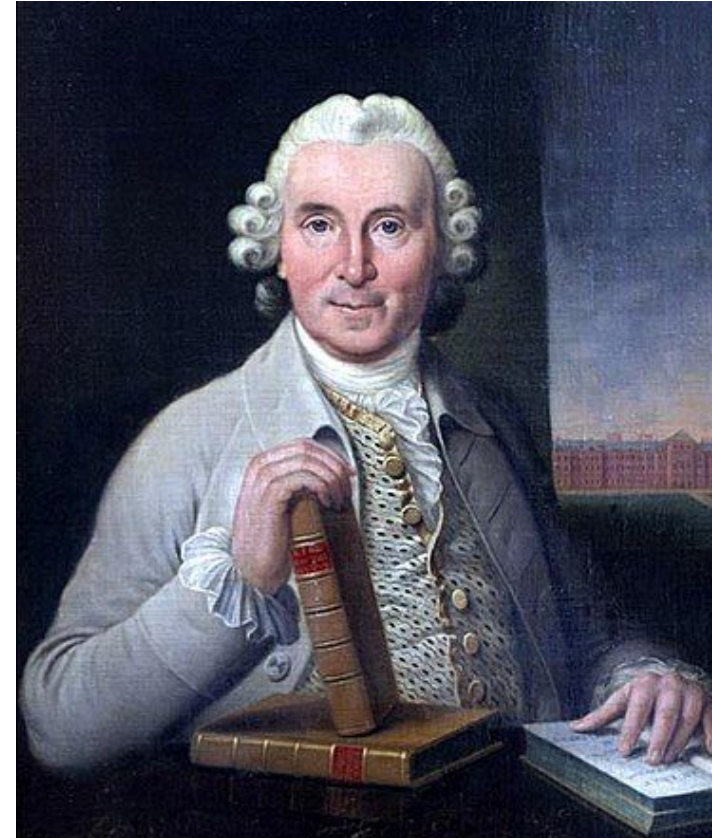




# Why is scaling up improvement hard?



James Lancaster -  
1601



James Lind - 1747

# Why is scaling up improvement hard?

## The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

DECEMBER 28, 2006

VOL. 355 NO. 26

### An Intervention to Decrease Catheter-Related Bloodstream Infections in the ICU

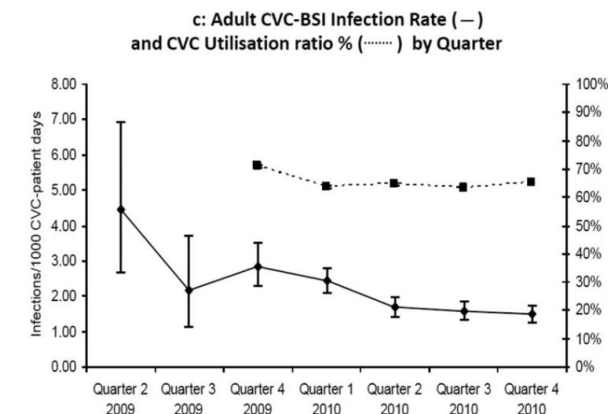
Peter Pronovost, M.D., Ph.D., Dale Needham, M.D., Ph.D., Sean Berenholtz, M.D., David Sinopoli, M.P.H., M.B.A., Haitao Chu, M.D., Ph.D., Sara Cosgrove, M.D., Bryan Sexton, Ph.D., Robert Hyzy, M.D., Robert Welsh, M.D., Gary Roth, M.D., Joseph Bander, M.D., John Kepros, M.D., and Christine Goeschel, R.N., M.P.A.

Michigan Keystone project  
108 ICUs

Reduction from 7.7 infections per 1000  
catheter days to 1.4 at 16-18months follow-up  
( $p < 0.002$ )

**'Matching Michigan': a 2-year  
stepped interventional programme  
to minimise central venous catheter-  
blood stream infections in intensive  
care units in England**

215 ICUs across England







**SIN:** Expect huge improvements quickly then start spreading right away.

**DO THIS INSTEAD:** Create a reliable process before you start to spread.

**SIN:** Don't bother testing—just do a large pilot.

**DO THIS INSTEAD:** Start with small, local tests and several PDSA cycles.

**SIN:** Check huge mountains of data just once every quarter.

**DO THIS INSTEAD:** Check small samples daily or frequently so you can decide how to adapt spread practices.

**SIN:** Spread the success unchanged. Don't waste time "adapting" because, after all, it worked so well the first time.

**DO THIS INSTEAD:** Allow some customization, as long as the elements that are core to the improvements are clear.

**SIN:** Require the person and team who drove the initial improvements to be responsible for spread throughout a hospital or facility.

**DO THIS INSTEAD:** Choose a spread team strategically and include the scope of the spread as part of your decision.

**SIN:** Rely solely on vigilance and hard work.

**DO THIS INSTEAD:** Sustain gains with an infrastructure to support them.

**SIN:** Give one person the responsibility to do it all. Depend on "local heroes."

**DO THIS INSTEAD:** Make spread a team effort.

SOURCE: Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Used with permission.

# Why is scaling up improvement hard?

Attention to  
context as well as  
technical  
interventions

Designing for  
scale from the  
outset

Depth and  
closeness of  
support structure

Ability to adapt &  
customise the  
interventions

Capacity &  
capability

Leadership  
attention

Dixon-Woods, M., Leslie, M., Tarrant, C. *et al.* Explaining *Matching Michigan*: an ethnographic study of a patient safety program. *Implementation Sci* **8**, 70 (2013).

Dixon-Woods M, Martin GP. Does quality improvement improve quality? *Future Hosp J*. 2016 Oct;3(3):191-194. doi: 10.7861/futurehosp.3-3-191. PMID: 31098223; PMCID: PMC6465806.

Greenhalgh T, Papoutsis C. Spreading and scaling up innovation and improvement. *BMJ*. 2019 May 10;365:l2068. doi: 10.1136/bmj.l2068. PMID: 31076440; PMCID: PMC6519511.



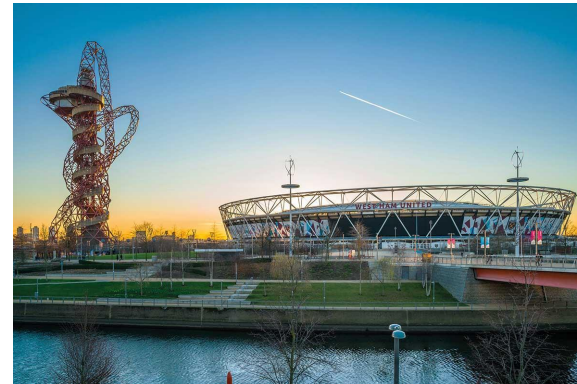
# ELFT as an organisation

- Mental Health (Inpatient, Community, Forensics)
- Community Health Care
- Talking Therapies
- Primary Care
- Children's Mental Health

2.2 million



7000 staff



# Inpatient Mental Health Services

Adult  
Inpatient

Forensic  
Inpatient

CAMHS

Older  
Adults

**54 Inpatient wards**



# The context of this work

Quality and  
Safety

Serious  
Incidents

Service User  
Feedback

Inconsistent  
Practice

THE  
STANDARD

NEWS | HEALTH

## East London hospital staff may have submitted false reports on 11 patients who died

Mahamoud Ali, 40, died after being found unresponsive in a hospital room, after nurses repeatedly failed to check on him



MAHAMOUD ALI WAS FOUND UNRESPONSIVE AT LEA WARD, IN THE TOWER HAMLETS CENTRE FOR MENTAL HEALTH, RUN BY EAST LONDON NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

# What are mental health observations?

- General supportive observation – Every hour
- Intermittent supportive observation - Every 15 mins
- Continuous supportive observation – within eyesight
- Continuous supportive observation – within arm's length

Observation practice should be viewed as providing an opportunity for therapeutic engagement with service users

(Fareilly et al 2014)



# Quality Improvement Method

## Model for Improvement

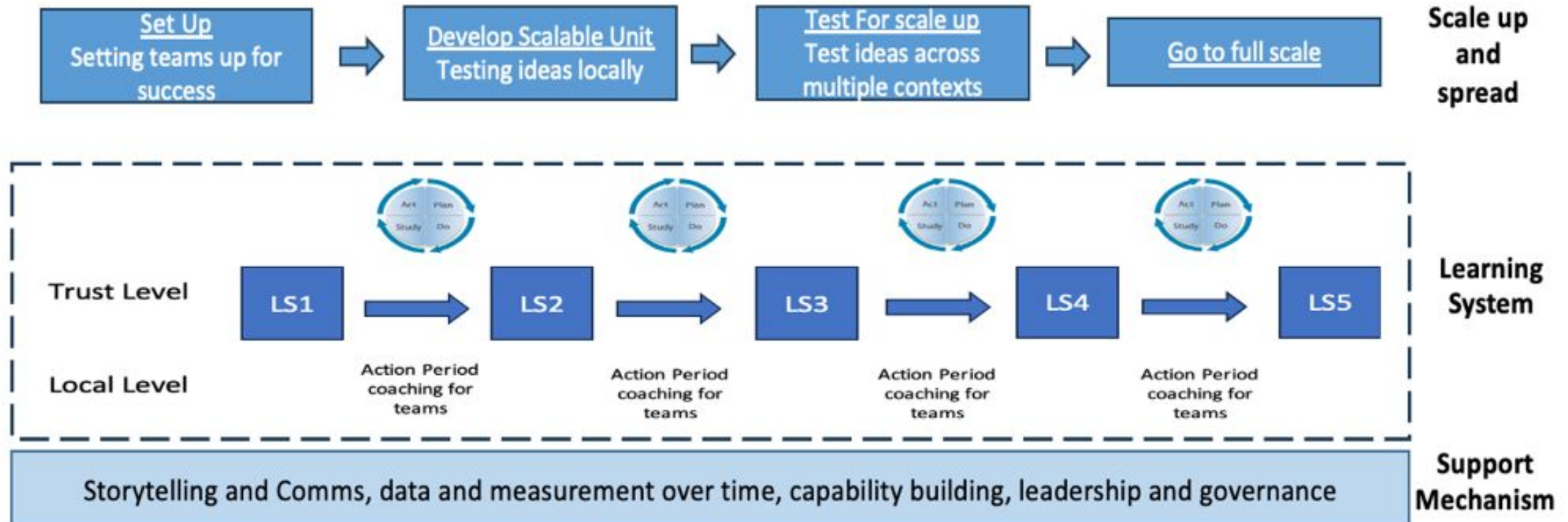


# Use of QI methods to sustainably scale

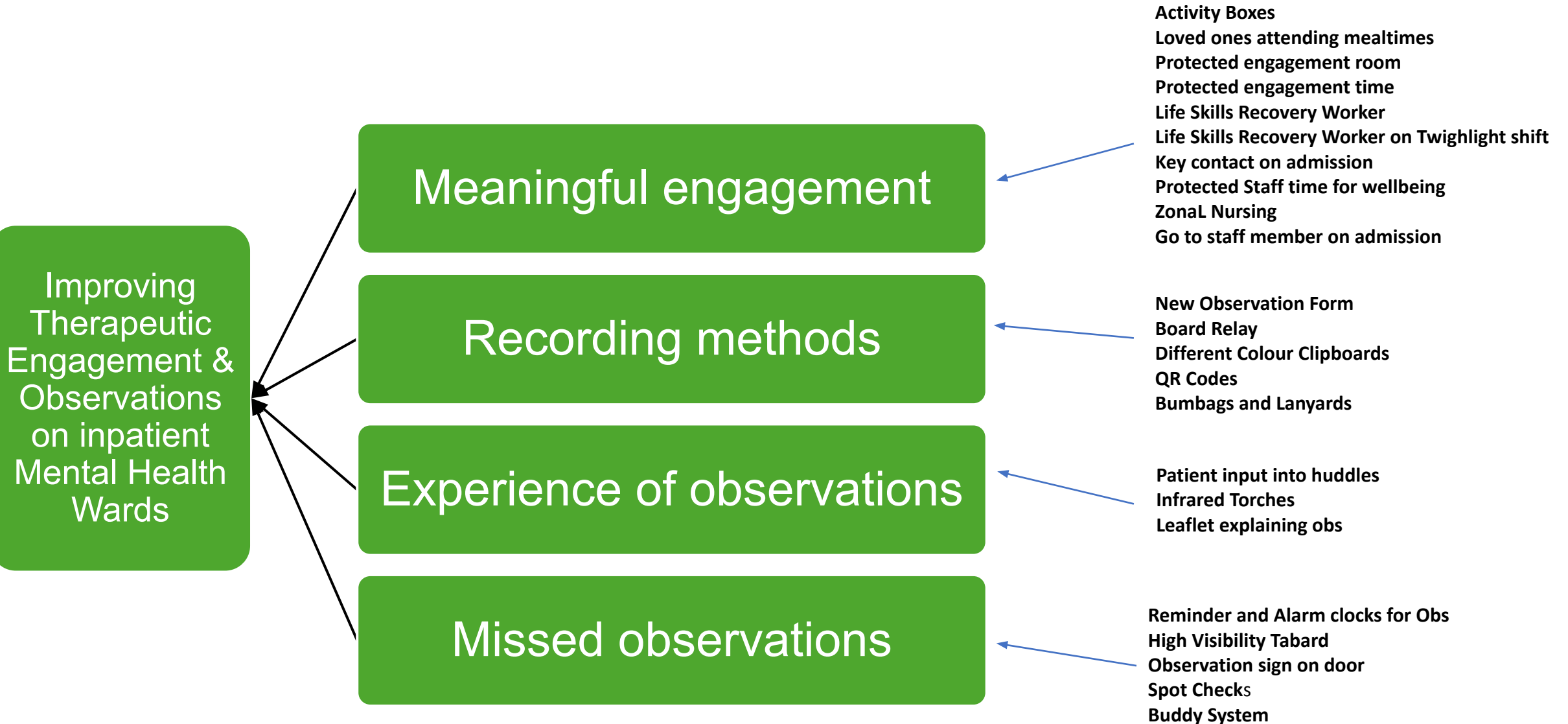
September 2022-August 2023

September 2023-March 2024

March 2024- July 2024



# Our theory of change



# Three Change Ideas tested for full scale

Observation board relay



Handover

Zonal observations



Relational security  
Early detection /  
intervention

Evening / weekend  
Enhanced activities

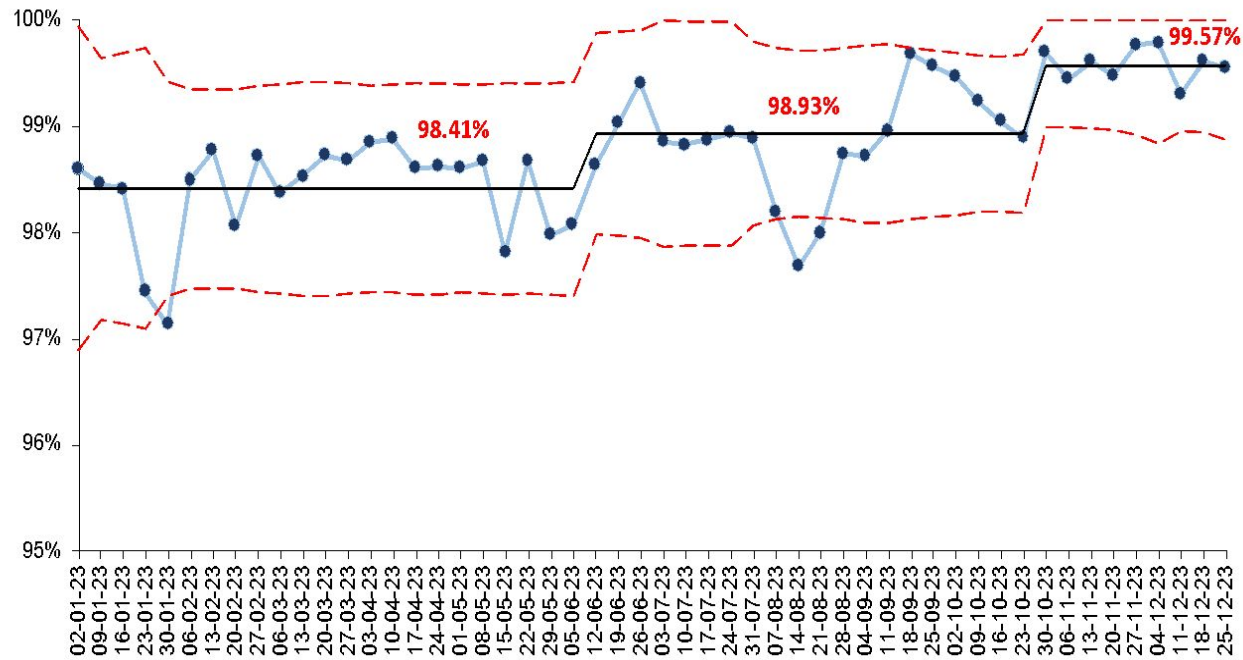


Therapeutic  
environment  
Containment & safety

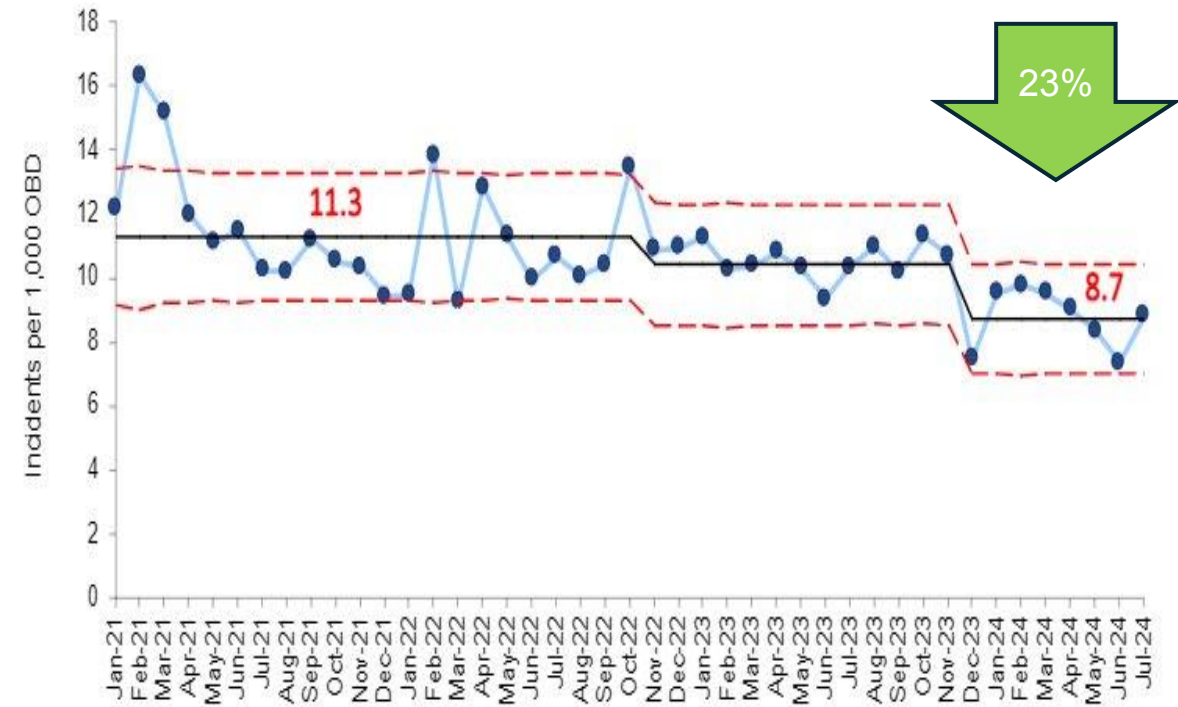


# Results

Percentage of general observations completion (Trustwide) - P Chart

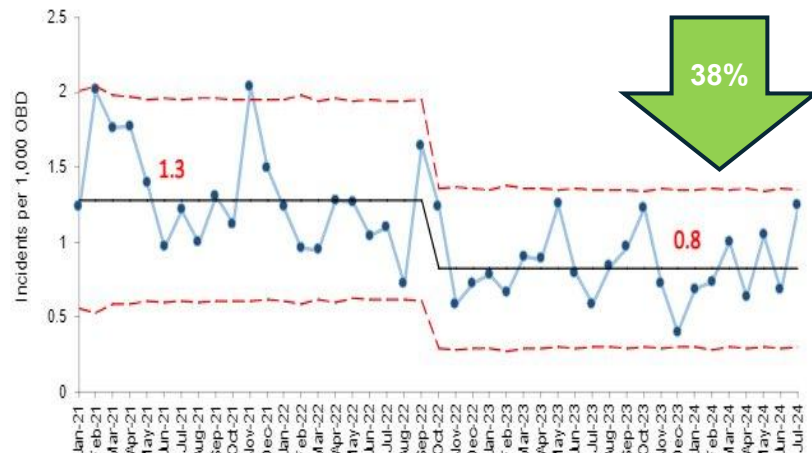


Incidents of physical violence per 1,000 OBD (Trustwide) - U Chart

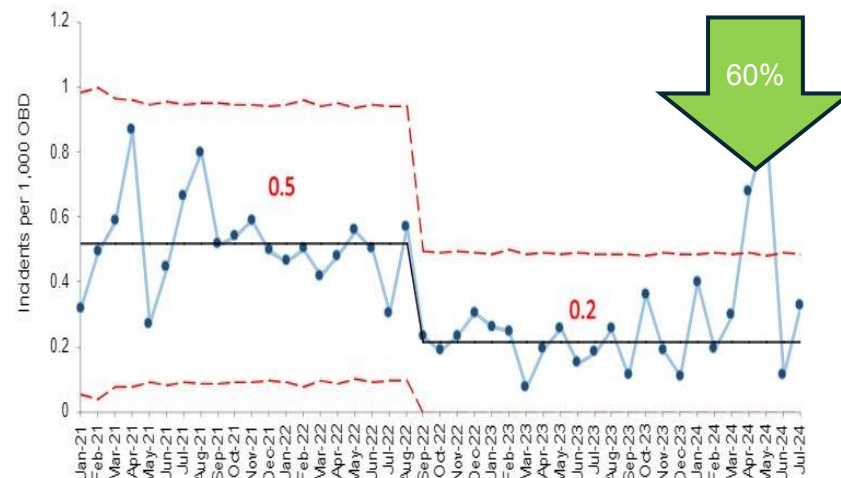


# Results

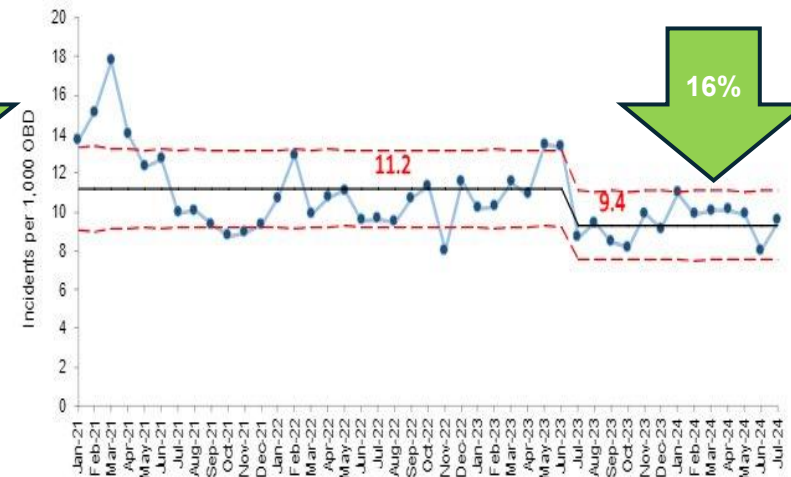
Incidents of verbal aggression per 1,000 OBD (Trustwide) - U Chart



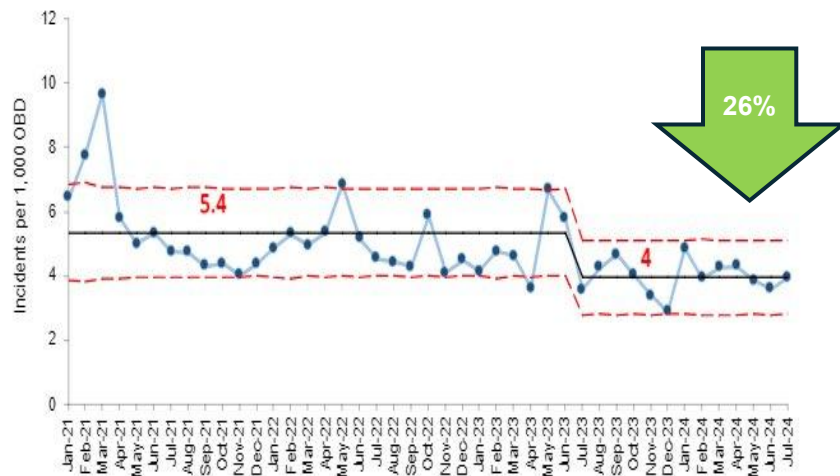
Incidents of racial aggression per 1,000 OBD (Trustwide) - U Chart



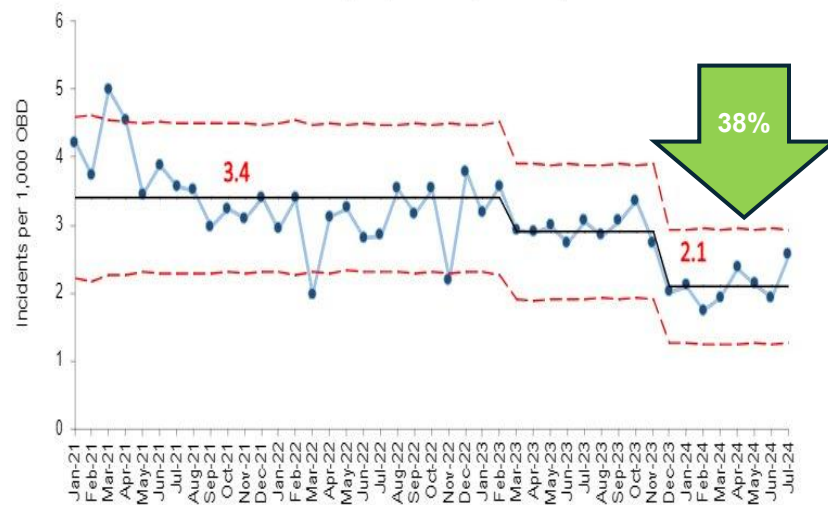
Incidents of restraint per 1,000 OBD (Trustwide) - U Chart



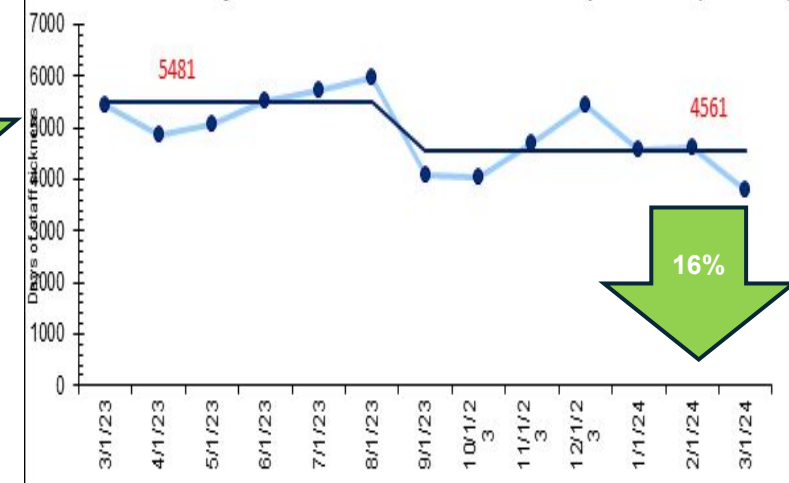
Incidents of rapid tranquillisation per 1,000 OBD (Trustwide) - U Chart



Incidents of seclusion per 1,000 OBD (Trustwide) - U Chart



Days of Staff Sickness Absence - Trustwide inpatient units (Run Chart)



# Staff and Service User Feedback

*"we are really pleased with how successful the zonal observation system has been...and most importantly what it means for us patients is that we are receiving good quality care"*  
Service User

*"... the work has kept the number of incidents very low, and patients are really enjoying it"*  
Life Skills Recovery Worker  
(Staff)

*"I appreciate the therapeutic element of engaging with staff, understanding their perspectives, and building understanding"*  
Service User

*"you can now get into meaningful conversations which leads to therapeutic engagement"*  
Staff

# Key Enablers of the work



# Locally Led by Staff and Service Users

*Projects with active service user involvement are 2.7 times more likely to achieve their aim*

Kostal and Shah 2021



Service users helping share their experience of observations in Forensics to develop change ideas

PDSA for local contextual learning

Fidelity vs adaptation ideas

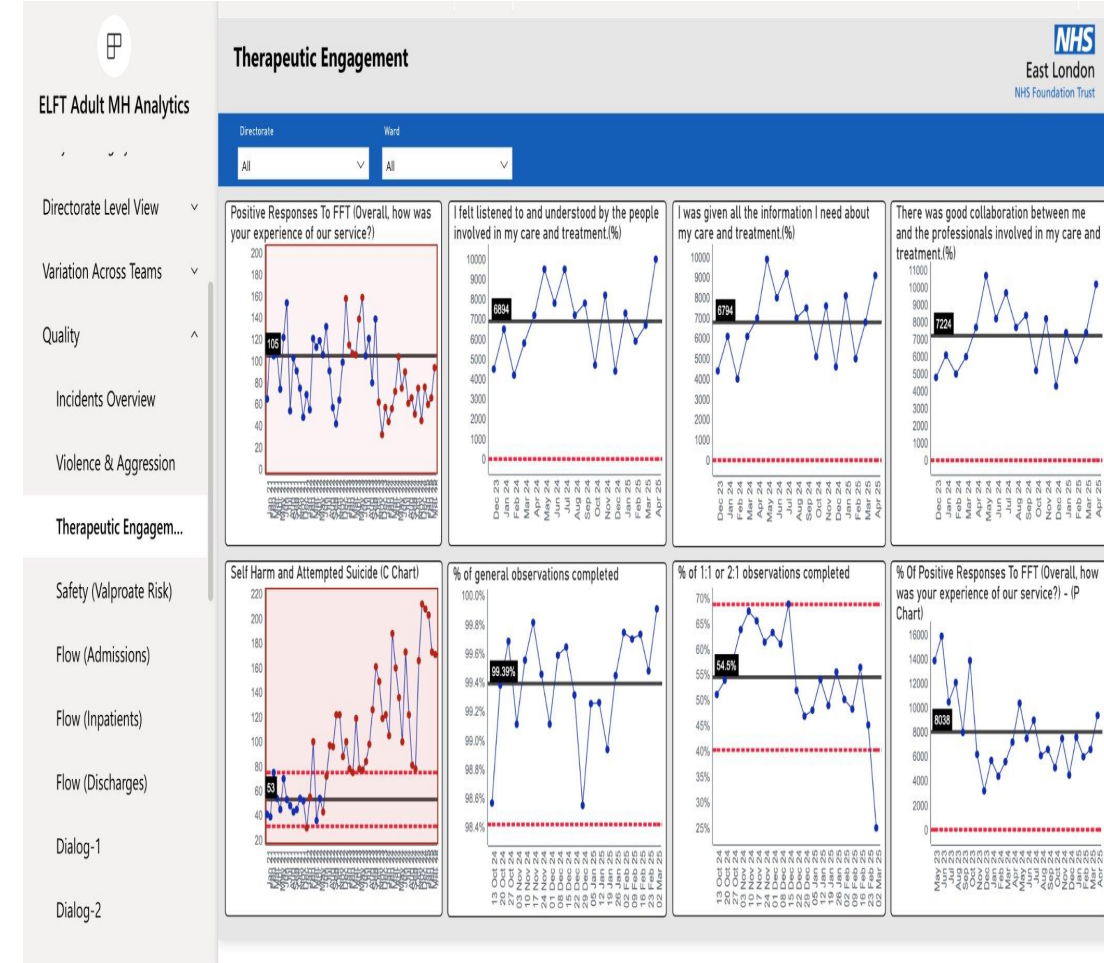
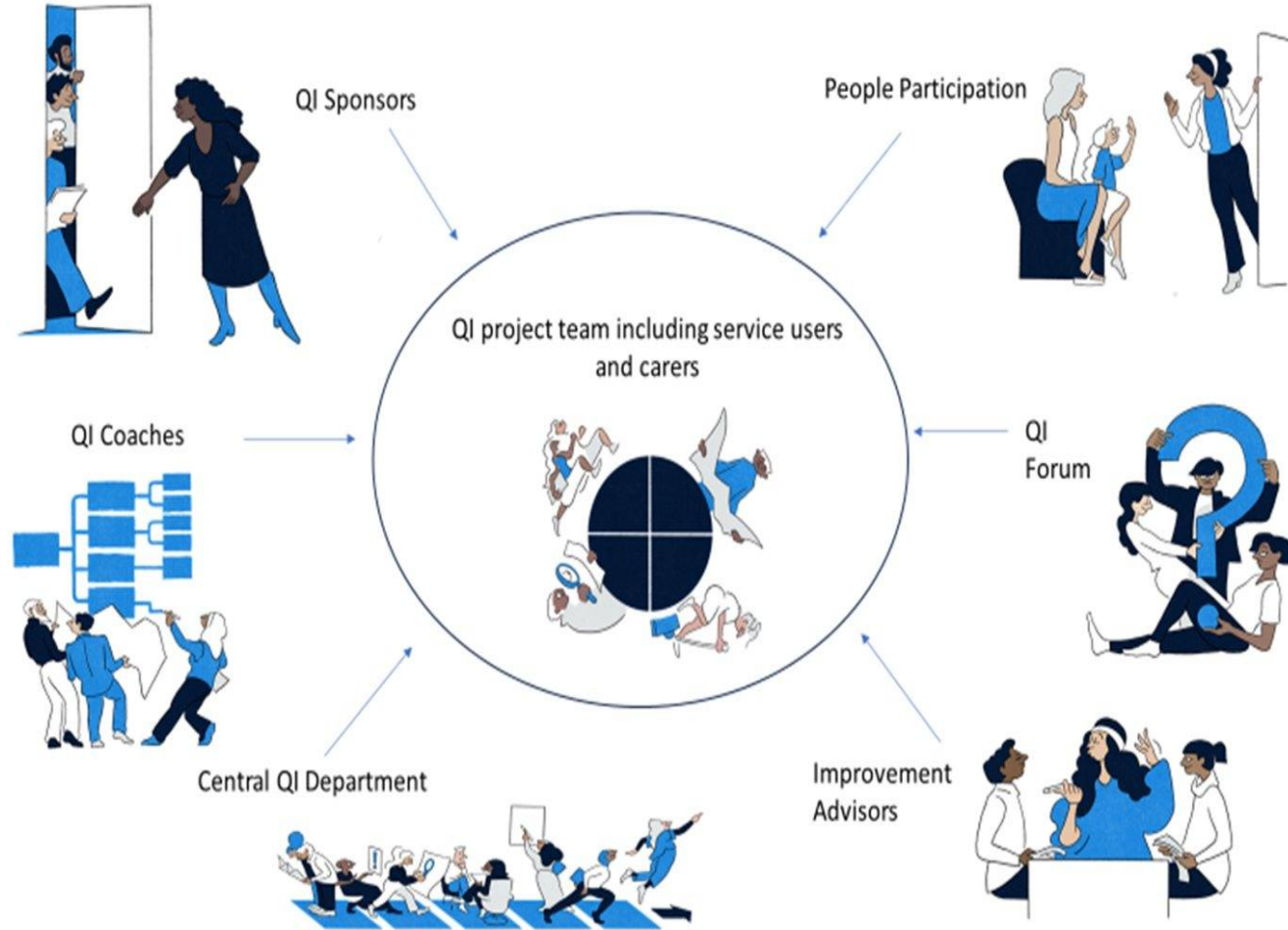
Key components vs rigid procedures

*Contemplate multiple plausible futures and tailor designs to local context*

*Build focused experimentation into designs*

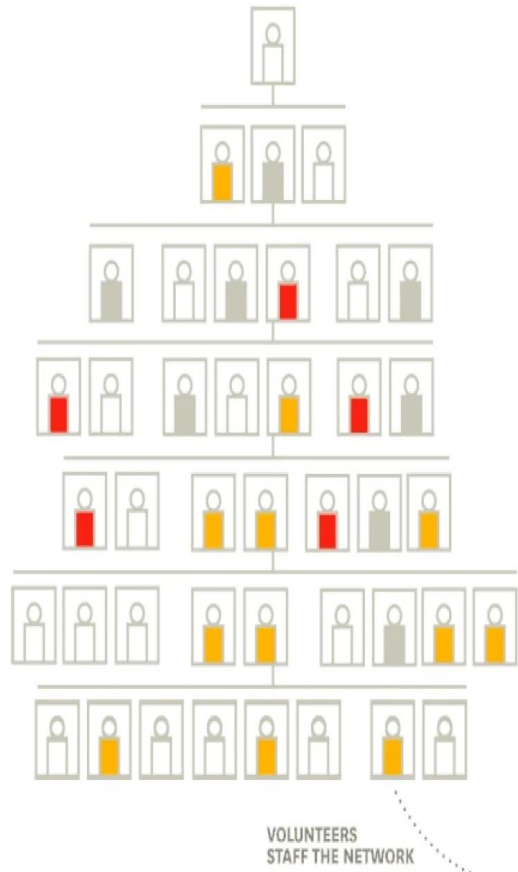
Lanham et al 2013

# Improvement Infrastructure

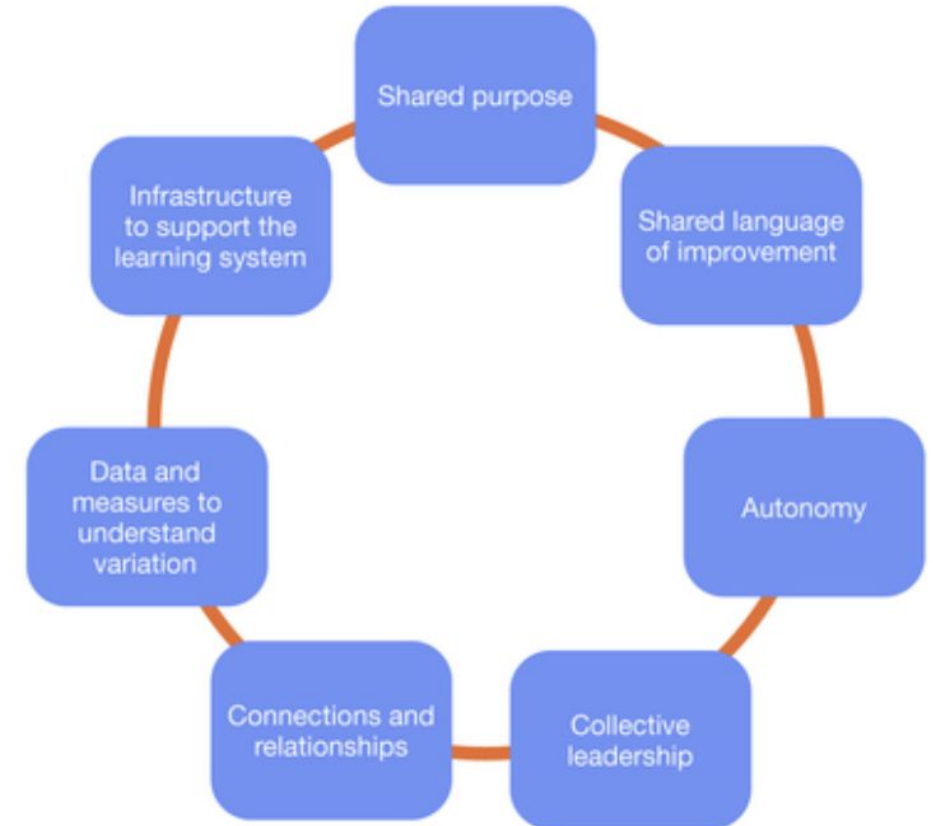
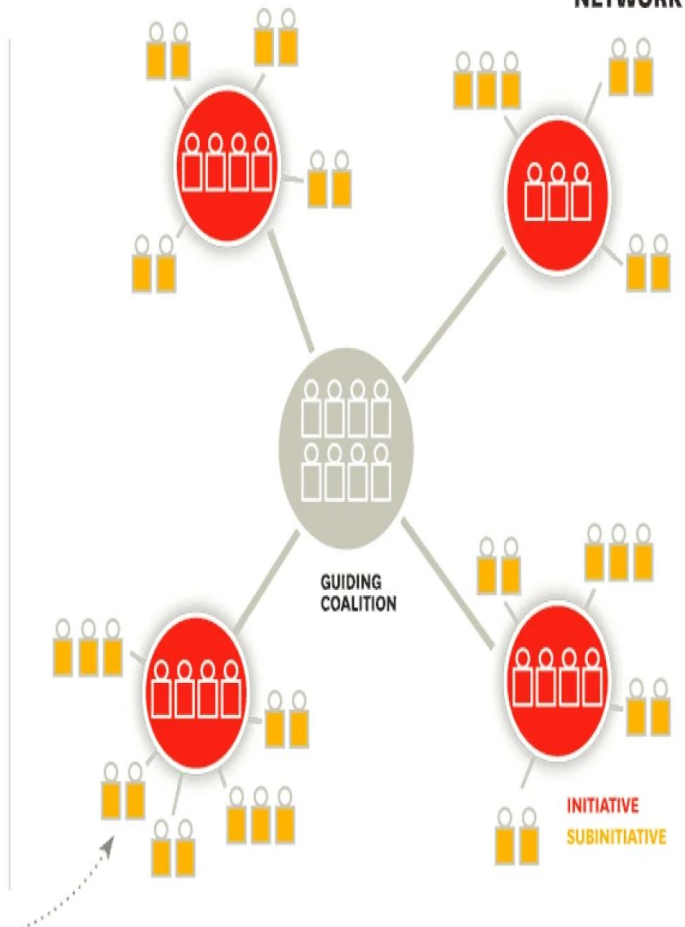


# Governance and Social Learning Spaces

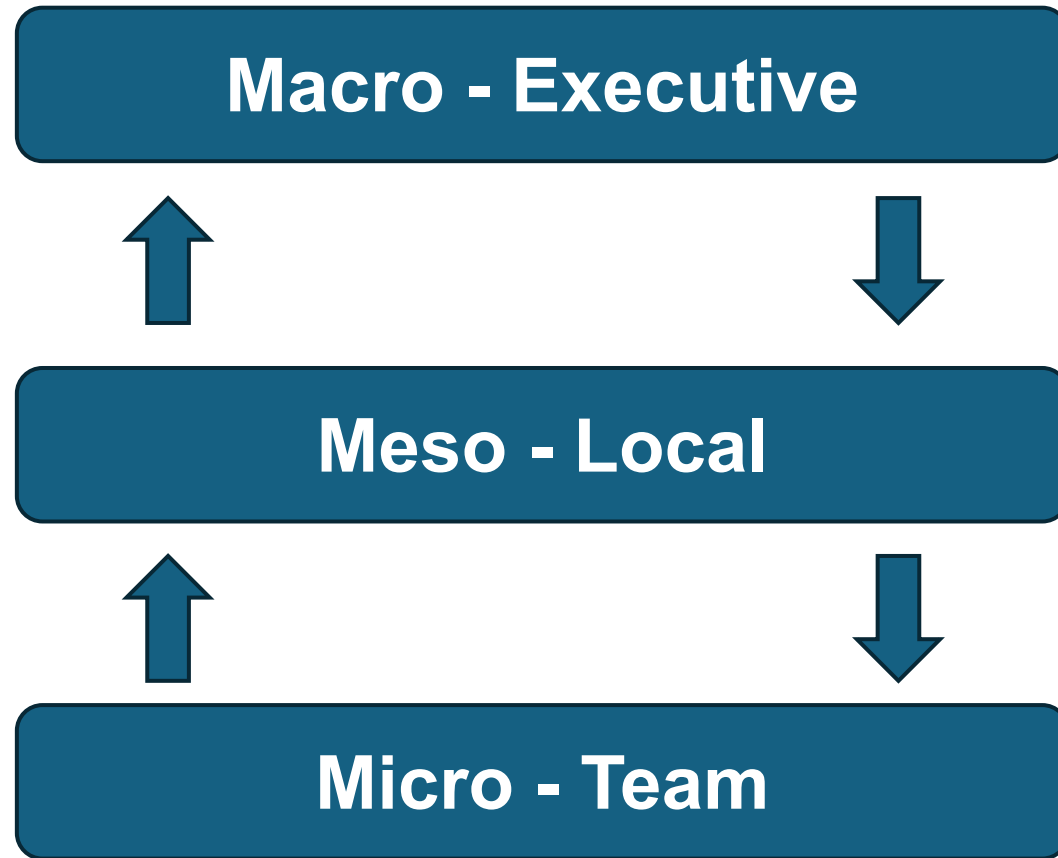
HIERARCHY



NETWORK







- Relational
- Two way to learn from each other
- Co-designing vision

# Time for your questions...

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Use code 2817 5024

