

Implementing Change Relationships in Multi-site Youth Justice Settings-

A Methodological Design

Youth Justice Implementation Research

Background

A Baseline Study, a Value for Money Report and a Systematic Evidence Review highlighted the importance of effective youth justice relationships to promote changes in offending behaviour. A multi-site study examined relationships between youth justice practitioners and young people in Youth Diversion Projects (YDPs). We co-designed a relationship model with practitioners from the case study sites (n16). We coded findings from a practitioner-led evaluation to the updated CFIR (1) to categorise implementation determinants.

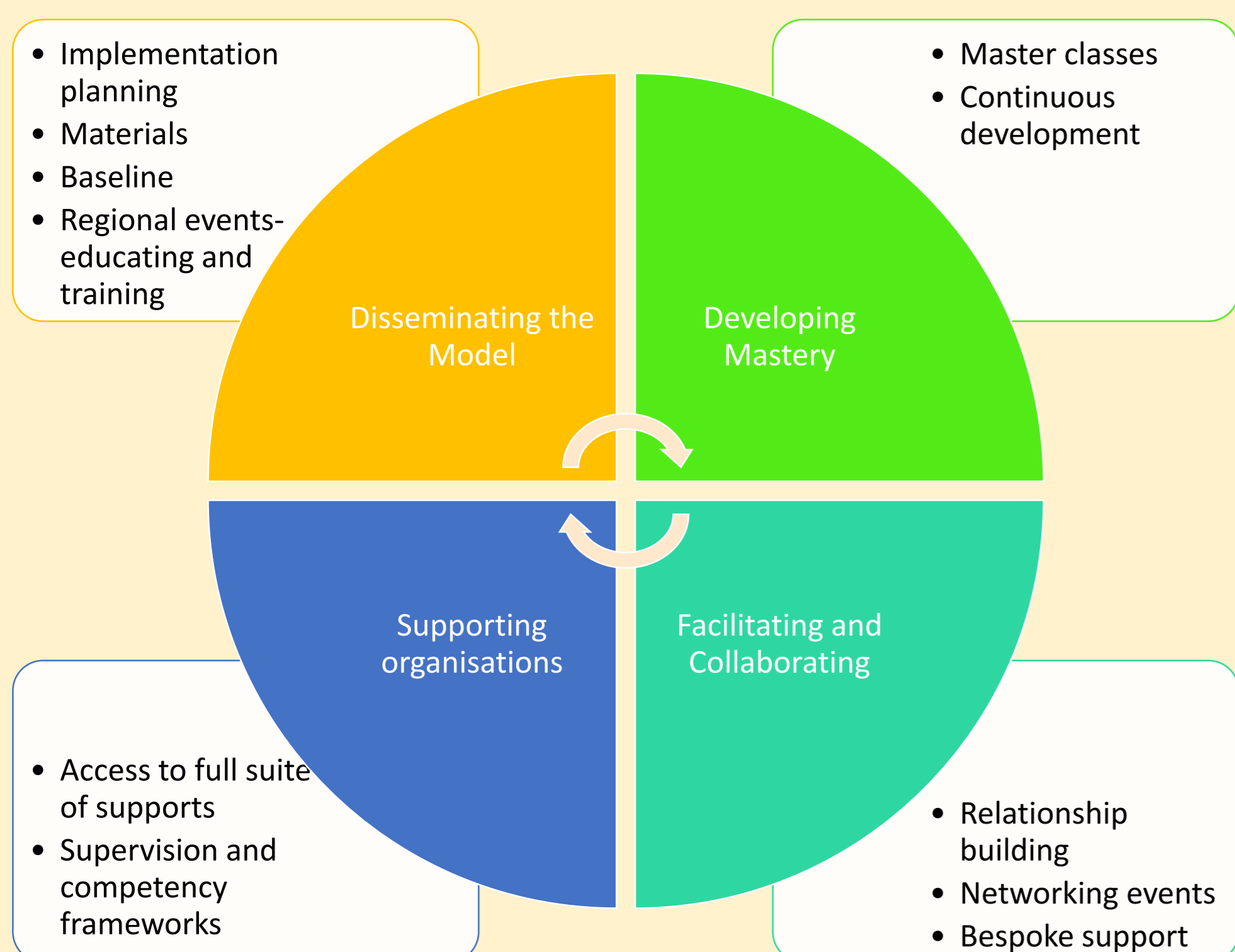
| Constructs | Determinants |
|---------------|--|
| Innovation | Co-designed, evidence informed, adaptable |
| Outer Setting | Crisis and seasonal events, interagency networks, face-to-face work |
| Inner Setting | Workforce infrastructure, team and peer support, flexible practices, organisation support, compatibility |
| Process | Reflection (time and space), communication, networking events, trust, workload |

The Department of Justice endorsed full scale out of the model. Young people can gain from high-quality practitioner relationships in all YDPs (n106).

Scale out

The findings from the multi-site (n16) study inform four discrete implementation strategies (2).

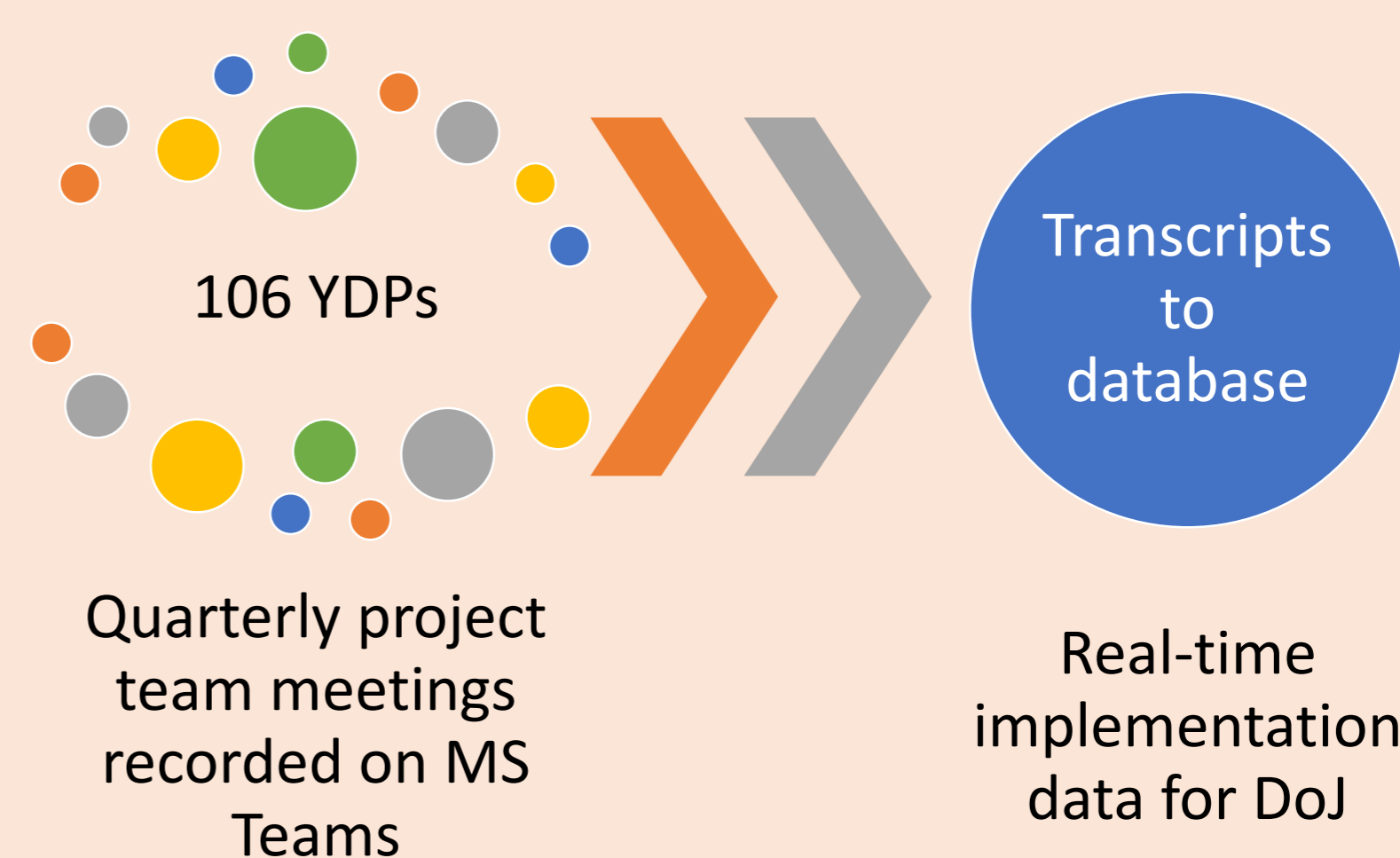
Implementation Strategies



Method

We will conduct an antecedent assessment of attitudes towards the practice change (3) at the regional dissemination events.

Quarterly online meetings will collect systematic real-time qualitative insights from project teams (n106). The projects will answer implementation outcome questions (4) to examine the model's trajectory and key milestones over time. Projects will record their meeting transcripts. We will create code and use AI techniques to analyse the data.



We will provide relatively real-time data to the Department of Justice, reducing the relational distance between the policy maker and practice on the ground.

Discussion

The paper builds on knowledge from a three-year action research process. It proposes a method to advance scale-out and implement an evidence-informed relationship model. We welcome guidance from other methodologists and implementation experts to advance the methodology.

References

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- (2) Powell, B.J., Waltz, T.J., Chinman, M.J., *et al.* (2015). A refined compilation of implementation strategies: results from the Expert Recommendations for Implementing Change (ERIC) project. Vol. 10. *Implementation Science*.
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