

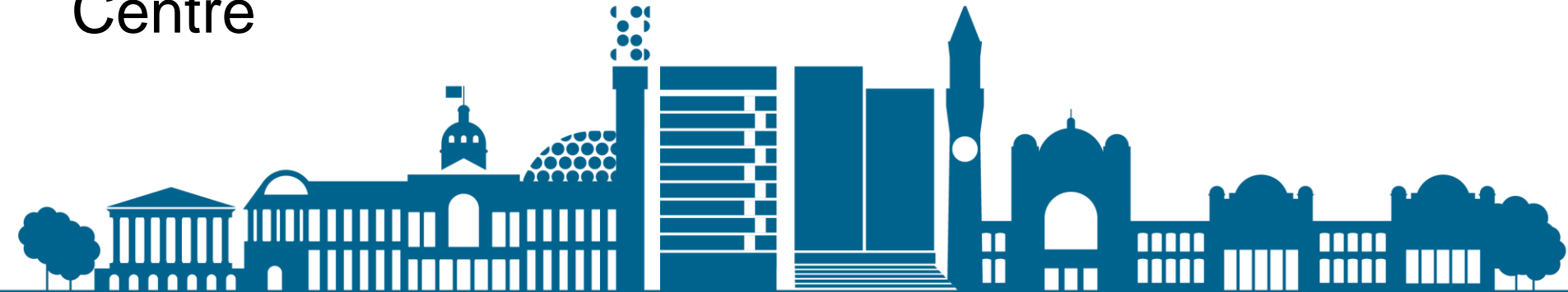


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Rapid Evaluations: what are they and why do them?

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What is 'rapid' evaluation?

Can be defined in several ways, for example:

- **Timescale:** e.g. 12 months or less
- **Design:**
 - *Rapid completion:* short timescale from design → dissemination
 - *Rapid cycle:* longer evaluation, with early and/or ongoing reporting of findings
- **Purpose:** e.g. real-time or 'alongside' evaluation, to support innovation development and implementation



Why evaluate rapidly?

- Support learning and improvement as innovations are tested out in real-world settings
- Innovations and contexts change – ongoing feedback of findings ensures relevance and usefulness
- Generating evidence to sustain innovations beyond initial pilots (where timescales for decisions are often tight)
- Provide timely information about potential for scale up/roll out across the wider system
- Practical considerations – e.g. funders may not be able to commit resources for longer-term assessments



Why not?

- Pressure to work quickly (especially at the early stages) can affect:
 - Local buy in and relationship building, including PPI
 - The quality of evaluation design
- Short projects can't capture the full range of impacts; many key outcomes (e.g. health improvements, financial savings) are long term
- Dangers of early assessment – judgements made before innovations have had a chance to succeed; leaving a legacy for ongoing evaluation
- Key issue = evaluability; what innovations, contexts, outcomes are suitable for rapid evaluation?



Dudley's new quality and outcomes framework

- New payment and incentive scheme for general practice
- Nine month formative evaluation (Jun 16 – Feb 17), focusing on implementation of the framework in seven case study practices
- Key findings:
 - The financial incentive alone wasn't bringing about desired changes in practice
 - Nursing workforce: tension between specialisation and holistic care
 - Patients needed preparing for a new kind of consultation, and to get the most out of this



Learning from Dudley

- Funders don't want to trade rigour against rapidity, but will accept the need therefore to be selective about scope/focus
- Design and preparatory work takes time, whether the evaluation is rapid or longer in timescale
- Understand what's required – Dudley CCG was clear it wanted learning to improve; a rapid evaluation can work well where this is the case
- Managing expectations is equally important: we were clear (and consistent) about what was realistic in the timescale available



The BRACE Centre

- Five year NIHR funded Rapid Evaluation Centre
- University of Birmingham-led, in collaboration with RAND Europe, University of Cambridge and National Voices
- Evaluations of service innovations – projects identified by people who plan, deliver and use health services
- Likely to be eleven evaluations: one multi-year project, and ten rapid evaluations
- First evaluation: large-scale networks/collaborations in general practice (currently being scoped)



Thank you

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BRACE Rapid Evaluation Centre:

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