

What does effective look like? Understanding and assessing impact

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How many partners have you had?

1. Please count (in your heads!)

A: How many years have you been professionally involved in schools?

B: How many partnerships (involving more than one school) have you been involved with during this time?

2: Please calculate the ratio of B:A



So many partnerships in England....Why?

- LAs & Sector Led Bodies (150+)
- Multi-Academy Trusts (1200+, c. 5200+ schools in total)
- Umbrella Trusts (14, c. 70 schools in total)
- Federations (65 hard, 23 soft and 23 collaboratives)
- Teaching school Alliances (668 alliances)
- Opportunity Areas (and old *Excellence in Cities* clusters?)
- Dioceses (c. 60, 50-200 schools typically)
- Thematic partnerships (eg behaviour, SEN)
- Subject-focused partnerships



But is the partnerships climate changing?

- Vulnerable?
- Enduring scepticism?
- Growing scrutiny?
- Perfect storm of atomising forces?

'In practice, collaboration can easily lead to collusion in order to protect the status quo.' [@MelAinscow](#)



How comfortably are you sitting?

TELL US ALL:

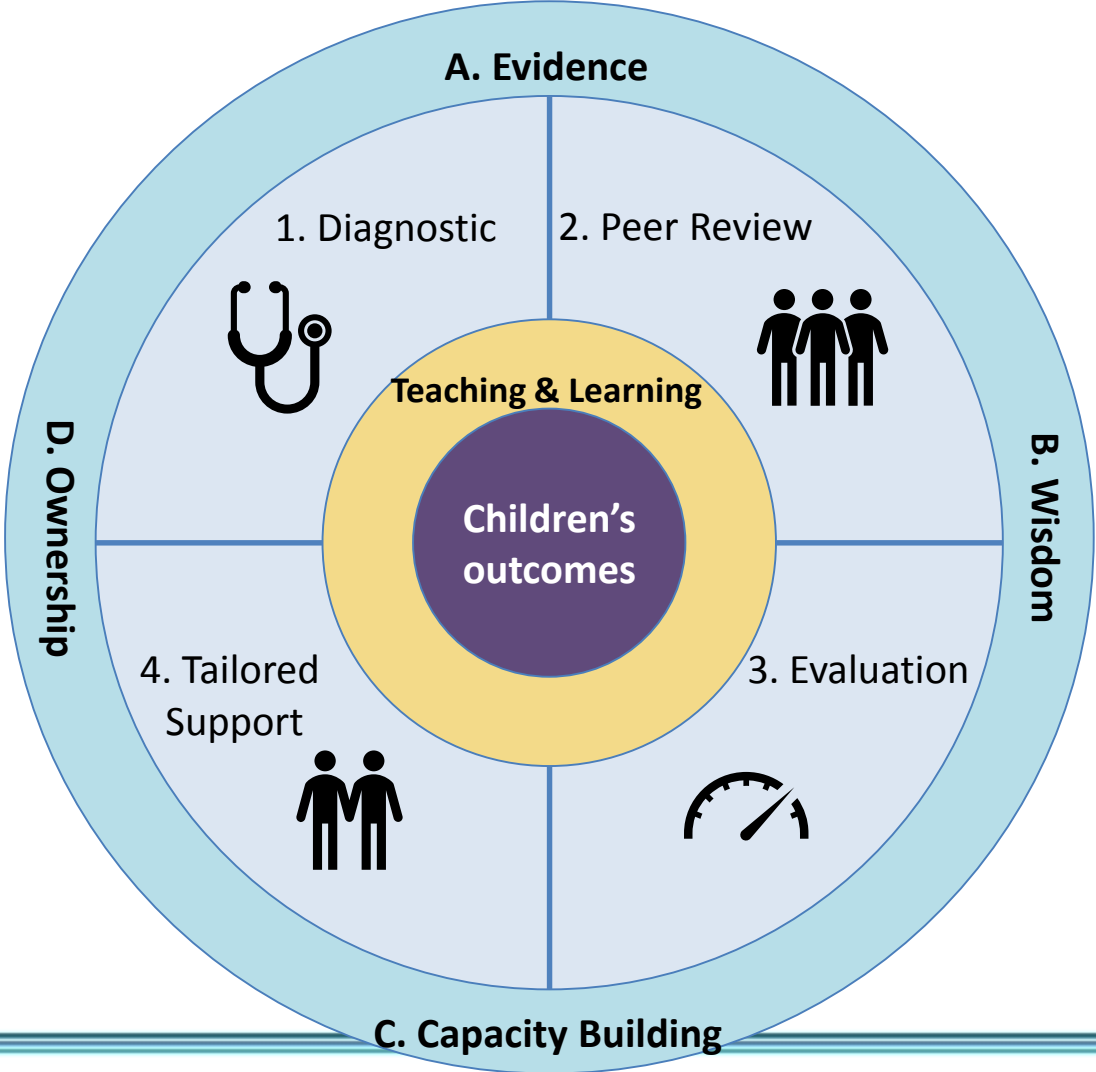
- How would you describe the current policy and practice environment for school partnerships?
- If the future feels vulnerable/unstable/uncertain, what do you think is causing this?



Do partnerships have an impact problem?



Exploring the impact of collaborative partnership working from all angles



How is your partnership's effectiveness and impact?

GROUP WORKING:

1. Discuss whether partnerships have an impact problem.

and/or

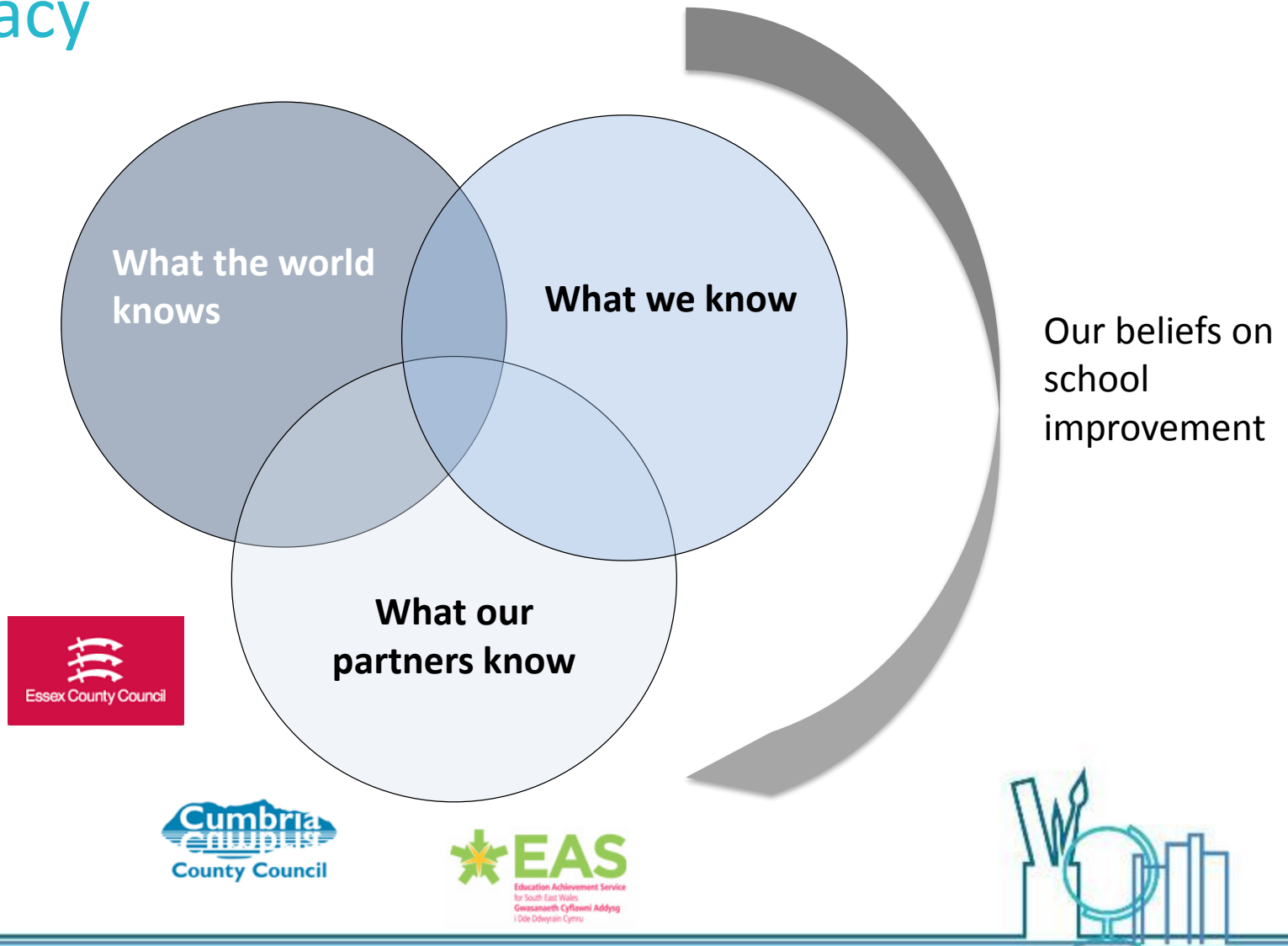
2. Discuss examples especially effective and ineffective partnerships you have been part of. How did you know?

and

3. **Discuss what your partnerships currently do to understand effectiveness and impact.**

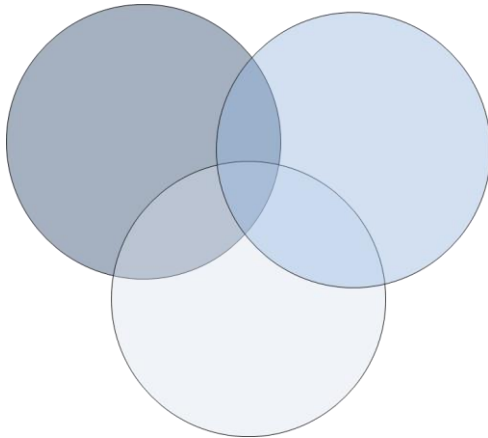


Explaining our thinking on partnership efficacy



Proposed components of effective partnership working

Emerging evidence & experience



Components of effective partnership working

Areas of Enquiry

Themes

An evaluative framework

ACTIVITY: Review of the evaluation framework

How far do you agree these are the right components?

What examples do you have of effective partnership working and how far can you map these into the components?

How helpful are these components in highlighting challenges / areas for improvement?



Introducing the Partnership Evaluation Tool (PET)

Our aims:

1. To enable partnerships to evaluate their collaboration
2. To help establish a dialogue and way of working that builds challenge, support and trust
3. To generate useful information that helps partnerships make best use of their resources and guides improvement
4. For the tool to be intuitive, flexible and easy to use



What about partnerships beyond attainment?

Questions for your next drink:

1. What is your partnership doing that supports schools to consider and deliver ambitions that go beyond attainment?
2. Could and should partnerships do more of this to add value to what schools can do alone?
3. How could the impact of this kind of work be measured?



Thank you!

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