



Using Theory of Change in Evaluation

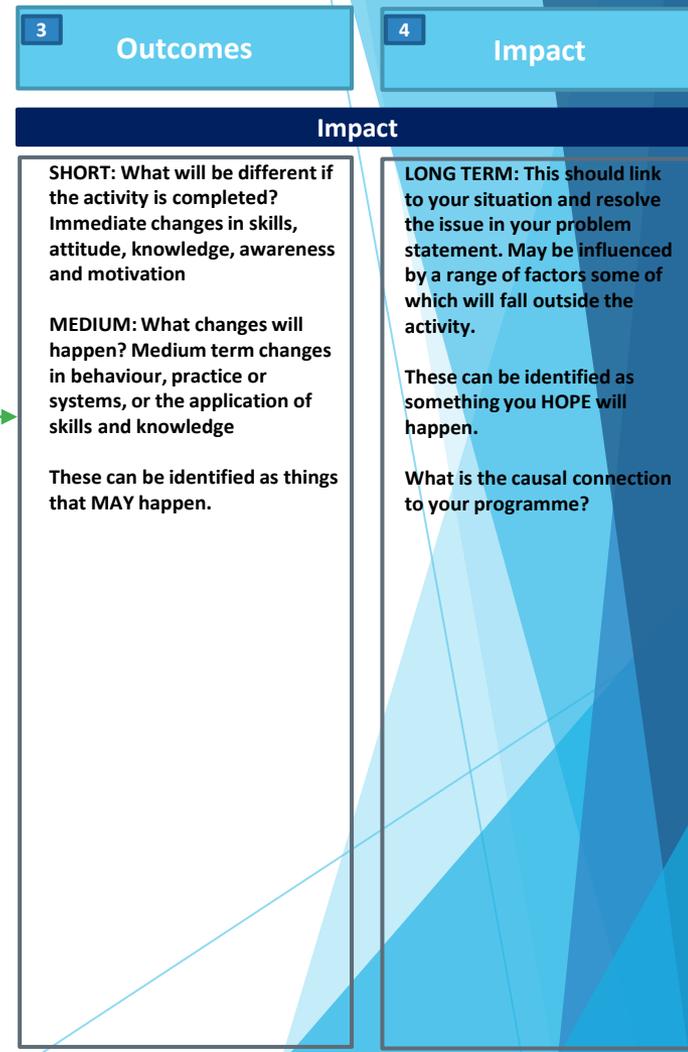
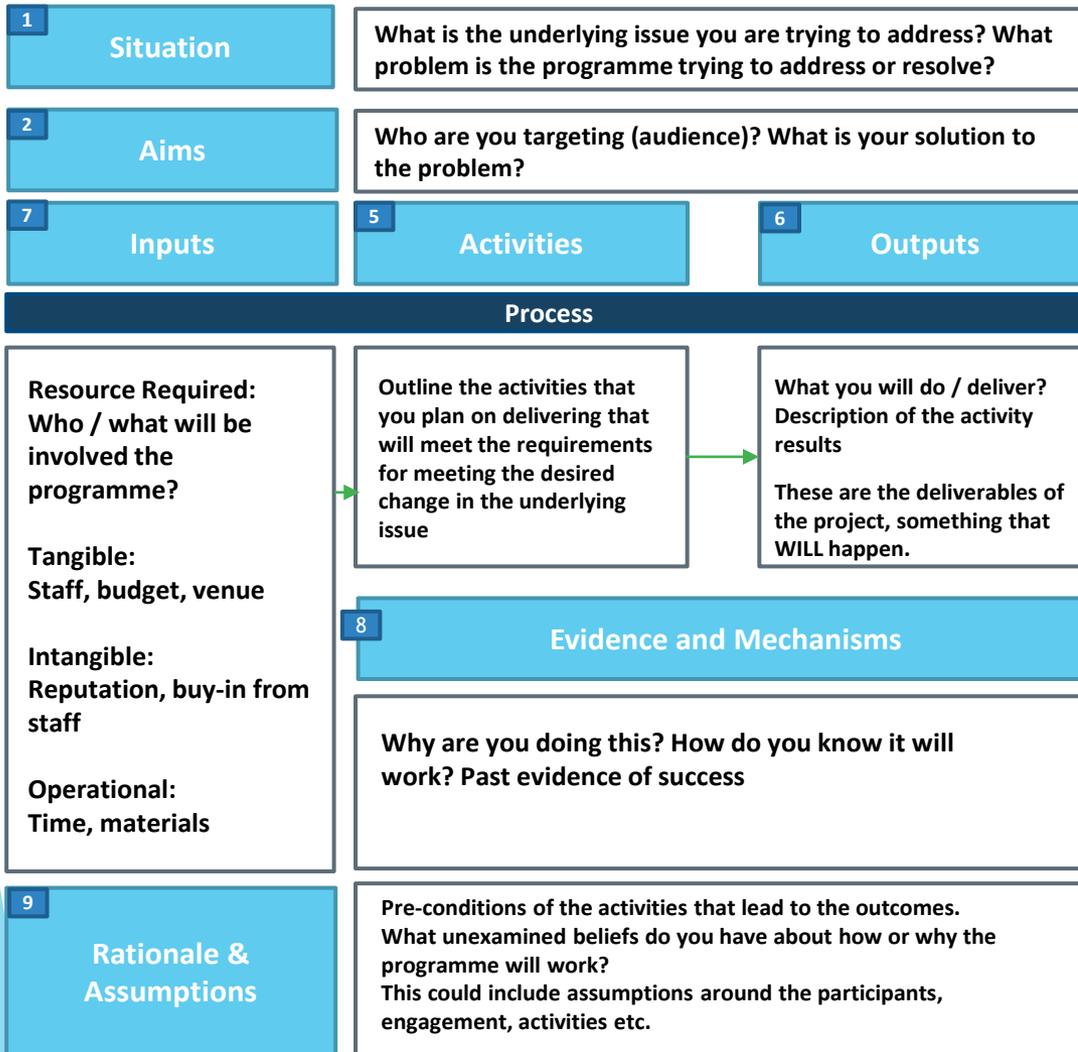
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What is Theory of Change?

- ▶ Way of outlining steps to achieving your goal
- ▶ Illustrates how and why a desired change is expected to happen in a particular context
- ▶ Helps to ensure the correct activity is designed and delivered to meet your long-term goal
- ▶ Allows you to connect your work to the bigger picture



Theory of Change



Theory of Change- Evaluation Focused

3

Outcomes

4

Impact

Impact

SHORT: What will be different if the activity is completed?

Immediate changes in skills, attitude, knowledge, awareness and motivation

MEDIUM: What changes will happen? Medium term changes in behaviour, practice or systems, or the application of skills and knowledge

These can be identified as things that MAY happen.

LONG TERM: This should link to your situation and resolve the issue in your problem statement. May be influenced by a range of factors some of which will fall outside the activity.

These can be identified as something you HOPE will happen.

What is the causal connection to your programme?

Evaluation to assess the outcomes

What evaluation tools and techniques would you use to assess and evidence the short-term outcomes?

What evaluation tools and techniques would you use to assess and evidence the medium-term outcomes?

What evaluation tools and techniques would you use to assess and evidence the long-term outcomes /impact?

External Factors

What is outside of our control but may impact on the evaluation?

How can we use ToC in evaluation planning and design?

- Utilise as the basis for developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks to measure the expected outcomes and impacts
- To identify the data that need to be collected and how it should be analysed.
- To review progress towards long-term goals

Further reading

<https://brightside.org.uk/what-we-do/theory-of-change/>

<https://analyticsinaction.co/theory-of-change-vs-logic-model>

<http://www.tools4dev.org/resources/theory-of-change-vs-logical-framework-whats-the-difference-in-practice/>

<https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/blog/Using-logic-models-and-theories-of-change-better-in-evaluation>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evaluation-in-health-and-well-being-overview/introduction-to-logic-models>

<https://www.socialsolutions.com/blog/the-importance-of-logic-models-and-theories-of-change/>

<https://www.sopact.com/theory-of-change>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evaluation-in-health-and-well-being-overview/introduction-to-logic-models>

<https://whatworks.org.nz/logic-model/>

<https://diytoolkit.org/tools/theory-of-change/>

<http://www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk/resources/252/>

<https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/how-to/how-to-build-a-theory-of-change>