

Access and WP at the University of Liverpool:

**what does *embedding*
evaluation mean?**

NEON, 25 June 2014

Introduction

- Nature of evaluation
- Underlying principles
- Epistemological aspects
- Our emerging themes

What is evaluation?

The 'Lone Evaluator' hot on the trail of a problem ...



or

... working together to develop positive insight.

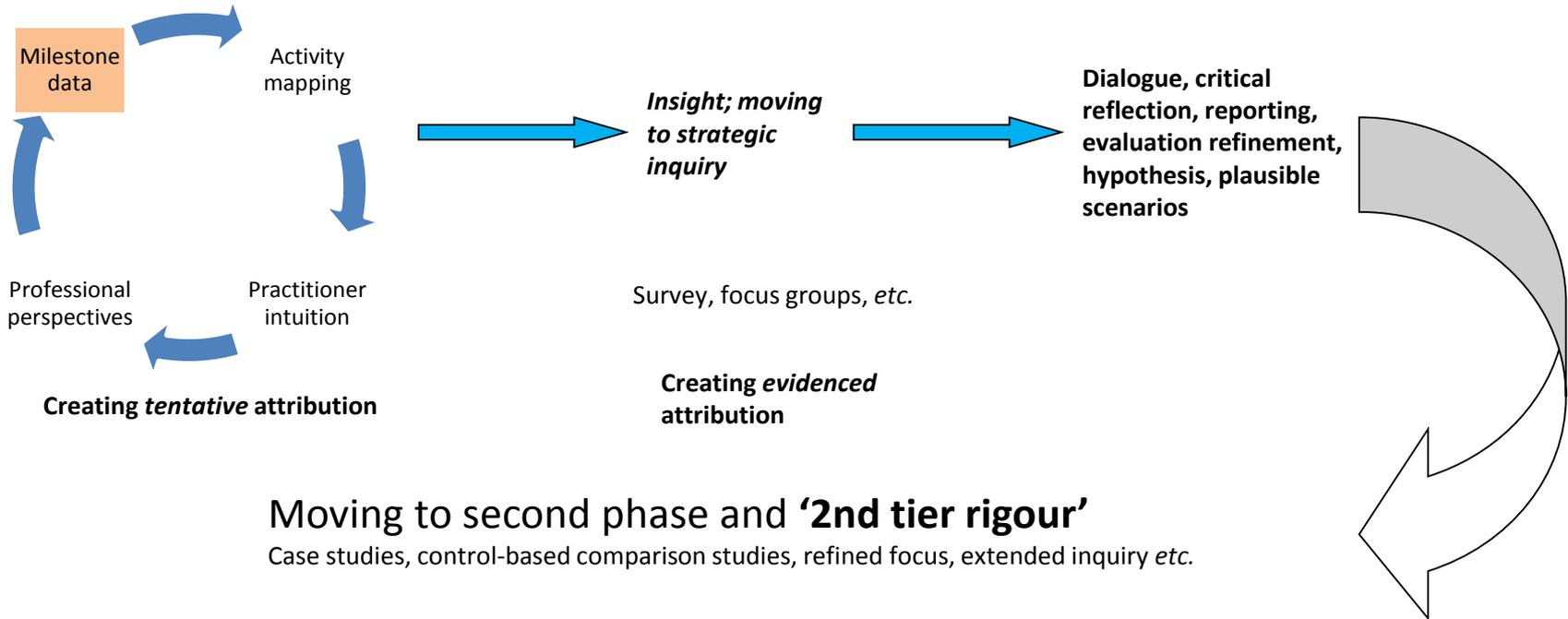


Underlying principles

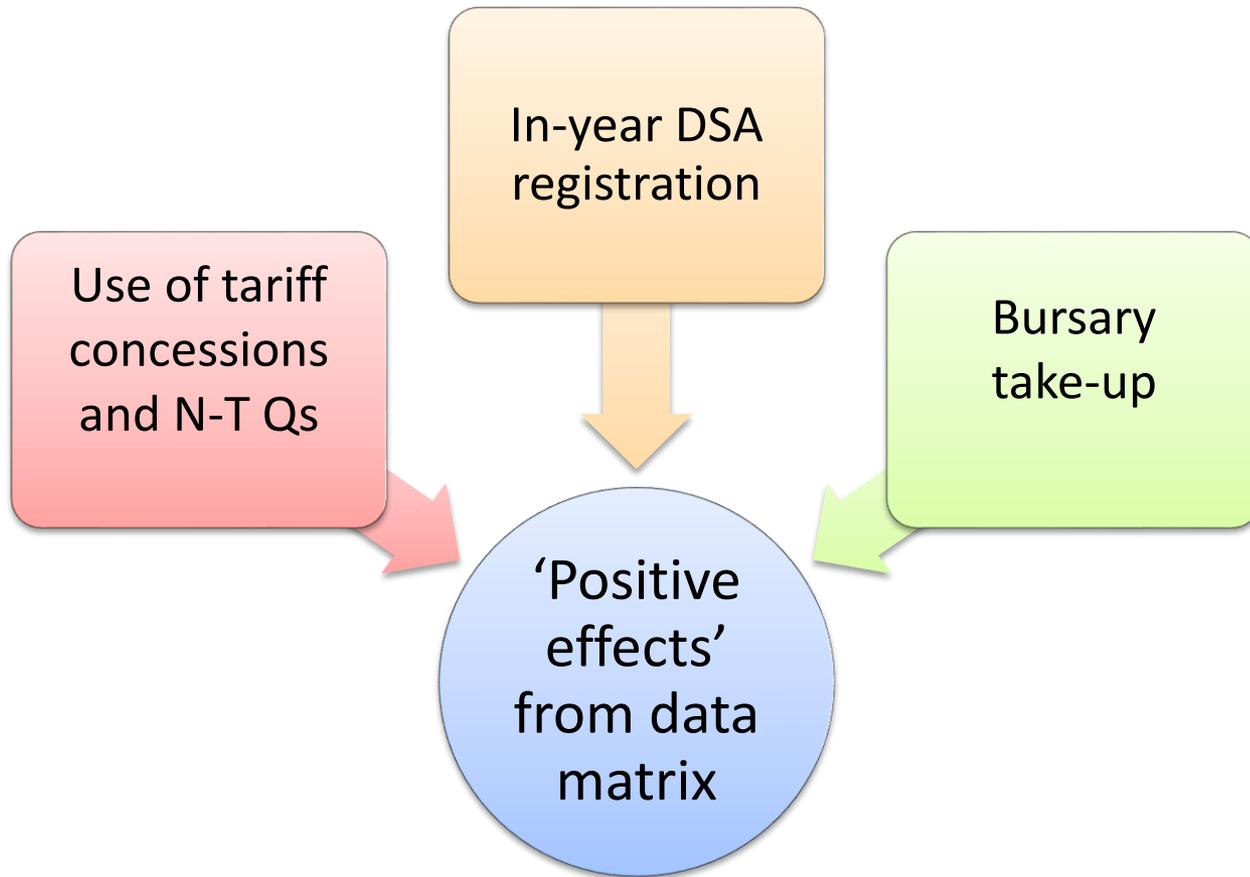
- A whole organisation (systems) approach
- Existing data, where available (guiding new research)
- Tacit knowledge
- Intuitions, perspectives, insights
- Appreciative inquiry
- Purpose: organisational change

The 'Liverpool Model': methodology

First phase and '1st tier rigour'



Cross-mapping data



Some epistemological aspects

- Data used to guide inquiry
- Question of rigour
 - No empty canvasses (well, rare)
 - Clusters of positive effects
 - ‘Significance’
 - National averages
 - Correlations
 - Attributions (tentative and evidenced)
 - Claims
- Methodological pluralism for different ‘data situations’
- Drawing upon practitioner intuition
- Eliciting professional perspectives
- Conjectural
- Plausible reasoning
- Seeking positive (or promising) transferable practice

Practical steps

The basic elements:

- activity; data; research
- So, who?
 - ... practitioners; data managers; researchers

Establishing a culture

- Access and WP Forum
- Dissemination forum (open to school professionals)
- An evaluation conference

Where is the 'embedding'?

- Accessing University data
 - Academic departments at Levels 1,2 and 3 (Data Explorer)
 - Professional services
- Mapping activity
 - Ethical considerations
 - Correlations
 - Attribution
- Collaborations for further research (case studies)
- Establishing an evaluation culture
 - Access and WP Forum
 - Dissemination event , open to teachers
 - Critical evaluation conference
- Surveys
 - Applicants
 - Peer mentoring
 - Using market research expertise (SRAO)
- Curriculum review
- Ethics
- The UK Evaluation Society
- DIY

Next steps?

- ‘What we have learnt so far’ report (October)
- ‘What we have learnt so far’ dissemination event (November)
- Internal reporting
- An evaluation ‘tool-kit’