Intervention Theory Building. Can theoretically informed realist approaches be successfully employed to synthesize multiple data sets and develop and evaluate a complex intervention?

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“Which hold that causality cannot be observed and that the best we can do is demonstrate regularity between a particular intervention and a particular outcome”.


- Developing a theoretically based intervention
- Adaptive to context
- Specifying the core mechanisms which produce the outcomes we intend
- Assessing if the core mechanisms have produced the desired outcomes
COCOA
Care for Offenders: Continuity of Access

Starting point logic model

- Academic knowledge in published literature.
- Study Team previous research experience.
- Study Team previous practice experience.

*Established our know, knowns & identified our known unknowns*

Phase One: Data Collection

- Realist Review
- Case studies (2)
- Focus Groups (3)
- Peer Researchers (18 meetings)

*Data collection focused on answering our known, unknowns.*
Synthesis 1

Phase Two: Data Collection

- Case Studies (3)
- Focus Groups (1)
- Implementation Literature Review
- Delivering the intervention in practice
- Outcomes data collected for both arms
- Formative Process Evaluation

Unknown, unknowns were surfaced in Synthesis 1 and became known, unknowns which were addressed in this phase of data collection.
Synthesis 2

Phase Three: Delivery in practice
Challenges, solutions & advantages

1) Working with data produced from a range of ontological positions.
2) Progressively reducing our expansive focus while actively working against linear and reductive thinking.
3) Employing an explicit and inclusive decision making processes.