

Pathways
through
participation

Pathways through Participation: investing in research leading to action

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Participation in context

- A policy buzzword?
- New Labour push
- The Big Society



Understanding participation

What we know

- Motivations
- Triggers
- Enablers
- Barriers

What we don't know

- Pathways over time
- Connections
between different
types of participation



How and **why** do people get
involved and **stay involved**
in different forms of
participation over the
course of their **lives?**

A broad understanding of participation

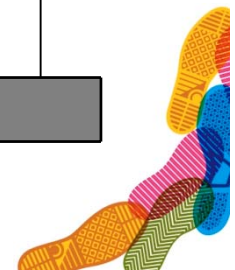
Pathways through participation



Formative Years

Middle Years

Later Years



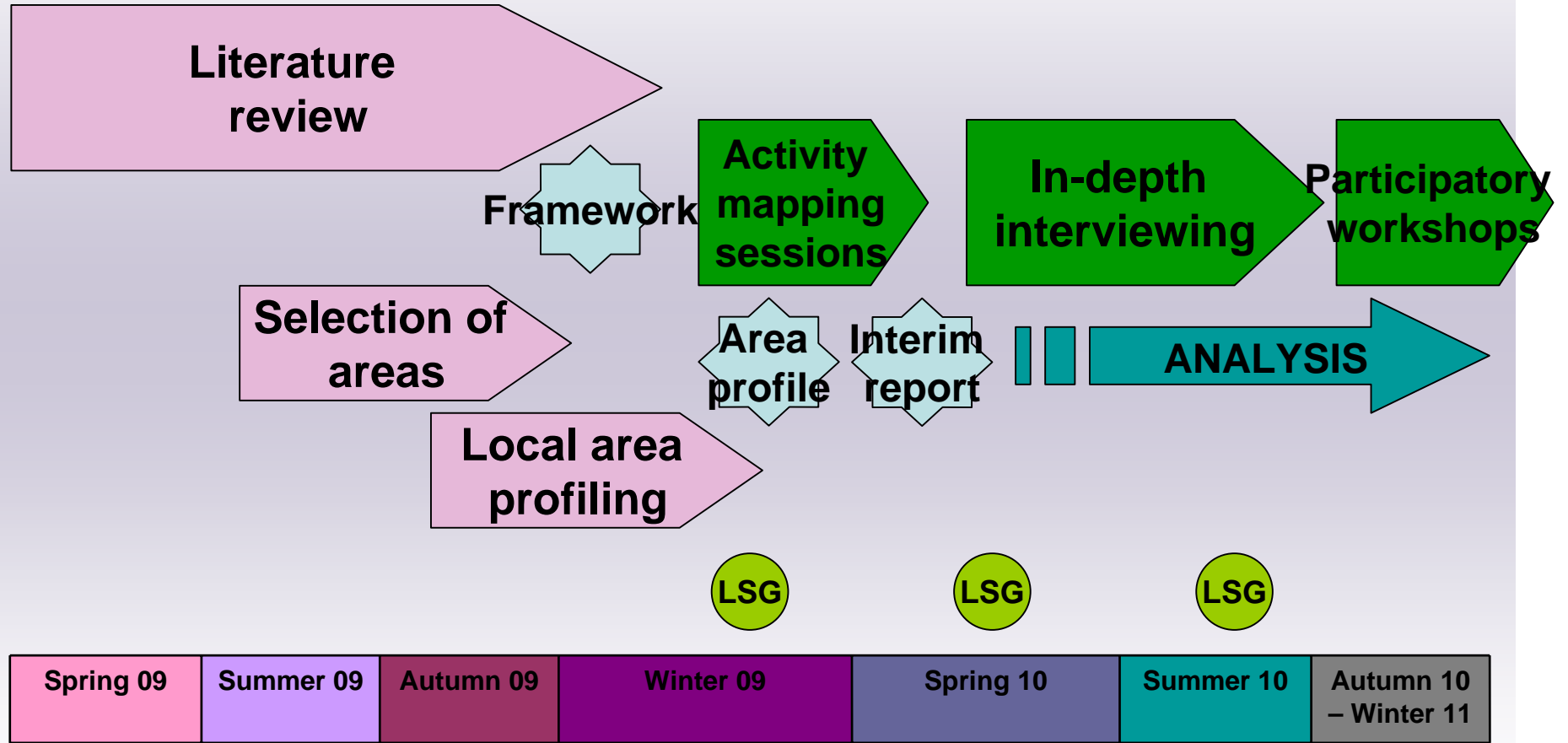
Aims to increase knowledge of, and improve opportunities for, participation

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Our research tools

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Our research approach

- **Collaborative** - 3 partners working closely together
- **Participative** - local stakeholder engagement in case study areas
- **Open and transparent** - strong communication strategy
- **Action-focused** - What? So What? Now What?
- **Reflective** - learning, evaluation and outcomes



Our initial findings

- Ten key themes
- Getting messages out
- Listening to feedback and strengthening analysis
- Next steps



Research leading to action: the key challenges

- Diversity of stakeholders with different interests
- Time-consuming and costly
- Difficulty of achieving local and national policy and practice impacts
- Difficulty of measuring and demonstrating impacts
- Moving beyond 'evidence' to 'intelligence' to guide action, reduce risk and inform better choices
- Moving beyond 'behaviour change' to 'understanding the lessons'



Conclusion: beyond the project

- Addressing knowledge gaps and avoiding duplication
- Developing projects with multiple funders
- Being realistic about what can be achieved and managing expectations
- Thinking through next steps (what needs to be done to achieve change)
- Using social media for two-way communication



To find out more:

www.pathwaysthroughparticipation.org.uk

