



LOCALISM & SOCIAL RESEARCH

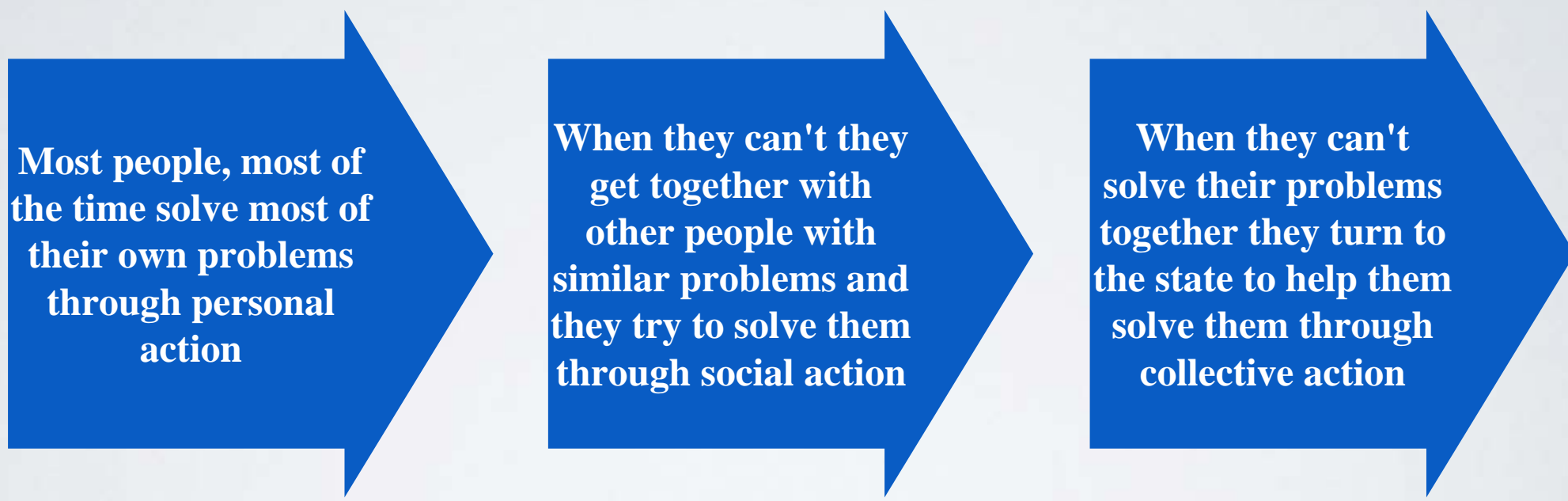
Barry Quirk, Chief Executive, LB Lewisham

**THERE'S ONLY ONE THING
YOU HAVE TO DO TODAY**



THE "NATIONALISATION" OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS?

thinking from left to right

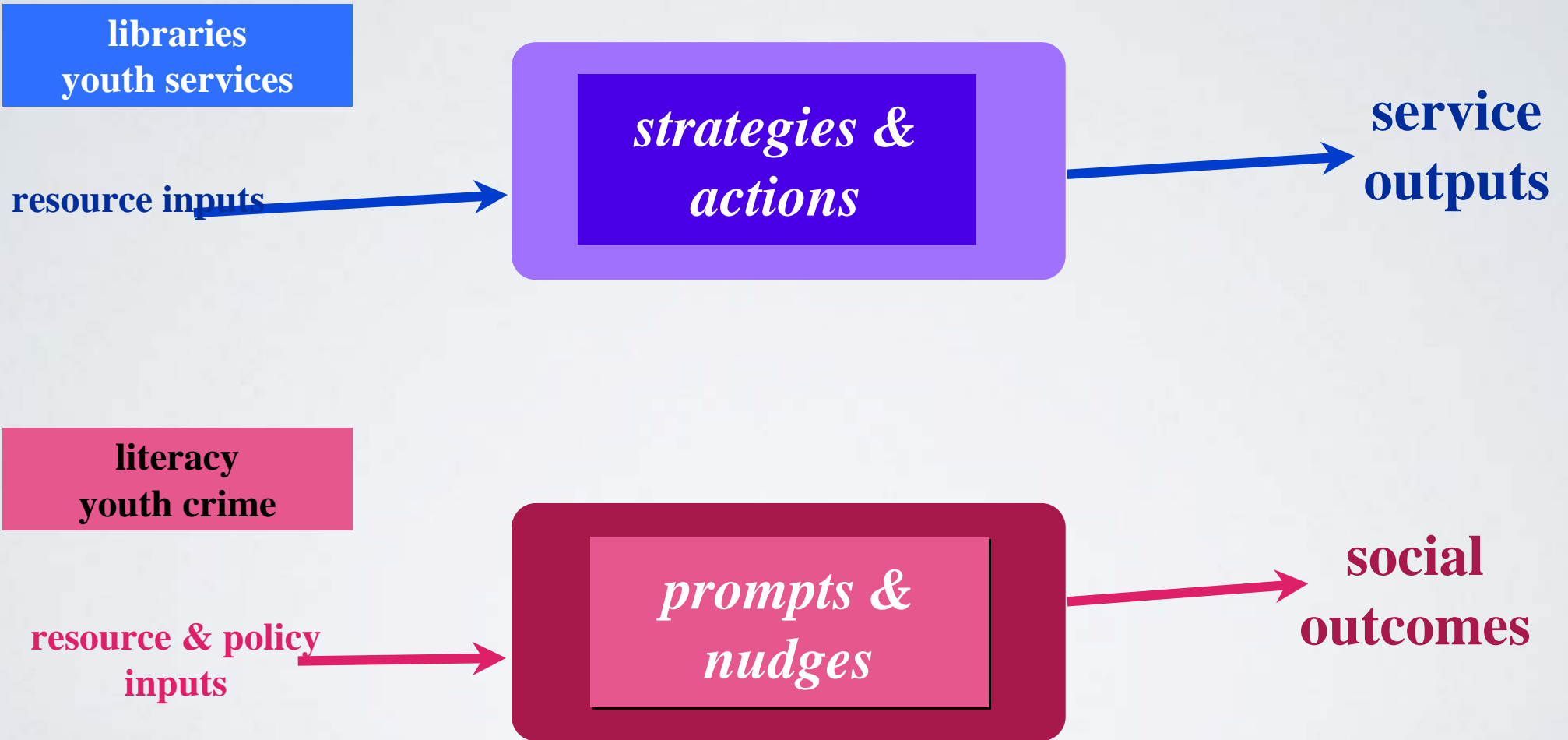


**Most people, most of
the time solve most of
their own problems
through personal
action**

**When they can't they
get together with
other people with
similar problems and
they try to solve them
through social action**

**When they can't
solve their problems
together they turn to
the state to help them
solve them through
collective action**

IMPROVING SERVICE OUTCOMES OR SOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS?



"FACTS AND FACTS ALONE ..."

Thomas Gradgrind's school of facts and measures

Concepts v "Evidence": is it better to privilege beautiful and elegant theories over solid evidence and data?

Lamp posts and illumination

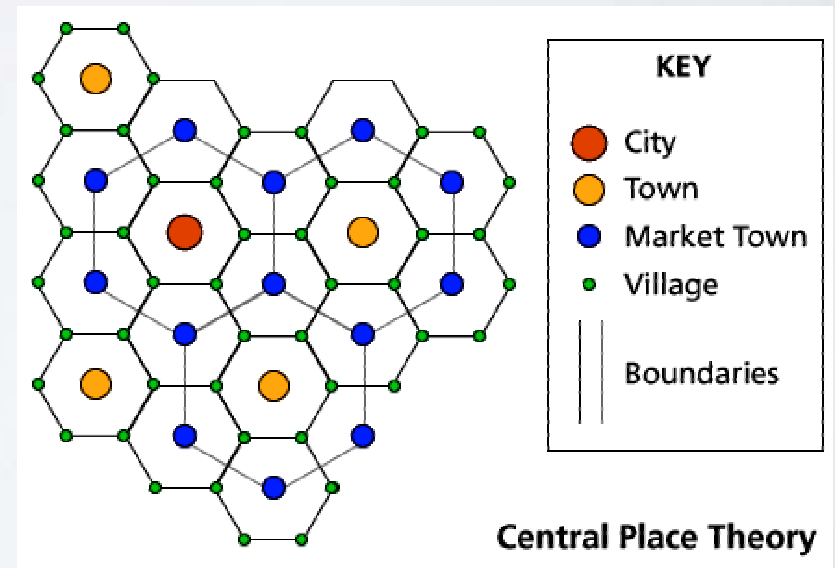
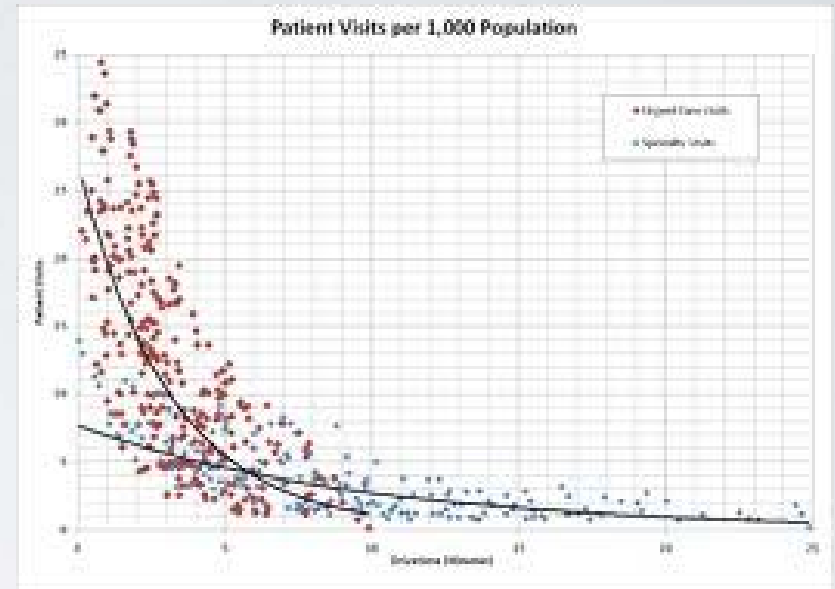
Solutions to problems require diagnostics and plausible causal models

Data mining and "informed bewilderment"



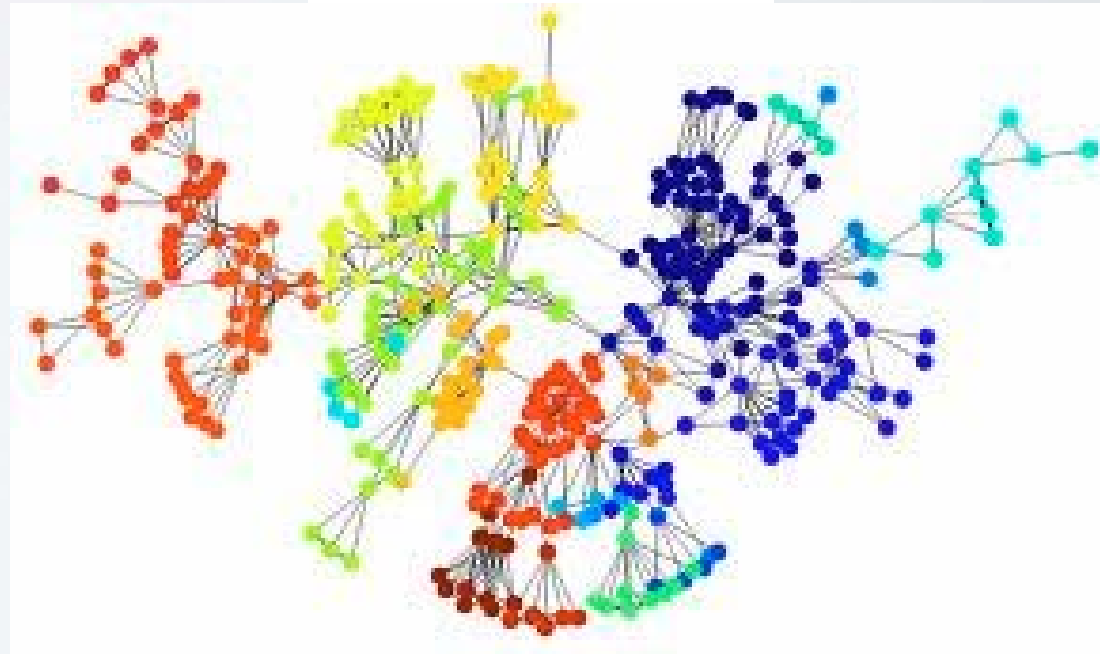
THE LAWS OF GEOGRAPHY

- distance-decay
- unevenness and irregularity
- uniqueness and uniformity (CPT)
- centre-periphery
- comparative (dis)advantage
- intervening opportunity



NETWORKS, CONNECTIVITY AND NODES

- Micro-motives and macro-behaviour
- Idealised spatially clustered networks rarely occur as "birds of a feather flock together"
- The "strength of weak ties"
- Connectivity within and across social groups creates complex networks of "distributed topology with nodes"
- Value of network is the square of the connections at the nodes



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Locality as a source of distinctive economic capabilities

Localisation of tax revenues - leakage and spillover effects

Locality as a source of identity, attachment and trust

Locality as a source of political power and resistance

Locality as a trap - "close" or "closed" communities?

Locality as a site for social disadvantage and disruption

**THE SMELL OF MY
CHILDHOOD AND THE
INTERCONNECTION
BETWEEN PEOPLE
AND PLACE?**

