



MHIN Programme evaluation

Blossom Fernandes, Amy Allard-Dunbar, Shalini Ahuja & Annette Boaz

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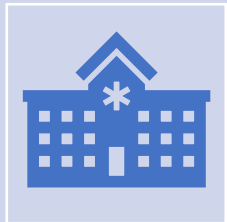
NIHR ARC National Priorities Programme: Mental Health Implementation Network (MHIN)



MHIN Evaluation Aims



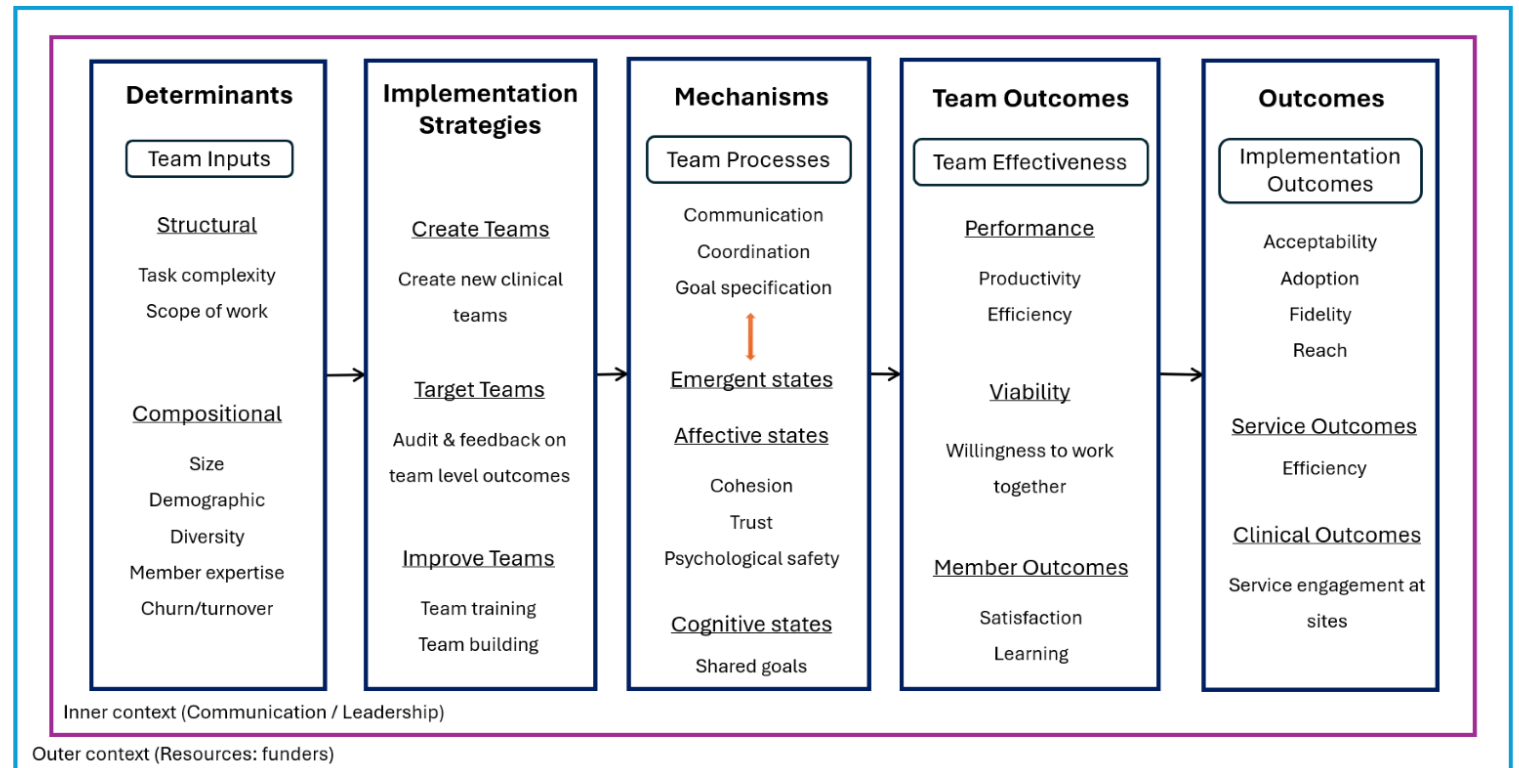
1. Conduct programme wide evaluation of MHIN—focusing on the relationship between prioritisation and implementation, support provided by network including implication for sustainability and spread.



2. Offer evaluation support to MHIN sites in the delivery of mental health interventions of MHIN.

Paper 1 - Team Effectiveness in the Context of Mental Health Implementation Network (MHIN)

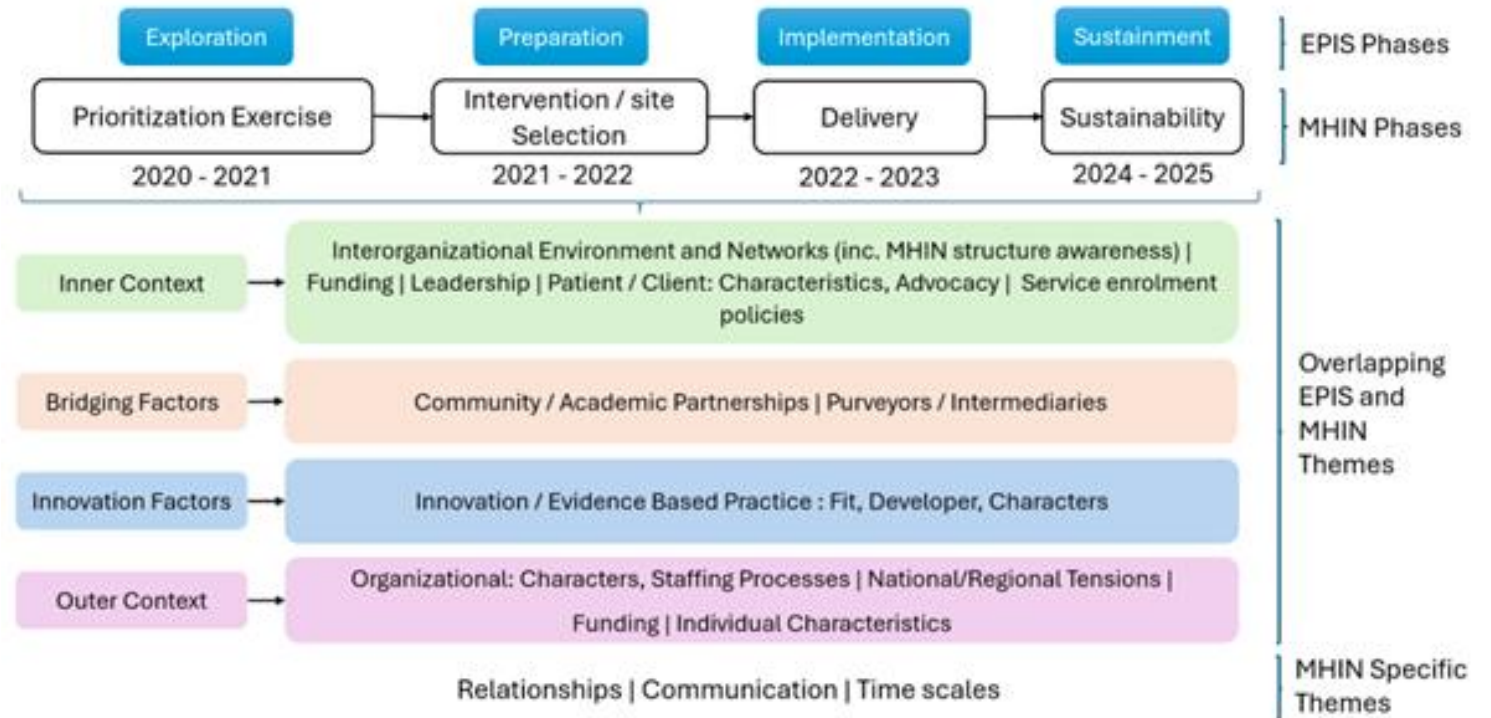
- We note that bridging factors and communication are key aspects which consistently emerge as mechanisms which underlie team effectiveness.



Fernandes et al. (In prep)

Paper 2 - Connecting and communicating: the experience of a national network designed to support the implementation of evidence-based mental health interventions in England

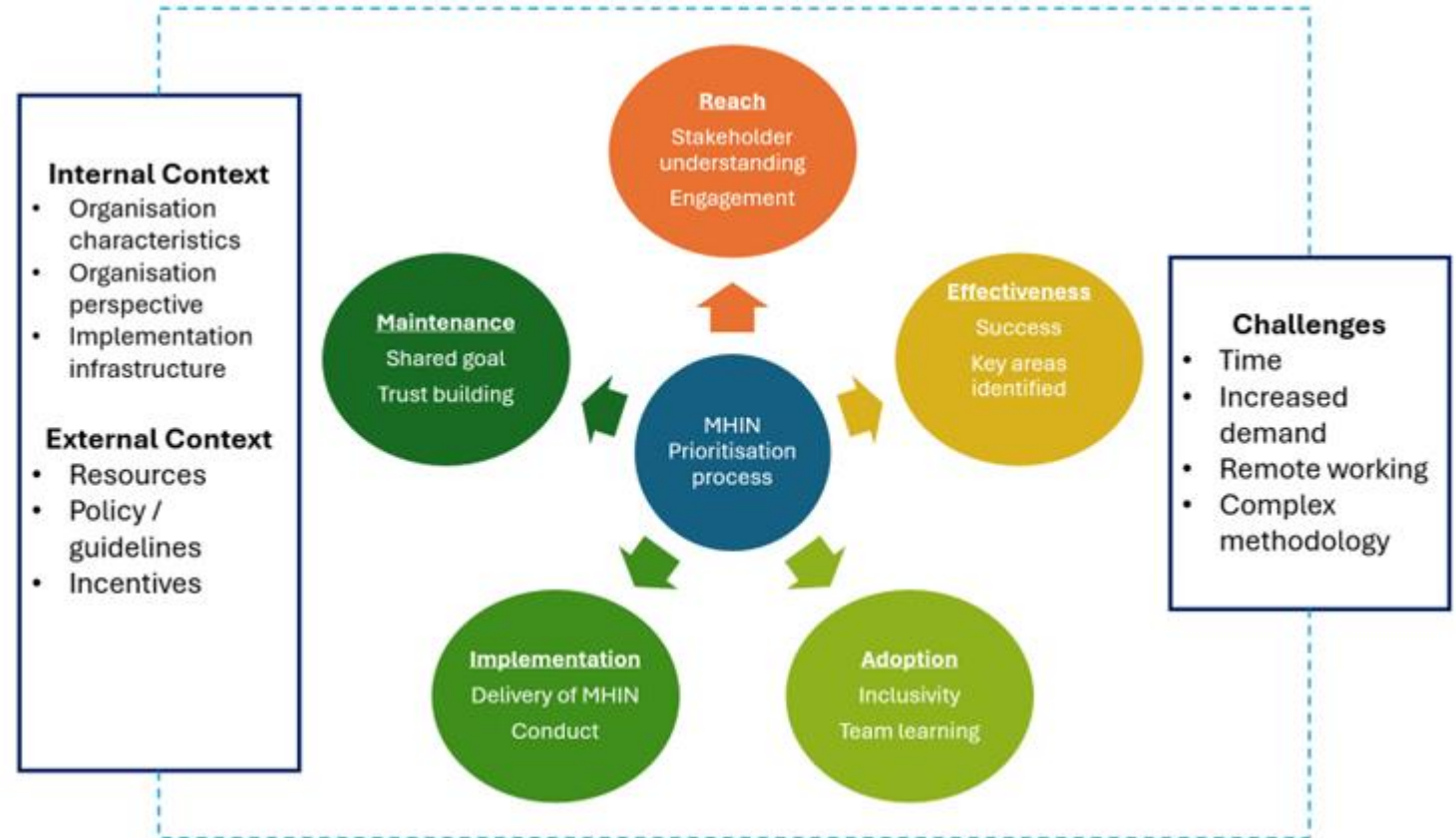
- Key themes following EPIS were identified around relationships, facilitation and communication at network level.



Fernandes et al. (*Under review*)

Paper 3 - The nature of prioritisation exercise as a setting for a Mental Health Implementation Network

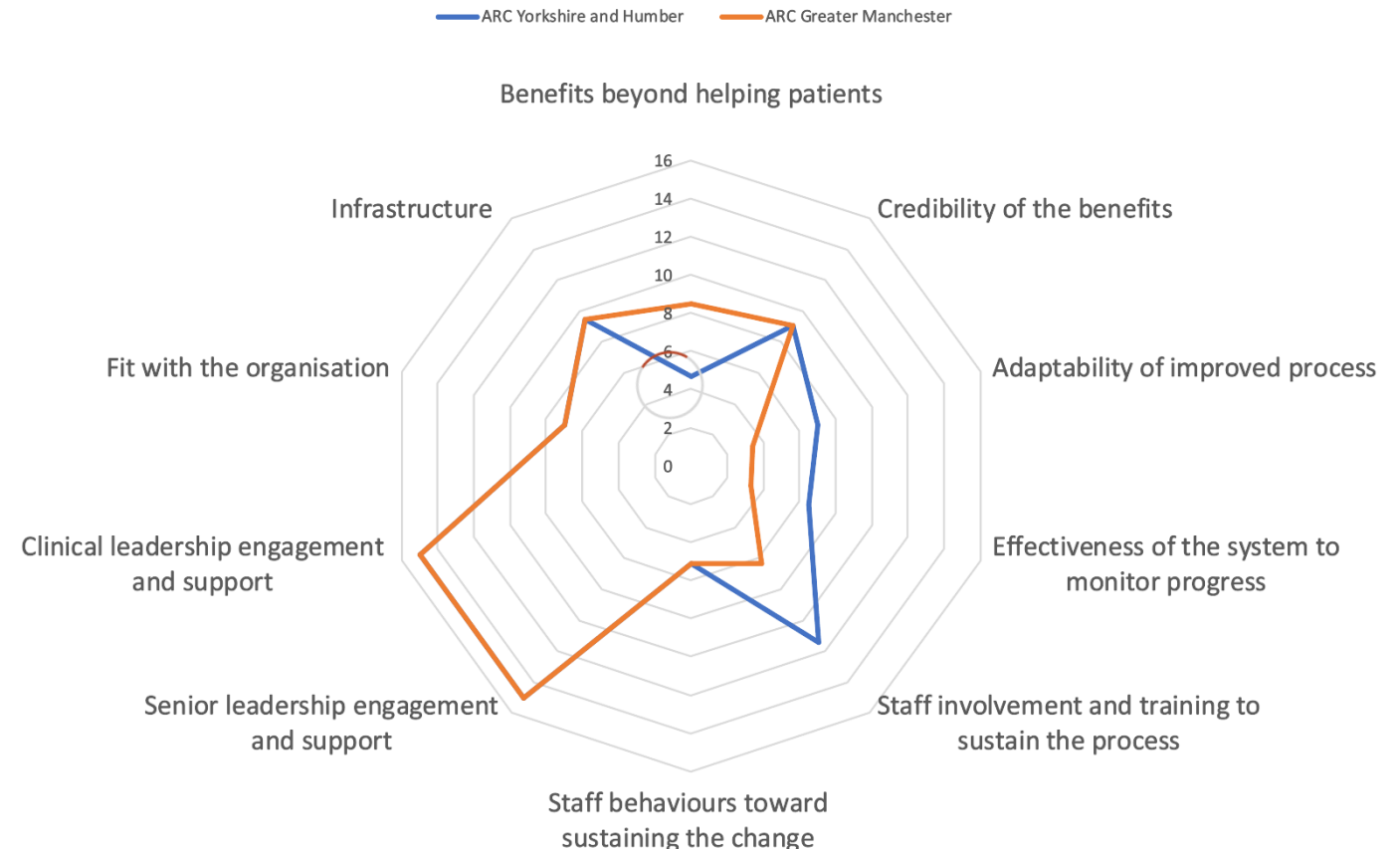
- Participants were enthusiastic about their involvement in the MHIN prioritisation exercise.
- We also note a few challenges of conducting such an exercise from stakeholder perspective.



Boaz et al. (In prep)

Paper 4 - Sustainable Mental Health Services: stakeholders' perceptions from Mental Health Implementation Network

- Here we explore the factors that influence and the mechanisms through which they impact the long-term sustainability of evidence-based mental health interventions implemented supra-regionally in England.



Ahuja et al. (In prep)

NHS sustainability model (2017)

Moving forward...

- Conferences – e.g., EIC 2025
- Teaching – Implementation Masterclass
- Journal submissions and publications



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The function of teams in supporting the delivery of a mental health inter-organisational implementation network

Blossom Fernandes^{1*}, Amy Allard-Dunbar², MHIN Consortium, Nick Sevdalis³, Shalini Ahuja², Annette Boaz⁴

¹Department of Health Services Research and Policy, Faculty of Public Health and Policy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), 15-17 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9SH
²Centre for Mental Health Policy and Evaluation, Health Services and Population Research, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (IoPPN), King's College London, London, UK
³Centre for Behaviour and Implementation Science Interventions, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore, 117577
⁴NIHR Policy Research Unit in Health and Social Care Workforce, The Policy Institute, King's College London, Virginia Woolf Building, London, UK

Email address of corresponding author: blossom.fernandes@lshtm.ac.uk

Background

The Mental Health Implementation Network (MHIN) was set up to offer support to Applied Research Collaborating (ARC) sites in offering interventions in three key priority areas of mental health:

1. Improving access to mental health services for minoritized ethnic communities
2. Children and young people's mental health
3. Integrated care protocols for substance use issues, mental and physical health

Aim

1. Map common team constructs within MHIN using Team EPIS (McGuier et al., 2023).
2. Identify barriers and facilitators of effective team working, including outcomes of effective team working.

Evaluation Design

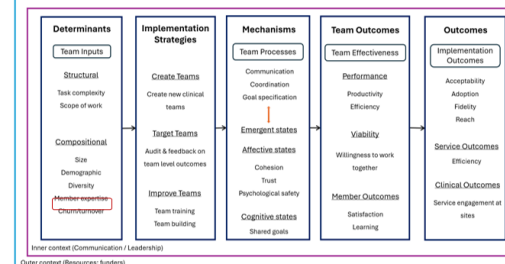
- Multistage mixed method study, involving peer researcher in the evaluation study.
- Process evaluation to understand implementation as per MRC framework (Moore et al., 2015), to complement local evaluations.

Methods

Semi structured interviews	
Conducted	50 participants (1 focus group)
Meeting Observations	
Conducted	18 hours
Document Analyses	
Unobserved Meeting Notes	28 hours (inc. workshops)
Reports	All main documents (i.e., NIHR reports)

Findings

Team constructs in MHIN



Facilitators of effective team working

- Flexible communication
- Shared goals with team
- Staff composition and expertise

Barriers of effective team working

- Time and resources required for staff
- Remote working within the network

Outcomes of effective team working

- Productivity of team
- Learning within team

Key takeaways

Communication and shared goals are important mechanisms within the implementation framework and important for MHIN.

Staff composition and skills are considered essential determinants of effective teams.

McGuier EA, Kolko DJ, Stadnick NA, Brookman-Frazee L, Wolk CB, Yuan CT, Burke CS, Aarons GA. Advancing research on teams and team effectiveness in implementation science: An application of the Exploration, Preparation, Implementation, Sustainment (EPIS) framework. *Implementation Research and Practice*. 2023 Jul 4;20334895231190555.



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