

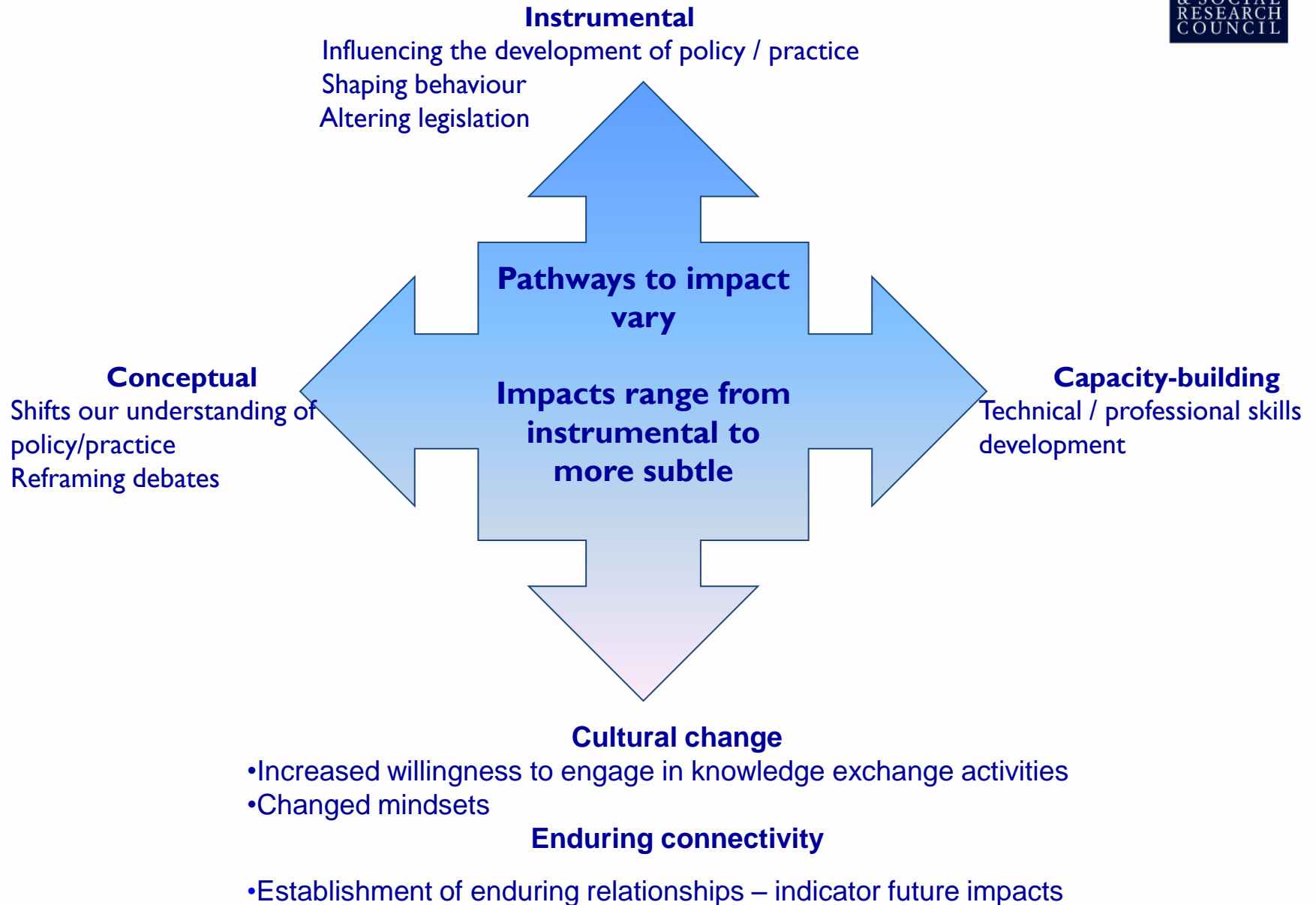
The Impact Journey

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RCUK

- Committed to **excellence with impact**: this means continuing to invest in the best research, people and infrastructure, whilst aiming to enhance the impact of that funding on society.
- Recognise that the research we fund has both **academic** and **economic and societal** impacts, i.e.
The demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy by:
 - Fostering global economic performance, and specifically the economic competitiveness of the UK
 - Increasing the effectiveness of public services and policy
 - Enhancing quality of life, health and creative output



The role of KE in ESRC

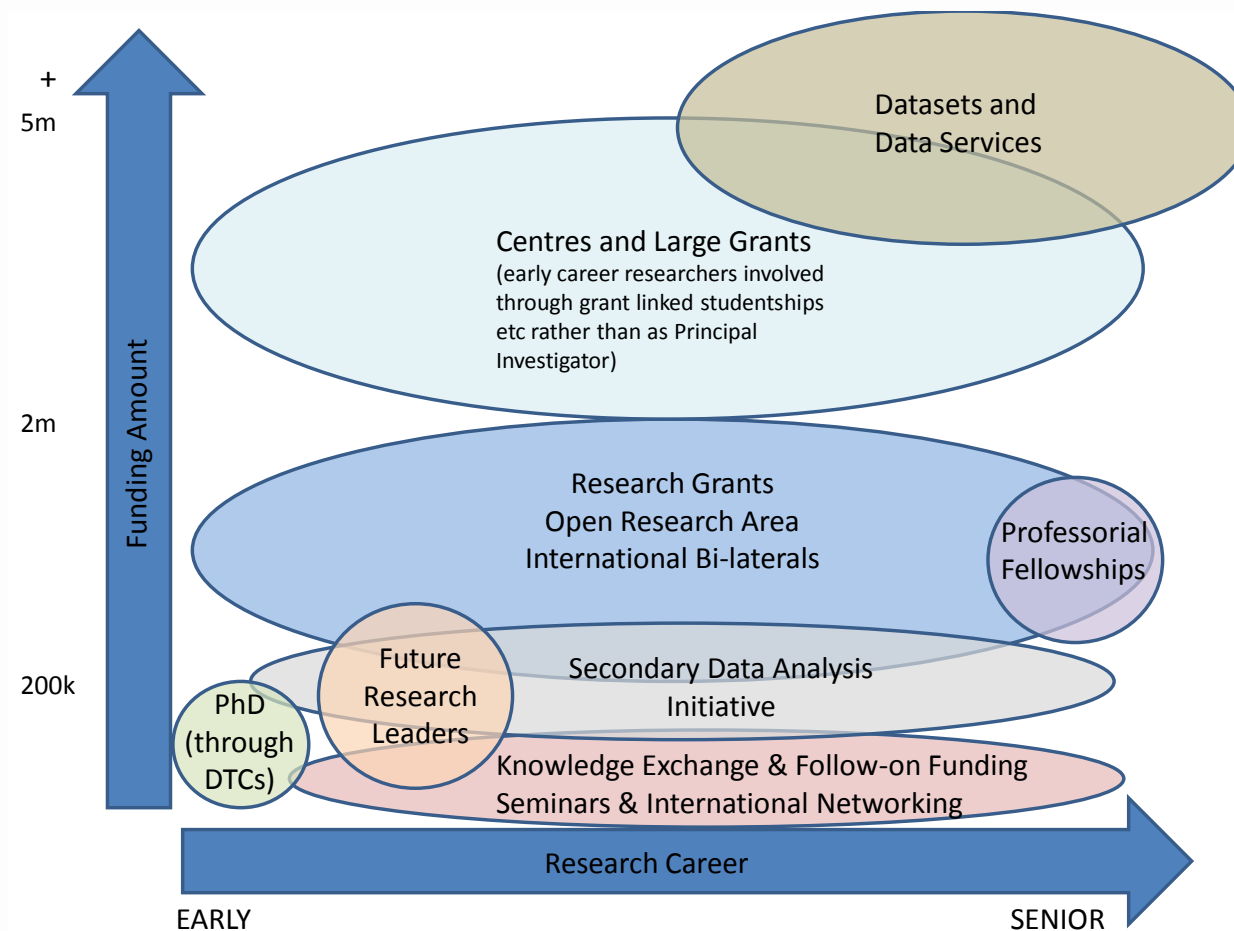
▶ Knowledge Broker:

- Connecting users with past/current portfolio
- Link to the external world – government, civil society and business
- Source of “intelligence” for the organisation
- Enabling others to achieve impact

▶ Advice and Support:

- Impact Toolkit
- <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding-and-guidance/tools-and-resources/impact-toolkit/index.aspx>
- Encourage and support good practice and share this widely

Simpler but more coherent set of opportunities



Impact through Partnerships: Government and Civil Society

- ▶ Broad range of well-developed partnership working with Whitehall Government Departments, Devolved Administrations and Local Government
- ▶ Engagement and partnership with Civil Society Organisations, for example through NCVO, Institute for Volunteering
- ▶ People exchange and seminars are effective and popular forms of engagement
- ▶ Well-represented in our portfolio of Ventures and KE Opportunities

Impact through Partnership: Business

- Public and civil society sector will continue to be important partners
- But business/private sector a priority for increased engagement - aim to increase business co-funding to 5% of external income by 2015
- Key areas: financial services, retail, 'green economy'
- Working through key intermediaries, e.g. TSB, ISBE, Knowledge Navigator
- Piloting new ways of working

To summarise

- **Impact and Knowledge Exchange remain priorities for ESRC**
- **Impact throughout the lifecycle is key**
 - Academic excellence is paramount
 - Impact agenda is not new, but has risen in prominence
 - Impact has become threaded throughout ESRC’s activities – from governance and decision-making structures, to the work that we fund, and the processes and methods we use for tracking impact
- **Embedding “impact” is important**
 - Incentives are important
 - Having the right infrastructure and toolkit helps!
- **ESRC has many opportunities for Knowledge Exchange, but are they fit for purpose, especially given changing agenda and differing needs of stakeholders?**

Thank You
Comments and questions welcome

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