

# “Partnership” More than a key word?

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# Why should we be thinking about partnership?

- Because of the types of challenges we face
- Because of the promise of mutual benefits:
  - New and better ways of working
  - Spreading of risk
  - Reduced/shared costs
  - More resources
  - Greater impact
- Because the value of research can't be realised in isolation:
  - REF – impact
  - Evidence-informed policy

# A changing philosophy

- Partnership: an agreement between two or more independent bodies to work collectively to achieve an objective



**The word 'partnership' was mentioned  
6,197 times in UK parliament in 1999,  
up from just 38 times in 1989**

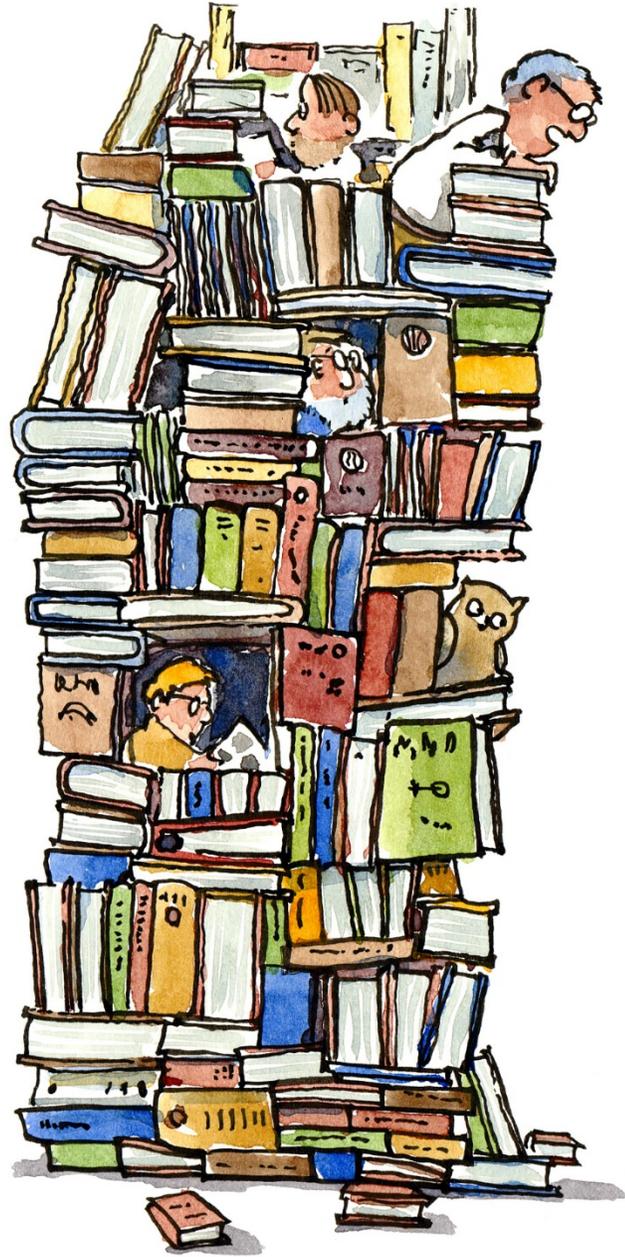
*After Jupp (2000), Demos*

# Beyond the 'thing'

- Helpful to think about partnership as a verb
- The 'doing' requires skills and personal characteristics
- This requires thought, description of expectations, and processes of learning and development
  
- Helpful also to think about the purpose (this is different from having pre-set 'outcomes')
  
- Too often we start with the structure – the 'thing'

# The GCPH

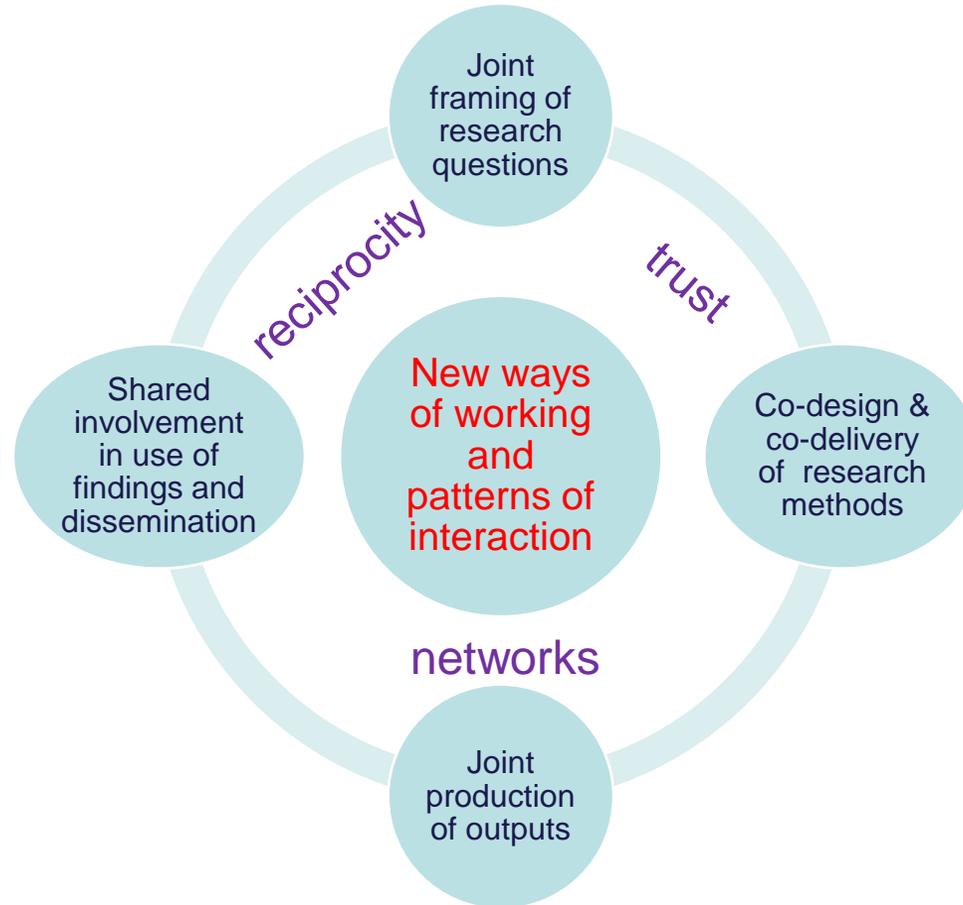
- The Centre's mission is to generate insights and evidence, support new approaches, and inform and influence action to improve the city's health and tackle inequality.
- Working with a wide range of stakeholders, the GCPH:
  - Stimulates, carries out and facilitates research
  - Provides a focus for the exchange of ideas, fresh thinking, analysis and debate
  - Supports processes of development and change



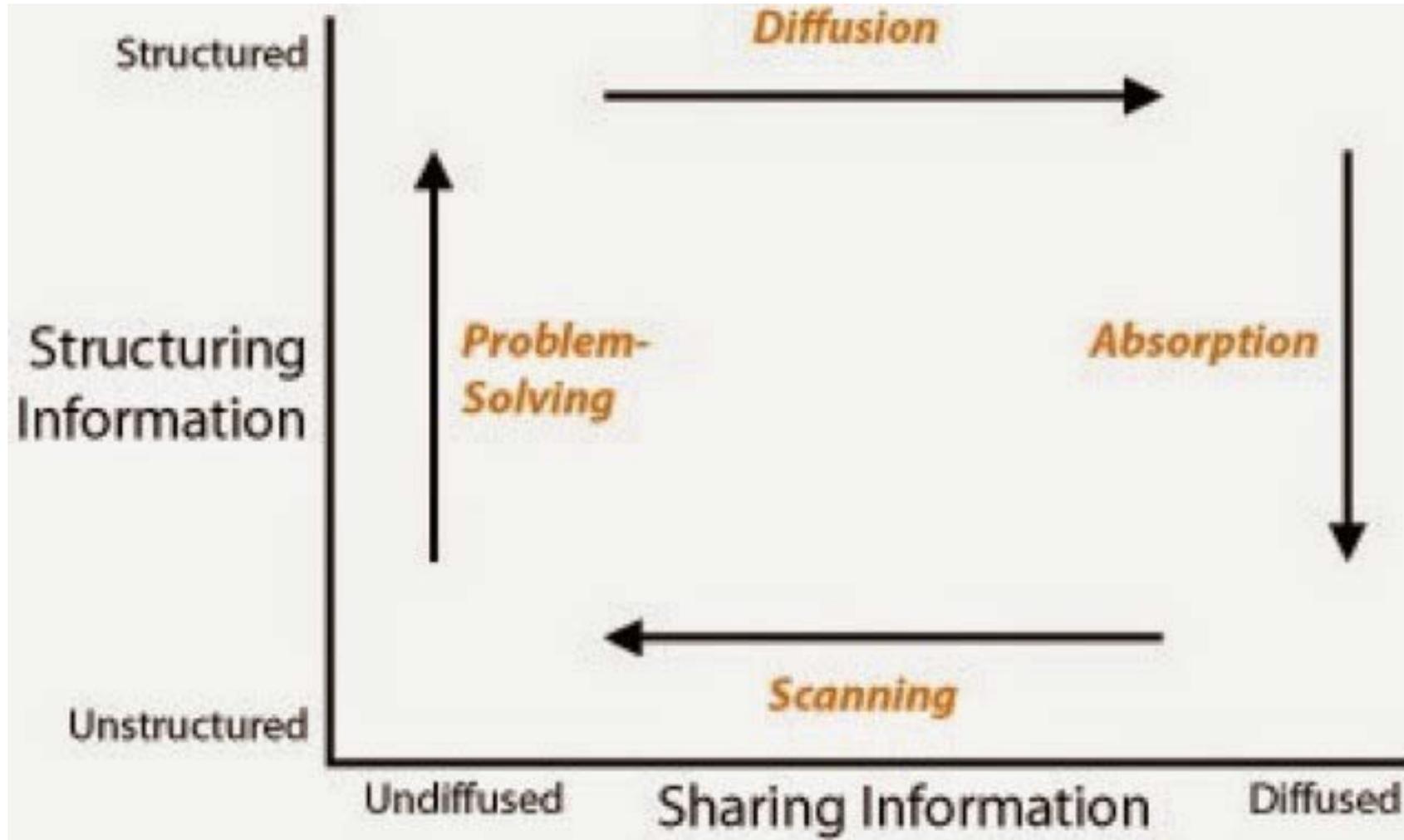
We study  
nature...  
**YOU** go  
save it!



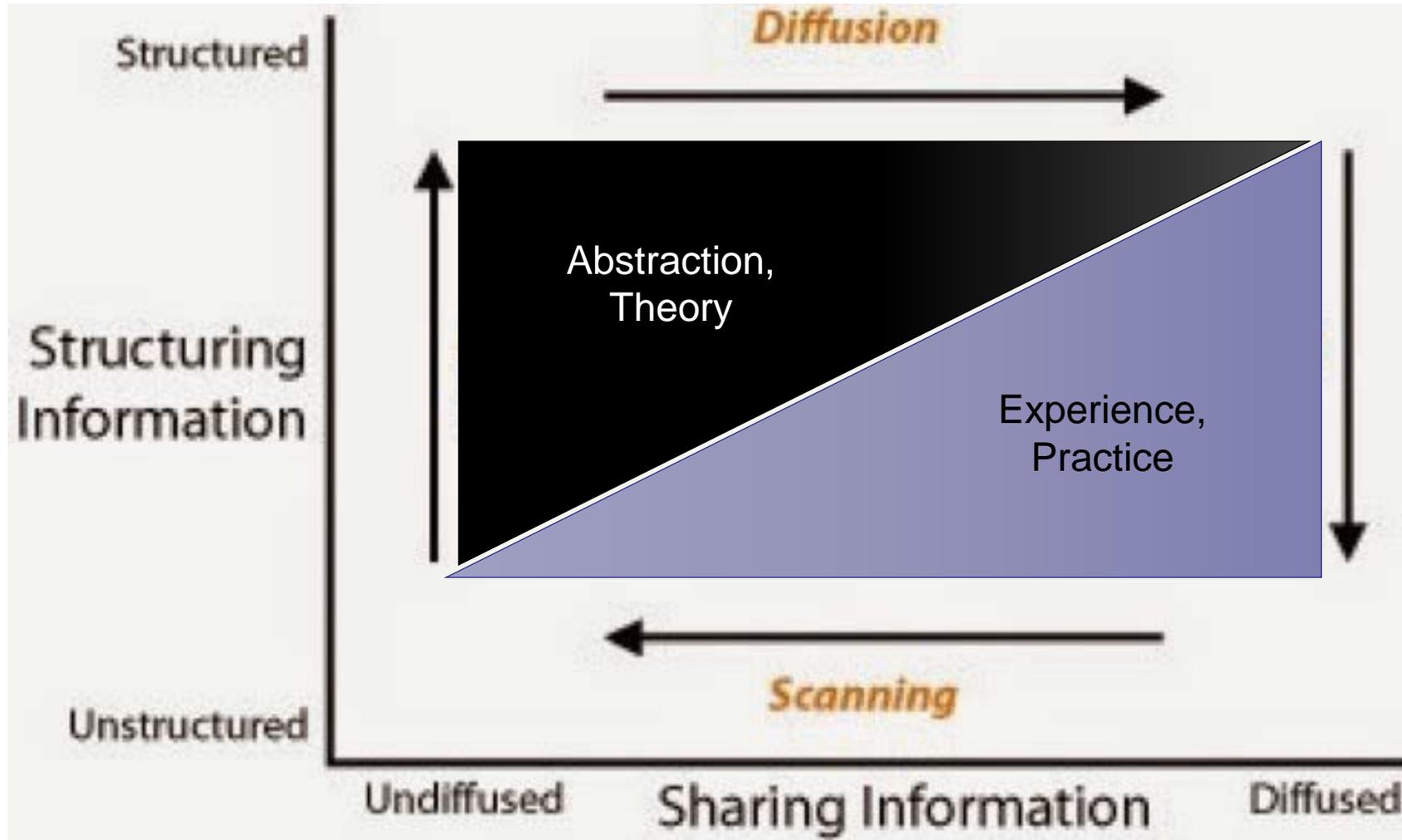
# A partnership-based approach to research



# Moving through the approaches in a learning cycle



# Moving through the approaches in a learning cycle



# Scottish Government

- Priorities of Government:
  - The economy – competitive, sustainable
  - Reforming and protecting public service
  - Tackling inequalities
- Evolving approach premised on:
  - Much higher levels of participation and co-production
  - Building on assets as well as addressing needs
  - Clarity of method, for implementation and improvement

*“I want the Government that I lead and the public services that you lead to be known for the quality of our relationships with Scotland’s communities and Geographical communities and communities of interest.”*

# Shifting the Approach: what's involved?

Government role in *facilitating and enabling* a change of approach:

- Engaging with partners and public to set strategic direction
- Taking a broader view of evidence, and managing 'intelligence' differently
- Valuing smaller, delivery strategies implemented in flexible and incremental way
- Placing implementation at the heart of policy development

# Partnership challenges and points for discussion

- Referring back to the timeline – *what partnership models & behaviours are required to achieve the shift towards greater community participation and co-production?*
- Thinking of the learning cycle, *what processes have been most helpful to you in bringing experience and practice together with abstracted knowledge?*
- Academics could make many valuable contributions – and their research impact would be enhanced by working in partnership.
  - *Are there enough opportunities for researchers, policy-makers, community organisations and services to mix and learn from each other?*
  - *What sorts of academic inputs and evidence do these stakeholders find most helpful?*

# To keep in touch and for further information

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- Twitter: @thegcph

## GoWell

- Web: [www.gowellonline.com](http://www.gowellonline.com)
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