



Developing the role of Dementia Champions in the homecare sector

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About the study

NIHR | School for Social
Care Research

- Funded by NIHR School for Social Care Research
- 18-month study
- Start date: July 2022
- End date: December 2023

Disclaimer

This presentation summarises independent research funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research School for Social Care Research. The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NIHR SSCR, the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care.

Research team

**Based in NIHR Policy Research Unit in Health & Social Care Workforce,
King's College London**



Dr Monica Leverton
Principal Investigator



Dr Kritika Samsi
Senior Research Fellow



Dr Tiffeny James
Research Associate



Christina Newton
Research Involvement Lead

Advisory groups

- Two linked advisory groups
 - Partnership group
 - Steering group
- Three online meetings
- Reviewing study documents and our approach to the study
- Advice with recruitment and dissemination

Study background

Increasing need for dementia specialist care

- ❑ ~90,000 older people living at home with dementia receive paid social care support.
- ❑ Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia 2020 anticipated a rise in the number of people living with dementia being able to live at home through

“...greater provision of innovative and high-quality dementia care provided at home, suitable to the individual needs of the person with dementia, their carers and families...”

Study background

Challenges for homecare staff

- Low pay
- Zero hours contracts
- Minimal support
- Few opportunities for progression or specialisation
- Minimal training (particularly around dementia)

High staff turnover

Challenges for people living with dementia and family carers

- Discontinuity of care
- Needs not understood

Dementia champions

A member of staff who works in health or social care, who has a special interest and experience in dementia care

Study background

Alzheimer's Society's "Dementia Friends"

- Voluntary
- Focus on raising awareness
- No focus on care provision, planning, or coordination

Models of Dementia Champions in Health and Social Care

- NHS Trusts
- WHELD study
- The University of West Scotland + Scottish Government
- International models in Sweden and Japan

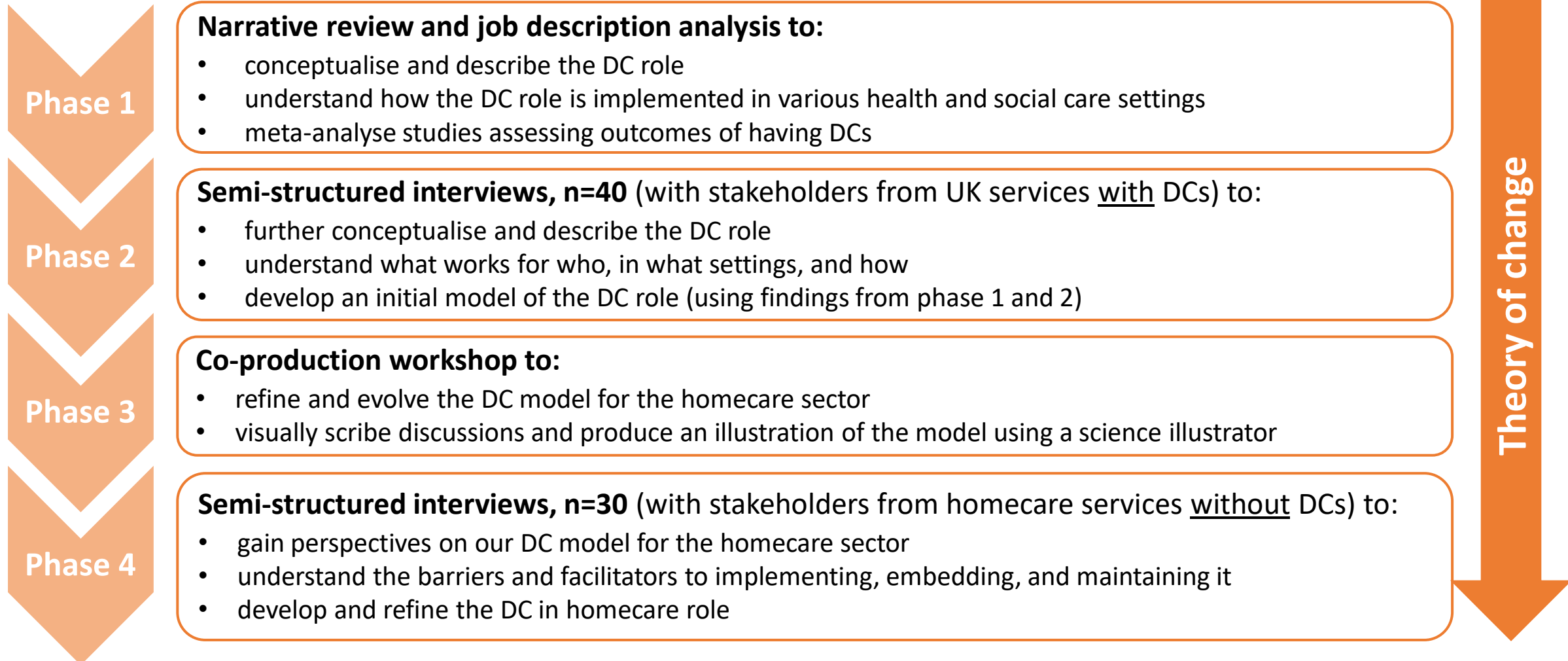
Study aim

To define, refine and evolve the role of Dementia Champions in the homecare sector

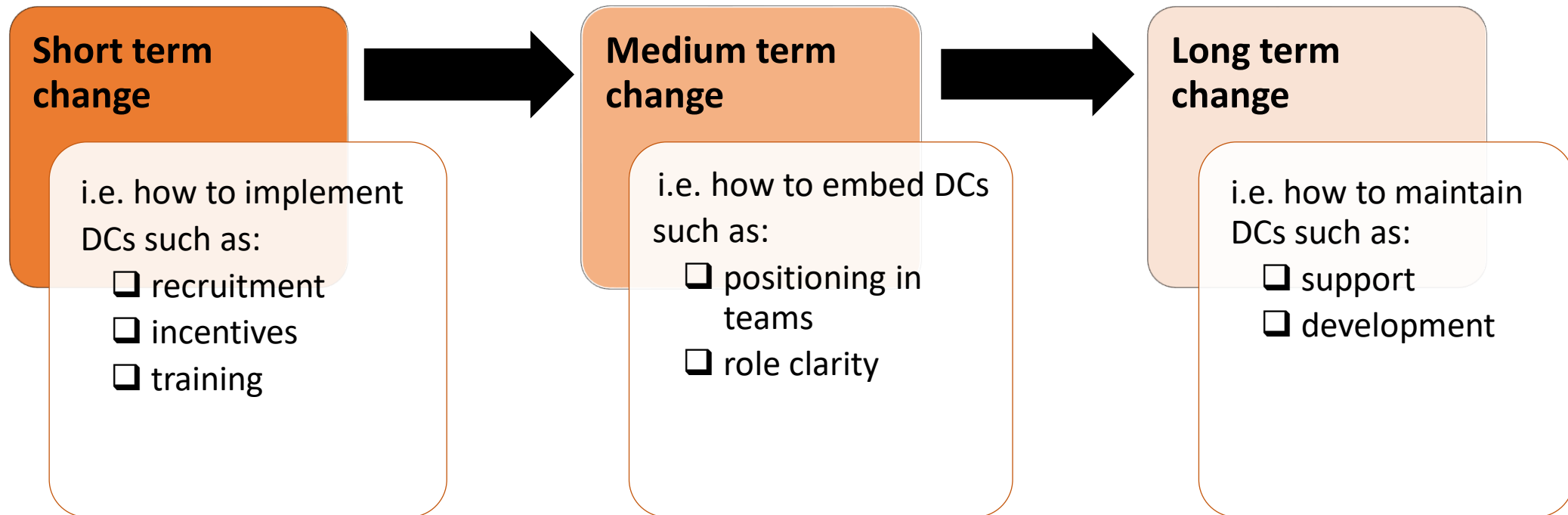
Objectives

- To conceptualise what a 'Dementia Champion' is and how the role is implemented in practice across health and social care settings.
- To identify what components of the DC role already exist in homecare.
- To co-produce a model of the DC role within the homecare sector.
- To understand how the DC role might be implemented in the homecare sector.
- To understand the strengths and limitations of the DC role in the homecare sector.

Study phases and methods



Theory of Change



Phase 1 - narrative review & job description analysis

Methods

Narrative review

Search terms: “Dementia Champion*”

Date range: 2010 - 2022

Exclude: DC in non-professional capacity
 Conference abstracts and protocols
 Not relevant to research questions

28 eligible

- 19 peer-reviewed journal articles
- 3 peer-reviewed magazine articles
- 3 newspaper articles
- 3 research programme reports

Job description analysis

Search terms: “Dementia Champion”
“Dementia Specialist”

Date range: 1st Sept – 1st Dec

Exclude: Non-specialist role

13 eligible

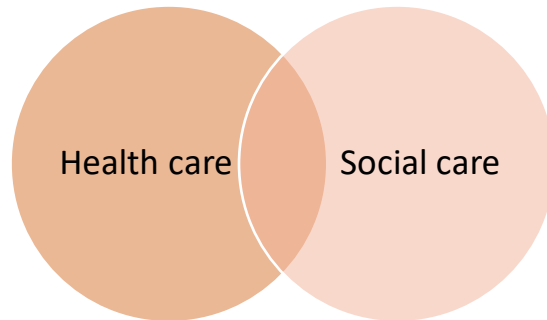
- Indeed.com (n = 11)
- LinkedIn jobs (n = 1)
- Guardian jobs (n = 0)
- Google search (n = 1)

Phase 1 - narrative review & job description analysis

Emerging findings

Settings

- Hospitals (incl. acute wards)
- Community services
- Primary care
- Mental health services



- Care homes
- Day services

- Residential care facilities

Country (review only)

- UK (England, Scotland, Wales)
- Ireland
- Australia



Tasks & Responsibilities

- Training staff
- Advisor to colleagues “dementia expert”
- Promote/model best practice
- Advocate for high standards of care
- Service evaluation
- Co-ordinate with other DCs across departments
- Support family carers
- ‘Agents of change’
- Leadership

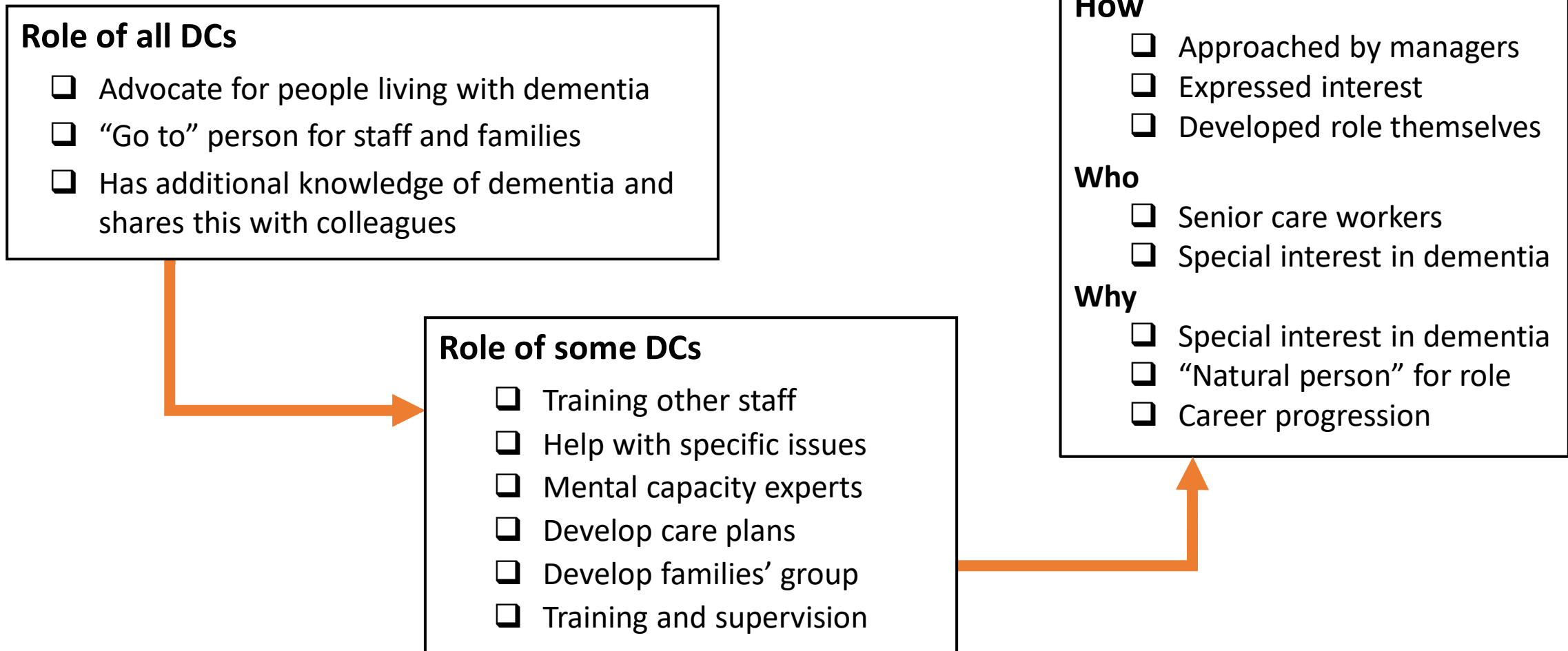
Phase 2 – qualitative interviews

Demographics (so far)

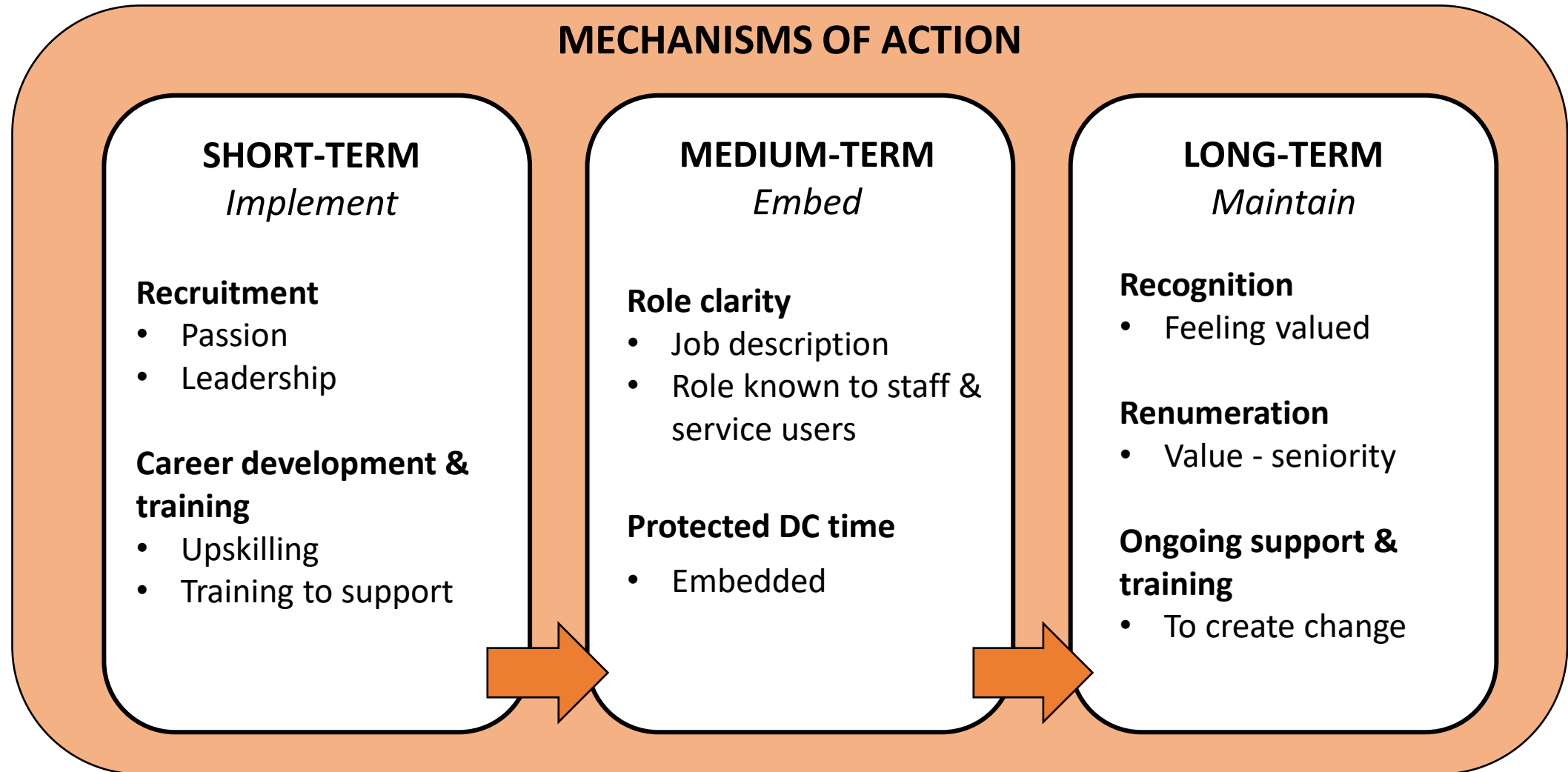
Type of staff	N (total = 25)
Dementia Champions	14
Staff who work alongside Dementia Champions	7
Third sector staff working in dementia fields	4

Sector	N (total = 25)
Healthcare	8
Social care	10
Across both	7

Phase 2 – qualitative interviews (emerging ideas)



Phase 1 & 2 combined – Emerging theory of change model



Phase 3 - Co-production Workshop – June 2023

Objectives

- To discuss how findings from Phase 1 & 2 can apply to homecare
- To develop model of Dementia Champion role for homecare sector

Methods

- Facilitated by researchers, presenting initial findings
- Collaborative discussion amongst homecare staff, people living with dementia and family carers
- Science Illustrator 'live scribing'

Outputs

- Visual scribe of workshop discussion
- Illustration of Dementia Champion in homecare role



**Phase 4
interviews**

Phase 4 – qualitative interviews in homecare

Objectives

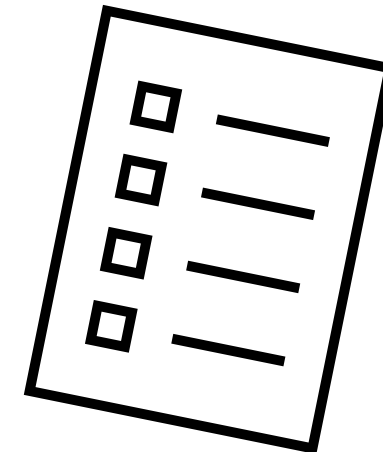
- To understand how the Dementia Champions role might be implemented in homecare

Methods

- Semi-structured interviews (n = 30) with people from home care services that **do not** have dementia champions
 - Home care workers
 - Managers
 - People living with dementia
 - Family carers

Outputs

- Refined model of DCs for homecare
- Job description to facilitate recruitment of DCs in homecare



Planned outputs & dissemination activities



Dementia Champion Illustration



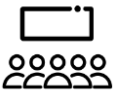
Dementia Champion job description



Peer-reviewed papers



Reports (e.g. NIHR School for Social Care Research)



National and international conferences (e.g. BSG Jul '23)



YouTube short video



Webinars



Close working with policy leads and third sector organisations

Thank you for listening

Any questions

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