

This is a self-archived version of an original article. This version may differ from the original in pagination and typographic details.

Author(s): Aaltio, Elina; Isokuortti, Nanne

Title: Developing a programme theory for the Systemic Practice Model in children's social care : Key informants' perspectives

Year: 2022

Version: Accepted version (Final draft)

Copyright: © 2021 John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

Rights: In Copyright

Rights url: <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC/1.0/?language=en>

Please cite the original version:

Aaltio, E., & Isokuortti, N. (2022). Developing a programme theory for the Systemic Practice Model in children's social care : Key informants' perspectives. *Child and Family Social Work*, 27(3), 444-453. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.12896>

Table 1. Summary of the process for generating the SPM programme theory in accordance with the SSIP (Gugiu & Rodriquez, 2007).

Phase	Research and workshop activities	Data used in this phase
1. Identifying key informants and basic information	Purposeful sampling Formulating a researcher's theory	Previous findings on SPM and RSW evaluation
2. Generating logic model elements	Workshop 1: Introducing the researchers' theory, asking participants to refine definitions and explicate justifications for including or excluding components, inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes	
	Workshop 2: Discussing the researchers' proposition of key approaches, theories and methods underpinning the SPM. Defining the concrete resources (inputs, activities, outputs) offered by the SPM and the ideal context	Notes from interview 1, RSW training
3. Modelling logic model elements with key informants	Workshop 3: Creating hypotheses of the mechanisms and causal chains	
4. Building a rational theory	Workshops 1–3 and the first stakeholder meeting: Negotiating with the key informants	
5. Developing a programme theory	Analysing the transcripts Formulating the first draft of the programme theory Workshop 4: Discussing the draft	Transcripts of workshops 1–3, interview 2
6. Prioritising logic model elements	Revision of the draft Workshop 5, second stakeholder meeting, and personal communication: Refining the revised draft	Notes from workshop 4, personal communication
7. Formulating CMO configurations	Formulating tabular and narrative CMO configurations	All data

Table 2. The intended causal chains at the practitioner level.

Practitioner level			
Resources	Context	Reasoning	Intermediate outcomes
Systemic team + Systemic training and coaching + Systemic weekly meetings providing systemic case supervision	Organisation and leaders who implement daily practices and resources to support the proper functioning of the systemic teams, e.g., ensuring reasonable caseloads and recruiting the requisite team members + A team that forms a safe space for learning	Practitioners expand their understanding of family dynamics and begin to approach problems systemically from multiple perspectives + Mutual learning and reflection + Systemic team shares responsibility which provides emotional and practical support for practitioners	Intensive systemic practice, including respectful, power-sharing and curious relationships with families + Improved work-related wellbeing + Decreased staff turnover

Table 3. Intended causal chains at the family level.

Family level			
Resource	Context	Reasoning	Intermediate and long-term outcomes
Skilful, and permanent practitioners who experience wellbeing + Systemic social work practice	The family meeting context is respectful, power-sharing, and curious + Regular and frequent meetings with the same practitioner/s	Identifying multiple perspectives + Identifying problematic interaction and communication, e.g., family patterns or scripts + Family's own motivation for change aroused	New insights and change in beliefs + Improved family dynamics + Increased safety + Improved parent/child wellbeing