

Improving access to robust evidence for health impact assessment

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Outline of workshop

- Presentation on:
 - Need for project
 - Process of development of guidelines
- Discussion on:
 - guidelines' purpose(s)
 - suggested criteria for assessing good practice
- Summary & next steps

Objectives of workshop

- To inform participants about this project
- To give participants an opportunity to:
 - reflect on and share practice and expertise
 - Inform the guidelines and the project team
- To involve as wide a constituency as possible in future consultation of draft guidelines

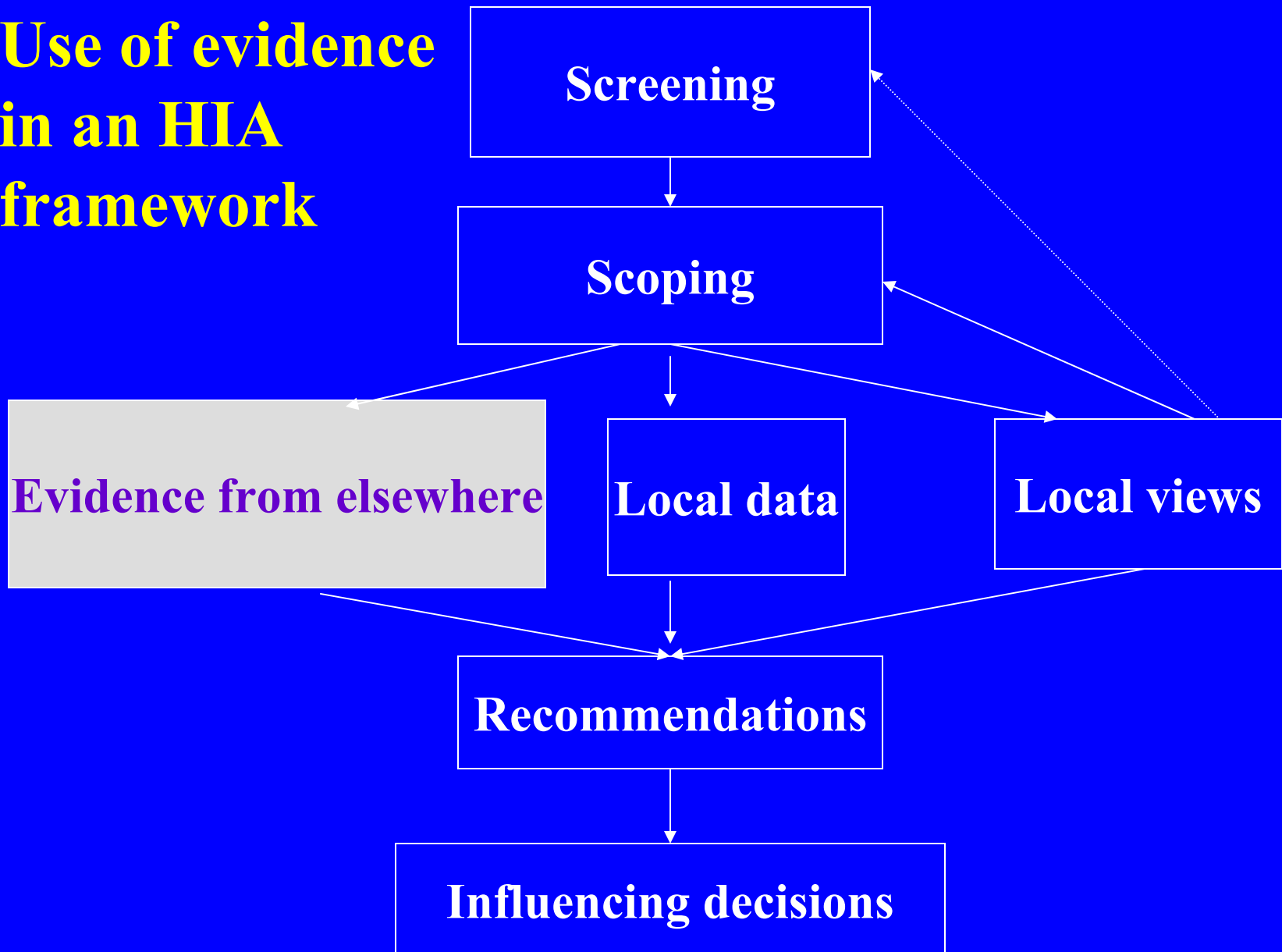
Distinctive features of prospective HIA

- focus on *complex* interventions or policy
- *diverse effects* on determinants of health;
- evidence on *reversibility* of adverse factors?
- broad *range of stakeholders* involved;
- short timescale & *limited resources*;
- pragmatic *need to inform decision-makers*;
- *diversity of the evidence*.

Diversity of the evidence

- relevant disciplines
- study designs
- quality criteria
- sources of information

Use of evidence in an HIA framework



Aim

**To increase access to good quality
reviews of evidence of use in HIA**

Objective 1

To improve the evidence base for HIA by:

- a. collating quality criteria for different types of evidence and study design
- b. developing guidelines for robust reviews of evidence for HIA
- c. piloting and evaluating the guidelines

Objective 2

To improve access to robust evidence for HIA by:

- a. peer-review of existing reviews of evidence already undertaken for HIA
- b. publishing these if quality-assured

Process for development of guidelines for comprehensive and brief reviews for use in HIA and policy development

- Advisory Group
- A modified Delphi technique
- Iterative
- Inclusive process
- Piloting
- Peer-review

Consultations on draft guidelines

- HIA practitioners:
 - members of the various HIA networks (UK & WHO Europe HIA)
 - those accessing the Health Development Agency or London Health Observatory HIA websites
- Academics from all the HIA centres in the UK
- Experts on synthesising evidence eg:
 - Cochrane and Campbell Collaborations
 - ESRC Network for Evidence Based Policy and Practice
 - EPPI-Centre at the Institute of Education
 - Centre for Reviews & Dissemination, York

Format and presentation of guidelines

- 10 semi-structured interviews with HIA practitioners from Birmingham, Cambridge and London areas
- Purposive sample included different:
 - types of organisations (LA, PCT, regional PH)
 - levels of experience with HIA
 - expertise in reviewing evidence
 - likely use of guidelines (commissioning, conducting, or appraising reviews)

Outputs

- Guidelines for
 - commissioning,
 - conducting, or
 - appraisingcomprehensive & brief reviews of evidence for use in HIA
- Publication of quality-assured existing reviews on websites

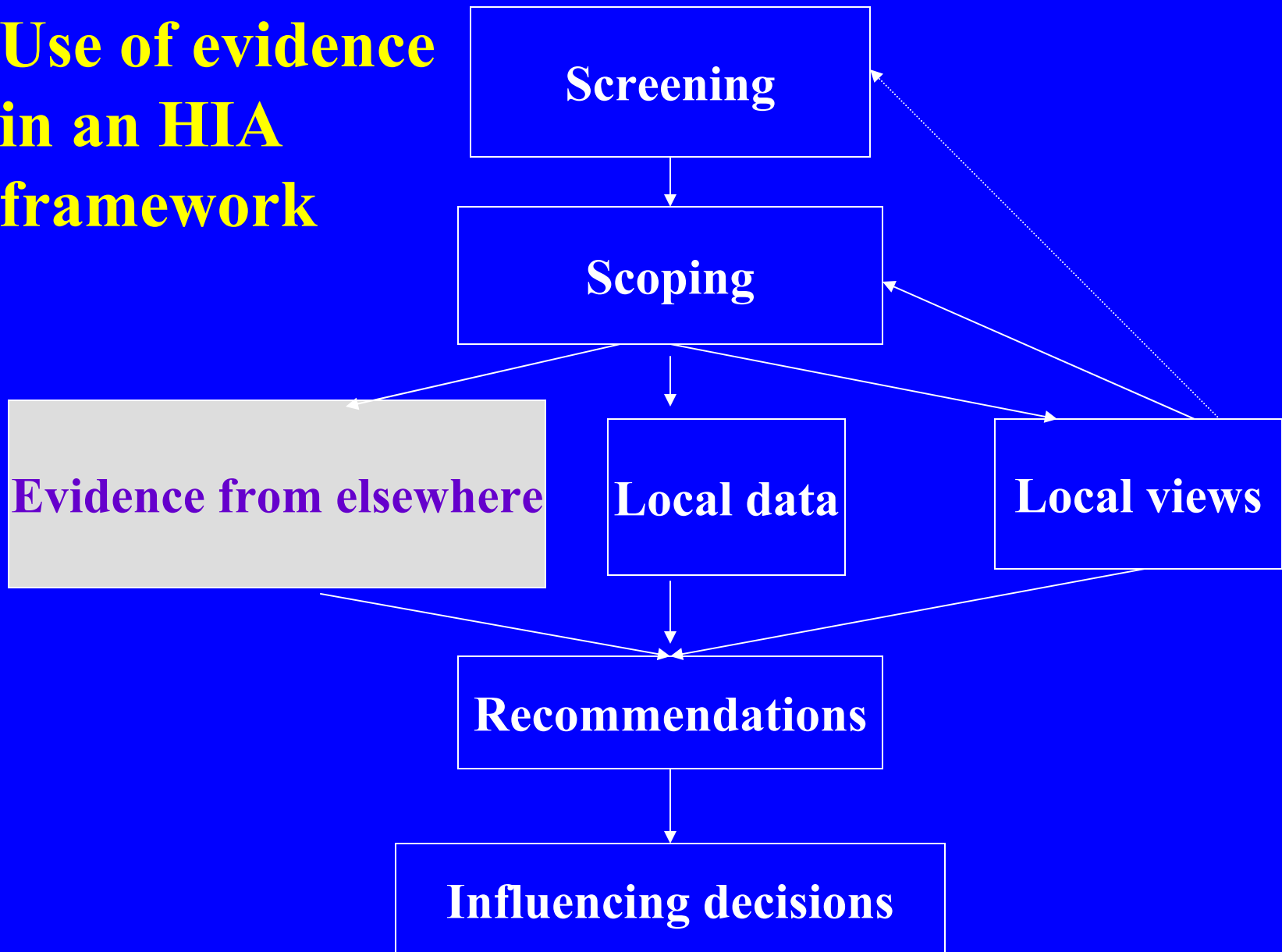
Results of qualitative study

Steering group

- Dr J Biddulph, University College London
- Ms A Boaz, Queen Mary University of London
- Ms A Boltong, London Health Observatory
- Prof S Curtis, Queen Mary University of London
- Dr M Joffe, Imperial College London
- Dr K Lock, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- Ms C McGuire, Department of Health
- Dr J Mindell, London Health Observatory
- Ms L Taylor, Health Development Agency

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Use of evidence in an HIA framework



Purposes of guidelines

- For use when:
 - Commissioning reviews;
 - Reviewing evidence; or
 - Appraising others' reviews
- Would guidance be useful for all these?
- Do they need to be distinct outputs?

Types of reviews

Comprehensive

1. Systematic
2. Transparent
3. Good methodological criteria
4. Relevant
 - eg Literature search; Assessment of studies; Synthesis of evidence

Brief

- same criteria but different thresholds

Your future involvement

- Individual comments on draft guidelines
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- Further information (eventually):
www.lho.org.uk