

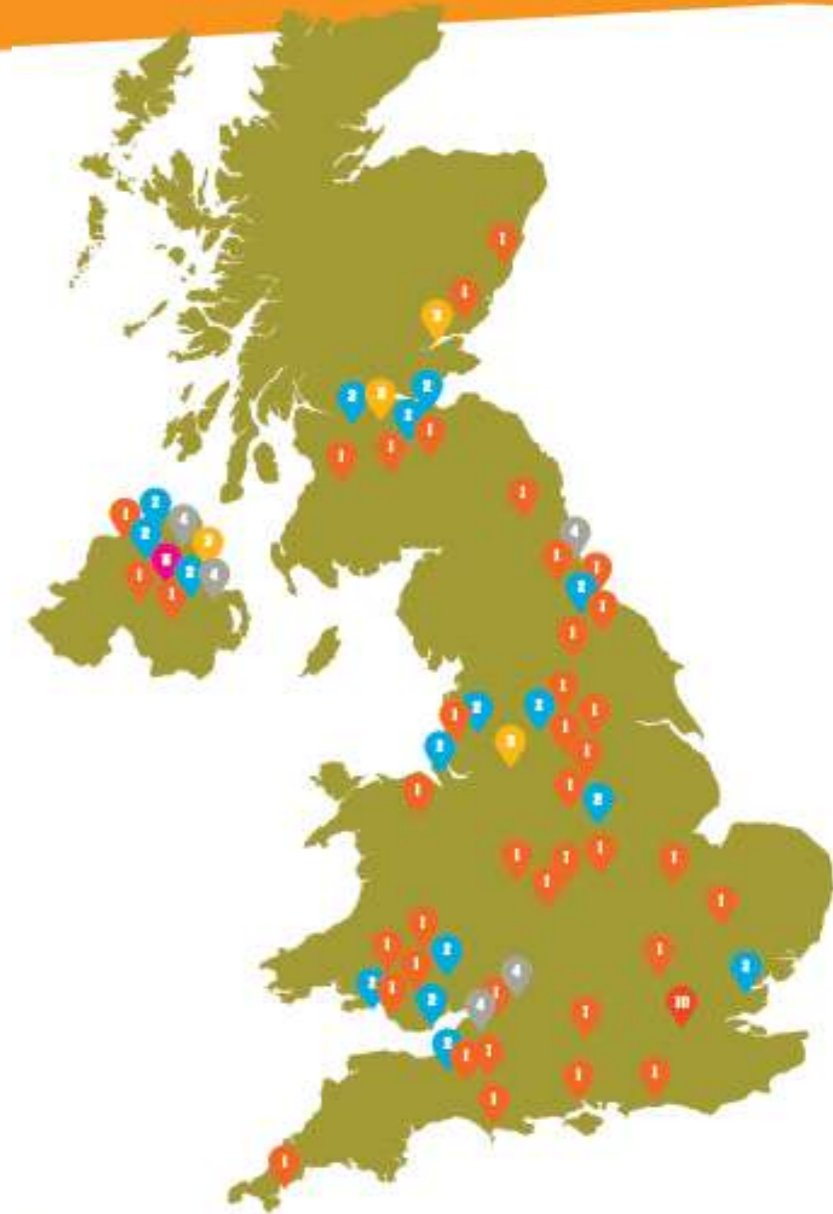


realising  
ambition

# Realising Ambition: Our learning so far

# About Realising Ambition

- £25m Big Lottery funded programme
- 22 organisations; 25 projects across UK
- **YMCA, Scotland**
- Diverse portfolio: school-based, therapeutic



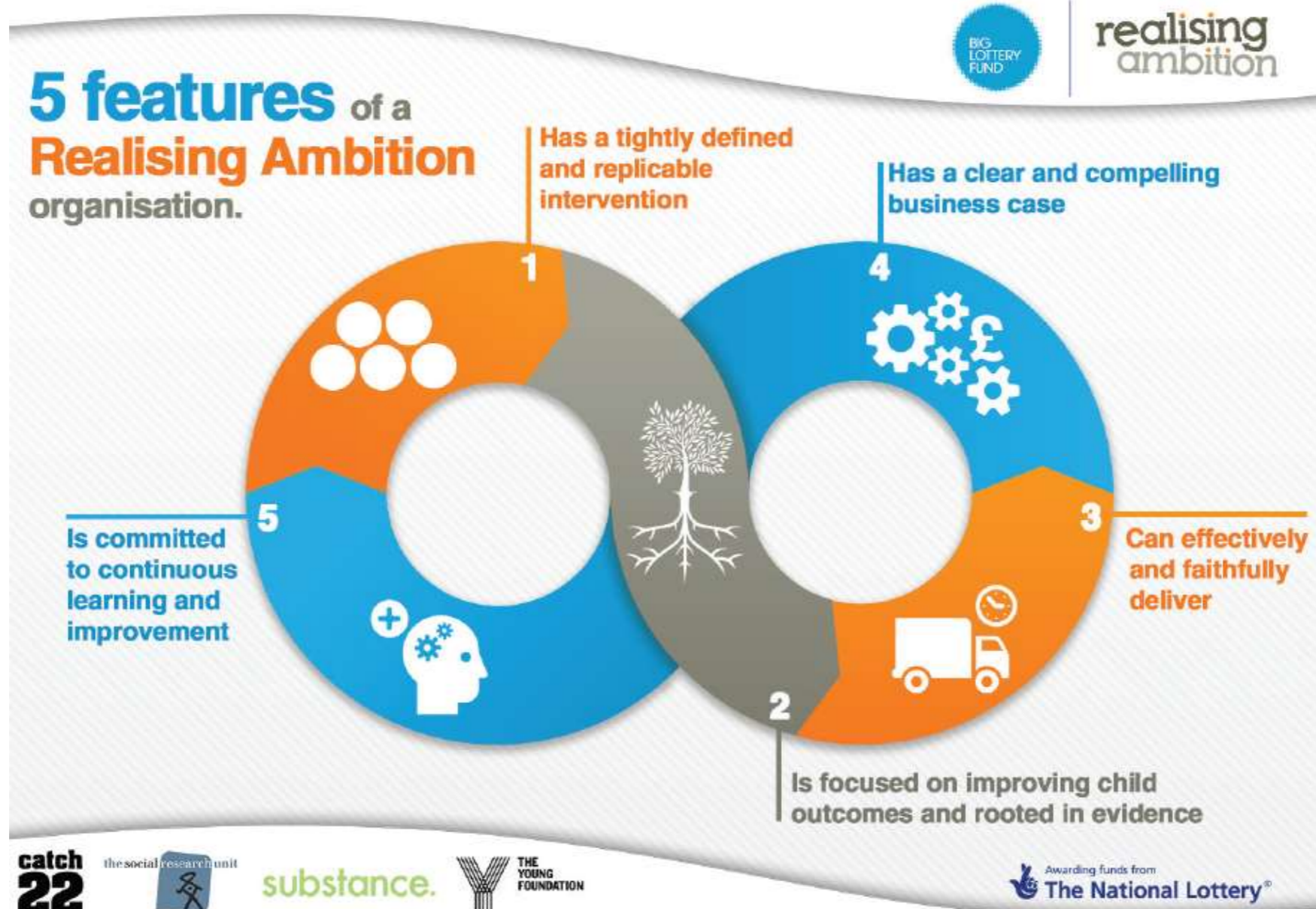
# Programme aims



1. Improve the evidence base of what works for whom and why in avoiding pathways into offending
2. Promote learning about what it takes to replicate evidence-based interventions
3. Help commissioners to ask the right questions about evidence, practice and impact



# What we're learning



# A tightly defined intervention

- Being clear about the core parts of model (shouldn't change) and the surface parts (can and should!)
- Co-production key
- Anne Frank Trust: example of the balance between fidelity and adaptation.

**Take away point:** Adaptation of programmes to fit with local context is key.





# Monitoring and evaluating



- Evidence gathering requires monitoring and evaluation processes
- Reporting requirements must be clear
- Building an evidence base in a proportionate way

**Take away point:** Be clear about what you want to know, and how you want to know it.

# Learning and reflecting from evidence

- Realising Ambition organisations are supported to reflect on practice

*“I would say this has been a real organisational journey, Realising Ambition has helped pave the way to meet the needs of the evolving climate of the commissioning landscape – ensuring a commission-ready charity!”*

Rachel Preen, SWITCH project lead, Winston’s Wish

**Take away point:** Combining funding with support can help maximise a programme’s outcomes.

# Children's Parliament Initiative in Glasgow

## 1. Direct engagement

Kellie's teacher: 'I see a complete change in you'  
Kellie: 'I know, it's since Children's Parliament; they taught me that what I do affects other people'

## 2. Adult training + workshop programme

Head Teacher: 'I used to have Kellie sent to me 3 or 4 times a day. I haven't seen her once since her week with Children's Parliament.'

Kellie's Mum: 'I was scared to pick up the phone when I saw it was the school but I'm glad I did. I'm really proud of her.'

Relationship based programme using a Rights Based Approach through meaningful participation and engagement

Naming feelings

Encouraging conversation and conflict resolution

Equality



# Children's Parliament Initiative in Glasgow

## **Learning:**

### Strengths of Realising Ambition:

- Support and credibility

### Challenges:

- Replication and role of gatekeepers
- National targets v financial climate
- Evidencing changes in interpersonal relationships and perceptions

# YMCA Scotland

- Working with 420 vulnerable young people
- A sustainable franchise arrangement
- Volunteers giving 7000 mentoring hours
- 51% - 3-4 risks                      21% - 5-7 risks
- Level of need 0-32  
Starting average: 19.9      finishing average: 10.4
- 86% significant change in behaviour and attitude
- Overall evaluation score by young people is 4.6 / 5



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# YMCA Scotland

## Learning:

- We can turn the vast majority of vulnerable young people away from statutory intervention!
- The youth work approach is the key
- Logic models significantly increase the impact and measurement of youth work
- Look what we can achieve with 5 years funding

# Summary

- Adaptation of programmes to fit with local context is key.
- Be clear about what you want to know, and how you want to know it.
- Combining funding with support can help maximise a programme's outcomes.
- Encourage improved design/preparation to reap greater impact later on.



# How to find out more

 **Website:** [www.catch-22.org.uk/Realising-Ambition](http://www.catch-22.org.uk/Realising-Ambition)

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