The Role of Embedded Research in Co-producing Public Health Knowledge in Non-clinical Settings to Bridge the Gap Between Research Evidence and Its Implementation in Public Health Practice
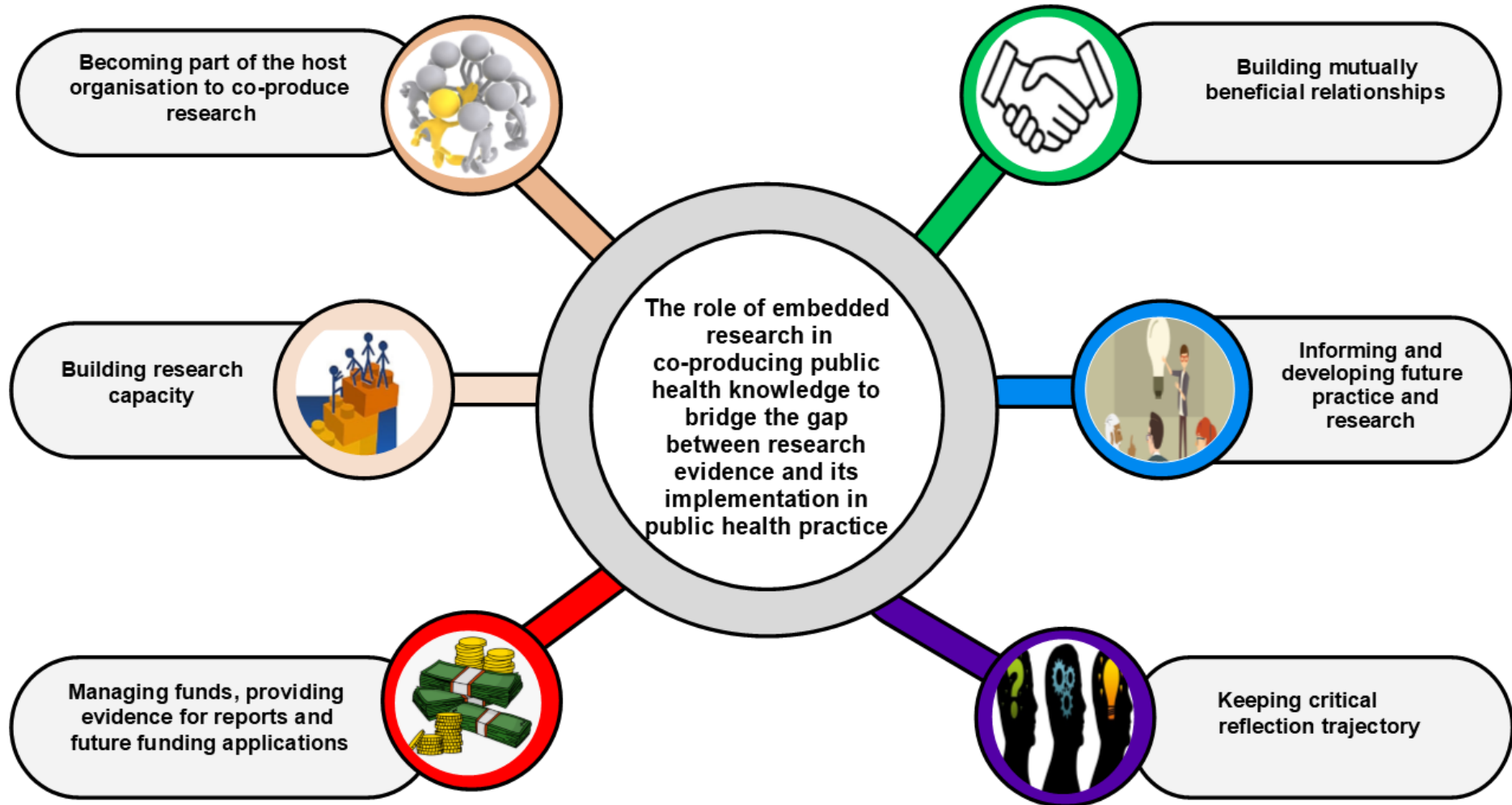
Embedded Research Role Toolkit

The embedded research role toolkit below was developed from the evidence from a systematic review and a qualitative fieldwork regarding the role of embedded research in co-producing public health knowledge in non-clinical settings. To cross-check the relevance of the toolkit in practice, public health practitioners and embedded researchers were asked to provide feedback on the embedded research role toolkit. The feedback was used to modify the toolkit. The toolkit provides the role of embedded research as well as how each role could be delivered in practice to bridge the gap between research evidence and its implementation in public health practice. The researcher can be contacted by email @ a.akintola@tees.ac.uk. Thank you so much for your interest in this research.

The expected outcomes are:

1) That public health practitioners in non-healthcare settings use the toolkit as a guide to improve service and delivery.
2) That more public health practitioners and academics would be informed of the potential of embedded research in bridging the gap between research evidence and its implementation in practice.
3) That more organisations and more researchers would consider adopting an embedded research approach.
4) That the toolkit would serve as a guide for public health practitioners on job specifications when recruiting embedded researchers.

Embedded Research Role Toolkit

Becoming part of the host organisation to co-produce research

Building mutually beneficial relationships

Building research capacity

The role of embedded research in co-producing public health knowledge to bridge the gap between research evidence and its implementation in public health practice

Informing and developing future practice and research

Managing funds, providing evidence for reports and future funding applications

Keeping critical reflection trajectory

The Embedded Research Role Toolkit Version 1.0

1. Building mutually beneficial relationships
- Maintaining regular contacts with the stakeholders, and the academic supervisor
- Connecting practitioners, academics, and other stakeholders for collaborative work
- Attending formal meetings with practitioners
- Engaging in informal conversations with the practitioners and other stakeholders
- Being friendly and approachable to the practitioners and other stakeholders
- Building mutual trust

2. Becoming part of the host organisation to co-produce research
- Having an affiliation with an academic institution and a host organisation
- Working with the host organisation's staff to conduct relevant research
- Spending time in the host organisation to understand the context of the host organisation
- Providing the opportunity for stakeholders to participate in research activities
- Working closely with the host organisation's staff to combine the tacit knowledge of the practitioners with the explicit knowledge from research.
- Managing diverse expectations
- Balancing competing interests of the academic institution and the host organisation

3. Building research capacity
- Providing research training and support to practitioners and other stakeholders
- Ensuring high quality research and bringing research skills, while learning new skills in the host organisation
- Building stakeholders' confidence to conduct research
- Assisting stakeholders and the host organisation to build their career/reputation/morale by their involvement in research

4. Informing and developing future practice and research
- Writing and presenting reports unambiguously
- Spending time on evaluation work
- Making recommendations and positive changes to proffer solution to the host organisation's challenges
- Assisting in identifying the needs/challenges facing the host organisation.
- Assisting in identifying future research areas
- Assisting in publishing research findings
- Assisting in searching for relevant research evidence
- Assisting in translating/implementing research evidence to practice
- Circulation of relevant opportunities such as information regarding research conferences, and seminars

5. Managing funds, providing evidence for reports and future funding application
- Supervising research funds
- Providing reports for future funding
- Providing advice on proposals, and funding applications

6. Keeping critical reflection trajectory
- Constant reflection to evaluate the role of embedded research in the host organisation

Glossary of Terms

Embedded research: is a research conducted by an individual who has a dual affiliation with a host organisation and an academic institution with the aim of carrying out research agenda while maintaining mutually beneficial relationships.

Collaboration: the act of working with an individual/s to produce something.

Stakeholders: is a group of people that has an interest in an organisation and can either influence or be affected by the activities of the organisation.

Dual affiliation: is the act of associating with two different organisations.