



# From competition to collaboration: the interface between informal and formal care

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Eurocarers

Universities of Strathclyde and Dundee

Scottish Universities Insight Institute

# Why, who was involved and what we did



Image from Swedish colleagues

- Knowledge Exchange
- Promote collaboration between formal and informal carers – (not forgetting supported people) – in face of financial/societal pressures
- 7 countries – Finland, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Slovenia (also Sweden) and Eurocarers
- 4 EU partners representing different financial models
- 4 workshops prioritizing different perspectives = Researchers, informal carers, formal carers, policymakers
- Further diversity of voices amongst Scottish stakeholders
- (DEEP methodology –safe spaces – every voice valued. even policy!)
- Magic and tragic moments

# Where we are now: Avoiding rabbit holes – partly

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- Inadequacy of language of care and caring – invisibility and value attached. Cultural nuances yes, but broadly we can say viewed as niche but in fact part of life (reflected EU care strategy) (also care outcome)
- Finding a balance between identifying similarities/differences between countries – implementation
- **RBP central** – can relationships be embedded in policy - creating conditions not standards - but tracking challenge?
- Avoid inclusion of every issue associated with caring - Need to keep focus on interface – but more than one interface!!



# Key learning 1 – methodology

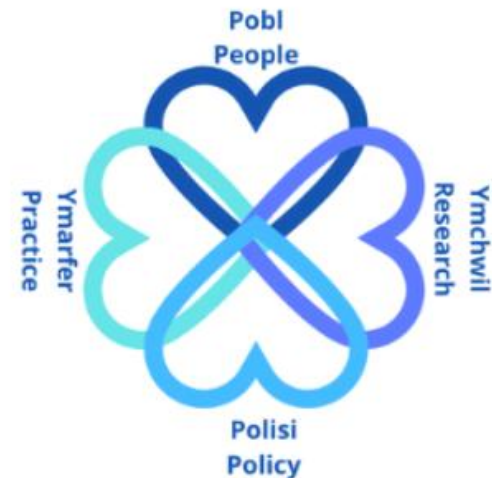
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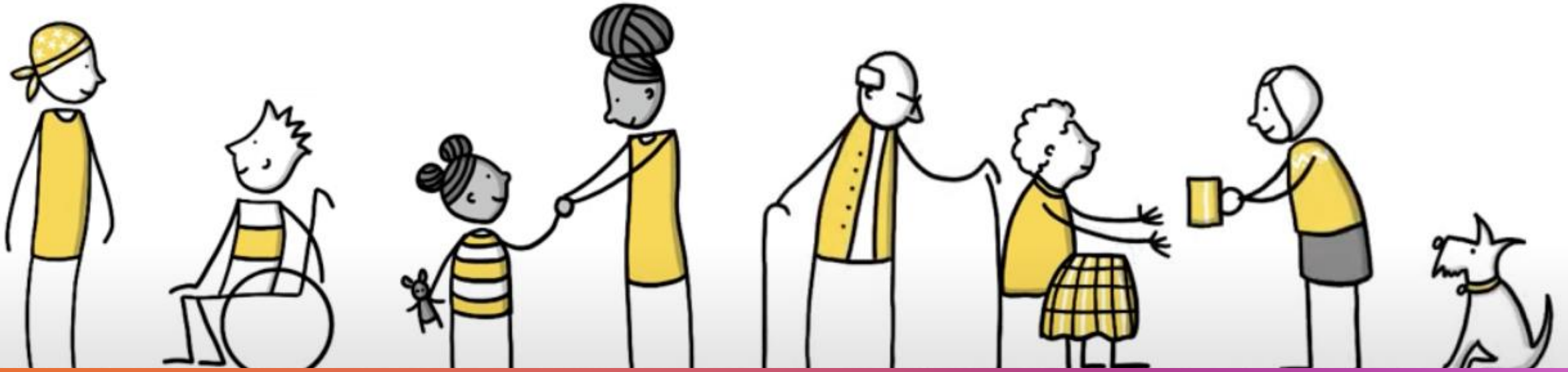
- Story and dialogue create change and support (consistent) implementation
- “Creating conditions”, “finding a middle ground” (Stecy’s story)
- Shifts in thinking evident – methods required to open mindsets – everyone brings something to the table (DEEP)
- Care and caring undervalued whether informal or formal
- Informal carer organisations shifting towards formal carers

*Before I joined in October they were separate themes in my head. We have different teams working on them. Even in that short time I now see them as part of the same picture. At Welsh government level too they are two separate pieces of work currently. I can see the synergies now and want to build on that (LA service manager, Wales)*

- Interest in policy perspectives - facing same pressures – lack of staff, feelings of powerlessness and having to repeat messages to influence change
- I have never been in a room with so many professionals who are so enthusiastic about their work – it’s lovely to see

## Developing evidence Enriched Practice - DEEP





## What next / resources

- Take account of EU care strategy
- Produce practical resource for different audiences – emphasis on jazz musicians
- Practice, principles and pointers for discussion
- Clearer questions for future research on this topic
- Suggestion to find funding for a carer support planning KE project

<https://www.scottishinsight.ac.uk/Programmes/ScotlandinEurope/CollaborationinCare.aspx>