

EXISTING SOLUTIONS

Solutions



Existing solutions

Before you start brainstorming ideas, it's a good idea to see if other organisations have implemented a solution to a similar problem. This will help you understand what worked and what didn't, as well as help you design solutions using a contemporary, best practice approach.

Solutions

The purpose of this phase is to develop and agree on solutions to your identified problems. Solutions are generated, designed, prioritised and then tested with key stakeholders, to make sure they are effective.

Key points

1. Conduct a literature scan

Conducting a literature scan is a good starting point for generating solution ideas. Firstly, make sure you begin with a clear understanding of what you are looking for. Then review published research in journals, articles or newsletters to highlight other approaches to similar questions. The Innovation Exchange website is a great resource to discover other projects and their associated solution ideas.

2. Benchmark your service

Benchmarking compares the performance of your organisation or department against similar services so you can determine areas for improvement, set goals and learn from the success of well performing services. You can source benchmarking data from relevant websites (e.g. BHI, ACI, Health Roundtable) or visit and speak directly with relevant organisations.

3. Build trust through quality

Being able to refer to your research and literature scan is a useful way to underpin the quality of your solution development. This is also helpful in gaining the trust and support of your stakeholder group and builds credibility for your project

4. Present the information

Information that is easily accessible is paramount for stakeholder engagement. Formal reports may not always be the best approach. Good visual tools, such as a process map linking each step with the relevant literature or a summary table providing a high-level overview of literature scan outcomes, may be preferable.

Considerations and tips

Ensure there is a solid foundation and evidence base to create robust solutions that will garner stakeholder buy-in. Start by covering the following points

Like for like

When reviewing benchmarking data, it is important to compare similar things. Look at comparable time periods, service types, population sizes, locations, etc. to accurately compare your performance with your peers.

Benchmarks

It is good idea to focus on what other teams are doing well and how you can learn from them, rather than how you can achieve exactly the same results.

Quality

Consider the quality of the information or data you have collected. Just like any other research, ensure the source is reputable, current and relevant.

Involve stakeholders

Even if you have identified some possible solutions, it is always good practice to problem solve with your stakeholders to gather their input and ideas.

Literature Scan Summary

Literature Scan Summary	Article 1	Article 2	Article 3
Overview research article			
Key message			
Background			
Data collection			
Key findings			

Finding existing solutions



Further information

[My Health Learning Log in Form](#) – Redesign Solution Design (202465315): Introduction to Solution Design

Innovation Exchange, Agency for Clinical Innovation – www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/ie

Clinical Excellence Commission – www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/about/about-cec

NHS Improvement Hub – <https://improvement.nhs.uk/improvement-hub/>

Next steps

Once you understand the solutions that currently exist, it is time to start considering one or more solutions to address your issue. Next, think about ways to work with your team to brainstorm and identify which solutions will help you to achieve your project objectives