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Research matters

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Dr Eric Fletcher

ASTO 2019 Conference

University of Cumbria

Newcastle University

CfLaT
Research Centre for Learning and Teaching

Overview

- OYT North: Social Impact Study – lessons learned so far
- Using the ASTO Theory of Change – activity
- Practitioners as Researchers – an opportunity

Social Impact Study

Lessons learned so far:

- Planning
- Funding
- Maintaining relationships with crews
  - under 18s and adults-at-risk
  - Schools and youth organisations
- Research design
  - Methodology
  - Participants
  - Ethics
- Reporting

ASTO Theory of Change

Aim: to consider how you might apply this to your own practice:

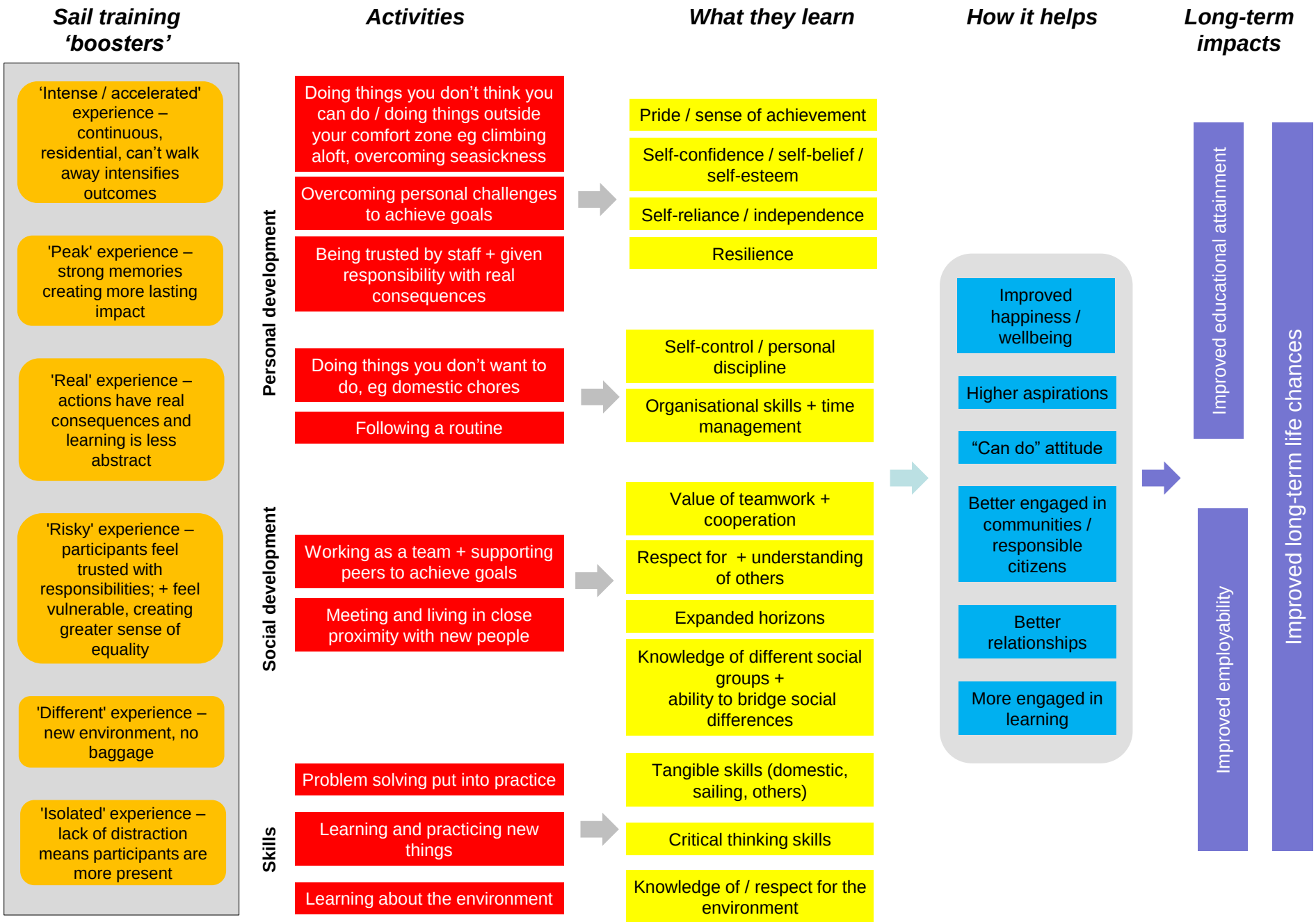
In your groups

- Choose one *What they learn* outcome
- Discuss:
  - List what you might observe
  - How do you know ‘they’ are learning?

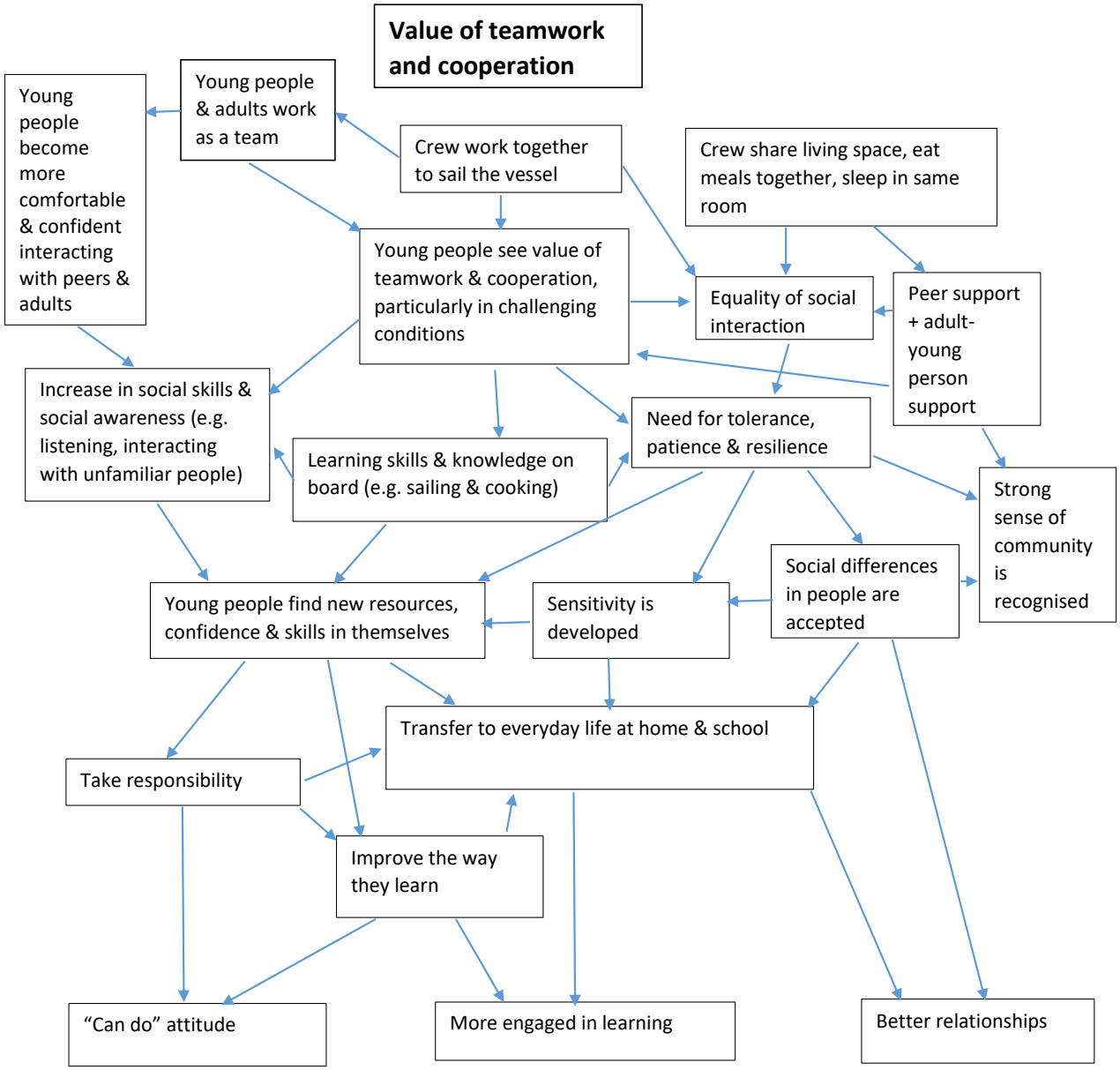
Be prepared to discuss with the audience

(For ASTO *Theory of Change* see Noble et al., 2017)

HOW YOUNG PEOPLE ARE POSITIVELY AFFECTED BY SAIL TRAINING

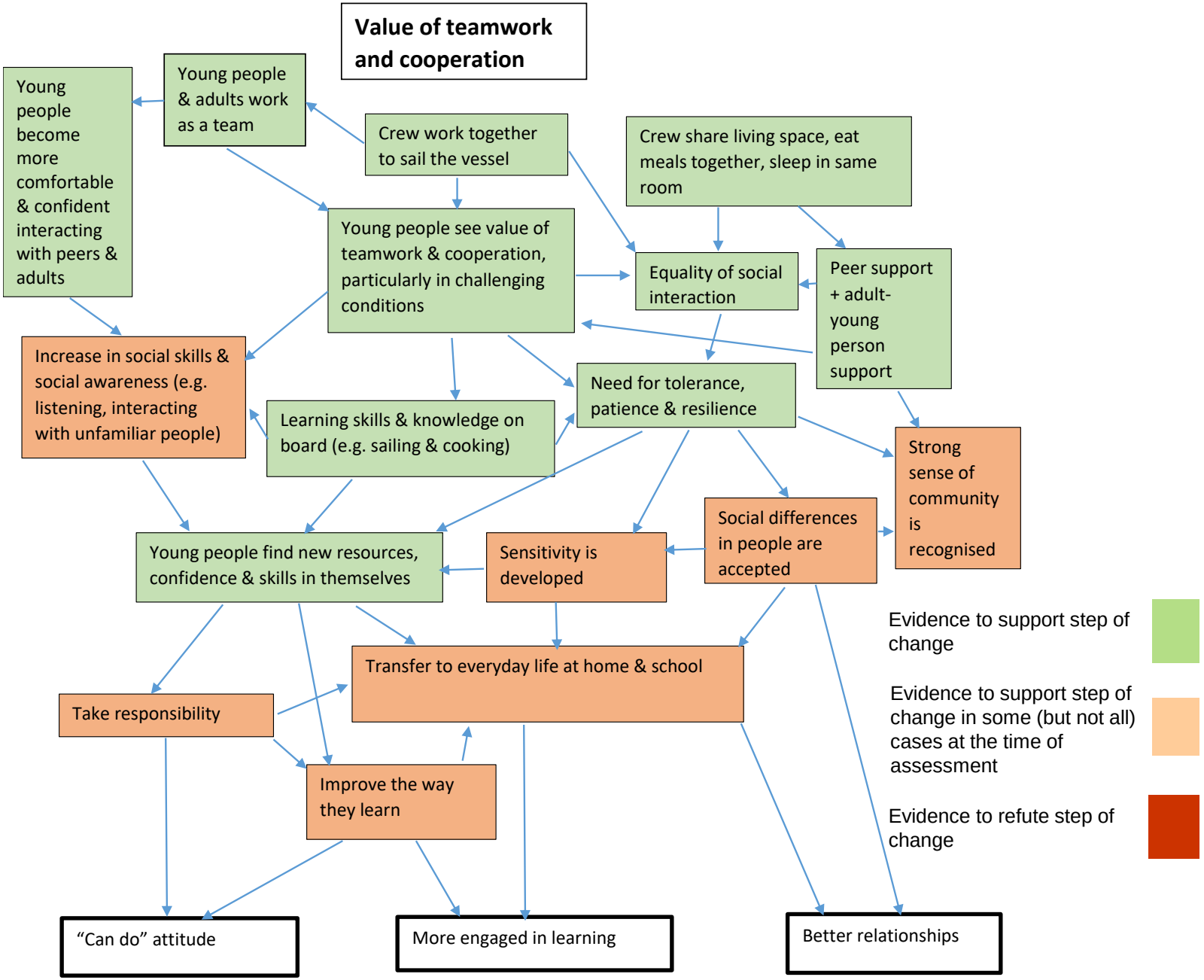


Steps of change process – sail training (start/ finish dates)



Model after
Tiplady, 2018

Steps of change process – sail training (start/ finish dates)



Model after Tiplady, 2018

What is it about the activity/ies?

Discuss:

1. Is it the activity itself?
2. Is it the social interaction it creates?
3. What is going to achieve the most ‘learning’?

Practitioners as Researchers

Aim: To explore the experience of practitioners in becoming practitioner-researchers

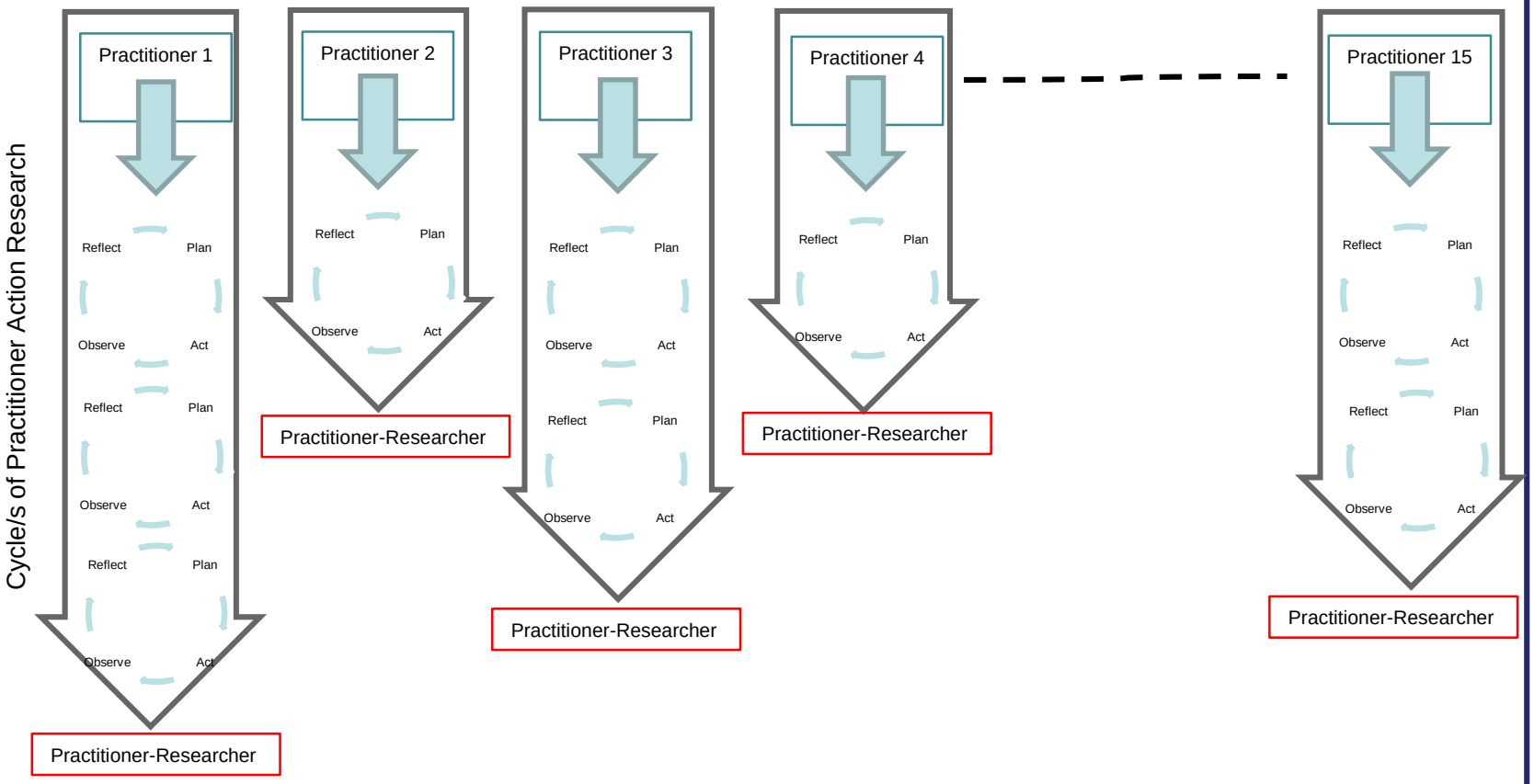
How: recruit, train and support YOU in conducting action research in your own setting

When:

- Recruitment now open
- Training workshop: March/ April 2019 (Newcastle)
  - Project/ ethical approval
- Action Research: April – September 2019
- Analysis workshop: November 2019 (Newcastle)
- Presentation of findings: December 2019

How will it work?

Exploring the *boundary crossing* experiences of Sail Training Practitioners as they become Practitioner-Researchers



Any questions?

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References

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Tiplady, L. (2018) *Impacting on young people's emotional wellbeing through Forest School: The Breeze Project, pilot year*. Research Centre for Learning and Teaching, Newcastle University. Available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328248673_Impacting_on_young_people's_emotional_wellbeing_through_Forest_School_The_Breeze_Project_pilot_year