

Basic income in the UK?

Experimentation in Scotland and beyond

Scotland

- Where are we in the process of implementing basic income-type experiments in Scotland?
- Key components of and possible pathways for Scottish feasibility studies.

Frameworks for implementation

- Principles of basic income experiments
- A typology of basic income-type experiments
- Assessment and Evaluation: a more dynamic approach

Scottish Government

2015

2017

2018

[TIME] ----->

1 2 3 4

Fife	North Ayrshire	Glasgow	Edinburgh
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Other Local Authorities across Scotland



£250k for 'Scoping Exercise'

Initial Focus

Fife

Fairer Fife Commission– Economic Security; Poverty; Inequality; Access to Work; etc.

North Ayrshire

Opportunity and women's participation in the workforce

Glasgow

Poverty *geographically scattered/distributed*

Edinburgh

Poverty *geographically concentrated in pockets*

...

These are starting points

RSA Research on Basic Income-type Experiments

For UK Local Authorities:

- Academic and Policy Oriented Literature Review
- Distillation of Basic Income Experiment “Principles”
- Key variables that modify design architecture
- Proposed assessment methodology for the dynamic study of relationships *between* key indicators
- Basic Income-type Experiment Scenarios

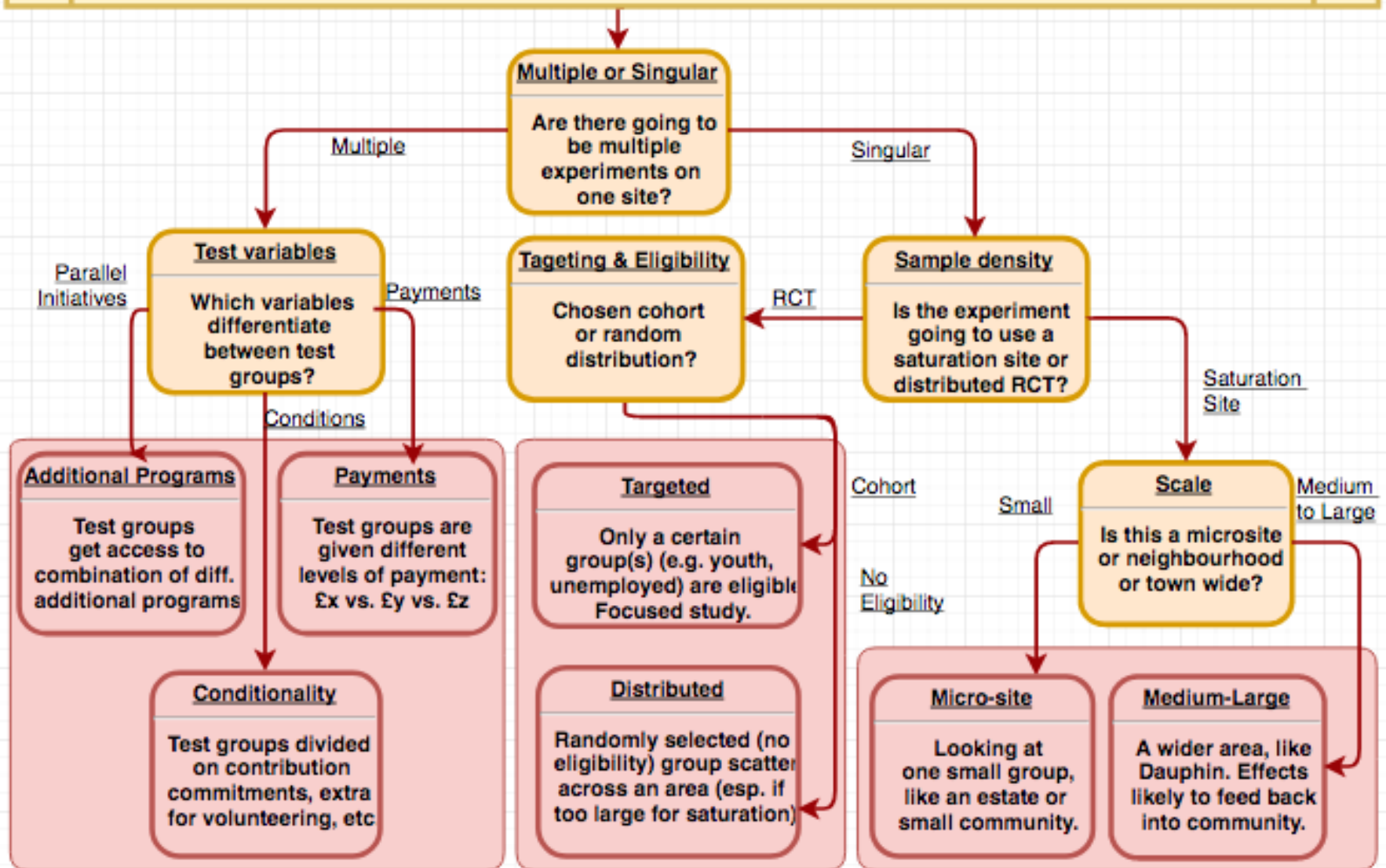
- **Pilot:** A full Basic Income pilot adopts the *full* principles of Basic Income, but might be temporally limited or applied only to a subset of the wider population – a town, city or region for example.
- **Experiment:** A basic income experiment tests a certain aspect(s) of Basic Income such as impact on work, health or engagement with education and learning. Experiments are not full pilots as they may not be universal (e.g. they will target a particular cohort), have elements of conditionality, or do not meet the criteria of other principles

Principles of basic income-type experiments

- 1: Basic payments
- 2: Regular payments (at least once a month)
- 3: Unconditional payments
- 4: Universal payments
- 5: Non-withdrawable payments
- 6: Equal and individual payments (excl. children)
- 7: Payments don't leave anyone worse off
- 8: Ceteris Paribus

	Basic	Regular	Unconditional	Equal and Individual	Non-withdrawable	Universal	Better off	Test group size
Current								
Ontario, Canada	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	–	4,000
Finland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	2,000
Kenya	✓	✓/X	✓	✓	✓	X	N/A	21,000
Historical								
Seattle-Denver (US)	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	4,800
Dauphin, Manitoba (Canada)	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	–	3,000
Gary, Indiana (US)	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	1,800
Madhya Pradesh (India)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	6,000
Otjivero (Namibia)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	930

Principles of basic income-type experiments

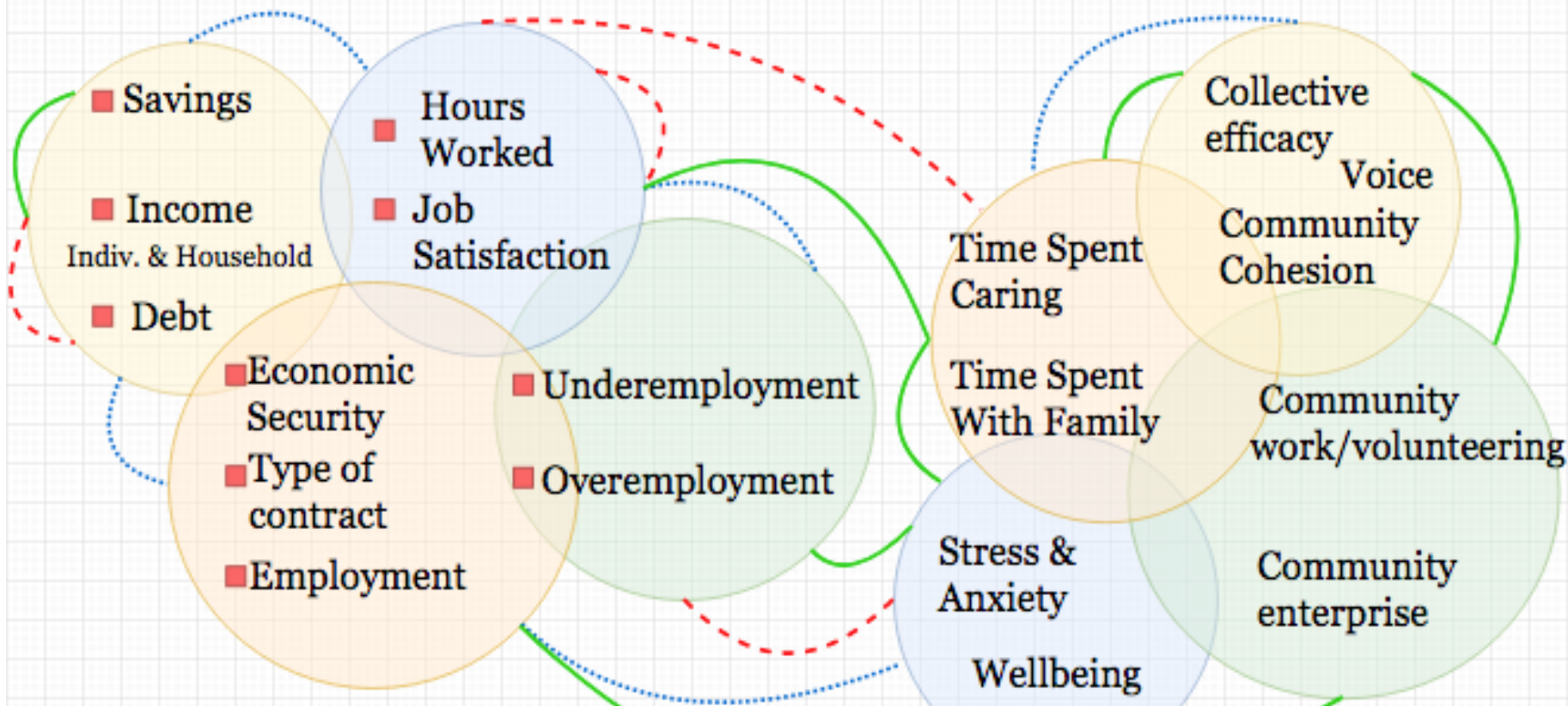


Unpacking headline indicators

- **Work Participation:** i) hours worked, ii) levels of (un)employment, iii) net and gross income, iv) debt and savings, v) economic security, vi) job satisfaction, vii) dependency.
- **Active Citizenship:** i) community work/activity, ii) support networks, iii) time spent caring for others, iv) general wellbeing, v) health, vi) community enterprise, vii) use of communal space/services.

Work Participation

Active Citizenship



Positive correlation
Negative correlation
Either (context)

Rough example hypothesis:

Basic income payments will lead to new parents spending more time with their children, and an associated reduction in their work hours, which in turn will increase the mental and physical health of the parents, relative to new parents in the control group.

BI -> +ve[Parenting] / -ve[WkHrs] -> +ve[Health]

Basic income-type experiments in Scotland

- Fife, North Ayrshire, Glasgow and Edinburgh.
- Feasibility study over ~next 12-18 months
- Investigating wide array of policy aims, experiment designs, and assessment methodologies.
- Local, regional, national and international interest.

Universal Basic Opportunity Fund

Pathways to Universal Basic Income

Fund every citizen
under the age of 55
with a £5,000
opportunity dividend
for up to two years,
taken at a time of their
choosing over the
course of a decade.

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RSA
Action and Research Centre

Pathways to Universal
Basic Income

The case for a Universal
Basic Opportunity Fund

*by Anthony Painter,
Jake Thorold and
Jannie Cooke*

February 2018
