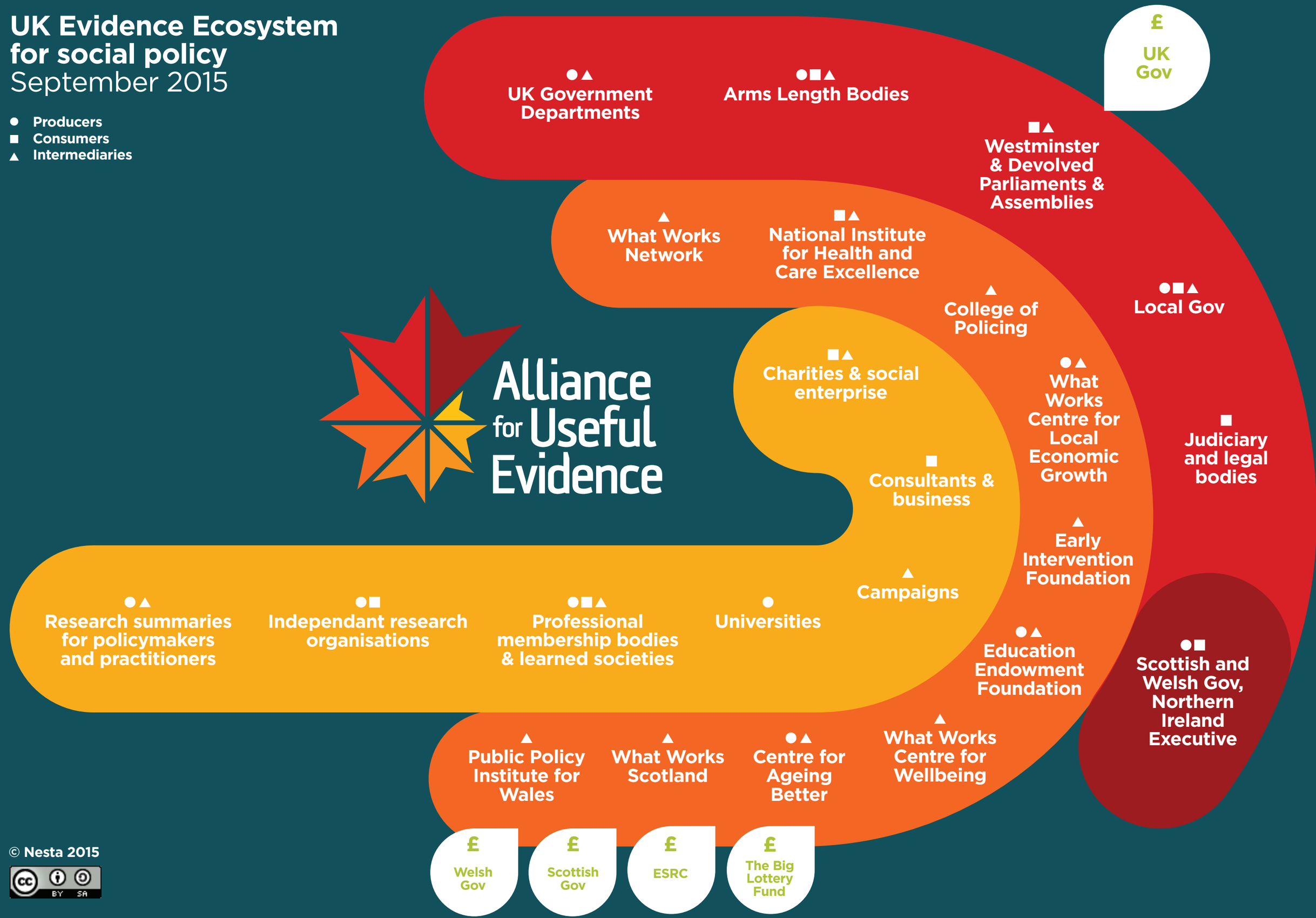
UK Evidence Ecosystem for social policy
September 2015

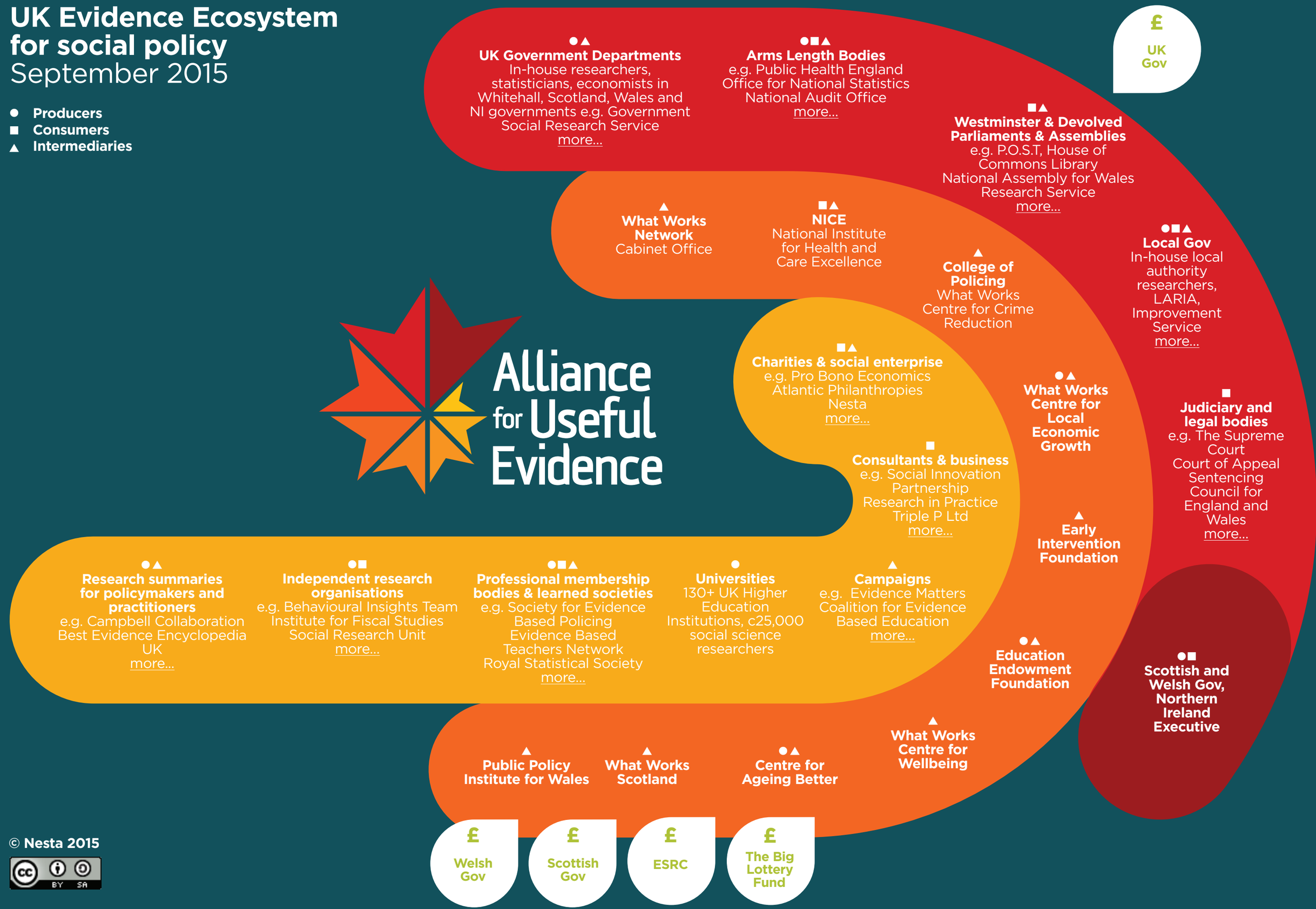
- ● Producers
- ■ Consumers
- ▲ Intermediaries



© Nesta 2015
CC BY SA

UK Evidence Ecosystem for social policy
September 2015

- ● Producers
- ■ Consumers
- ▲ Intermediaries



© Nesta 2015
CC BY SA

UK Evidence Ecosystem for social policy
September 2015

Research summaries for policymakers and practitioners
Whether they are research hubs, portals, toolkits, clearinghouses, guidebooks or databases, these repositories of research are relevant and accessible to practitioners – not just researchers. Most of these are freely available. However, those denoted with * are websites that do require a paid-for subscription. Only those resources with a strong UK presence are included.

Cross-cutting social policy & practice

The Idox Information Service*
Holds over 200,000 summarised research resources, increasing by 1,000 abstracts per month, across 30 local authority public policy areas including planning, regeneration, social policy and economic development.

Campbell Collaboration
A comprehensive website for lists of systematic reviews, they cover education, crime and justice, social welfare and international development. Based in Oslo, they are an international network of volunteers.

EPPI-Centre (The Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre) 'knowledge library' of systematic reviews range across social policy and health. The large number of systematic reviews conducted by and supported by the EPPI-Centre have contributed to a broad knowledge base.

Early Intervention Guidebook
An interactive online resource for those who wish to find out more about how to commission and deliver effective early intervention. It continually expands as they gain more information about 'what works' for children and commissioning children's services. A key feature of the Guidebook is the Programmes Library that contains the details of 50 programmes that have been successfully implemented in the UK.

NHS Evidence
Index of evidence-based information from 'trustworthy and accredited' sources from across health and social care.

SCVO (Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations) Evidence Library Registration is required to login, but it is free. Funded by the Scottish Government, The Evidence Library is interactive because it also facilitates comment and discussion, the exchanging of ideas and the sharing of knowledge.

Social Policy and Practice*
A one-stop-shop for research, analysis and discussion of health and social policy, the database holds over 350,000 abstracts on social policy, 30% of content is grey literature. The database is made up from selected content from the major providers: Idox Information Service; Social Care Institute for Excellence; National Children's Bureau; and the Centre for Policy on Ageing, (NSPCC data is currently also being added) this is run through Ovid Technologies on a commercial basis.

Education, children and young people

Investing in Children
A one-stop-shop for information for over 100 interventions relating to children's services, bringing together information about what works and cost-benefit analysis.

Best Evidence Encyclopedia UK
Focused on education, the website gives information about the strength of evidence supporting a variety of programmes available for pupils of both primary and secondary school-age. The site provides summaries of scientific reviews produced by various authors and organizations, as well as links to the full texts of each review.

ChildData*
From the National Children's Bureau charity, ChildData is the only bibliographic database covering all aspects of research and practice in young people's social care. It is now only available through Social Policy and Practice. Content includes reports, research and resources on early childhood; education and learning; health and wellbeing; involving young people; play; sector improvement; SEN and disability; and vulnerable children.

NSPCC Research and Resources
A free resource for those working in the childcare and protection sector, it includes all forms of case reviews and literature and current awareness bulletins. They provide research and statistics on child abuse; working with children and families; policy and guidance on child protection; resources; case reviews and learning materials

Teaching and Learning Toolkit
A summary of research relevant to teaching kids aimed 5 to 16 years. The Sutton Trust and Education Endowment Foundation Teaching have created this Toolkit to provide guidance for teachers and schools on how to use their resources to improve the attainment of disadvantaged pupils. The Toolkit currently covers 34 topics, each summarised in terms of their average impact on attainment, the strength of the evidence supporting them and their cost. For those working in Early Years, there is also another dedicated toolkit.

Ageing

Ageinfo
The only UK database covering all aspects of ageing and older age, including research and practice in the social and health issues of older age. A bibliographic database of over 55,000 books, articles and reports from the specialist collection held by the Centre for Policy on Ageing. Please note that the database does not give access directly the publication – it only finds titles.

Social care

Social Care online
An electronic library delivered by the Social Care Institute for Excellence, with over 150,000 abstracts covering all aspects of social care, social welfare and social policy, currently free to access through a grant from the Department of Health. It covers information of people with social care needs; those receiving care services; key issues such as integrated services, safeguarding or legislation; Government policy and social work and the social care workforce.

Crime

Crime Reduction toolkit
Using over 300 systematic reviews, and covering 60 different crime reduction interventions, the toolkit provides easy access to the crime reduction evidence base. Users can weigh up evidence on the impact, cost and implementation of different interventions and use this to help shape their crime reduction efforts.

Note also the 2011 Scottish Government summaries of evidence on what works in stopping people from reoffending, followed a few years later by the 2013 UK Government's summary of evidence on the same topic.

UK Evidence Ecosystem for social policy
September 2015

●■
Independent research organisations
Larger organisations with a primary interest in producing research and insights relating to 'what works' in social policy. They have staff who are members of the Alliance for Useful Evidence. The organisations have significant staff presence in the UK:

- **Behavioural Insights Team**
- **Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion**
- **Centre for Cities (partner in Local Economic Growth What Works Centre)**
- **ComRes**
- **CUREE (Centre for Research and Use of Evidence in Education)**
- **Evaluation Support Scotland**
- **Institute for Employment Studies**
- **Institute for Fiscal Studies**
- **Institute for Government**
- **Ipsos MORI**
- **IRISS (Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services)**
- **JPAL-Europe**
- **NatCen Social Research**
- **National Foundation for Educational Research**
- **National Institute of Economic and Social Research**
- **Policy Studies Institute**
- **Public Policy Institute for Wales**
- **RAND Europe**
- **Social Research Unit at Dartington**
- **The King's Fund**

●■▲
Professional membership bodies & learned societies
These are professional membership bodies and learned societies with an interest in applying research in social policy and practice. Individual staff at these organisations are members of the Alliance for Useful Evidence:

- **Academy of Social Sciences**
- **AURIL –representing practitioners in knowledge exchange**
- **British Academy**
- **British Psychological Society**
- **Chartered Management Institute**
- **Evidence Based Teachers Network**
- **National Housing Federation**
- **Nursing and Midwifery Council**
- **Probation Institute**
- **Professional Associations Research Network**
- **Royal Statistical Society**
- **Royal Town Planning Institute**
- **Royal College of Nursing**
- **Science Council**
- **Social Value UK**
- **Society for Evidence Based Policing**
- **Social Care Institute for Excellence**
- **Social Research Association**
- **Teacher Development Trust**

UK Evidence Ecosystem for social policy
September 2015

■▲
Charities & Social enterprises
These are non-profit organisations committed to advancing the use of research evidence for social policy and practice. Please note that some charities below have commercial arms and are also companies limited by guarantee. Staff are members of the Alliance for Useful Evidence.

■
Consultants & business
The list below includes larger consultancies, support services, not-for-profit and commercial organisations that provide commercial services and programmes on 'what works' in social policy. They have staff who are members of the Alliance for Useful Evidence. It does not include the many influential sole trader consultants or smaller organisations. Note that many charities also provide consultancy services – and may also be included in the section on Charities & Social Enterprises

- **4 Children**
- **Alcohol Research UK**
- **Alzheimer's Society**
- **Atlantic Philanthropies**
- **Barrow Cadbury Trust**
- **Barnardo's**
- **Big Society Capital**
- **British Red Cross**
- **Carnegie UK Trust**
- **Catch 22**
- **Chance UK**
- **Collaborate**
- **DrugScience**
- **Forces in Mind Trust**
- **HACT – the housing action charity**
- **Life Changes Trust**
- **Robertson Trust**
- **Macmillan Cancer Support**
- **National Children's Bureau**
- **Nesta**
- **Nominet Trust**
- **NSPCC**
- **NPC (New Philanthropy Capital)**
- **Paul Hamlyn Foundation**
- **Pro Bono Economics**
- **Rethink Mental Illness**
- **Sutton Trust**
- **The Children's Society**
- **The Social Innovation Partnership**

Charitable research funders
Major funders of original social science that are outside government

- **British Academy**
- **Nesta**
- **Nuffield Foundation**
- **Joseph Rowntree Foundation**
- **Wellcome Trust**
- **Sutton Trust**
- **Leverhulme Trust**

National charity umbrella bodies:

- **ACEVO The charity leaders network**
- **Association of Charitable Foundations**
- **Children in Scotland**
- **Health and Social Care Alliance**
- **National Council for Voluntary Youth Services**
- **NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations)**
- **NICVA (NI Council for Voluntary Action)**
- **Small Charities Coalition**
- **SCVO (Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations)**
- **Volunteer Scotland**
- **Voluntary Health Scotland**
- **Wales Council for Voluntary Action**

- **Arup**
- **Capita PLC**
- **Deloitte**
- **Ecorys UK**
- **Frontier Economics**
- **ICF GHK**
- **IDOX**
- **KPMG**
- **New Philanthropy Capital (NPC)**
- **PwC**
- **Research in Practice**
- **Stratagem Northern Ireland**
- **Technopolis**
- **The Social Innovation Partnership**
- **Triple P Ltd**
- **Which?**

UK Evidence Ecosystem for social policy
September 2015

●▲
UK Government Departments
In-house researchers, statisticians, economists in Whitehall, Scotland, Wales and NI governments e.g. Government Social Research Service

●■▲
Arms Length Bodies
A full list of UK arms-length bodies and agencies and is available here. Individual staff who have joined as members of the Alliance for Useful Evidence:

■▲
Westminster & Devolved Parliaments & Assemblies
.g. P.O.S.T, House of Commons Library
National Assembly for Wales Research Service

- **Chief Economist, Welsh Government**
- **Chief Economic Adviser, Scottish Government**
- **Chief Scientist Office, Scotland**
- **Chief Social Research Officer, Welsh Government**
- **Chief Statistician Wales**
- **Government Economics Service**
- **Government Operational Research Service**
- **Government Statistical Service**
- **National Statistician**
- **Office of the Chief Researcher, Scotland**

Staff from these departments are members of the Alliance for Useful Evidence:

1. **Cabinet Office**
2. **Department for Business, Innovation & Skills**
3. **Department for Communities and Local Government**
4. **Department for Culture, Media & Sport**
5. **Department for Education**
6. **Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**
7. **Department for International Development**
8. **Department for Transport**
9. **Department for Work and Pensions**
10. **Department of Energy & Climate Change**
11. **Department of Health**
12. **Foreign & Commonwealth Office**
13. **HM Treasury**
14. **Home Office**
15. **Ministry of Defence**
16. **Ministry of Justice**

- **Advisory Council for Misuse of Drugs**
- **Big Lottery Fund**
- **Dstl (Defence Science and Technology Laboratory)**
- **Economic and Social Research Council**
- **Health and Safety Executive**
- **Health & Social Care Information Centre**
- **Intellectual Property Office**
- **Migration Advisory Committee**
- **Natural England**
- **National Audit Office**
- **Office for Budget Responsibility**
- **Office for National Statistics**
- **National Offender Management Service**
- **Regulatory Policy Committee**
- **Sentencing Council for England and Wales**
- **Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People**
- **UK Statistics Authority**
- **Wales Audit Office**

- **House of Commons Library and its research service**
- **House of Commons select committees – complete list**
- **House of Lords select committees – complete list**
- **Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman**
- **National Assembly for Wales Research Service**
- **POST Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology**
- **RaISe - NI Assembly Research and Information Service**
- **Scottish Parliament Information Centre – briefings**

UK Evidence Ecosystem for social policy
September 2015

Local Gov

- Improvement Service
- Institute of Local Government Studies
- LARIA (Local Area Research + Intelligence Association)
- Local Government Research Facilitator: Solace, the Local Government Association, and the Economic and Social Research Council have appointed Catherine Staite
- Solace (The Society for Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers) Evidence-Based Policy Network
- What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth
- What Works Centre Scotland (focus on local areas in Scotland)

Judiciary and legal bodies
With thanks to the Professor Rosemary Hunter FAcSS, Chair, Socio-Legal Studies Association for this list of users of social science:

- Association of Her Majesty's District Judges
- Cafcass (Represents children in family court cases)
- Civil Procedure Rules Committee
- Civil Justice Council
- Court of Appeal
- Council of Her Majesty's Circuit Judges
- Criminal Procedure Rules Committee
- Family Justice Council
- Family Procedure Rules Committee
- Judicial College
- Judicial Appointments Commission
- Local Family Justice Boards
- Magistrates Association
- Sentencing Council for England & Wales
- The Supreme Court
- UK Association of Women Judges
- Youth Justice Board for England and Wales