

Introduction

- Health inequalities highlight an urgent need for a whole-systems approach to bridge the gap between policy and local practice.
- Traditional, siloed public health interventions are insufficient for tackling complex social determinants of health.
- Grounded in historical milestones (e.g., Black Report, Marmot Review), modern public health demands coordinated intersectoral action.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

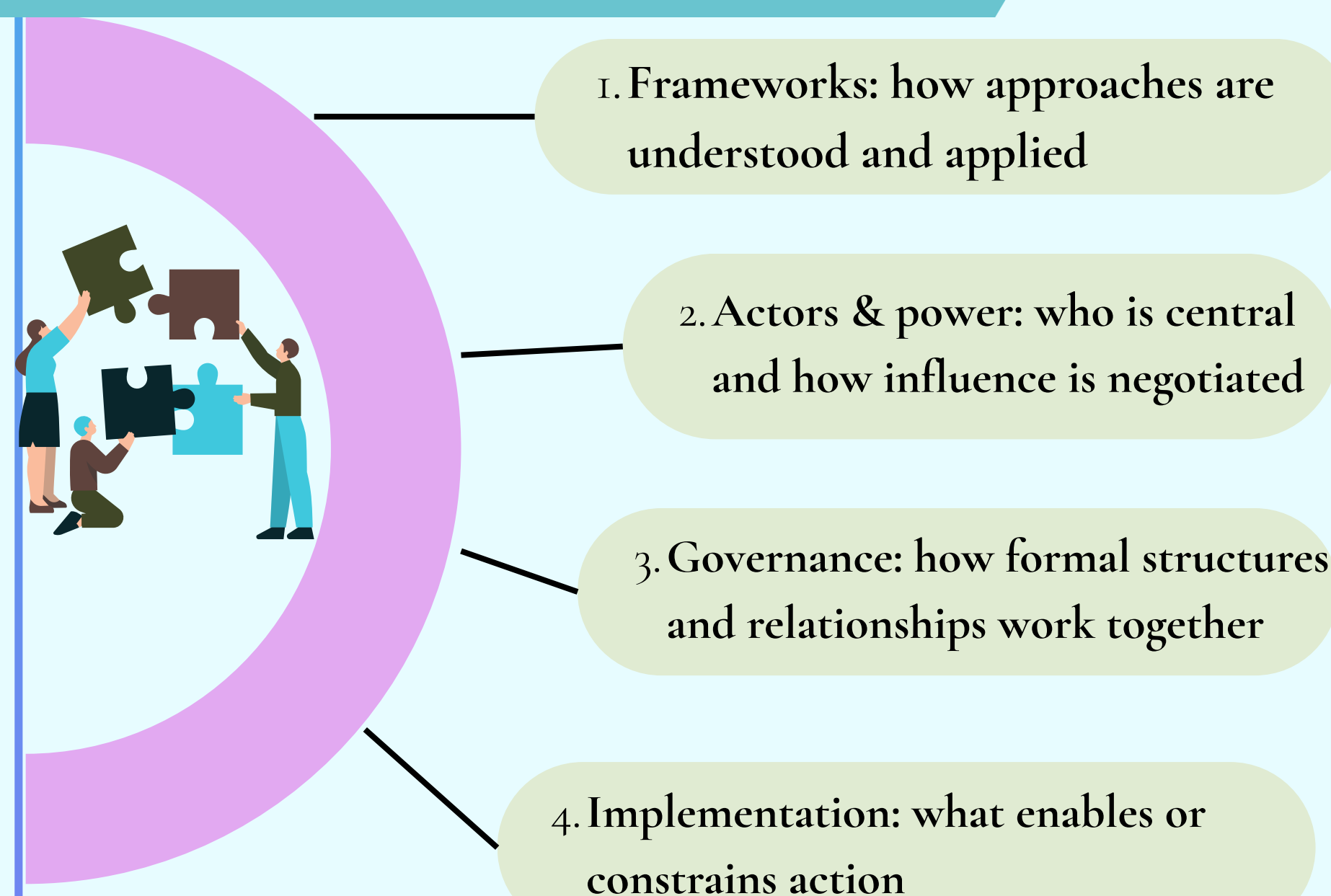
Why does this matter?

- Health inequalities are shaped by income, housing, employment, education, transport and the wider determinants of health.
- These determinants sit across organisational boundaries, so reducing inequalities requires local organisations to work together.
- The challenge is to understand how collaboration is governed and translated into action.

Research aim

- Research has identified frameworks, actors, leadership, trust, resources, and formal and relational governance but less is known about how different local governance contexts shape collaboration under the same national policy environment.
- This research therefore aims to understand how intersectoral governance for reducing health inequalities is enacted across the local council, NHS and VCSE sectors in Kent and Medway, and how this differs between the two authorities.

What this study will examine



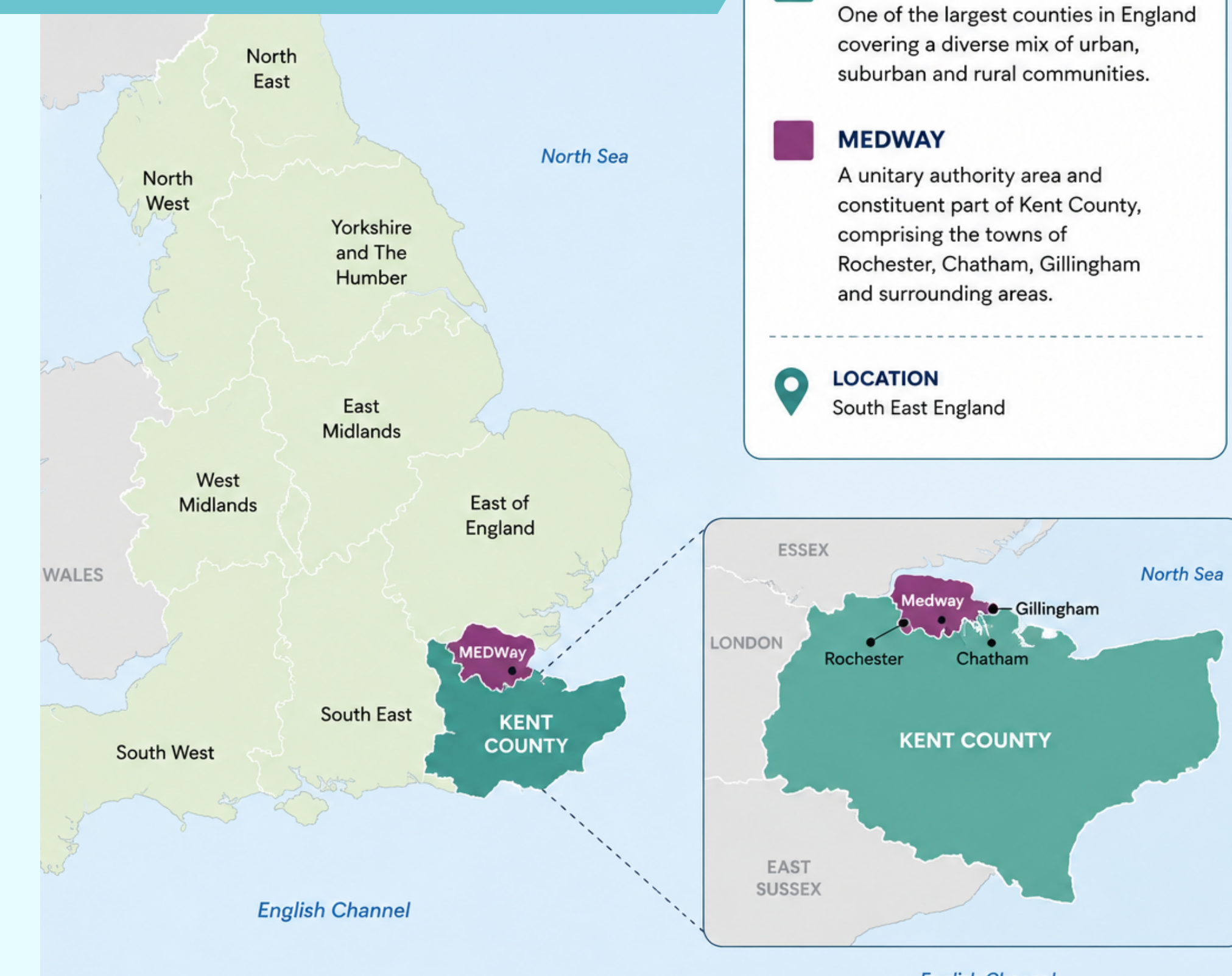
Progress so far

- ✓ Structured literature search across Scopus, Web of Science and MEDLINE/PubMed
- ✓ Five themes identified: frameworks, actors, governance, enablers/barriers and place
- ✓ Research gap refined around power, decision-making and local context
- ✓ Conceptual framework developed
- ✓ Comparative case study design established for Kent and Medway

Next Steps

- ✓ Develop theoretical framework
- ✓ Finalise research proposal and methodology
- ✓ Obtain ethics approval
- ✓ Finalise scoping review
- ✓ Start data collection

Comparative study design



Expected Impact

Practical evidence for local leaders and policymakers on the governance conditions that help cross-sector collaboration move towards action on health inequalities

References

- BMA (2026) Health Inequalities in England. Available at: <https://www.bma.org.uk/what-we-do/population-health/addressing-social-determinants-that-influence-health/health-inequalities-in-england> (Accessed: May 2026).
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