

# Summary of OPEN Review Findings

**Overarching review question:** What are the enablers and barriers to local research partnerships/networks between community, policy and academic entities in addressing health inequalities?

**The dominant themes in the papers we identified were:**

1. Achieving partnership equality/equity
2. Linking research to meaningful action and change
3. Developing capacity, support and skills for community research

**Themes addressed to a lesser extent:**

4. Partnership sustainability
5. Establishing a common purpose and shared vision for the network

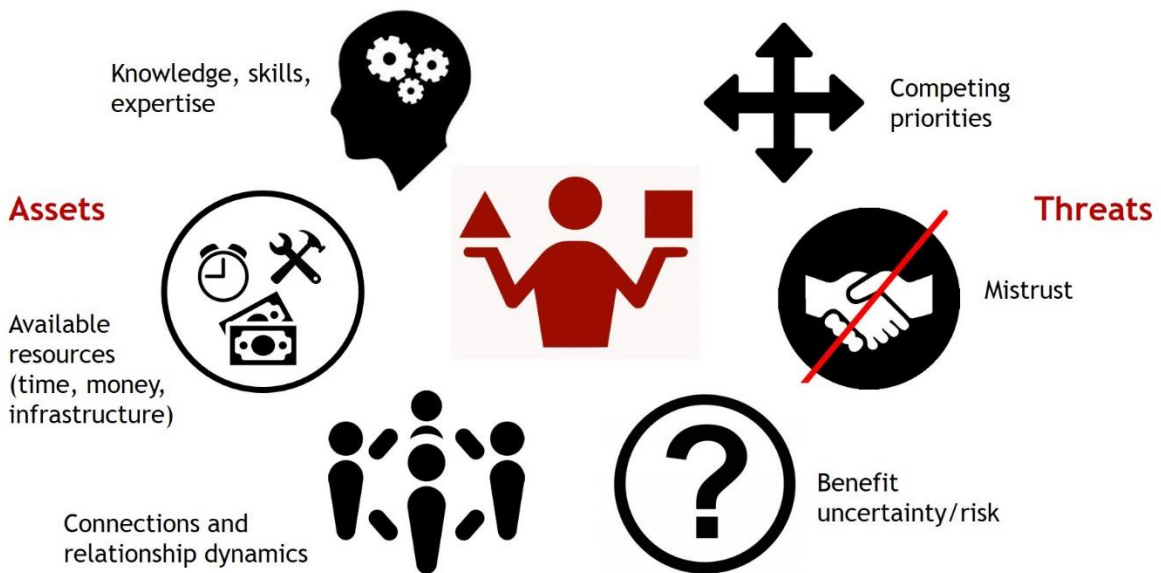
**Themes that were not well addressed (but important in Oxfordshire):**

6. Developing a clearer/shared understanding of the principles of “good” community research
7. Addressing “research fatigue” among communities



## Theme 1: Achieving partnership equality/equity

Some differences between partners were recognised and understood:



**Inequalities/inequities were addressed by:**

- Valuing and seeking different types of knowledge, expertise and evidence
- Using accessible language
- Developing capacity
- Sharing available resources, and transparency about what can and cannot be offered
- Providing additional support for community partners
- Enabling dialogue with wider community/residents
- Prioritising shared goals
- Supporting flexible participation
- Ensuring reciprocity / benefits for all partners
- Funding for relationship building activities (not just research/projects)
- Acknowledging historical and ongoing local injustices & differences in power
- Fostering a culture of continuous, open dialogue between partners
- Sharing ownership and/or decision making power
- Institutions committing to long-term engagement with communities
- Seeking and responding to feedback
- Confidentiality (meetings, agreements)



## Theme 2: Linking research to meaningful action/change

Commitment to and accountability of those with resource and power to bring about change



Addressing underlying issues which drive inequalities, and supporting creation of culturally appropriate services



Navigating tension between need for action/change and time and resources needed to deliver short-term and long-term impact

These elements were addressed in the literature by:

- Planning and resourcing **action-focused activities** to address health inequalities (e.g. identifying priority issues for action; identifying potential actions to address issues; including an action phase as part of research, developing capacity for local action / policy advocacy).
- Seeking commitment and accountability of **those with resource and power to bring about change**, including (i) decision makers in local government; (ii) community partners with track record of successful activism/policy advocacy; (iii) collective impact of multiple stakeholders in the local system.
- Understanding and managing partners' expectations regarding **time to action** through ongoing dialogue between partners.



## Theme 3: Developing research capacity



**Activities that developed research capacity** fell under 5 main categories:

- Training
- Placements and visits
- Mentoring
- Networking opportunities
- Multi-activity, competitive programs with incentives