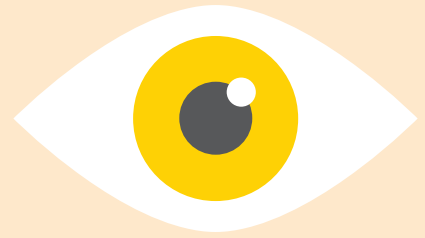


CONNECTIONS CIRCLE



A CONNECTIONS CIRCLE HELPS YOU IDENTIFY THE LINKS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE, THINGS OR EVENTS IN THE ISSUE YOU ARE INVESTIGATING

How to use the tool:

- 1 Draw a large circle on a piece of paper.
- 2 Around the outside of the circle use post-it notes to write all the key factors, people, things and events that are involved in the issue you are exploring.
- 3 Begin to map the relationships between the things you have identified by drawing arrows to link them together.
- 4 Use arrows and + and - signs to show the nature of the relationships between things. For example, you might use an arrow to indicate how a rise (+) in public transport use might lead to a fall (-) in the use of personal cars.
- 5 Exploring how things are connected and the nature of the relationship helps to uncover the complexity of many situations. It can help identify cause and effect relationships and show how changing one thing might have an impact on many others.
- 6 Note which things have many lines starting from them. These have the potential to influence many others. They are called points of leverage. These could be important when you start thinking about what you might want to change.

“ Almost everything is connected – mapping the connections helped us to appreciate how changing one thing can influence many others. ”

NXTHINKING

This tool can help you to think about direct and indirect relationships between factors connected to the issue you are investigating

It helps you think about the boundaries and scope of the issue and also helps to identify the points that are likely to have the biggest impact. It helps you uncover causes and effects that you may not have previously considered.



Thinking about Connections



Thinking about The Big Picture

Based on an idea developed in The Shape of Change (2007) by Rob Quaden, Alan Ticotski and Debra Lyneis.

