

Mission and Method

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A middle-aged man with short, grey hair and glasses is sitting in a wooden chair. He is wearing a short-sleeved, button-down shirt with a blue and white checkered pattern. His eyes are closed, and he has a slightly pained or thoughtful expression on his face. The background shows a living room with a grey sofa, a white radiator, and a window with light-colored curtains. A small figurine is visible on the windowsill.

No one knows what's coming around the corner.

ADASS spring survey 2025

139 survey returns (91% of Directors of Adult Social Services)

In terms of Technology Enabled Care (TEC) – what would be the most beneficial?

1. Additional funding and resources to invest in preventative technologies
2. Improving digital skills and confidence among care staff and service users
3. Improving system interoperability between health and social care

We asked Directors about their council's current awareness and confidence in engaging with the following emerging technologies in ASC

	Aware and confident %	Aware but not confident	Limited awareness	Not aware
Remote monitoring / smart home technologies	65%	30%	5%	0%
Artificial Intelligence (e.g. generative tools, decision support)	32%	57%	11%	0%
Interoperability and data integration	26%	59%	14%	2%
Predictive analytics and forecasting tools	20%	55%	25%	1%
Automation (e.g. triage tools, administrative processes)	21%	53%	24%	2%

The other Phil

(Please don't let
this be me next
year)



What happens when you start with the tech

What AI did when I asked for images combining adult social care with technology

The alt text that AI helpfully provided: "a collage of older people"

Projects don't go wrong, they start wrong



Technology by design

A common issue experienced by local authorities is a focus on getting investment to purchase technology solutions, but without consideration of everything else it takes to deliver real service transformation.

Unlocking the Power of Proactive and Preventative Care Services

A practical blueprint for planning, implementing and scaling up

Phase 1
Strategy Assessment and Initial Planning

Phase 2
Preparation and Planning

Phase 3
Implementation

Phase 4
Scale and Optimise

Co-production by design



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Flourishing

- A flourishing life is unique for each one of us
- Is multi-faceted, inter-dependent and dynamic (complex)

Learning between a **worker** and a **resident:**

“What works, for you, in your context?”

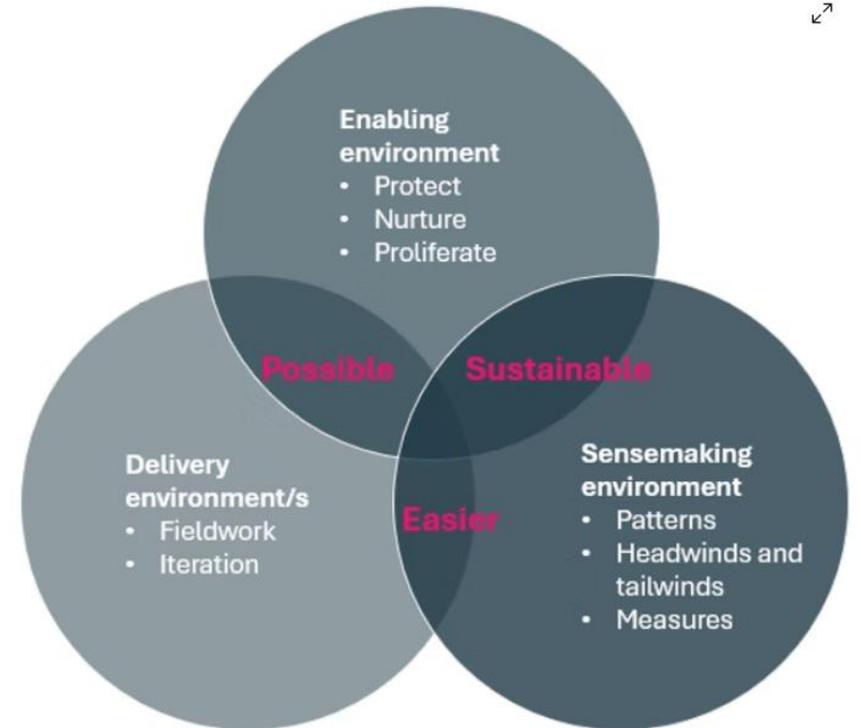
McDonald, H and Lowe, T (2024) “Chronic Pain, Complexity and a Suggested Role for the Osteopathic Profession”, International Journal of Osteopathic Medicine

Human learning by design

Reflections from Mark Smith, "Radical Place Leadership", www.mutualventures.co.uk

- Sometimes it was really *hard to get started* in earnest, even if the idea had credence and a workable alternative
- Even if we were able to start something different and do reformative, effective things, *it was such a grind*, with people (leaders, those in the work, everyone but nerdy me) getting bored sooner or later
- When we hit upon something that worked, iterated, got better, got traction and gave me hope, *someone new would come along with power and no skin in this game and kill it.*

1. What makes it *possible* to start this work in earnest?
2. What makes it *easier* once you start, both in terms of honing new methods and eliciting system change?
3. How can the learning and gains be *sustained* within and beyond the scope of the site of learning? (this is the trickiest one)



Conclusion: mission and method

“It isn’t glamorous. It’s about giving someone independence and compassion. About people keeping their quiet dignity. When social care works like that – quietly and humanely – you might not notice it at all” Baroness Casey’s speech to the Nuffield Trust Summit, 5th March 2026

“Asked how her commission would differ from previous attempts to reform social care, Casey said there would be a significant focus on public opinion” The MJ, 11th March 2026

“When I take a look at an issue or problem, I start with what’s happening with those most in need – it can shine a light on bigger systemic issues” Baroness Casey, Nuffield, as above

We all want to live in the place we call home, with the people and things we love, in communities where we look out for each other, doing the things that matter to us. That’s the #SocialCareFuture we seek.