How can the NHS maximise its role as an anchor institution to boost local economies and reduce socioeconomic and health inequalities?

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Collaborating ARCs and Co-Investigators

- **Collaborating ARCs**:
  - 7/15 ARCs: **Greater Manchester** (GM), **North East and North Cumbria** (NENC), **East of England** (EoE), **Yorkshire and the Humber** (Y&H), **North West Coast** (NWC), **Kent, Surry and Sussex** (KSS), **North Thames** (NT)

- **Academic co-investigators:**
  - Professor **Matt Sutton** (Professor of Health Economics), **Paul Wilson** (Senior Lecturer in Implementation Science) – both University of Manchester, ARC-GM; Professor **Clare Bambra** (Professor of Public Health), Dr **Jo Wildman** (Research Fellow NIHR ARC NENC Health Inequalities and Marginalised Communities), Professor **John Wildman** (Professor of Health Economics), Dr **Heather Brown** (Senior Lecturer in Health Economics) – all Newcastle University, ARC-NENC; Professor **Kate Pickett** (Professor of Epidemiology) – University of York, ARC-YH; Professor **Ben Barr** (Professor of Applied Public Health Research) – University of Liverpool, ARC-NWC; Dr **John Ford** (Clinical Lecturer in Public Health) – University of Cambridge, ARC-EoE; Professor **Lindsay Forbes** (Professor of Public Health) – University of Kent, ARC-KSS; Professor **Paula Lorgelly** (Professor of Health Economics) – UCL, ARC-NT

- **Policy and practice partner co-investigators:**
  - **NHS Confederation – Michael Wood** (Director of Health Economic Partnerships); **Northern Health Science Alliance – Hannah Davies** (Head of External and Public Affairs); **Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – Dr Balsam Ahmad** (Consultant in Public Health); **Centre for Local Economic Strategies – Tom Lloyd Goodwin** (Associate Director of Policy)

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# What is an "anchor institution"?

- NHS = a healthcare provider

- But the NHS is also a
  - Major employer
  - Major owner of land and buildings
  - Major purchaser of equipment, food, services, other resources
  - Creates job opportunities and supports local economies

- So, like an anchor steadies a ship, the NHS could steady local economies and bring benefits for local communities

- But is the extent to which an NHS institute acting as an anchor equal between differing local economies and local communities?

The project

- Overarching Research Question: How can NHS organisations boost local economies and reduce socioeconomic and health inequalities?

- Quantitative:
  - Analyse relationship between indicators of anchor activity and explore trends by trusts
- Qualitative
  - In depth cases studies on trusts to explore how anchor related activity impact local economics and social determinants of health

- Public contributors
  - ARC-GM Public Advisor Group
  - YPAG (following suggestion of consortium PCIEP group)
 - Dialogue & Change Award

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Measuring anchor activity
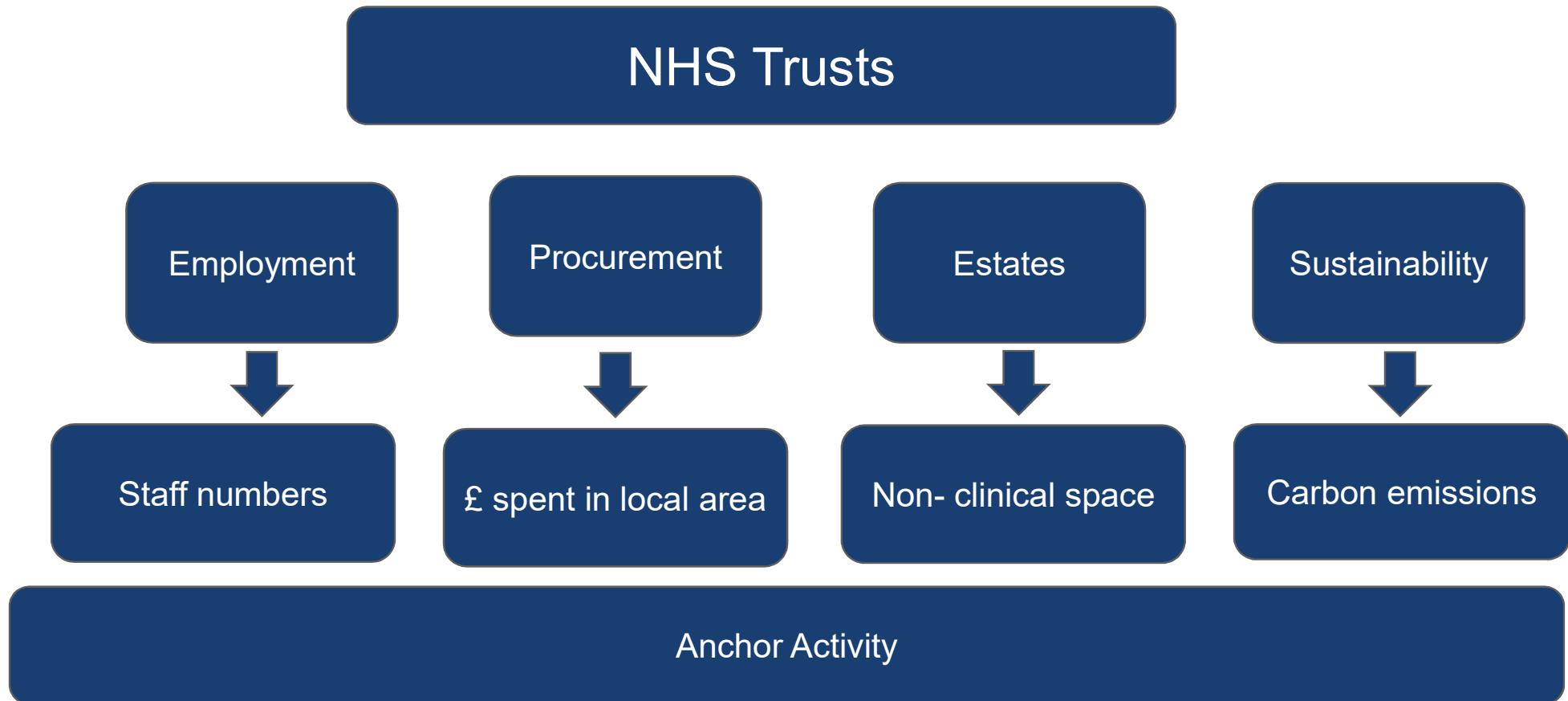
GM case study: percentage of total spend that is anchor related

% Anchor Spend
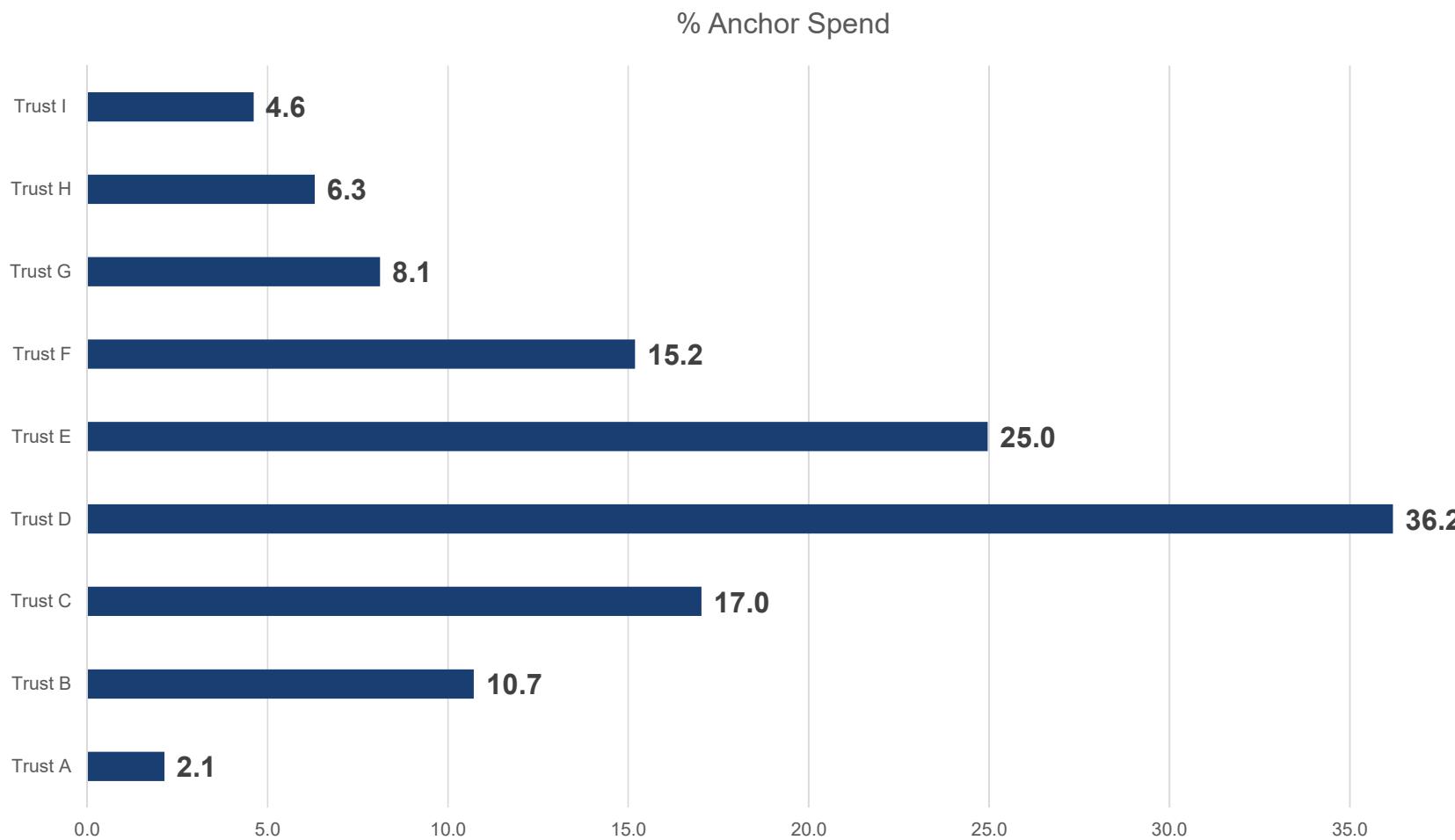
The 4 blocks of effective anchor activity: a realist informed framework
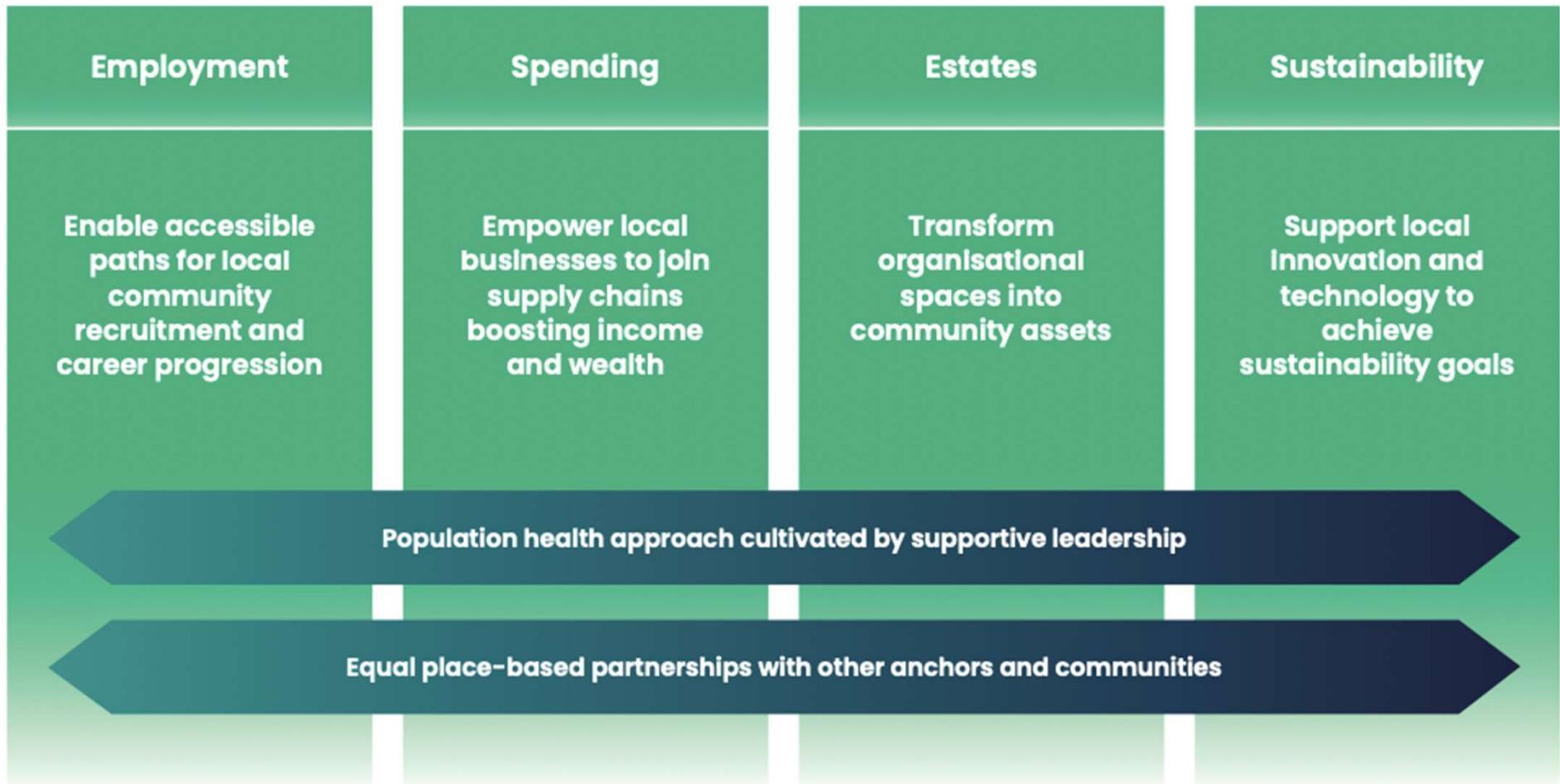
Thank you!
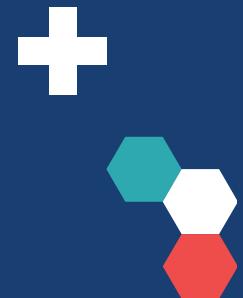
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