

# Theory of Change – Thinking Prompts

## Post-it Notes

**YELLOW** - Main functional points

**YELLOW** - Additional ideas or thinking

**BLUE** - Your reasoning or thinking

**GREEN** – For evidence

**PINK** – For assumptions

**ORANGE** – For Solutions

For successful outcomes

For success / evaluation measures

## Index Tabs

**GREEN** – For evidence

**PINK** – For assumptions

## Stage 1 – Problem Definition

Prompt #1 What is the problem – at a high level – that you are ultimately aiming to solve?

Prompt #2 Why is this a problem?

Prompt #3 Who is this a problem for? / Who are the key stakeholders?

Prompt #4 Why is this a problem for the stakeholder?

Prompt #5 What does a successful evaluation outcome look like for each stakeholder group?

Prompt #6 How does this high level problem break down into smaller chunks or aspects?

## Stage 2 - Dividing problem into sub-problems

Prompt #7 How can you break down this sub-problem into smaller sub-elements?

Prompt #8 – How do we know this is a problem? – Evidence

A useful PROMPT might be: Why do you think this?

Prompt #9 – *Why* is this is a problem?

Prompt #10 – What *causes* this problem?

Prompt #11 – *Who* is this a problem for?

Prompt #12 – How do we know? What's the evidence / assumption?

### **Stage 3 – Thinking through existing solutions / developing new solutions**

Prompt #13 – What exactly do we need to do to resolve this problem?

Prompt #14 – Why do you think this will work? What's the evidence / assumption?

### **Stage 4 – Questioning the solutions**

Prompt #15 – What other factors might play into the outcome – in a positive or negative way?

Prompt #16 – Where and when and for whom might the solution work particularly well?

Prompt #17 – What are the constraints or barriers to you delivering the solution you want?

### **Stage 5 – Defining success**

Prompt #18 – What does success look like for this specific sub-problem?

Prompt #19 – How can you measure / prove a successful outcome?

Prompt #20 – How does this relate to your stakeholders' expectations?