Guidelines and Regulations for the Resilience of Care Provision to Rising Temperatures: Findings from a Participatory Design Stakeholder Workshop

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The Challenge

Older people in care homes are at a high risk of heat-related mortality and this risk is likely to increase further under climate change. The ClimaCare project aims to provide evidence and insights to help strengthen the resilience of care provision to rising temperatures, and enhance our understanding of individual behaviours, organisational capacity and governance to enable the UK's care provision to develop equitable adaptation pathways. The aim of the participatory workshops organised as part of the ClimaCare project is to investigate the causes of overheating in the care sector and to develop appropriate solutions, by obtaining a better understanding of the underlying system structure.

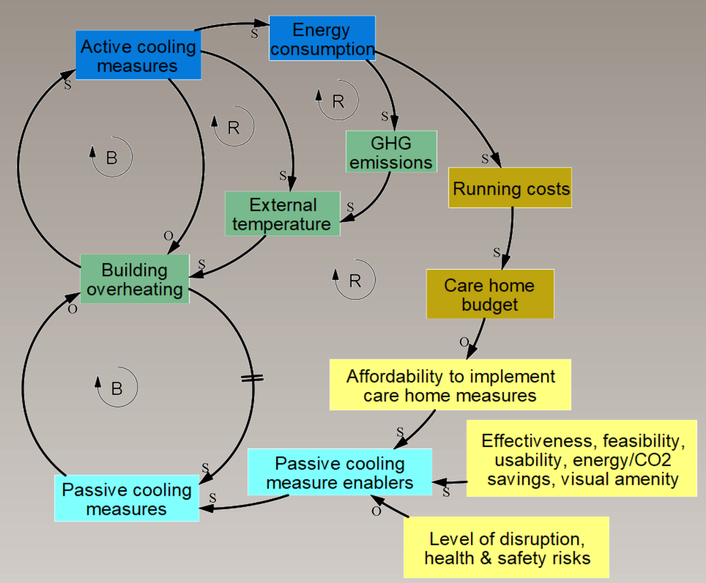
Approach

The first workshop of a series of focus group sessions with a multidisciplinary stakeholder platform, comprised approximately 30 experts from the built environment, social care, and public health policy. The workshop addressed three key questions:

a) What are the actions taken in response to overheating?
b) What is the ownership and governance of these actions?
c) What are the possible solutions relating to behavioural, operational and social factors and to building design and adaptation?

In the first two breakout sessions, the participants were grouped per organisation to enable conversation depth, i.e. care home experts, policy makers and industry experts. In the third breakout session, the grouping was random to enable cross-organisation interactions. The participants were initially presented with a simple Causal Loop Diagram (CLD) of Figure 1, based on preliminary findings from the ClimaCare project, that differentiated between fundamental and symptomatic solutions. Following the joint modification of the initial CLD and the joint search for solutions, an extended structure depicting the complex interactions and mechanisms that drive overheating and climate adaptation emerged.

Figure 1. Preliminary Causal Loop Diagram

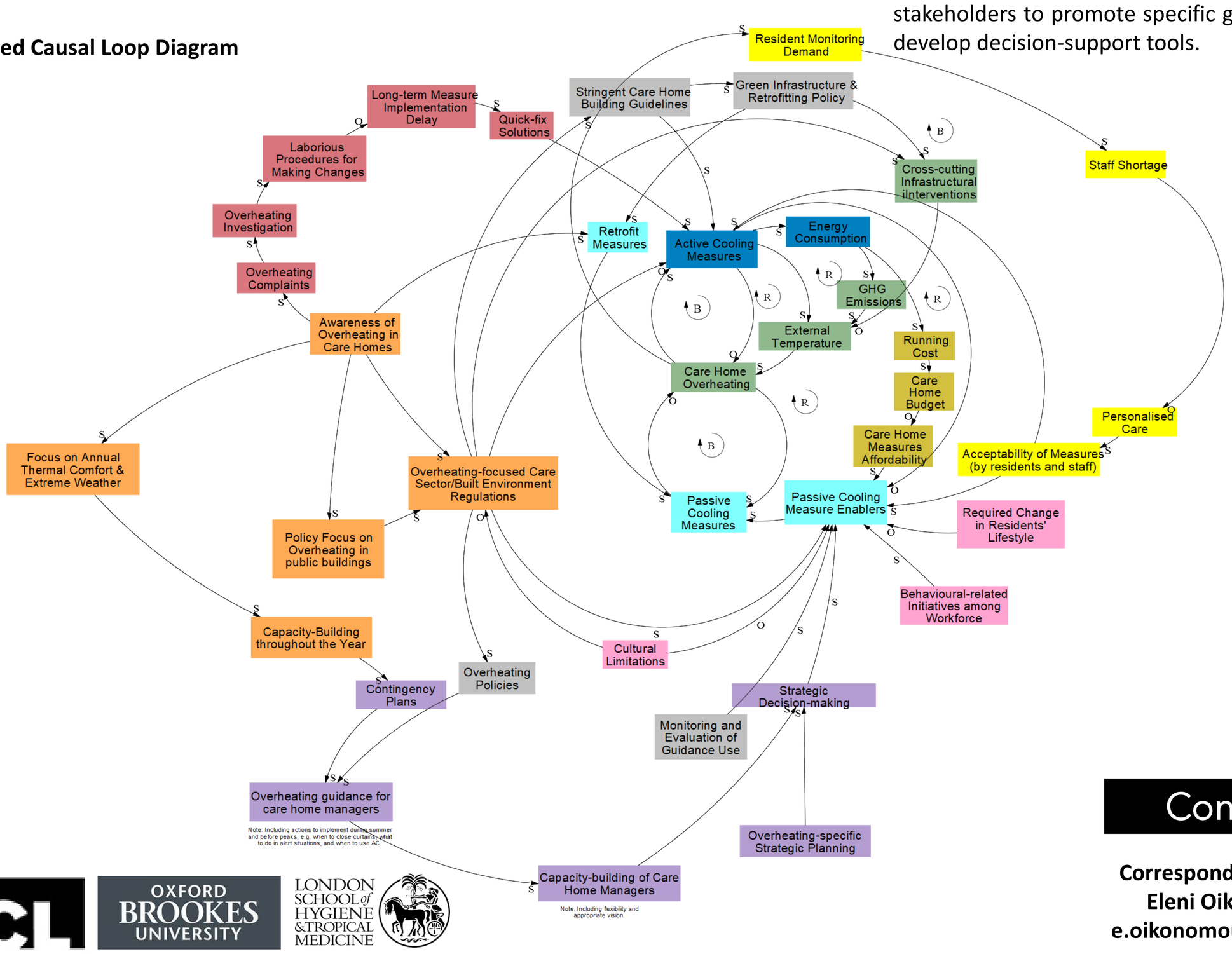


Results & Ongoing Work

The extended CLD, shown in Figure 2, was co-created during the participatory workshop. It graphically represents the underlying structure of the problem and indicates possible areas for the development of solutions. The variables have been colour-coded to represent the following themes: climate, active cooling, passive cooling, affordability, acceptability, overheating awareness, quick-fix enablers, behavioural and cultural aspects, care home governance, and policy and guidelines. This CLD will be corroborated with literature, informed by subsequent workshops, and further analysed to:

- identify the most effective places to intervene in the system, and
- explore ways to engage with relevant stakeholders to promote specific guidance and develop decision-support tools.

Figure 2. Extended Causal Loop Diagram



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