

WHICH RESEARCH METHODS TO USE?

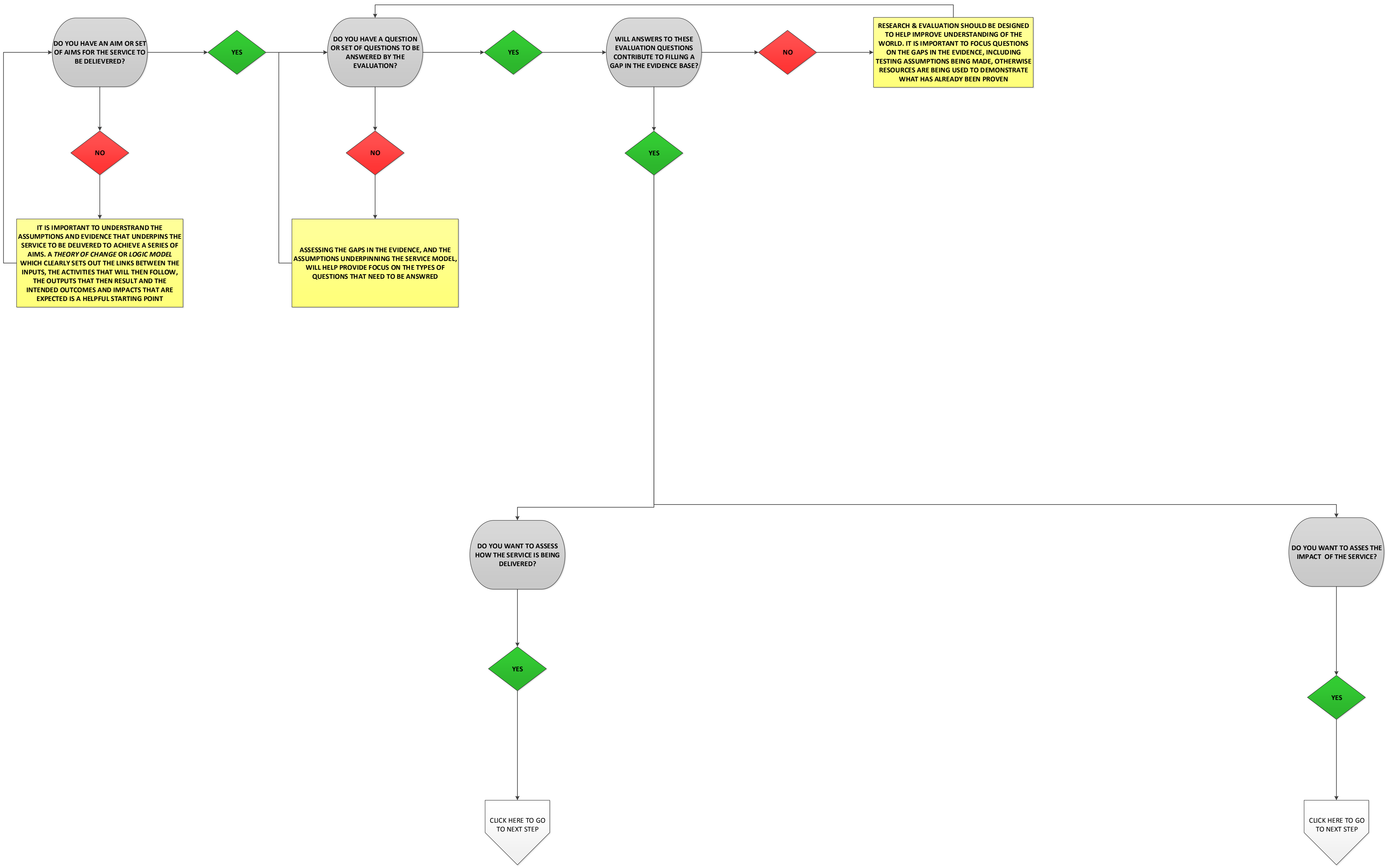
This document provides a tool to help guide you think about which research methods are likely to be most appropriate based on the purpose of your research or evaluation.

This document provides guidance only and therefore consideration should be given to the appropriateness and practicalities of the suggested research methods.

Each of the research methods is linked to a separate document that provides more information on the use of these methods.

In using any of the suggested, or other available, research methods due consideration should be given to ethical considerations. In particular whether the methods are appropriate for the situation or the types of people they are to be used on; and the necessary information that needs to be provided and the permission required, along with processes to ensure compliance with data protection requirements and not using the information beyond its stated purpose.

If you require further advice or support please contact the Age UK Research Team



DO YOU HAVE AN AIM OR SET OF AIMS FOR THE SERVICE TO BE DELIVERED?

YES

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR SET OF QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY THE EVALUATION?

YES

WILL ANSWERS TO THESE EVALUATION QUESTIONS CONTRIBUTE TO FILLING A GAP IN THE EVIDENCE BASE?

NO

RESEARCH & EVALUATION SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO HELP IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD. IT IS IMPORTANT TO FOCUS QUESTIONS ON THE GAPS IN THE EVIDENCE, INCLUDING TESTING ASSUMPTIONS BEING MADE, OTHERWISE RESOURCES ARE BEING USED TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVEN

NO

IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTRAND THE ASSUMPTIONS AND EVIDENCE THAT UNDERPINS THE SERVICE TO BE DELIVERED TO ACHIEVE A SERIES OF AIMS. A *THEORY OF CHANGE* OR *LOGIC MODEL* WHICH CLEARLY SETS OUT THE LINKS BETWEEN THE INPUTS, THE ACTIVITIES THAT WILL THEN FOLLOW, THE OUTPUTS THAT THEN RESULT AND THE INTENDED OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS THAT ARE EXPECTED IS A HELPFUL STARTING POINT

NO

ASSESSING THE GAPS IN THE EVIDENCE, AND THE ASSUMPTIONS UNDERPINNING THE SERVICE MODEL, WILL HELP PROVIDE FOCUS ON THE TYPES OF QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ANSWRED

YES

DO YOU WANT TO ASSESS HOW THE SERVICE IS BEING DELIVERED?

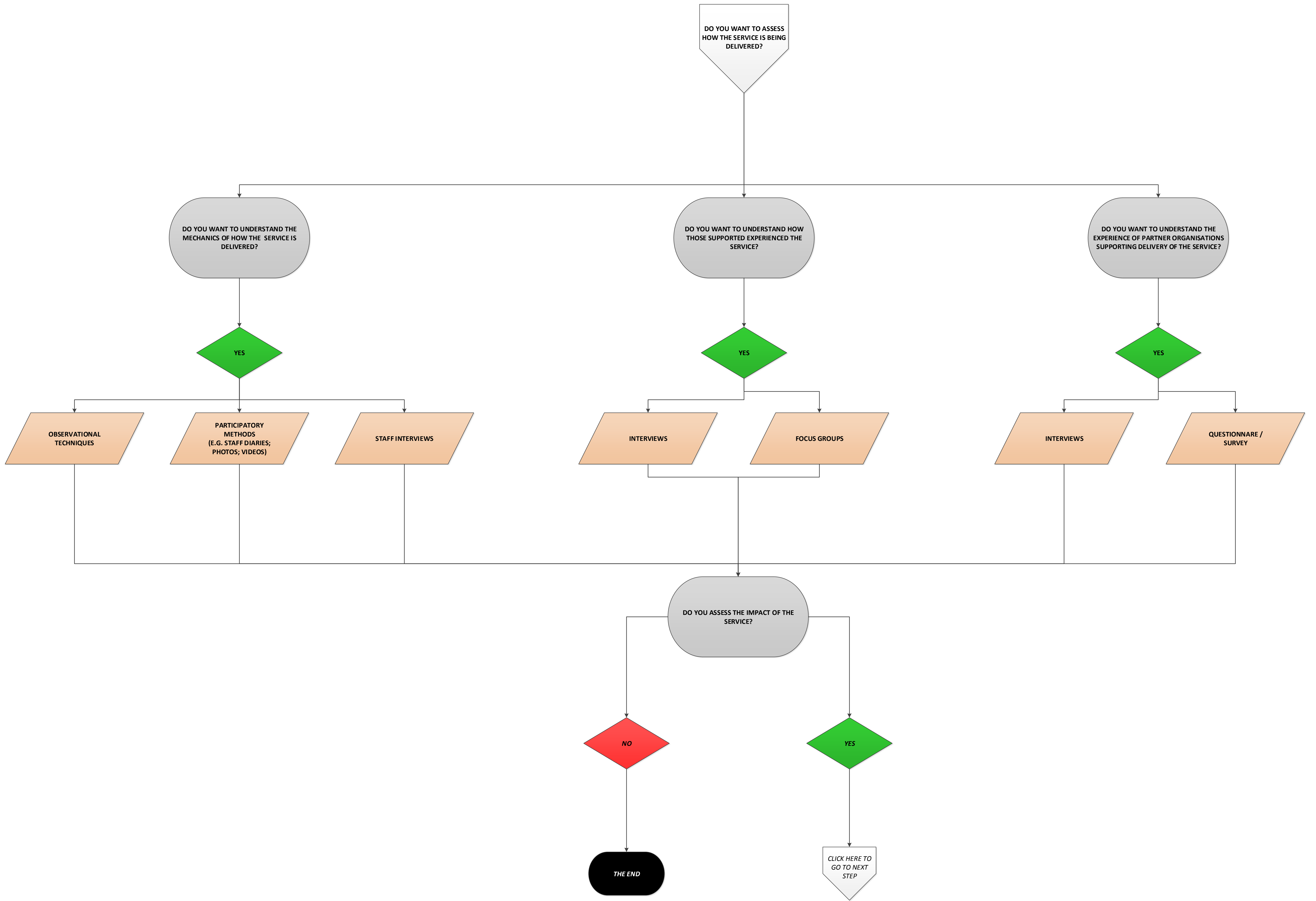
YES

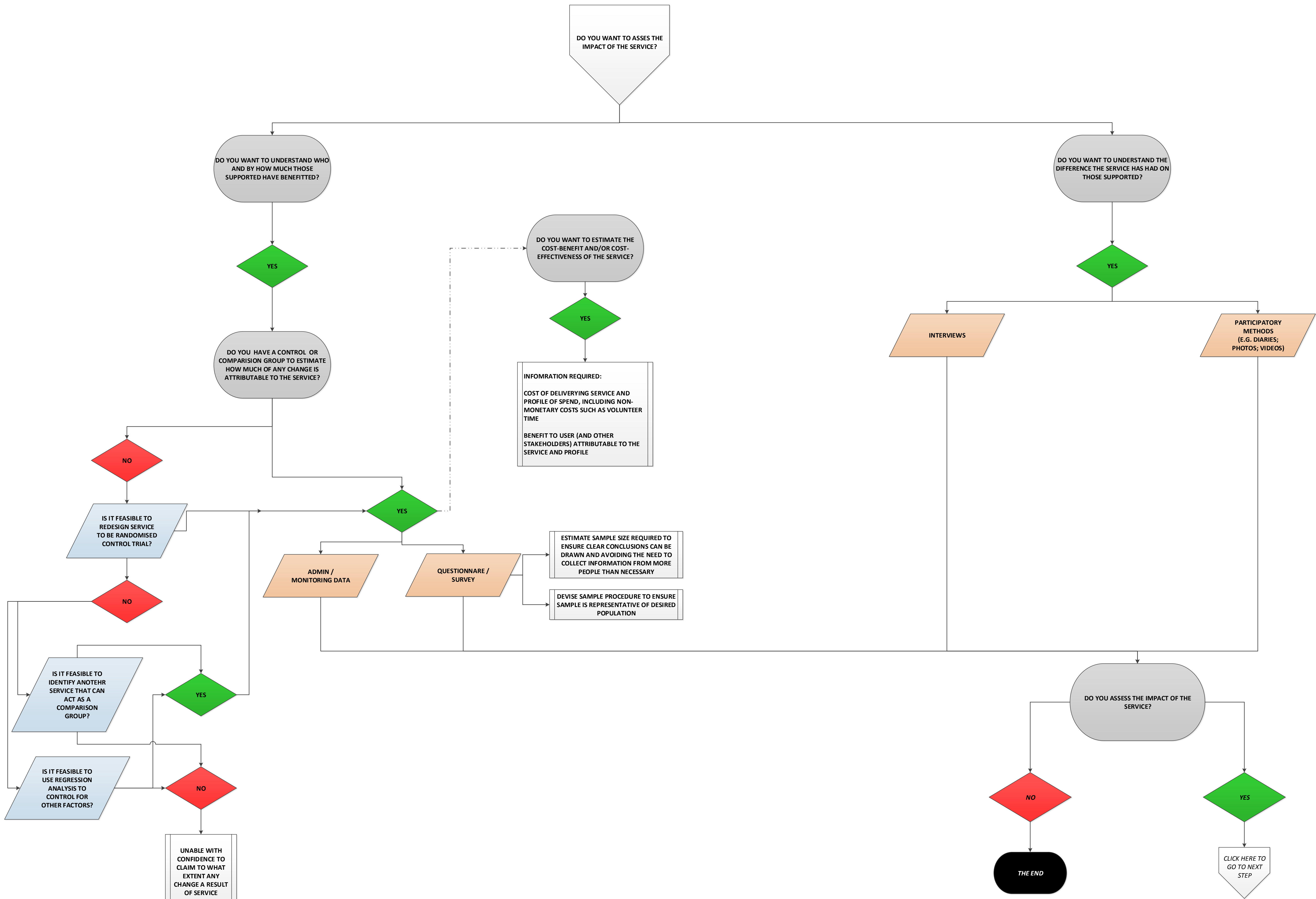
CLICK HERE TO GO TO NEXT STEP

DO YOU WANT TO ASSES THE IMPACT OF THE SERVICE?

YES

CLICK HERE TO GO TO NEXT STEP





DO YOU WANT TO ASSES THE IMPACT OF THE SERVICE?

DO YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND WHO AND BY HOW MUCH THOSE SUPPORTED HAVE BENEFITTED?

YES

DO YOU HAVE A CONTROL OR COMPARISON GROUP TO ESTIMATE HOW MUCH OF ANY CHANGE IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SERVICE?

NO

IS IT FEASIBLE TO REDESIGN SERVICE TO BE RANDOMISED CONTROL TRIAL?

NO

IS IT FEASIBLE TO IDENTIFY ANOTEHR SERVICE THAT CAN ACT AS A COMPARISON GROUP?

YES

IS IT FEASIBLE TO USE REGRESSION ANALYSIS TO CONTROL FOR OTHER FACTORS?

NO

UNABLE WITH CONFIDENCE TO CLAIM TO WHAT EXTENT ANY CHANGE A RESULT OF SERVICE

ADMIN / MONITORING DATA

QUESTIONNAIRE / SURVEY

ESTIMATE SAMPLE SIZE REQUIRED TO ENSURE CLEAR CONCLUSIONS CAN BE DRAWN AND AVOIDING THE NEED TO COLLECT INFORMATION FROM MORE PEOPLE THAN NECESSARY

DEVISE SAMPLE PROCEDURE TO ENSURE SAMPLE IS REPRESENTATIVE OF DESIRED POPULATION

INFORMATION REQUIRED:
COST OF DELIVERING SERVICE AND PROFILE OF SPEND, INCLUDING NON-MONETARY COSTS SUCH AS VOLUNTEER TIME
BENEFIT TO USER (AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SERVICE AND PROFILE

DO YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE THE SERVICE HAS HAD ON THOSE SUPPORTED?

YES

INTERVIEWS

PARTICIPATORY METHODS (E.G. DIARIES; PHOTOS; VIDEOS)

DO YOU ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE SERVICE?

NO

THE END

YES

CLICK HERE TO GO TO NEXT STEP