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Developing a support program for care networks of home-dwelling older people

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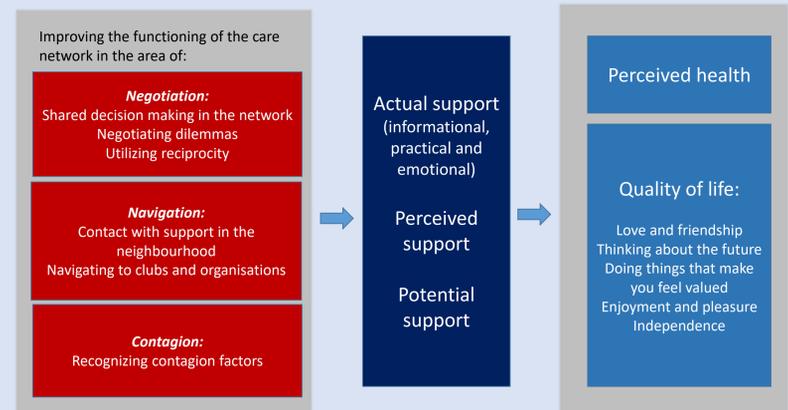
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Background

Informal caregivers and formal care providers support home-dwelling older people in a care network. We consider the functioning of the care network as related to network mechanisms as navigation to resources, negotiation in the care network and contagion of behaviour. Previous research showed these care networks as closed systems in which participants navigated towards existing contacts.

Goal

To develop a support program for care networks, existing of training for formal care providers and support tools for older adults and informal care providers to optimize the functioning of the care network.

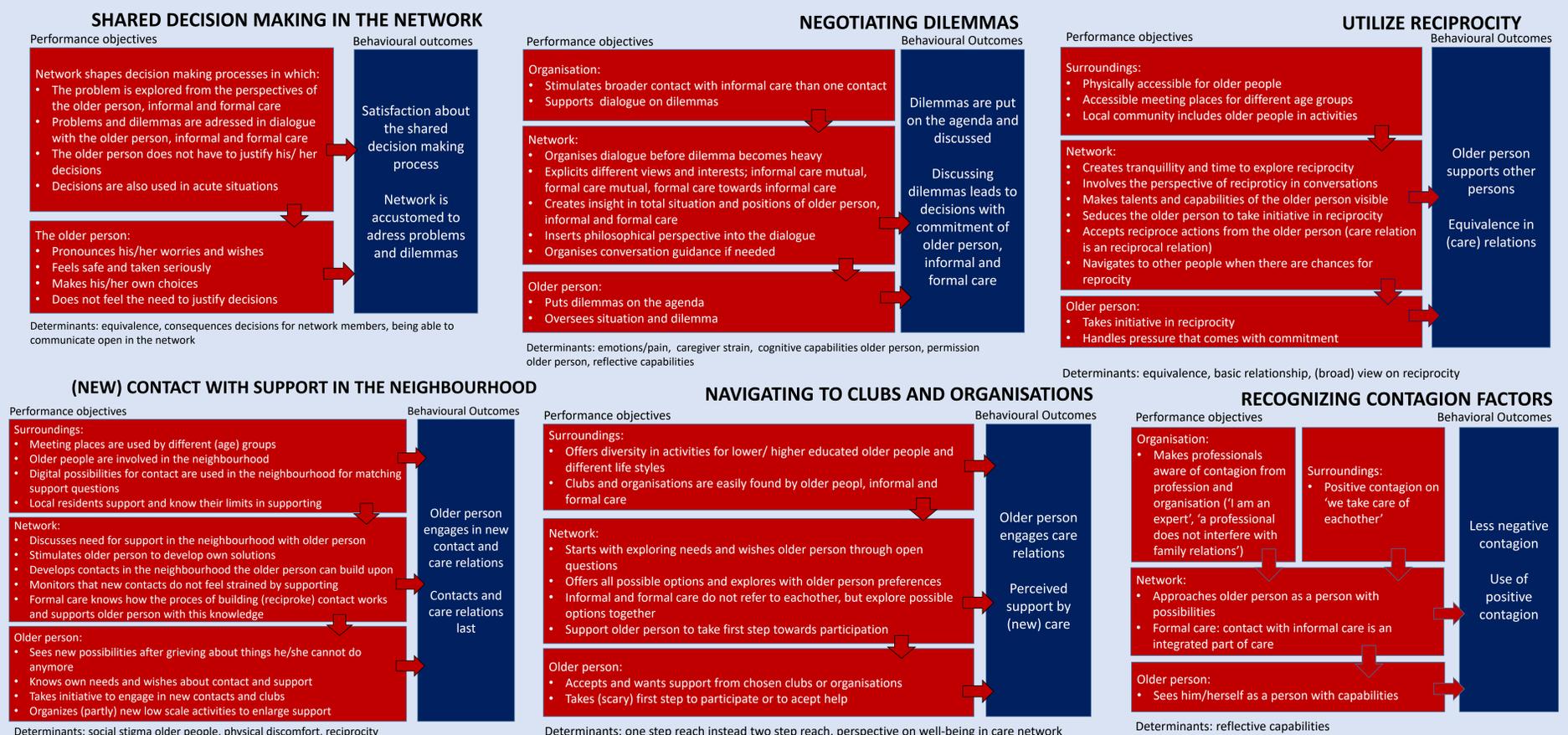


Methods

The design in this study follows the first steps of systematic process of intervention mapping: logic model of the problem, logic model of change and program design. In multidisciplinary focus groups with older people, informal caregivers and formal care providers the areas for the support program were discussed. The formulated support program will be tested with older people, informal caregivers and formal care providers.

(preliminary) Results

The focus groups explored the logic model of the problem on every area. The research team based performance objectives and behavioural outcomes on these results. Underlying determinant in all areas was when the older person formed one system with his/ her partner. Also the degree of equivalence in care relations and contact moments and related underlying reciprocity seemed important for the functioning of the care network.



On base of these performance objectives and behavioural outcomes the tools in the support program are developed. (network interventions). Older persons, informal and formal care will be asked for feedback on these tools.

(preliminary) Conclusion

The process of intervention mapping is useful to develop a support program systematically