

Using Three Horizons to set strategy and make plans

Callum Alexander, Senior Strategic Planning Advisor Gregory Hill-O'Connor, Strategic Planning Advisor



What we want to achieve today

Understanding when and where to apply Three Horizon Thinking

Understanding what each Horizon represents

 Being able to apply Three Horizons to frame discussions to set a vision, strategy and plans



What is Three Horizons

Callum Alexander, Senior Strategic Planning Advisor

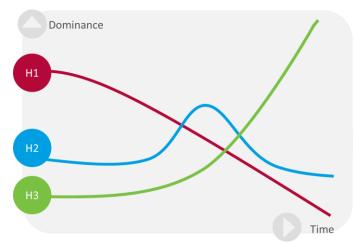


What is Three Horizon Thinking

Three Horizons is a method for structuring our:

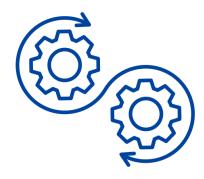
- thinking
- planning
- decision-making
- investments

To achieve transformational change at a system scale through coordinated action over time.



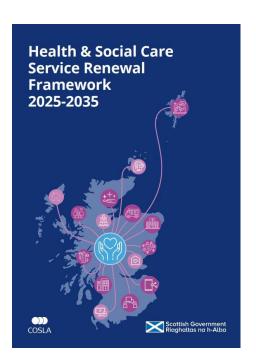
What is transformation?

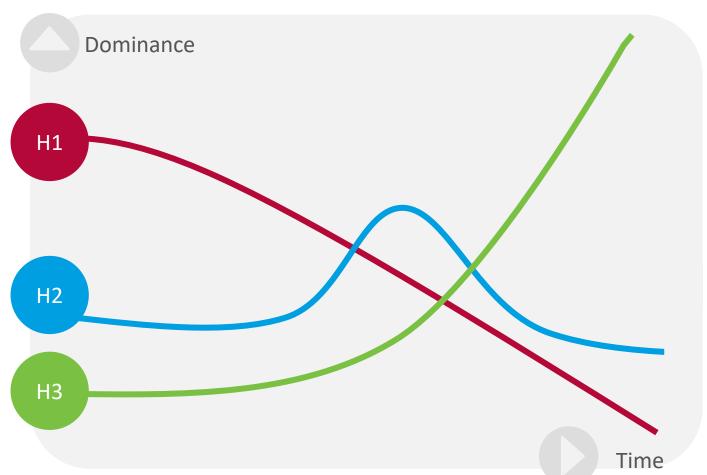
- Transformational change refers to a fundamental shift in how a service, organisational or system operates.
- It involves altering key elements of the ways and means of operating, including structure, culture, leadership styles, values and investment.



Service Renewal Framework

- Prevention
- People
- Community
- Population
- Digital







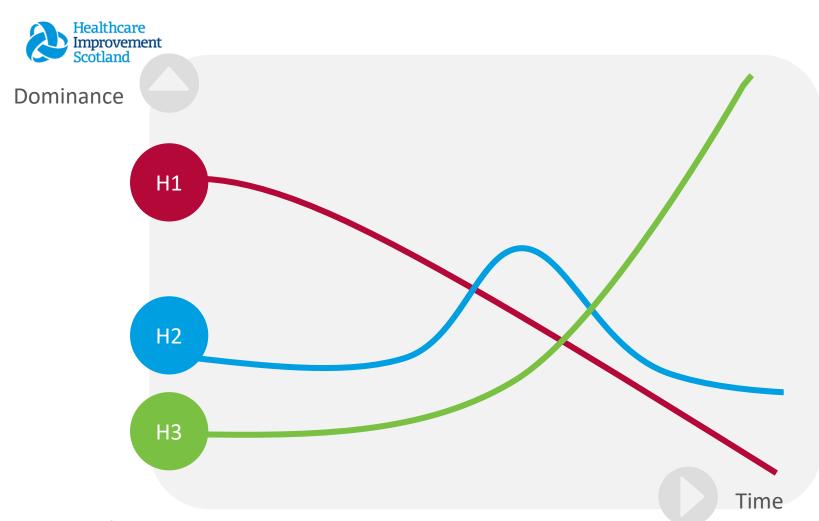
Dominance





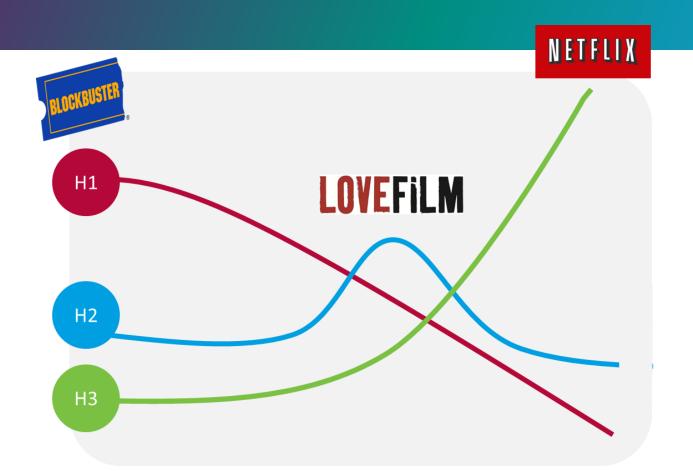
Dominance

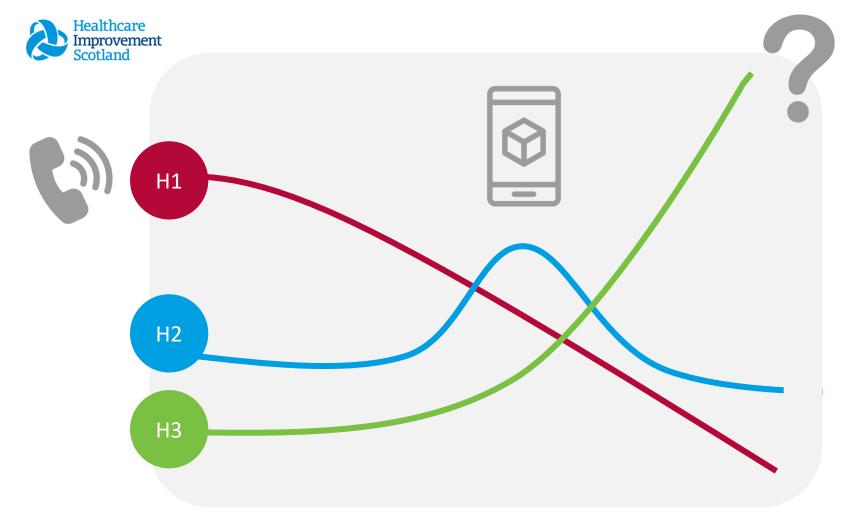


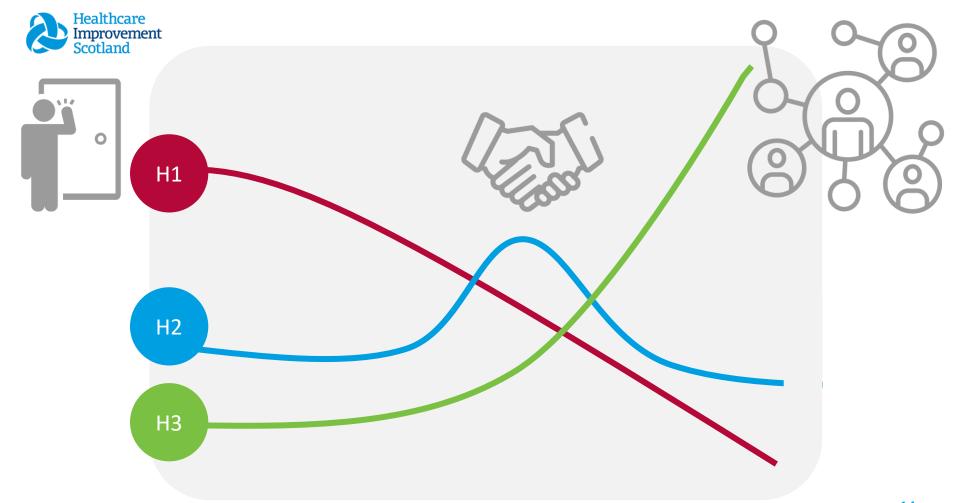




Examples of Horizon Thinking









Three Horizons – How it can be used in planning

Gregory Hill-O'Connor, Strategic Planning Advisor





How do you use it to open conversations?

How do you open conversations?

Three Horizons can help structure collaboration in the planning process by opening up conversations. This can unpick and define broad terms we often use.



What is transformation?



What is innovation?

How do you open conversations?

How might these change with time?

What is the shift here?

What conditions need creating?

Present concerns

Promising innovations

Aspirational Systems

Hope and inspiration

Enduring features

What are your strategic goals?

How do you open conversations?

Make sure you aren't investing in things that are just extending the life span of your Horizon One.

Check you aren't investing in innovations that lock you into a Horizon One mindset.



How do you use Horizon Two effectively?



People can mistake Horizon Two innovations for Horizon Three.

Care navigation is not a connected system

Community hubs

Community hubs are not an integrated system

Just doing those won't get you where you need to go.

How do you use Horizon Two effectively?

Working towards your Third Horizon can make innovative tests of change more effective.

Pilots, innovations and tests can fall flat if they don't have a Horizon Three to end up a part of.



How do you start putting it into a plan?

How do you start putting it into a plan

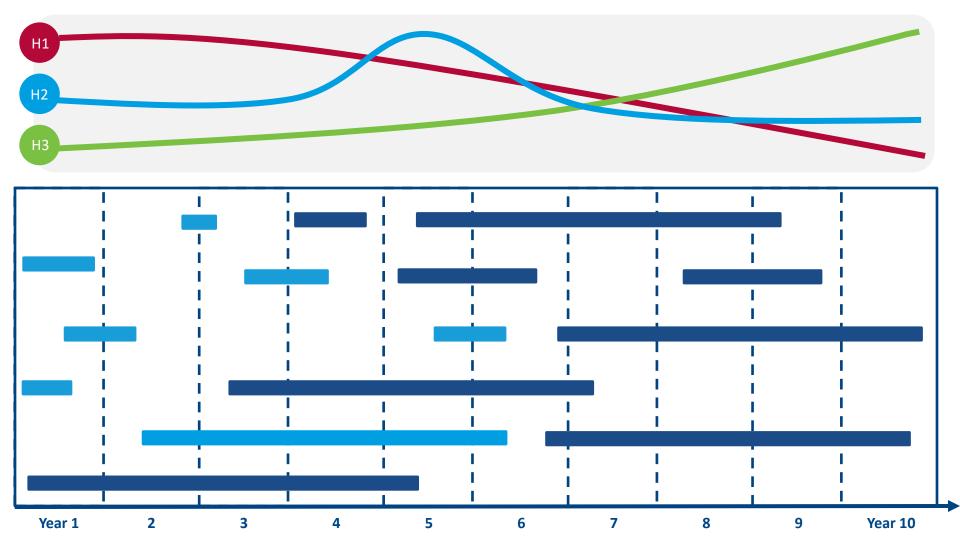
There needs to be a phased plan of how to balance the different pieces of work – to build the knowledge, relationships and infrastructure to realise Horizon Three.

How do you start putting it into a plan

There is work you can do now that builds towards the Third Horizon.

How do we do this work while still meeting our existing challenges?

Your role as planners is to articulate the balance and develop the connections.





An example

Horizon 3

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE AGREEMENT

ALLIANCE CONTRACTING

Working towards the third sector front door and collaborative delivery

Shared vision and purpose

Shared values of how to work together

Operational underpinnings required for contracting

Introducing alliance contracts

Horizon 2

Grow the foundations for H3 by building on evidenced models

Community hubs

Peer support services

Capacity and relationships in third and independent sectors

Horizon 1

Responding to budget requirements now

Financial review

Need to conduct this in a way that doesn't undermine the ability to progress the Horizon 3.

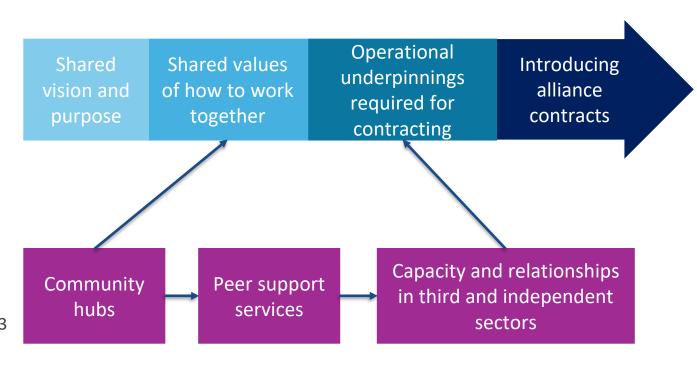
Building sustainability

Horizon 3

Working towards the third sector front door and collaborative delivery

Horizon 2

Grow the foundations for H3 by building on evidenced models





Things to ask your self as a planner, tips and tricks for nailing this

Some things to reflect on

Are you in a cycle of extending Horizon One practices?

 Are your innovations building towards Horizon Three or a new way to do old things?

 How can you learn from Horizon One and Horizon Two activities to help inform and develop Horizon Three?

Some things you can do

 Use it when looking at big transformations – be aware when it is an appropriate tool

 Use it in the early stages of discussions with leaders as a critical tool for challenging narrow or short term ambitions

Consider what stakeholders you bring into those visioning discussions

Some things you can do

 Plan phased actions in the short, medium and long term, reviewing where you can include Horizon Three activities in plans this year

 Try it out in your team on a topic one of you is working on before trying it with others on an actual project

Next Steps

This was your introduction to Three Horizon Thinking. Next year we are planning:

- To offer small group reflective sessions on this topic.
- To run another Three Horizons Workshop that provides more detail on applying this in your practice areas.
- To offer drop-in sessions using examples you've brought to us and discussing them in small groups.

How to stay connected

Twitter/X: @online_his

Bluesky: @healthimprovescot.bsky.social

Email: his.transformationalsystemchange@nhs.scot

Web: healthcareimprovementscotland.scot