

Moonshot: What a society that works for autistic people and their families really looks like

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What we will cover



We want to share with you the outcomes of our ground-breaking Moonshot Project. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this exciting work.

The presentation will cover:

- What the Moonshot Project is
- How we ran the Moonshot Project
- What a society that works for autistic people could look like
- How we'll develop the milestones on how to get there
- How this links with our charity's strategy



What the Moonshot Project is



Our charity's vision



To create a society that works for autistic people and their families.

- When we changed our charity's brand, we set out this new vision. We think this is what we should spend all our time doing this, by transforming individual lives and changing attitudes about autism.
- To make sure that we are doing the most important and impactful things, we need to know:

What does a society that works for autistic people and their families look like?



Moonshot project



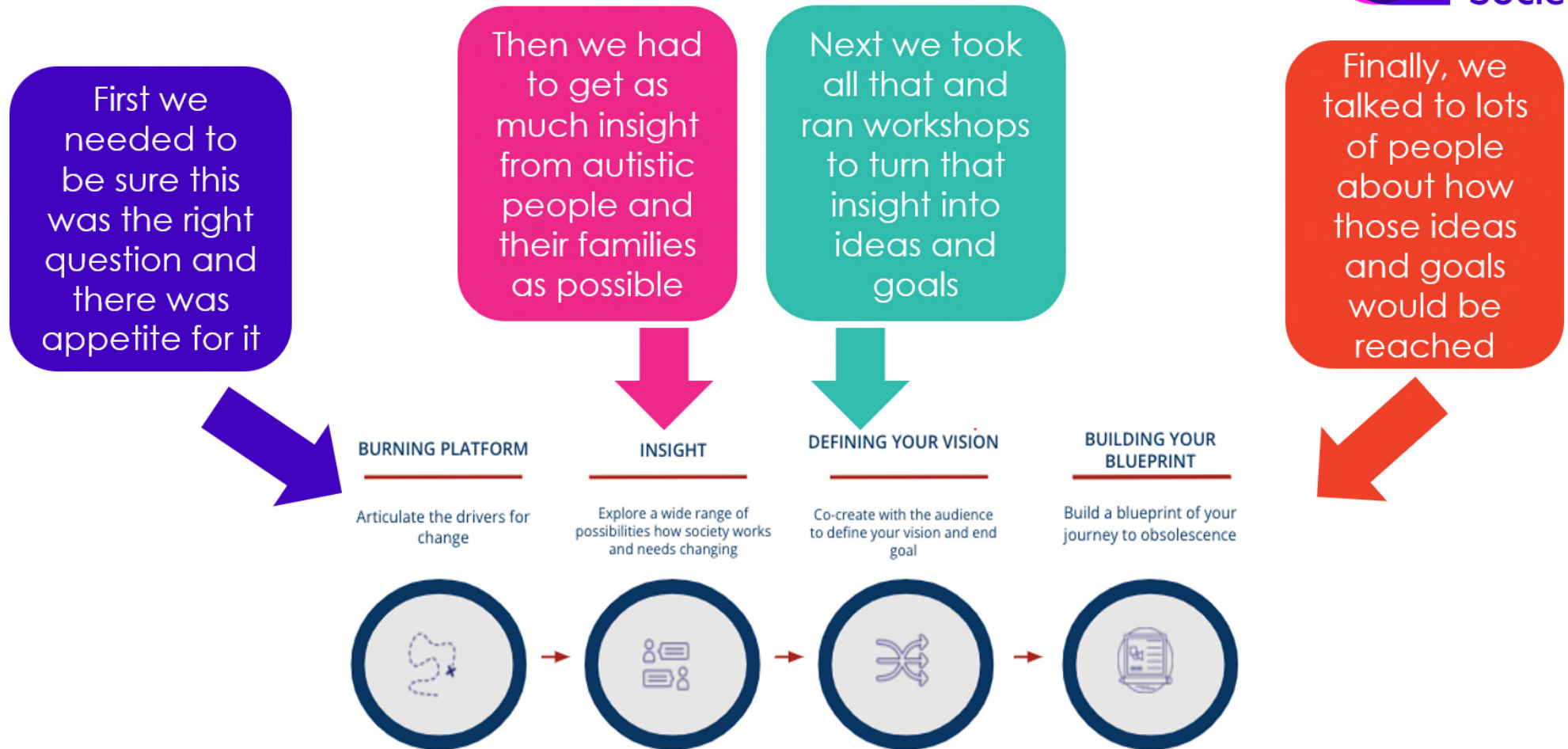
- The Moonshot Project was created to answer that question.
- We started calling it Moonshot because we wanted it to be ambitious. Autistic people deserve a society that works and is fair for them, without exception.
- When the USA joined the Space Race, they knew exactly what winning it would look like. We want the same clarity for our goal.
- We put together a plan to consult widely and accessibly.
- We had two questions:
 - What would it look like?
 - How does society get there?
- We worked with experts at Good Innovation.



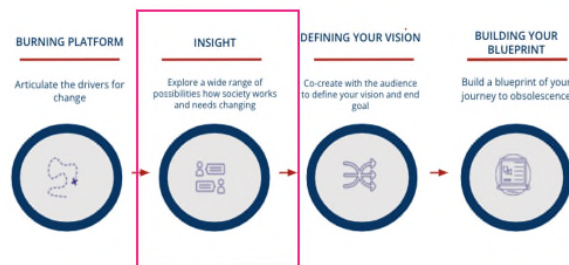
How we ran the Moonshot Project



Our four stage plan



Insight



- We heard from a broad range of people (500+), with different needs and from different backgrounds about what would make society work for them.

Polling our Autism Insight Panel

Social media comments

Video clips

Pictures and collages

- We also heard from people who work with autistic people, our staff, influencers and key decision makers.

Interviews

Workshops

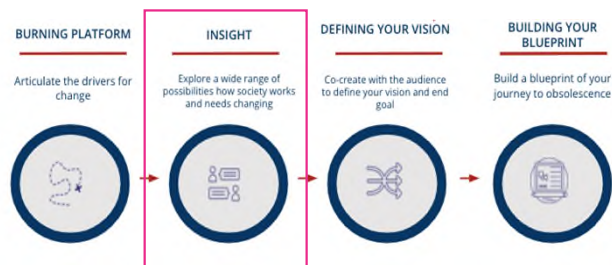
Trustees, volunteers and branches

Autistic Colleagues Network

- And we seconded a member of staff to coordinate this engagement.



Defining the vision



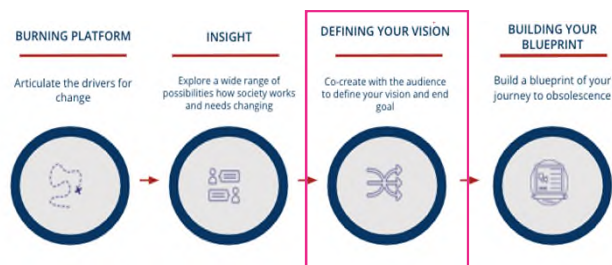
- We had a HUGE amount of insight to analyse and turn it into our vision for what society should look like.
- To help do this, we ran “Future Gazing” workshops. We developed twelve different “personas” of different hypothetical autistic people.
- We applied all the insight we’d gathered to these personas. Then we looked at future trends to see what opportunities there will be to achieve our vision. These trends included things like:

- Increased use of technology
- The way people engage with the NHS is changing
- People are (on the whole) increasingly accepting



This meant we could come up with some key principles for society. We then applied those across key parts of people’s lives, like education, family, and diagnosis.

Defining the vision

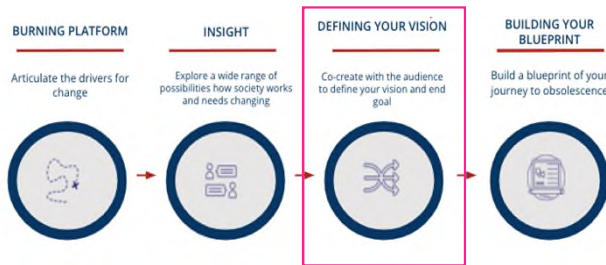


But before we moved on, we made sure that our Future Realities met these key criteria:

- They apply to all autistic people regardless of age, need, or profile
- They are specific to autism, not just changes we want to see to society in general
- That they are things the whole of society needs to do, not just some individuals or organisations.
- They are future-proof and will still be relevant as society changes over the coming decades
- They are clear and concise
- AND they are **ambitious** and **positive** about the society we want to create.

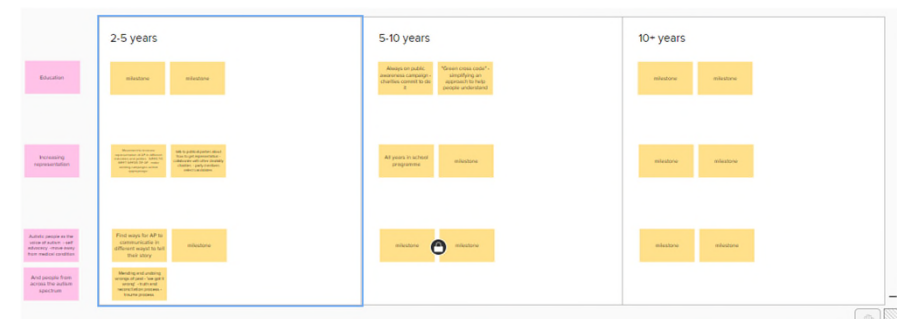


Building the Blueprint



- Once we had our Future Realities, we moved on to the Blueprint for getting there.
 - In our Moonshot, this is like the plan for how to get to the moon.
- We held more workshops, with autistic people, families and other experts from inside and outside our organisation.
- We had to think what steps would need to be achieved in order to get to the perfect Future Realities.
- Our Blueprint gives us short-, medium- and long-term milestones that need to be met.

Each Blueprint Milestone is a step in reaching society's Moonshot of becoming a society that works for autistic people



**What a society that works for
autistic people could look like**



A society that works for autistic people...



Values autistic individuals.

Understands and appreciates what autism is and how it is unique for each individual

Maximises autistic power.

Autistic people are empowered to control how they live their lives and make distinctive contributions that influence the world

Guarantees support.

Provides seamless diagnosis, support and care for autistic people from all backgrounds, at all moments of need throughout their lives

Adapts public spaces and services.

Designs spaces and services that are autistic inclusive, with flexible adjustments that recognise that not all autistic people have the same preferences

Is free from discrimination.

Rejects stereotypes and stigma, removes the expectation to mask, and doesn't accept being told to fit in as acceptable.

These Future Realities go across people's lives



For example...

Maximises autistic power.

Autistic people are empowered to control how they live their lives and make distinctive contributions that influence the world

Public understanding & representation

Autistic people have a platform to shape public narratives, perceptions and communities, so that autistic representation and stories are commonplace

Education

People's individual strengths are amplified and passion, curiosity and ambition is encouraged in autistic people

Work & Employment

The talent of autistic people is prominent in all types of work, giving a sense of fulfilment and community

Before, during and after diagnosis

Diagnosis is a springboard for autistic people to define their autistic identity, unlock opportunities, and build wellbeing from pre-diagnosis and beyond

Public services and specialist care

Support is based on personal needs, strengths and preference, not cost or availability

Families and support networks

Autistic people have relationships and family lives they want, with active communities of support for themselves and their loved ones

We've done this for them all...



A SOCIETY THAT WORKS FOR AUTISTIC PEOPLE...		AREAS OF LIFE					
		Public understanding & representation	Education	Work & Employment	Before, during and after diagnosis	Public services and specialist care	Families and support networks
FUTURE REALITIES	Values autistic individuals. Understands and appreciates what autism is and how it is unique for each individual	Shared understanding of what autism is and encourages all autistic people to be their true selves	There are safe and enjoyable classroom experiences for all and the role of autistic students, parents & school staff is welcomed	Autistic employees are a respected part of the workforce, can access opportunities they find meaningful and progress in them	Realistic and relatable stories about diagnosis are widespread, for people of all backgrounds, at all stages of life	Promotes the rights of autistic people to live a fulfilled and happy life, regardless of need, diagnosis, age or background	Society values the integral role of autistic people, friends, families and carers in each other's lives
	Maximises autistic power. Autistic people are empowered to control how they live their lives and make distinctive contributions that influence the world	Autistic people have a platform to shape public narratives, perceptions and communities, so that autistic representation and stories are commonplace	People's individual strengths are amplified and passion, curiosity and ambition is encouraged in autistic people	The talent of autistic people is prominent in all types of work, giving a sense of fulfilment and community	Diagnosis is a springboard for autistic people to define their autistic identity, unlock opportunities, and build wellbeing from pre-diagnosis and beyond	Support is based on personal needs, strengths and preference, not cost or availability	Autistic people have relationships and family lives they want, with active communities of support for themselves and their loved ones
	Guarantees support. Provides seamless diagnosis, support and care for autistic people from all backgrounds, at all moments of need throughout their lives	Widespread access to trusted and expert information enable anyone to understand autism and be equipped to support autistic people of all ages	Provides sustainable tailored education for all and eases key transition moments	All autistic people who want to work can do so and are supported, including through times of change	Diagnosis in whatever form is convenient and free for all, available when it is needed, with a clear, robust, joined-up pathway to support after diagnosis	Provides easily navigable health and social care services and affordable housing, tailored for autistic people as their needs evolve over time	Carers and loved ones have information and support from pre-diagnosis to planning for when they are not around
	Adapts public spaces and services. Designs spaces and services that are autistic inclusive, with flexible adjustments that recognise that not all autistic people have the same preferences	Integrates adjustments into all communications and public spaces, online and offline	Fair access to educational opportunity, supported by widespread adaptations to curriculum and learning environments	Hiring/management practices and workplaces allow autistic candidates, volunteers and staff to be their best selves	The impact of diagnoses is recognised and delivered in a familiar, stress-free way for autistic people and their loved ones	Autistic people's needs are recognised, with specific evidence-led health and social care pathways	Society adapts to allow loved ones to create the family life they want, without trade-offs
	Free from discrimination. Rejects stereotypes and stigma, removes the expectation to mask, and doesn't accept being told to fit in as acceptable.	Anti-autism stereotypes and misinformation are a thing of the past. Stimming and other autistic characteristics are respected.	Autistic people experience school, university and other educational settings free from bias, ignorance, and stigma	Discriminatory work and hiring practices cease to exist	The right to diagnosis is protected and stigma never prevents receiving the support autistic people need	All public services are free of discrimination toward autistic people	The role of family, friends and carers is respected as a force for good

The real voices behind Moonshot



**How we'll develop the milestones
on how to get there**

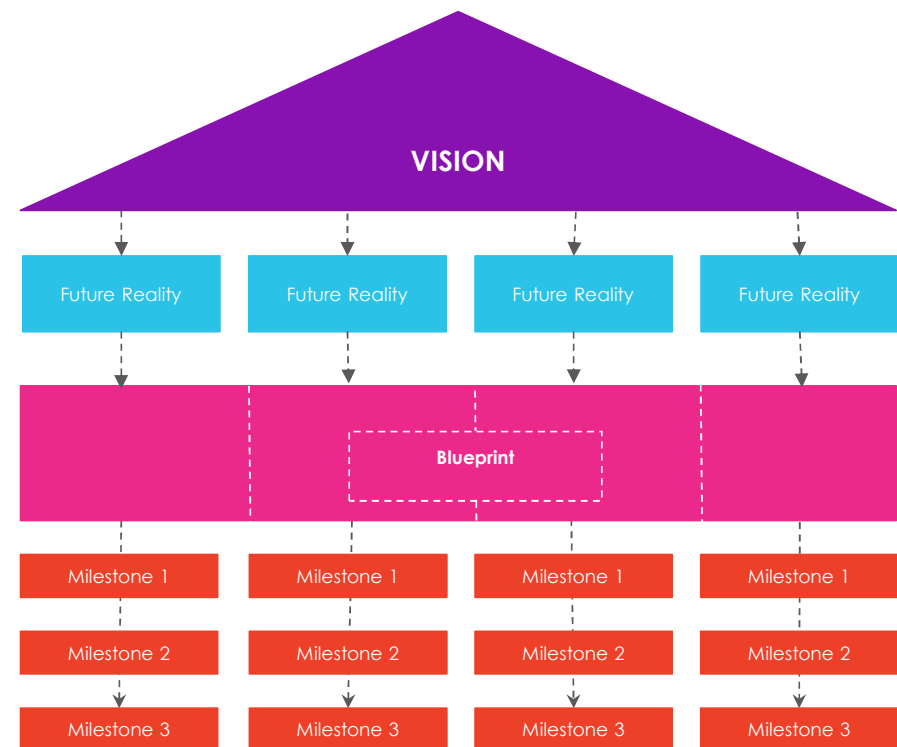


The milestones are things to achieve along the way

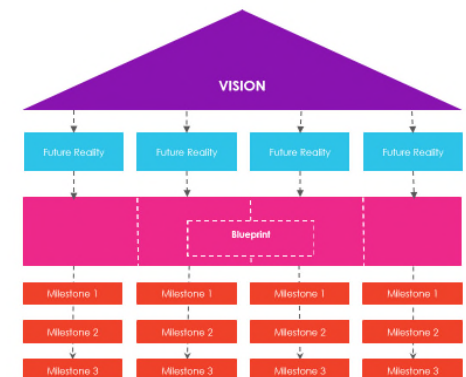
Each milestone will get society a little bit closer.

We have set out short, medium and long term goals for each Future Reality.

(Full list in Moonshot report)



The milestones are things to achieve along the way



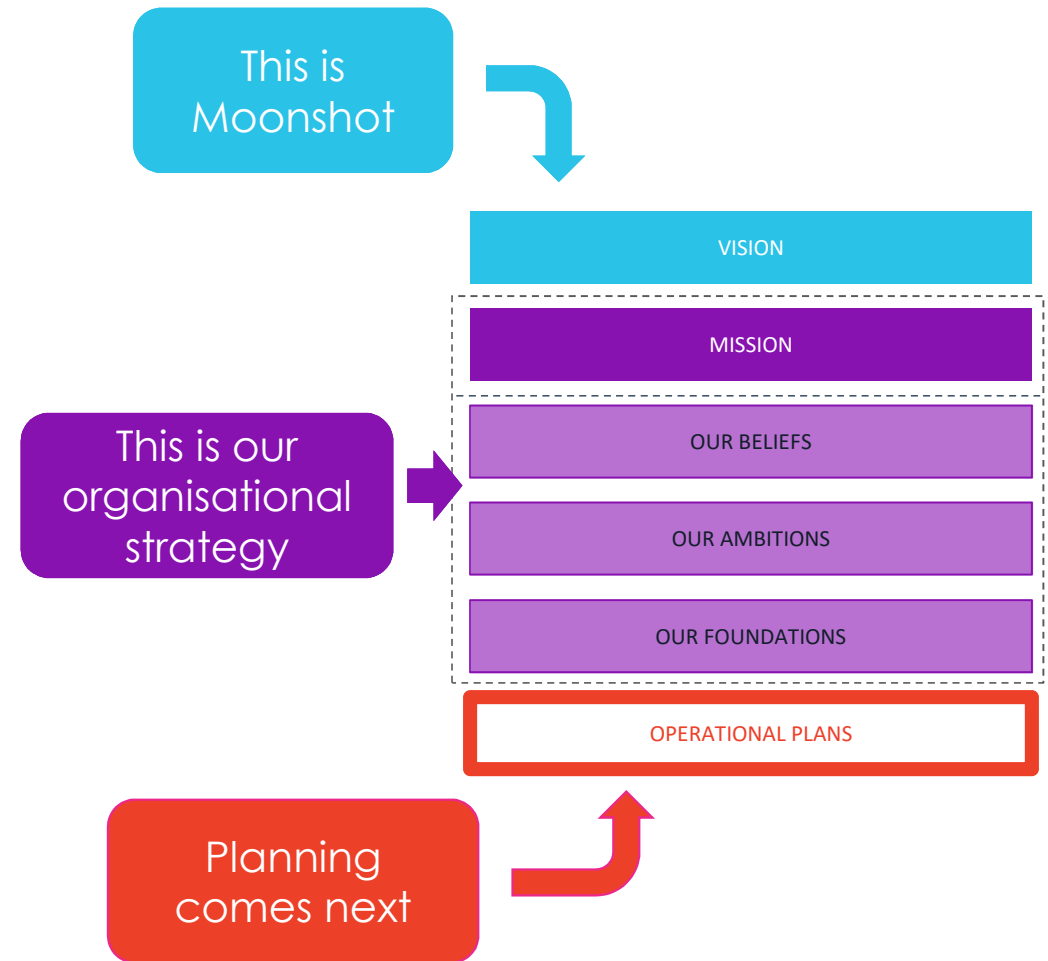
How this links with our charity's strategy



Our strategy will work towards Moonshot



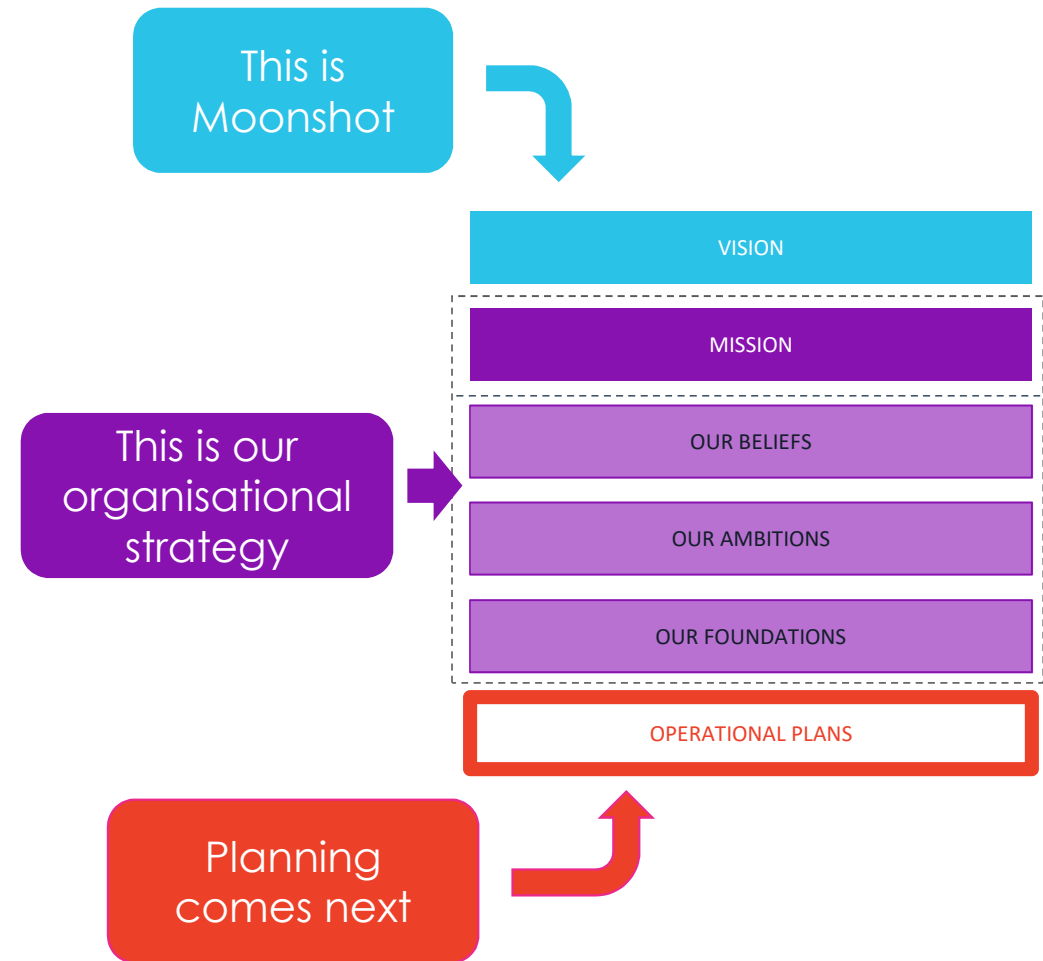
- Moonshot is for the whole of society. We can't and shouldn't do all of it.
- Our strategy will decide:
 - Key Future Realities we should focus on
 - Key Milestones we should aim for
 - What we should do to reach them
- The strategy is for the whole charity and how we will support, influence and transform society.



Our strategy will work towards Moonshot



- The strategy will set out:
 - **Our Beliefs:** top line statements about what we do
 - **Our Ambitions:** key areas we will focus on under those Beliefs
 - **Our Foundations:** internal ambitions and programmes that will underpin all our work.
- Our new strategy will be published in about a month!



Any questions?



If you have questions after this presentation, email tim.nicholls@nas.org.uk

Thank you! We're so happy to share Moonshot with you!

