



## Summer 2016

Welcome to the first quarterly edition of the Scottish Third Sector Research Forum newsletter.

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### What is the Forum?

The [Scottish Third Sector Research Forum \(TSRF\)](#), supported by the Scottish Government, has existed in its current form since 2009 and brings together strategic partners: Scottish Government and other public sector agencies, third sector and academics to:

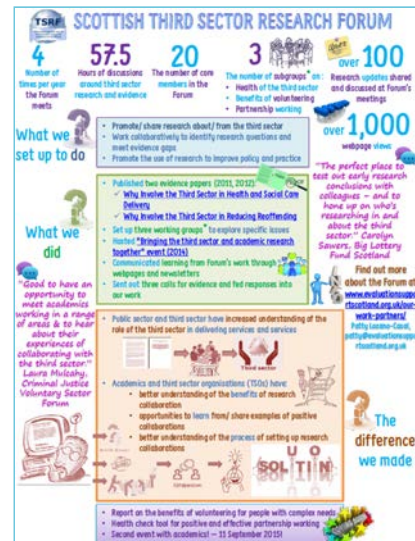
- Obtain holistic oversight of third sector evidence and data needs;
- Work collaboratively to identify research questions and meet evidence gaps;
- Share and critique data, evidence and knowledge, and
- Maximise the impact of evidence through knowledge exchange and dissemination.

See more about [TSRF's remit](#) and view downloadable [infographic](#).

The Forum is made of a [core membership](#) of 20 organisations and a [virtual membership](#) of

3 organisations to widen involvement whilst maintaining a manageable size. The TSRF meets quarterly. Meetings comprises strategic discussions, member updates about research about third sector, invited external presentations, and subgroups working on thematic strands of work. Last year's subgroups covered:

- Partnership working: [Third Sector Compass - What research tells us about engaging in positive partnership](#)
- Volunteering: [The Benefits of Inclusive Volunteering](#)
- Health of the third sector.



See minutes of previous meetings [here](#) and [previous evidence papers](#).

[Evaluation Support Scotland](#) convenes and is the secretariat of the Forum with support from Scottish Government Third Sector Unit.

The TSRF runs parallel to the [Knowledge Translation Network](#) (KTN) which published [Evidence for Success](#) in 2014 and [Collaborating with academics](#) in 2016.



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## Book now for "Let's collaborate" event - 13 September 2016



For the last two years the TSRF has hosted a "Let's collaborate" event bringing together third sector organisations and academics to discuss better collaboration. For more information click [here](#).



This year's event "[Let's collaborate for impact](#)" will take place on [Tuesday, 13th September 2016](#) at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh. The [programme](#) will consist of presentations from brokers, third sector organisations and academics showcasing their collaborative work, a series of thematic breakout sessions, and plenty of time for discussing research impact.

Click [here](#) to book a place

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## Forum's workplan for 2016/17

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At the May 2016 meeting the Forum approved its [Workplan for 2016/17](#). This year's plan includes:

- a standing item on the 'health of the third sector';
- themed subgroups on 'co-production' and 'inclusive growth';
- a third ["Let's collaborate" event](#) to broker third sector/academia relationships,
- and showcasing of research about and from the third sector via this newsletter, Twitter ([#STSRF](#)) and [TSRF webpages](#).

### Get in touch!

Tell us what you think about the Forum by emailing [Patty Lozano-Casal](#)

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## Research Updates from members

### [Funders' views on 'economic evaluation' - Evaluation Support Scotland \(ESS\)](#)

Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS) works with third sector organisations and funders so that they can measure and report on their impact and use learning to improve practice and influence policy. ESS decided it was important to explore whether ESS has a role in supporting economic evaluation and what that role might be. This research, conducted in autumn 2015, comprised a rapid literature review and an online survey of 11 multiple

questions with opportunities to comment.

ESS launched its findings at [FunderFest2016](#), an event for funders held on 16 June 2016 in Glasgow. To read the [survey findings of funders' views on economic evaluation](#) click [here](#).

#### [DRILL Programme - Inclusion Scotland \(IS\)](#)

Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning (DRILL) is a four-year programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund to deliver the world's first major [research programme led by disabled people](#). People living with impairments or health conditions will work in co-production with researchers and policy makers to develop and oversee research and pilot projects which build evidence or test ideas to support independent living for disabled people. [Funding applications](#) are currently welcome.

#### [Think Data - Scottish Network for Third Sector Data](#)

This network has been set up as part of a workshop programme funded by the Scottish Universities Insight Institute on "Big Data and the Third Sector" in order [to help build networks of collaboration](#) with academics, third sector practitioners and policy-makers. The programme includes:

- [Programme of webinars](#) about using 'big data'
- Three Master funded places working with data
- A PhD project about trust in government data.

#### [Understanding the gap - Voluntary Health Scotland \(VHS\)](#)

Understanding the Gap: How research can help us address health inequalities in Scotland conference took place on 1st June 2016. The purpose of the conference was to explore what the latest research tells us about health inequalities, including the causes, the lived reality and some potential solutions. See conference programme and key messages [here](#).

#### [Scottish Charity Regulator \(OSCR\)](#)

OSCR recently commissioned [two surveys](#) to see [how public attitudes towards charities in Scotland have changed since 2014](#). As in previous years, OSCR's stakeholder surveys asked members of the public whether and how they support charities; what levels of interest and support they have for charities; what issues of concern they had, and how aware they were of OSCR and its work. Charities were asked about the challenges they faced and how satisfied they were in dealing with the Regulator. Read full report and view infographic [here](#). This research complements evidence from [Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations \(SCVO\)](#) about [the public's trust in charities published](#) earlier this year.

#### 'Improving the Use of Research and Evidence' - [Scottish Social Work Services Strategic Forum \(SWSSF\)](#)

Following the publication of SWSSF's [vision and strategy](#) in March 2015 virtual TSRF member [Professor Andrew Kendrick](#) (University of Strathclyde) has been leading the implementation of some of the recommendations that came out from the stakeholder scoping workshop that the [Social Work Services Strategic Forum](#) hosted in November 2015. Read Andrew's blog [here](#).

#### [Share your findings](#)

Do you have research evidence from or about the third sector you'd like to share or present to the Forum? Please email [Patty Lozano-Casal](#)

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Scottish Government Third Sector Unit.



Evaluation Support Scotland offers secretariat support to the Forum. It manages  
day to day activities of the Forum.



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