ESS works regularly with independent Trusts and Foundations as well as Scottish Government and other public sector commissioners

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Evaluation Support Scotland

Funder news

Learn, share, influence

June 2018

Welcome! In this issue

Final report - Funder Learning Programme
Evaluation Support Accounts updates
Our work with national intermediaries
Resources and learning
Workshops for grant holders - Perth and Inverness
Would you like to learn about getting the best from your grantholders?
Any feedback?

Final report from the Funder Learning Programme

Since 2014 we have run a Funder Learning Programme, funded by The Robertson Trust, comprising seminars, learning events, workshops, and masterclasses. You may remember our FunderFest 2016 - a particular highlight! Many resources have been developed over the four years and much learning has taken place.

Our final report here briefly summarises impact and learning and includes links to resources. The Funder Learning Programme has run its course but was successful in helping funders improve their practice and build connections. In future the Scotland Funders' Forum and Scottish Grantmakers will support funder learning. If you have any comments on our report or suggestions please get in touch.

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Evaluation Support Accounts

Our Evaluation Support Accounts (ESA) offer workshops and tailored support to third sector organisations which are paid for by their funder. Currently we have accounts with:

- R.S. Macdonald Charitable Trust
- The Robertson Trust
- Church of Scotland's Go for It

Each account operates slightly differently depending on the funder's preferences for referral procedures. We recently met with funders to share learning about ESAs enabling funders to learn from each other.

Funders told us that mostly our support is helping organisations report better or make better funding applications.

Working with several funders means that we've been able to join up funders so that more than one funder is contributing to a single organisation's support - sending a strong message of harmonised funders.

There have been times when we have been asked to work with an organisation which has failed to secure funding from the funder. This shows that funders are interested in helping third sector organisations to be in the best position possible when applying for funding.

Get in touch if you are interested in ESS supporting your funded organisations in evaluation.

Our work with national intermediaries

A resource for understanding Intermediaries' impact was produced with a working group of national Third Sector Intermediaries to help them and funders to understand the impact of their work.

The next stage of this work will be to work with intermediaries on how to measure and report on outcomes.

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Resources and learning

Blogs

- Fear of facing evaluation
- Funders DON'T just want numbers, honest!

Case studies

- Case study: Adapting project outcomes if things don't initially work out
- Case study: Clear communication and constructive feedback
- Case study: Doing something different to feedback to our funders

Evaluation explained in one minute videos :

- What is an outcome?
- Writing outcomes
- What is an indicator?
- Working out what to measure: setting indicators View videos here

Reports

- Reporting on core funding - addressing the challenge
- Funders' online reporting systems - a reflection paper
- Funders and funded in harmony - where are we now?

For more resources...

Workshops for grant-holders - Perth and Inverness

Do you know of any organisations in Perth or Inverness that may benefit from any of the following evaluation workshops? There are still places available on our 'Let's Evaluate' workshops for third sector projects to improve all aspects of their evaluation practice.

Getting started: Outcomes and Indicators
9 August 2018, Perth
20 September 2018, Inverness

Make to measure: Evaluation Methods and Plans
23 August 2018, Perth
4 October 2018, Inverness

Telling my story: Analysing and Reporting on Outcomes
6 September 2018, Perth
18 October 2018, Inverness

Would you like to learn about getting the best from your grant holders?

Do you have new staff who may benefit from a refresher about good evaluation practice? Or are you new to evaluation?

Our workshop for funders 'Getting the best from your grant holders' is designed to help attendees be better able to:

- Support funded organisations with evaluation planning and processes
- Understand what good reports and what good reporting relationships look like
- Assess and give feedback on reports to funded organisations

This workshop would be particularly useful during the induction period of new staff.

Please email to register your interest in attending this workshop. We will contact you when we have the minimum number of delegates registered.

Any questions or comments?

We appreciate all feedback so please get in touch.

If you have any questions, comments or want to feedback to us on our work with funders please email us or telephone 0131 243 2770

A big thank you to The Robertson Trust for their support for our Funder Learning Programme

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Back to top

Evaluation Support Scotland
Scottish Charity Number: SC036529
Scottish Company Number: SC284843
VAT Number 923 2102 72

Our mailing address is:
Evaluation Support Scotland
Thorn House
5 Rose Street
Edinburgh
EH2 2PR

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