

Funder Bulletin Summer 2017

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



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What did ESS ever do for us?

In July, we sent a survey to everyone who had attended activities within the Funder Learning programme since 2014 to find out: [What difference we have made and what funders want from the reports they receive.](#)

was extremely positive with funders telling us they learnt something new and did something differently as a result of our support. Funders also scored 'knowing our funding made a difference' as what they want from their reports

You can find the full summary of findings [here](#).

We are always interested in hearing from funders so please do continue to give us your feedback or make suggestions for how we can support you by [emailing us](#).



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Presentation to Scottish Grantmakers

In June, Emma presented our '[Funders and Funded in Harmony](#)' about the impact of harmonising reporting at the Scottish Grantmakers' annual residential, and on a separate occasion to the Funders' Frontline forum.

At each event Emma also facilitated a brief activity and discussion about what's important when it comes to receiving reports. Funders' reflections included:

- General acknowledgement that reporting has become less burdensome

requirements due to the diversity, scale and capacity of funding organisations

- Funders not understanding the need (or being unwilling) to fund core costs can cause problems for charities. Opportunities to discuss this would be welcome*
- There's an appetite for working collaboratively with third sector organisations and jointly agreeing principles on what a positive funding relationship looks like.



* ESS ran a funder workshop Getting the best from Core Funding on the 31st August. Feedback and learning from this event will be on our website soon.



Upcoming event and workshops

5 October 2017, 1 - 5pm

Challenges, opportunities and strategies for learning in responsive grant-making -
Lessons from: Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The UK Evaluation Roundtable

Speakers: Ben Cairns (Institute for Voluntary Action Research), Gina Crane (Esmee Fairbairn Foundation) and Steven Marwick (Evaluation Support Scotland)

This is a free collaborative event led by [The Corra Foundation](#) (formerly Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland), Esmée Fairbairn, the Robertson Trust, Institute for Voluntary Research and ESS. It is sponsored by CCLA.

To book please email genevieve@ivar.org.uk

[Getting the best from your grantholders](#)

7 November 2017, Edinburgh. Book [here](#)

[Logic modelling workshop](#)

2 November 2017, Edinburgh. Book [here](#)

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New resources

[Funders and Funded in harmony – where are we now?](#)

An ESS report reflecting on the impact of harmonising reporting on the funder and funded relationship. This document gives examples of improvements in reporting practice since 2010 and reflects on where we are now and what comes next.

[Getting the best from external evaluation – principles for funders](#)

This resource is about external evaluations (for example of a grant programme), that are commissioned from consultants, universities or others. It gives funders practical principles on what they can do to make sure they get the best from external evaluations.

Further information, tips, tools, case studies and other resources can be found on our website: www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk



Tweet

R S Macdonald - Building stronger relationships

Douglas Hamilton, R S Macdonald Charitable Trust talks about his hopes for building stronger relationships with the charities they support. Read more in Douglas' blog [here](#).



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Reflections from 2016/17 Evaluation Support Accounts

As part of ESS's commitment to reach the charities that need us most we have 4 evaluation support accounts. This enables funders to refer grantholders that need evaluation support and ultimately get better evidence of the difference their funding has made.

"I feel that this session has clarified what an outcome, indicator and method is. I now know a lot more methods which can be used and where to find them" Lisa Stark, Home-Start West Lothian

You can read more about evaluation support accounts [here](#).

And lastly a wee farewell from Emma

ESS, in a reckless moment, allowed me to take a lead on our Funder Learning programme when I started 4½ years ago. I have always been interested in how the funding world works and have been in the right place with ESS who will always champion sensible evaluation approaches and useful reporting that has value for charities themselves.

I have been incredibly fortunate to meet some amazing people who are committed to funding what works and to developing positive funding relationships. A big thank you to all the funders I've worked with during my time at ESS; you have taught me so much. A special thank you to The Robertson Trust for all the support you have given ESS, and me personally, over the past 4 years.



The YMCA George Williams College are having their reckless moment and letting me loose as their Head of Business Development. I start with them on the 11th September and will no doubt cross paths with you through other networks. Thanks and warm wishes.

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A big thank you to The Robertson Trust for their support and investment in our Funder Learning Programme. Thank you also to the Big Lottery and the Scotland Funders' Forum for their support with FunderFest2016.

For further information about our support to funders please contact Diane on 0131 243 2770 or email diane@evaluationsupportscotland.org

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