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Evaluation Support Scotland Summer Newsletter 2015



Dear <<First Name>> ,

Welcome. In this edition we are 'Looking back' to our conference and 'Looking forward' to new work, new plans and new resources to help you in your work!

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Book your place now!

[Telling my story - Analysing and reporting on outcomes](#)

9 July 2015
Glasgow

[Evaluating together](#)

1 September 2015
Glasgow

[What are my outcomes?](#)

10 September 2015
Edinburgh

[Collecting information to report on outcomes](#)

24 September 2015
Edinburgh

[Using creative approaches to evaluate your project](#)

8 October 2015
Edinburgh

[Telling my story - Analysing](#)

Our birthday conference



Looking back Looking forward

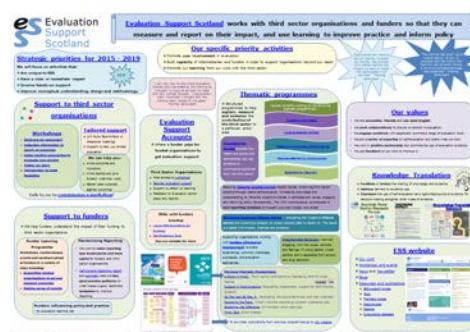


It was really good to see so many people at our conference. If you were not able to be there, get a flavour of the day on our [Looking back Looking forward webpage](#) where you will see:

- The conference report
- Blogs inspired by the breakout sessions
- Films of guest speakers, Mary Craig OBE and Paul Hunter, talking about the early days of ESS and changes in evaluation over the last 10 years
- Steven Marwick, ESS director, promoting evaluation in a creative way with his rendition of 'Let's do it, Let's evaluate!'

Looking forward - Strategic plan

Our [new strategic plan](#) for the next five years shows our continuing commitment to support third sector organisations and funders to show the difference they are making. Our new strategic priorities are to:



- Promote user involvement in evaluation
- Build capacity of intermediaries and funders in order to support organisations beyond our reach
- Promote our learning from our work with the third sector.

The new [ESS poster](#) is now available online. It is a pictorial representation of our work, values and strategic priorities for 2015-19.

Thematic programmes - old and new!

March 2015 saw the end of two of our thematic programmes: [A Stitch in Time?](#) and [Support in the Right Direction](#). Both programmes ended with a final event and publication of resources.



The work of [Support in the Right Direction](#) was completed with the publication of two documents: '[The Value of Independent Support](#)' and '[Measuring the difference Independent Support makes](#)', which can be downloaded from the [Self Directed Support Scotland website](#). Watch Jess Wade, Manager of [SDSS](#) and Lisa Lee, SDS Manager, [Penumbra](#) introduce "The value of Independent Support". Both were talking at the 'Well begun' event about how the publication can help people understand and make informed decisions about self-directed support.

See our website for more information about [Support in the Right Direction](#).

[A Stitch in Time?](#) ended with a final event and parliamentary reception in March where the [full range of publications](#) was on display.



The story goes on as we secured funding to continue the learning in a new thematic programme called [Threading the Needle](#). This programme will support health and social care commissioners in four health and social care partnership areas to use third sector evidence to commission outcomes for health and social care. Check out the [webpage](#) for more details.

[Measuring Outcomes Citizens Advice](#) programme has come to an end with the production of a pack. This will be launched at a joint event with [Scottish Legal Aid Board](#) and the [Improvement Services](#) in the autumn. Citizens Advice Bureaux will be coming together at regional days to explore how to use the publication.

[Experiencing Recovery](#) is a NEW thematic programme, just starting, that actively engages with the voices, opinions and feelings of young people whose parents are in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction.



[Families affected by imprisonment \(FABI\)](#) and [Violence against Women](#) thematic programmes continue. Check out the [Families Outside case study on the FABI webpage and get further information](#) about how this programme is making a difference, as well as the work planned for this year.

New resources on our website



Why bother involving people in evaluation?

The final strand of the [Support in the Right Direction](#) programme involved working with a group of funded Independent Support projects to produce: [Why bother involving people in evaluation? – Beyond feedback](#). This workbook helps organisations plan why, when and how to involve the people they work with in evaluation. It has been produced as an editable PDF document which you can fill in, save, edit, share with your colleagues, and print.

Learning from A Stitch in Time? A commissioners' guide
This [new guide](#) shows the third sector's role in ensuring health and wellbeing, how to commission outcomes, and use evidence from third sector organisations. In addition, there are tips to support projects with self-evaluation.

[How to build mutually beneficial relationships between funders and funded organisations - Top tips for funded organisations.](#)

Blog – [Sara Redmond](#) from the [ALLIANCE](#) writes about her experiences of being part of our Train the Trainer project in this blog [‘Helping to strengthen evaluation capacity in the third sector: the perspective of an intermediary’](#)



News for funders

Our work with funders continues...



We have a learning set for funders! [Funders Influencing Policy and Practice \(FIPP\)](#) learning set explores how funders influence policy and practice in Scotland, and how to evaluate that influencing work.

And a new resource - [How to build mutually beneficial relationships between funders and funded organisations - Top tips for funders.](#)

And more training – the next master class is 'Evaluating together' in Glasgow on September 1st. Book your place [here](#). Wondering what the funder master classes may do for you? Find out by reading about the previous master class '[Adding Up Outcomes](#)'.

Check out the new look [Support for funders webpage](#) for further information about our services for funders.

Hear ESS director talk about 'What is good enough evidence?'

Steven Marwick, ESS Director, will speak at the "What is Good Evidence?" webinar run by Evidence Exchange on September 1, 2015, 12.30pm. For more information and to register click [here](#).

Further information please see our [website](#), [email us](#) or tweet @EvalSupScot

Credits - Conference photographs
[Andrew O'Brien](#)

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