

Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS) works with third sector organisations and funders so that they can measure and report on their impact

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Winter Newsletter 2017/ 18

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Supporting Big Lottery Fund grantees to tell their story

We are delighted to announce that ESS will be delivering free learning and self-evaluation support to a range of Big Lottery Fund grantees in Scotland from November 2017 to 2020.

Grantees will have opportunities to learn from attending Let's evaluate! workshops and tailored support.

As the programme progresses we will develop

- webinars to share tools, approaches and learning
- peer learning and specialist events
- new sections on the website to include emerging tools, methods, blogs and case studies, including in relation to the Big Lottery Fund's three approaches.

[More details...](#)

In this [video clip on our webpage](#) Martin Cawley, Scotland Director, Big Lottery Fund, talks about the importance of providing opportunities for grantees to learn from each other.



**NATIONAL
LOTTERY FUNDED**



Intermediaries event - save the date

Understanding Intermediaries Impact: recall event

8 February 2018, Conference Room, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
9.30am for a prompt 10am start and finish at 13.00pm

This event is for third sector national intermediaries, Scottish Government officials who fund intermediaries and other funders.

At this event we will share a resource for third sector national intermediaries, their boards and the people who fund them or work with them.

The aim of this resource to help third sector intermediary organisations and those who work with them, to be clear about the role and impact of intermediary organisations and to have helpful discussions about what evidence to collect and report upon.

We will also consider next steps in taking this work forward.

Booking will open in January on our [website](#).

[Read more about our work with intermediaries](#)



Introducing new ESS staff

Nicola Swan , (pictured right) our new Evaluation Support Manager, joined ESS in October 2017. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience from working in the equality field, particularly workplace equality. Nicola will be taking forward our work with funders and is "really looking forward to getting out and supporting organisations in the third sector with evaluation, and engaging with funders."

[Read more about Nicola...](#)

Grace Robertson joined us in November 2017 as training officer to support the growing demand for our evaluation workshops and tailored support. For the last seven years Grace has worked in advice services in the third sector; part of that role was delivering training to build people's knowledge and confidence in securing their rights. Grace is passionate about accessible communication and looks forward to bringing this to her work with organisations.



[Read more about Grace...](#)



Upcoming workshops

Getting started: Outcomes and Indicators

[8 March 2018, Edinburgh](#)

[3 May 2018, Glasgow](#)

Make to measure: Evaluation Methods and Plans

[22 March 2018, Edinburgh](#)

[17 May 2018, Glasgow](#)

Telling my story: Analysing and Reporting on Outcomes

[5 April 2018, Edinburgh](#)

[31 May 2018, Glasgow](#)

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Inspiring Impact - news and events

We are delighted that The [Royal Society of Edinburgh](#) has become an Impact Champion. Many congratulations! They have been working very hard to embed evaluation across their organisation. Read their case study to discover how, and their top tips for others [here](#).

Find out more about how to become an II Impact Champion [here](#).

Events

The latest of our Inspiring Impact networking events '[Getting others on board with evaluation](#)' took place on 13 December in Edinburgh. The 27 participants heard from Evelyn Mitchell, from [Changeworks](#), talking about their experiences of [getting staff on board](#) with evaluation. Marion Findlay, from [Volunteer Edinburgh](#), gave examples of [involving volunteers](#) in evaluation. Louise Bowen, ESS, spoke about how to help [trustees understand the importance of evaluation](#).



[Suggestions from speakers:](#)

"Incorporate evaluation from onset of new projects, have one point of contact, plan ahead, remind staff in electronic calendars 2 months and 1 month ahead of data needed" Evelyn

"Tip for collecting data: have an evidence folder- somewhere to put any feedback you receive such as an email" Marion

"Trustees can support a culture of evaluation" Louise

More details and participant feedback will be published soon on our website in the event report.

There are two more events in the calendar for this year:

- 'Sharing tools for evaluation' will be in Glasgow on **21 March** ([Booking will be open in January](#))
- 'Sharing news and feedback from your evaluation' is in Edinburgh on **13 June**.

[More information about Inspiring Impact...](#)

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New Resources on ESS website

Tools and guides

- [Self- evaluation health check \(revised version\)](#) - a simple assessment tool to show how well you are evaluating your work
- [Reporting on core funding](#) - addressing the challenge: a short paper

Case studies

- [Inspiring Impact case study](#) - Royal Society of Edinburgh - Harnessing the enthusiasm to make evaluation stick

Blog

- [Should we evaluate co-production?](#) - This blog was written for [CoProWeek](#) by Steven Marwick, ESS and discusses evaluating co-production in a co-productive way
- [Funders and funded in harmony?](#) Steven Marwick busts some myths about funders of the third sector in this blog written for Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR)

Important message regarding our online module - ['Getting the best from external evaluation'](#). This module will be **withdrawn from our website at end of the 2017** . If you have started the module please ensure that you complete it by 31st December 2017.

We are in the process of improving our website. As part of this work we are reorganising the resources. If you cannot find a resource or have any comments about the website please email [Jane Marryat](#).





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Third Sector Research Forum conference

The next [Third Sector Research Forum](#) event will be [Researching Together](#) conference on 1st February 2018 at [John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollock Halls, University of Edinburgh](#). This all day event is for academics, third sector organisations and those interested in third sector research. It will explore the theme of researching together.

The conference will be chaired by [Dr. Rebekah Widdowfield](#), Chief Executive, The Royal Society of Edinburgh. Contributors will include:

- [Social Value Lab](#)
- [Crisis](#)
- [Iriss](#)
- [DRILL](#) (Inclusion Scotland)
- [Whale Arts](#)
- [Prospect Housing](#)
- University of Stirling
- University of the West of Scotland



[More information and booking...](#)

#RTconf2018

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Evaluation Support Scotland



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