

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 2018/19

Look out for workshops in Aberdeen, our webinar on 'Fit for purpose evaluation', new resources, and find out what we've been up to in the last few months.

In this issue

[Steven has been out and about](#)

[Upcoming workshops and webinars](#)

[Working in partnership with Third Sector Interfaces](#)

[Learning from our work with funders](#)

[Impact of health inequalities](#)

['Stats and stories': a new ESS resource in development](#)

[We're looking for a Finance and Business manager](#)

[NEW resources](#)

Director Steven has been out and about

We thought you may be interested in hearing about some of ESS's work that you don't usually hear about...



Strategic Steven

ESS sometimes gets involved in sharing learning from and about third sector evaluation. For example ESS Director, Steven Marwick, is on a working group shaping the future research and evidence functions for Public Health Reform. See this useful [blog](#) from Voluntary Health Scotland for more about public health reform and check out this [stakeholder event](#) on **30 January 2019 in Edinburgh**.

Also, in the last few months Steven has shared third sector experiences of outcome-focused Government with Northern Ireland colleagues at a Belfast conference and worked with the Big Lottery Fund to share and act on research findings about grantholders experience of evaluation.

If you are interested in finding out more about ESS's strategic role or "to express surprise that I (Steven) do any work at all" please [get in touch](#).



Upcoming workshops and webinars

Getting started: Outcomes and Indicators

[28 February 2019, Glasgow](#)

[7 March 2019, Aberdeen](#)

Make to measure: Evaluation Methods and Plans

[21 February 2019, Edinburgh](#)

[14 March 2019, Glasgow](#)

[21 March 2019, Aberdeen](#)

Telling my story: Analysing and Reporting on Outcomes

[21 February 2019, Edinburgh](#)

[28 March 2019, Glasgow](#)

[4 April 2019, Aberdeen](#)

Webinar: Fit for purpose evaluation

[18 December 2018, 10am - 10.45am](#)

In our second webinar we will talk through some of the factors to consider when choosing appropriate tools, the pros and cons of “validated tools” versus home-grown, and the importance of fitting your evaluation methods to the values and approach of your work. Register for our webinar [here](#)

If you missed our first webinar about embedding evaluation you can watch it on [our website](#).



[Back to top](#)

Third Sector Interfaces outcome framework



ESS was commissioned by Scottish Government to facilitate the development of an outcomes framework for third sector interfaces (TSIs) for the work that Scottish Government directly fund through the Third Sector Division. Over the last few months ESS's Depute Director, Diane Kennedy, has been working with a working group of TSIs to develop an outcome framework. View the framework [here](#) and for more information about this work click [here](#).



Learning from work with funders



Involving young people in evaluation

To mark the Year of Young People, ESS has been working with the Big Lottery Fund to support their grantholders to test out ways of involving young people in evaluation.

Seven projects in the youth work sector, supporting young people between the ages of 8 and 24, stepped up to try out different ways of handing the evaluation reins over to young people.

The project leads involved young people in a range of different ways from agreeing project outcomes to designing evaluation tools, analysing feedback and sharing findings.

Top tips the project leads would like to share with others thinking about involving young people in evaluation are

1. Trust the service users
2. It helps to set realistic/achievable goals
3. It won't always be smooth sailing ... but that's ok!
4. Keep the balance between learning and fun.

For more ...



Impact on health inequalities



Earlier this year the National Learning Collaborative on Inequalities (co-ordinated by NHS Health Scotland) asked ESS to help them better understand the challenges the third sector faces in demonstrating impact on health inequalities. (Health inequalities are the unjust and avoidable differences in people's health across the population). While the third sector plays a crucial role in preventing and mitigating the effects of inequalities in Scotland the impact of the sector is not always recognised and understood.

We spoke to a range of third sector organisations to explore the challenges that the sector faces throughout the evaluation cycle and found that while there are **no common measures** in evaluating impact, organisations can adopt a **good practice process** to help them measure and explain their impact on health inequalities more effectively.

To follow up we have been running tailored workshops to share our learning and support third sector organisations in evaluating their activities, whether they are preventing or reducing the effects of health inequalities. So far, we've delivered [**Taking steps to measure your impact on health inequalities**](#) in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee. Watch this space for more dates in early 2019!

If you are interested in this work please [email us](#)

[Back to top](#)



Stats. and stories: a new ESS resource in development

We are working on a **new interactive resource** to help third sector organisations make the most of **blending quantitative (stats) and qualitative (stories) evidence in evaluation reports.**

In November we tested our working draft in an afternoon workshop with third sector organisations to learn more about what works well, and what could be developed further. Participants gave us some great feedback and ideas which we are now taking into the final version. The resource will be filled with examples, top tips and discussion questions to use with your team. 'Stats and Stories in community settings' - **coming soon in 2019!**

We're looking for a Finance and Business Manager



Finance and Business Manager

Full time – 35 hours

Salary - £30,710

ESS is based in Edinburgh and works with the third sector and funders so they can measure and report on their impact.

The post leads ESS's finance and administration functions. You should have strong experience of book keeping, budgeting and financial reporting and be able to use (or quickly pick up) QuickBooks. You will have experience of supporting a small office to run smoothly including database and IT management. You enjoy working flexibly and collaboratively in a small team.

Closes: **12.00pm Monday 21 January 2019**

Interviews: **Thursday 31 January**

For an application pack click [here](#)

Any questions please e-mail info@evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk or phone 0131 243 2770

ESS is an equal opportunities employer.

New ESS method sheet and other resources on our website

Evaluation Method sheet

- [Using case records](#)

Reports

- [Choosing a data management system for your organisation: Frontline perspective](#)

Blogs

- [We're learning from you: how we are use funded organisations' evidence](#) - by Cassy Rutherford, The Robertson Trust

Case study

- [Our evaluation story](#) - University of Dundee

Online resource

- [Charity Catalogue](#) - all sorts of tools and resources for a variety of uses, in particular for evaluation see the 'forms and surveys' section
- [Co-production Knowledge Base](#) - a curated collection by Co-production Network for Wales of all things about co-production with a wide range of different kinds of materials, serving as a one-stop shop for everything from academic papers to blogs, in a range of formats.

Do you have any feedback on our resources or website?

We have recently made changes to our website and we'd like to know what you think? For example, can you find the things you need?

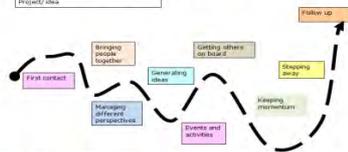
We often get feedback about our resources being useful but we would **really like to know how you use our resources, especially our publications.** Please email comments about the website and our publications to [Jane Marryat](#).

Ideas for reflecting

Creative triggers or prompts
Choosing pictures
Use pictures/image to tune into how you are feeling about an incident or your work more generally.



Emotional Touchpoints
Emotional touchpoints can prompt your thinking about experiences and reflections around key points of contact with your service. This can be used to test your assumptions about your approach.



Stretch or positive statements
Use to prompt reflection times when things work really well (or don't).



Evaluation Support Scotland
Reflective practice support guide 4b

Scottish Charity SC036529
Page 2



[Back to top](#)

Evaluation Support Scotland team would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The office will be closed from Christmas Eve until our return on Thursday 3rd January 2019.





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