Getting others on board with evaluation

Dovecot Studios, Edinburgh
13 December 2017

Event report: participant feedback & future action

This report covers participant feedback from this workshop and the follow-up actions we will be taking into our future Inspiring Impact work. For an account of the day that includes the main messages from our speakers and participants about getting staff, volunteers and trustees on board we have made a Storify- it's accessible here:
https://storify.com/Evaluation9/getting-others-on-board-with-evaluation

The purpose of the event was to

- Offer a programme that would engage third sector practitioners in learning with and from others who face similar evaluation challenges
- Provide participants with ideas they can use or adapt in their own organisations to get colleagues, trustees or volunteers on board
- Facilitate opportunities for participants to make new connections and widen their professional network
- Promote Inspiring Impact

Participant feedback

Participants completed an evaluation form that comprised of the following questions:

1. What are you taking away from this workshop?
2. Feedback on this morning: What was good?
3. What, if anything, should we do in the future to support peer learning & networking about embedding evaluation and impact?
4. What could have been better?

22 of 23[1] participants in the workshop provided feedback via the form. We also received tweets giving positive feedback after the event (see these in the Storify). Feedback was encouraging and highlighted that workers in the sector find events where they can learn from each other valuable- both for sharing practice and making new professional contacts.

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[1] 23 people from third sector organisations attended (7 others cancelled on the day). 5 team members from Evaluation Support Scotland attended. Participant list at **Annex 1**

Main messages from participant feedback

👍 Almost all participants stated that they valued the opportunity to share practice with other third sector colleagues and indicated they want to attend more events like this in the future

👍 We got the balance right between guest speaker presentations and group activities

👍 Almost all participants said they had new ideas to take back to their organisations and enjoyed hearing what other organisations do for their evaluations

👍 Half the participants mentioned they were now thinking about how to involve volunteers with evaluation more

👍 Participants were content with the venue, catering and length of the workshop

➢ A few participants commented that would have liked more inputs on involving trustees

What are you taking away from this event?

"Evaluation is not just something you do as a necessary evil for funders. Evaluation is something for everyone in the organisation to get involved with."

"Lots more confidence going forward, we are reassured we are 'culturally thinking about evaluation' – we think about it every day."

"Inspiration and commitment to be more systematic and creative in engaging volunteers with evaluation; introduce more participant-led evaluation; questions to highlight at the next board

"The importance of making changes (creatively) following results from evaluation that are less positive."

"Renewed enthusiasm, energy and ideas about involving people across the organisation."

Sharing our evaluation practice

Marion Findlay

(Volunteer Edinburgh)

Louise Bowen

(Evaluation Support Scotland)

Staying connected: an online network for learning and sharing evaluation practice

Participants polled their opinions about using an online network to support their learning and sharing impact and evaluation good practice. We ran this poll after participants at our Inspiring Impact event in August 2017 expressed interest in online networking. The following three questions were written up on flipcharts, and participants used sticky dots to indicate their preferences or interest in using online networks.

Q1. How useful for you would an online network for sharing impact and evaluation practice be?

11 responses: all dots clustered between 'very useful' and 'useful' points on a scale running from 'very useful' to 'not useful'.

Q2. What social media would you prefer to use?

20 responses: Twitter: 10; LinkedIn: 5; Facebook: 1; Yammer: 2; Slack, 1. No preference: 0 I don't use social media: 0

Q3. What would you use the network for?

Sharing ideas, tools and methods for evaluation: 10
Learning about updates and good practice in evaluation: 10
Networking with others about evaluation: 7

Online networks: main messages and next steps

👍 Almost half of workshop participants indicated a preference in using Twitter for the network. This was a clear preference, with the other ten votes split among five other options.

👍 Using the network to share tools and learn about good practice in evaluation was of most interest to those who voted

👍 Only half participants voted on the first question but all of those who voted indicated that an online network would be useful for sharing impact practice

➢ Evaluation Support Scotland will trial a Twitter network in 2018 using a mixture of information giving (sharing examples of good practice and tools) and active participation (# impact questions for discussion- moving through different monthly themes).