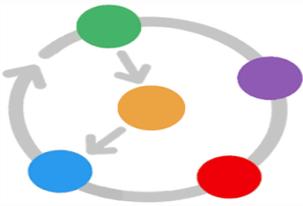


This autumn ESS is taking bookings for the next round of core workshops. Book your place now!



Evaluation Support Scotland's Autumn Newsletter



Upcoming workshops

["Telling my Story -
Analysing and
Reporting Outcomes"](#)

25/10/2012
Glasgow

["What are my
outcomes?"](#)

24/01/2013
Edinburgh

Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to the **Autumn 2012 edition** of the **ESS newsletter**.

In this issue:

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[Community sport project uses evidence to influence policy](#)

[Understanding the benefits of evaluation](#)

[Code of Good Impact Practice](#)

[IT for Outcomes, a resource for efficient data management](#)

ESS Annual Review 2011/12

You can now find out what ESS was up to last year! We are pleased to share with you

["Collecting Information to Report on Outcomes"](#)

7/02/2013

Edinburgh

["Using Creative Approaches to Evaluate your Project"](#)

21/02/2013

Edinburgh

["Telling my Story - Analysing and Reporting Outcomes"](#)

7/03/2013

Edinburgh

Non-ESS events

["Scotland's Third Sector Research Conference 2012"](#)

02/11/2012

Edinburgh

["CCPS Conference 2012"](#)

provides information about what we did, what difference we made and what we learnt. The report features a number of case studies highlighting different issues around self-evaluation and measuring impact, which we hope you find helpful. If you have any comments you'd like to share with us, please contact [Patty Lozano-Casal](#). Happy reading!

Community sport project uses evidence to influence policy and practice

ESS is working with 8 community sport projects funded by [The Robertson Trust](#) to help them measure their outcomes and build the case for the value of community sport. In September 2012 the Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee inquiry into community sport took evidence from one of the projects and the Trust.

Graham Hunter, [Reach for the Sky Basketball](#), gave evidence about his work to improve community safety and improve young people's life chances. He said working with ESS "*helped us to develop a tool for each project that we go out and deliver so that we can get the right statistics about who we are working with ... [I can also] show how we are meeting the Government's national outcomes.*"

Speaking about the Trust's partnership with ESS, Mark McGeaghie, The Robertson Trust, said:

"Organisations really want to contribute to local

28-29/11/2012

Dunblane

and national outcomes, but it is critical that they learn about what the outcomes are and how to evidence them. That is important for organisations in managing and making best use of their cash, but it also enables them when they say to public funders that they can deliver a programme to say that they know what it will achieve and they have evidence for that."

What a great example of **how self-evaluation evidence can help organisations influence policy and practice!** For full details see full Reports at the [Scottish Parliament website](#). If you have examples of where your organisation has used evidence to influence policy and practice that you'd like to share, contact [Patty Lozano-Casal](#).

Understanding the long term benefits of evaluation

This summer ESS spoke to three charities to improve our understanding of the long term benefits of evaluation and how best to promote them. We identified four [potential benefit categories](#) from existing research in this area: internal, for beneficiaries, integrity and accountability, and external policy influence.

The charities we spoke to reported benefits broadly in line with the above, with greater emphasis on the 'integrity and accountability' category. Factors

evaluation tools; scepticism about the validity/importance of self-evaluation and soft outcomes on the part of funders and policy makers.

We are keen to have more stories of the journeys charities make to reap the long term benefits of evaluation. If you have a story you would like to share with us please contact [Patty Lozano-Casal](#).

Code of Good Impact Practice

ESS has teamed up with other 7 organisations to take part in Inspiring Impact, a UK-wide initiative to make high quality impact measurement the norm for charities and social enterprises. Inspiring Impact aims to provide clarity about what good impact measurement practice looks like, to help charities and social enterprises measure better.

The National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) leads the development of a Code of Good Impact Practice, which will set out what good practice looks like for charities and social enterprises, and what methods are appropriate for different sizes and types of organisation. ESS is taking part in the advisory panel to develop the Code and will, in due course, invite a range of stakeholders in Scotland to test the Code. Click [here](#) more details.

IT for Outcomes, a resource for efficient data management

"IT for Outcomes" is a resource that Charities Evaluation Services (CES), our colleagues in England, offer to provide support in planning your database needs to meet your monitoring and evaluation requirements.

Monitoring and evaluation involves gathering and assessing lots of information and data. Gathering, storing and manipulation of this data can be a challenge. IT can help your organisation to be more efficient in the way you manage data.

There are a number of key things to consider before deciding on the most appropriate IT system to help you with your monitoring and evaluation. CES offers a [flowchart](#) showing the basic process that you need to undertake, as well as a [checklist](#) to help you develop and IT system to support your monitoring and evaluation. If you would like more information on "IT for Outcomes" and how you can use it click [here](#).

[forward to a friend](#)

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