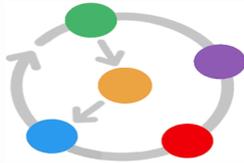


This spring ESS is offering two workshops and recruiting for a new Convenor, Treasurer, Trustee and a full-time Training Officer (£24,000).



Evaluation Support Scotland's Newsletter



Upcoming workshops

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

[1/06/2012](#)

[Edinburgh](#)

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

[14/06/2012](#)

[Edinburgh](#)

Dear <<First Name>> ,

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

In this issue:

[How to evaluate Play](#)

[Evaluation involving service users](#)

[Evaluation matters to Home Link](#)

[Harmonising Reporting](#)

How to evaluate Play

Go Play is a programme run by

Inspiring Scotland on behalf of

Scottish Government to grow the play

sector in Scotland, offering more

chances for children aged 5 to 13 years

to participate in free play.

ESS and Inspiring Scotland worked with

a group of funded play charities to

explain in simple terms:

now!!!

Convenor,
Treasurer and
Trustee

Training Officer
(35 hours,
£24,000)

- The problem or need that play and play charities are addressing
- The outcomes of play organisations and play – and how they link to the National Performance Framework
- How to evaluate the outcomes of play and play charities

The result is the **Go Play Outcome and Evaluation Pack**. You can find details on how to download a copy of the pack [here](#).

Evaluation involving service users

After last year's successful pilot of a new workshop, evaluation involving people who receive support has become one of our themes for 2012. We have been working with **ARC Scotland** and the **National Involvement Network** on an innovative **review of the Charter for Involvement**. The interim report from the evaluation, led by people who receive support, is available [here](#).

We are also pleased to be supporting organisations that contribute to the **Scottish Government's Self-Directed**

support programme (**Support in the Right Direction**) launches in May 2012 and includes an exciting strand on user-led evaluation. We're looking forward to sharing the learning from all of our work in this area – watch this space or contact [Graeme Reekie](#) for more information.

Evaluation matters to Home

Link

Can evaluation be made to work for service users, staff and funders? In this short video case study, Paula Swanston from **Home Link Family Support** in Edinburgh explains how they did just that. We interviewed Paula a few months after a colleague attended ESS's core workshops. Paula describes the benefits for all concerned, starting with an explanation of why evaluation was important in the first place.

Click [here](#) for to hear Paula's story.

Harmonising Reporting

Third sector organisations (and others) spend time and money reporting to their funders but those reports are often not useful to either party for learning or improving services. In 2009-10, ESS facilitated a working group of

(from [Scotland's Funders' Forum](#)) and third sector organisations to identify practical steps that funders could take to:

- Make reports more useful for funders
- Make reporting more useful for funded organisations (and less burdensome)

The resulting report, [Harmonising Reporting](#), sets out practical learning points and recommendations and was endorsed by John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth. Funders are implementing the recommendations and this is improving the quality of reports from funded organisations, reducing unnecessary bureaucracy and improving decision-making about future funding.

Next month we will publish a *case studies report* showcasing examples of good practice that some voluntary organisations and their funders have shared with us. The report, once published, will be available from our [website](#).

ESS, Scottish Charity Number: SC036529, Scottish
Company Number: SC284843



Our mailing address is:

Evaluation Support Scotland
Thorn House
5 Rose St
Edinburgh, Scotland EH2 2PR
United Kingdom

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