



This winter ESS is hosting a launch event for A Stitch in Time? We are also taking bookings for the next round of core workshops. [Book your place now!](#)

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Evaluation Support Scotland Winter Newsletter 2012



Dear <<First Name>>,

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

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Book your place now!

What are my outcomes?

24 January 2013
Edinburgh

A Stitch in Time? Launch (Event)

5 February 2013
Edinburgh

Collecting information to report on outcomes

7 February 2013
Edinburgh

Evaluating Outcomes workshop

20 February 2013
Edinburgh

Using creative approaches to evaluate your project

ESS launches A Stitch in Time? Help us shape it for voluntary organisations supporting older people!

Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS), in partnership with the Joint Improvement Team (JIT), is launching a new programme called **A Stitch in Time? (SIT)**. Through this action learning programme we are working in Lothian to find out what the third sector's role is in preventing avoidable future use of health and social care, and optimising the independence and well-being for older people.

If you are a **voluntary organisation in Lothian supporting older people**, [book a place](#) to come along to the launch and find out what it's all about, what's in it for you and how you can get involved. This is an opportunity to help us the shape this important programme for voluntary organisations providing services for older people. We will also run, as part of the SIT programme, a series of workshops to help you get to grips with evaluation. [Download this leaflet](#) for more information.

If you have an enquiry about this programme, please

21 February 2013
Edinburgh

[Evaluating Outcomes workshop](#)

21 February 2013
Bathgate

[Putting your evaluation plan into action](#)

28 February 2013
Edinburgh

[Telling my story - Analysing and reporting on outcomes](#)

7 March 2013
Edinburgh

[Making sense of reports: Getting the best from funded organisations](#)

19 March 2013
Edinburgh

[What are my outcomes?](#)

2 May 2013
Glasgow

[Collecting information to report on outcomes](#)

16 May 2013
Glasgow

[Using creative approaches to evaluate your project](#)

30 May 2013
Glasgow

[Telling my story - Analysing and reporting on outcomes](#)

13 June 2013
Glasgow

contact [Diane Kennedy](#). **We hope to see you at the launch!**

The role of voluntary youth sector on preventing problem substance use - Have your say!

[Reversing the Trend](#) is a joint project between the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland's Partnership Drugs Initiative (PDI) and Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS) about the role the voluntary youth sector plays in preventing or diverting young people away from problem substance use.

PDI initiated this approach because they identified a gap in understanding about the outcomes from diversionary and preventative work. Our work has identified outcomes and explored ways of measuring and proving those outcomes. We have produced a **pack** that explains the outcomes of preventive youth work and ways to evaluate them. This pack is **available for consultation**. To view the pack and guidance on how to respond to the consultation, click in the links below:

[Reversing the Trend - consultation document](#)
[Reversing the Trend - consultation form](#)

Think Tank with Shared Care

The **Think Tank** is an evaluation project developed in partnership with Shared Care Scotland and launched on 6 December 2012. It will consist of a small group of organisations, funded through the Short Breaks Fund, who will work together to create a short breaks **evaluation toolkit**.

Why an evaluation toolkit?

Imaginative short break designs are now starting to take over from the more traditional model of residential "respite". However, the range of different short breaks can make it difficult for agencies to clearly identify the difference that their breaks make to carers and those they care for. Until now, the resources available to support evaluation have not been gathered together and adapted in a single "how to" resource pack. The **Toolkit** will do just that: it will be a straightforward, user-friendly guide to 'how to evaluate short breaks' in any setting, with easy to use resources. It will be launched at the Shared Care conference in May 2013 and then freely downloadable from a range of websites: watch this space!

If you have an enquiry about Think Tank, please e-mail [Graeme Reekie](#).

Evaluation Exchange: An evaluation peer support project



ESS has teamed up with the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (IRISS) to create and support a small network of self-evaluators across the third and statutory sectors in

Scotland. Evaluation Exchange aims to improve skills and confidence around evaluation for project participants and help everyone to better understand the role peer support can play in supporting self-evaluation.

The project has already had a two successful sessions. At the first session the participants discussed the basics of self-evaluation, the practicalities of peer support and their own projects and evaluation questions. The second session covered creative evaluation methods and involving service users in your evaluation. If you would like to follow the progress of the Evaluation Exchange peer group please feel free to subscribe to the [project blog](#).

ESS has a brand new website!

Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS) has teamed up with Cazinc Web Design Ltd to bring you a **[new ESS website](#)**. The main features added to the new website are:

- ✔ A whole section on ['how ESS can help you'](#)
- ✔ An improved ['evaluation section'](#) with an interactive evaluation pathway
- ✔ Easy to find and download [resources and publications](#)
- ✔ More detailed sections about our programmes, including [Harmonising Reporting](#) and [thematic learning programmes](#)
- ✔ Information about other initiatives we are part of, such as [Inspiring Impact](#) and the [Scottish Third Sector Research Forum](#)
- ✔ A whole new section on [workshops and events!](#)
- ✔ And plenty of opportunities to get involved in our programmes or share learning with us!

We hope you find our new website friendly, informative and easy to navigate. We would very much welcome your comments on how we can continue to make it useful for voluntary organisations and funders. Please e-mail [Patty Lozano-Casal](#).

Evaluation video:

A creative approach to evaluation

Video can be an engaging way to allow the people you work with explain, in their own words, the difference you make. Two different organisations have recently created online videos to help explain their impact. These are:

✔ **World Development Movement** (WDM)'s Global Connect project runs a weekly workshop with homeless and vulnerable people, jointly with the Bethany Christian Trust. They look at a variety of different social and economic justice issues and doing something about them. Click [here](#) to find out more about this exciting project and the difference it makes.

✔ **The Association of Chief Officers of Voluntary Organisations** (ACOSVO) supports third sector leaders. With the help of the Media Co-op they have communicated their impact in under 2 minutes! Click [here](#) to see.

For more ideas on how to use video as an evaluation and communication tool read our [support guide](#).

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