

A **Stitch in Time?** aims to explore the contribution of the third sector to the Reshaping Care for Older People agenda.



## A Stitch in Time Newsletter



## Hi Patty

Welcome to the summer newsletter for A Stitch in Time? (SIT), a partnership programme to demonstrate the Scottish third sector contribution to care for older people.

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## Patchwork Bits and Pieces

### ESS workshops

(for a reasonable fee)

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

30 May 2013 (Glasgow)

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

13 Jun 2013 (Glasgow)

[What are my outcomes?](#)

22 Aug 2013 (Edinburgh)

[Collecting information to report on outcomes](#)

5 Sep 2013 (Edinburgh)

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

19 Sep 2013 (Edinburgh)

## A Stitch in Time? - The beginning

[A Stitch in Time?](#) (SIT) is a partnership demonstration project facilitated by [Evaluation Support Scotland](#) (ESS) and supported by the Scottish Government Third Sector Division and the [Joint Improvement Team](#) (JIT). The JIT is co-sponsored by the Scottish Government, CoSLA and NHS Scotland. The programme will run between October 2012 and March 2015 and will focus on Lothian, although learning will be shared across Scotland.

The **aims** of this programme are:

- To fully understand the contribution of third sector-delivered interventions to the outcomes of the [Reshaping Care for Older People](#) programme in Lothian.
- To understand what other outcomes associated with older people's health and well-being the third sector in Lothian may be contributing to and/or achieving.

To achieve these aims, we will take an action learning approach, drawing from 'on the ground' practice in the third sector. We will also identify and test evaluation methods for third sector outcomes.

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

3 Oct 2013 (Edinburgh)

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### ESS support guides (free)

[How to work out and  
write outcomes](#)

[How to develop and use  
indicators](#)

[How to use interviews  
and questionnaires to  
evaluate your work](#)

[How to write case studies](#)

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### Tools (free)

[Big Picture Route Map](#)

To help you reflect on  
your current situation and  
think of what's next

[Evaluation Planning Tool](#)

To help you plan your  
monitoring and evaluation

A **national advisory group** will assist with the development and delivery of the project, while a **local reference group** will provide local intelligence to help understand and shape learning within the local context.

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## ESS and JIT launch SIT in style

[A Stitch in Time?](#) (SIT) was launched in Edinburgh on 5 February 2013. This half-day event, delivered and facilitated by [Evaluation Support Scotland](#) (ESS) in partnership with the [Joint Improvement Team](#) (JIT), brought together 45 representatives from the third sector, the public sector, the independent sector and academia. The main **aims** of the launch were to **introduce the programme and gather views** to shape it.

You can read the **summary report** of the event [here](#). (A fuller report is available for those that want it).

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## State of play: Getting the baseline

At the launch of [A Stitch in Time?](#) (SIT) we prompted discussion about the current position so that we could use the information as a baseline for comparison throughout the programme. Some of the **key** things participants told us are:

- Capacity/ time for evaluation is always tight
- Different funders requiring different evidence doesn't help
- There is some confusion about the different tools available and when they are best used
- Evidencing long term outcomes is a real challenge, especially when you are showing that something has not happened.
- There are good examples of getting feedback from older people, particularly around service satisfaction. There are also real challenges around getting feedback from people with dementia.

These are some of the **methods and tools** being used, each having [advantages and disadvantages](#):

- Frameworks such as: Talking Points and Outcome Star
- Validated scales such as: Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Health and Well-Being Scale, Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale
- Methods such as: focus groups, questionnaires, surveys, creative approaches
- Ongoing assessment of client's need
- External evaluator or researcher

This information will feed into the work being done by the working groups.

More details can be found in the summary report of the event [here](#). (A fuller report is available for those that want it).

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## Great expectations

The launch event for [A Stitch in Time?](#) (SIT) ended with a post-it note exercise, where participants told us SIT will be a success if:

- Reporting would be less burdensome and more meaningful
- The tools and methods we use are able to capture the difference we make, whilst being both simple and 'objective'
- We share practice and learning
- The profile of the sector is raised: what it can do and achieve
- Funding is continued for projects after the change fund ends
- There is better joined up delivery between different organisations and sectors
- We have services that better meet older people's needs
- People using the service have a say in the services they receive

We will evaluate the programme against these criteria. You can find more about this in the summary report of the event [here](#). (A fuller report is available for those that want it).



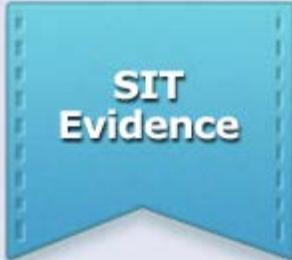
### Working Group News

We started **working with voluntary sector practitioners** in the 4 local authority areas in Lothian in April 2013 to **explain, measure and prove the contribution of primary and secondary interventions** delivered by voluntary



### Lothian News

So far we have launched *A Stitch in Time?*, recruited two working groups and started to work on local Change Fund evaluation issues. [Read more about specific projects](#) happening in the 4 local authorities in Lothian!



### SIT Evidence

As part of A Stitch in Time?, [Midlothian Voluntary Action](#) (MVA) has done a short piece of research on the **role played by the informal voluntary sector in offering activities to fit older people** in Midlothian. You can [read the findings report](#)

organisations to the Reshaping Care for Older People agenda. [Find out more](#) about what happened at the first meeting!

[here](#) and find out about other similar upcoming reports.

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