

Scottish Third Sector Research Forum champions the use of third sector research evidence in Scotland

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Summer 2016

Welcome to the first quarterly edition of the Scottish Third Sector Research Forum newsletter.

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What is the Forum?

The [Scottish Third Sector Research Forum \(TSRF\)](#), supported by the Scottish Government, has existed in its current form since 2009 and brings together strategic partners: Scottish Government and other public sector agencies, third sector and academics to:

- Obtain holistic oversight of third sector evidence and data needs;
- Work collaboratively to identify research questions and meet evidence gaps;
- Share and critique data, evidence and knowledge, and
- Maximise the impact of evidence through knowledge exchange and dissemination.

See more about [TSRF's remit](#) and view downloadable [infographic](#).

The Forum is made of a [core membership](#) of 20 organisations and a [virtual membership](#) of

comprises strategic discussions, member updates about research about third sector, invited external presentations, and subgroups working on thematic strands of work. Last year's subgroups covered:

- Partnership working: [Third Sector Compass - What research tells us about engaging in positive partnership](#)
- Volunteering: [The Benefits of Inclusive Volunteering](#)
- Health of the third sector.



See minutes of previous meetings [here](#) and [previous evidence papers](#).

[Evaluation Support Scotland](#) convenes and is the secretariat of the Forum with support from Scottish Government Third Sector Unit.

The TSRF runs parallel to the [Knowledge Translation Network](#) (KTN) which published [Evidence for Success](#) in 2014 and [Collaborating with academics](#) in 2016.



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Forum's workplan for 2016/17

At the May 2016 meeting the Forum approved its [Workplan for 2016/17](#). This year's plan includes:

- a standing item on the 'health of the third sector';
- themed subgroups on 'co-production' and 'inclusive growth';
- a third "Let's collaborate" event to broker third sector/academia relationships,
- and showcasing of research about and from the third sector via this newsletter, Twitter (#TSRF) and [TSRF webpages](#).

Get in touch!

Tell us what you think about the Forum by emailing [Patty Lozano-Casal](#)

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Save the date for the next Let's collaborate event



For the last two years the TSRF has hosted a "Let's collaborate" event bringing together third sector organisations and academics to discuss better collaboration. For more information click [here](#).



This year's event "Let's collaborate for impact" will take place on **Tuesday, 13th September 2016** at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh. The programme will consist of presentations from brokers, third sector organisations and academics showcasing their collaborative work, a series of thematic breakout sessions, and plenty of time for discussing research impact.

Please save the date!

Booking information coming soon [here](#)

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Research Updates from members

[DRILL Programme - Inclusion Scotland \(IS\)](#)

Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning (DRILL) is a four-year programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund to deliver the world's first major **research programme led by disabled people**. People living with impairments or health conditions will work in co-production with researchers and policy makers to develop and oversee research and pilot projects which build evidence or test ideas to support independent living for disabled people. [Funding applications](#) are currently welcome.

[Think Data - Scottish Network for Third Sector Data](#)

This network has been set up as part of a workshop programme funded by the Scottish Universities Insight Institute on "Big Data and the Third Sector" in order to **help build networks of collaboration** with academics, third sector practitioners and policy-makers. The programme includes:

- A PhD project about trust in government data.

[Understanding the gap - Voluntary Health Scotland \(VHS\)](#)

Understanding the Gap: How research can help us address health inequalities in Scotland conference took place on 1st June 2016. The purpose of the conference was to explore what the latest research tells us about health inequalities, including the causes, the lived reality and some potential solutions. See conference programme and key messages [here](#).

[Scottish Charity Regulator \(OSCR\)](#)

OSCR recently commissioned [two surveys](#) to see [how public attitudes towards charities in Scotland have changed since 2014](#). As in previous years, OSCR's stakeholder surveys asked members of the public whether and how they support charities; what levels of interest and support they have for charities; what issues of concern they had, and how aware they were of OSCR and its work. Charities were asked about the challenges they faced and how satisfied they were in dealing with the Regulator. Read full report and view infographic [here](#). This research complements evidence from [Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations \(SCVO\)](#) about [the public's trust in charities published](#) earlier this year.

'Improving the Use of Research and Evidence' - [Scottish Social Work Services Strategic Forum \(SWSSF\)](#)

Following the publication of SWSSF's [vision and strategy](#) in March 2015 virtual TSRF member [Professor Andrew Kendrick](#) (University of Strathclyde) has been leading the implementation of some of the recommendations that came out from the stakeholder scoping workshop that the [Social Work Services Strategic Forum](#) hosted in November 2015. Read Andrew's blog [here](#).

Share your findings

Do you have research evidence from or about the third sector you'd like to share or present to the Forum? Please email [Patty Lozano-Casal](#)

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The Scottish Third Sector Research Forum is supported by
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Evaluation Support Scotland offers secretariat support to the Forum. It manages day to day activities of the Forum.

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Our mailing address is:
Evaluation Support Scotland
Thorn House
5 Rose Street
Edinburgh
EH2 2PR

t: 0131 243 2770

e: info@evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk

Company No. SC284843 | Charity No. SC036529

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