

Scottish Third Sector Research Forum meeting

9 March 2017, 10.30am

BIG Lottery Fund, Pacific House, 70 Wellington St, Glasgow G2 6UA

Minutes

In attendance:

Steven Marwick (ESS) (Chair), Patty Lozano-Casal (ESS) (Secretariat), Jane Marryat (ESS) (Minutes), Lizzie Leman (GCPH), Louise Meikleham (OSCR), Ilse MacKinnon (SCVO), Gemma Jackson (VS), Darah Zahran (SE), Cassy Rutherford (TRT), Carolyn Sawers (BIG), Jacqueline Rae (SG), Mark Meiklejohn (SG), Jane Cullingworth (Voluntary Sector Studies Network, VSSN), Jessica Watson (GCPH/University of Glasgow) (Observing).

Apologies:

Duncan Thorp (SES), Rosalind Tyler-Greig (IS), Kerry Musselbrook (Iriss), Stephen Osborne (UoE), Andy Dey (ACOSVO), Stuart Cable (Dundee University), Fiona Malcolm (SG), Alasdair Rutherford (University of Stirling), David Cruikshank (SG), Josie Isles (IS), Sophie Flemig (UoE), Anne McDonald (HIENT), Rushir Shah (SCVO), Gareth Allen (SG), Gregor Berry (SG), Kiren Zubairi (VHS).

Welcome and introductions

Steven welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Jane to tell the Forum about the Voluntary Sector Studies Network (VSSN). Jane informed the meeting that VSSN was a UK third sector/academic network of 135 members (10 – 15 in Scotland) which promotes third sector research. The Network started in 1990s, is made up of mostly academics and some practitioners. It has become more formalised recently. They publish a Voluntary Sector Review with academic and practice based papers three times a year, they have an annual conference and two seminars per year. The next seminar is on 18 May 2017 10.30 am-4.00 pm in Glasgow: *Border Crossings: Implications for Civil Society in a 'Dis'-United Kingdom*.

Action: Jane to will circulate details about the event and developing programme

Steven thanked Carolyn and BIG for hosting this Forum's meeting.

Minutes and matters arising

The **minutes** of the previous meeting (30 November 2016) were approved with the following corrections:

- From Cassy page 5 to read: Cassy: said that for the roundtable bring in departments that distribute money from ESRC Impact Acceleration Account.
- From Ilse page 2 to read: Action: Ilse to circulate link to SCVO's report on the network of intermediaries.

Action: Patty to amend Minute before publishing on ESS website

All actions achieved or will arise during the meeting except:

Action: Ilse to circulate link to SCVO's report on the network of intermediaries.

Update on Forum's work plan 2017/18:

Steven introduced the update on the Forum's work plan on page 15 of the meeting's papers and explained that this was basically the same as the work plan for 2016/17 with the addition of a roundtable with funders of academic research. Steven asked Patty to say more about this.

Patty tabled the summary note of 'TSRF planning meeting: Roundtable with funders of academic research' (page 11). Patty explained that at the last Forum meeting in November 2016 we said we would explore funders of academic research. This idea was explored by some members at a meeting in January 2017. It was thought that having a roundtable with key partners with research and funding roles where third sector and beneficiaries are at the centre of the research would be a good way forward. Before the roundtable a scoping exercise would be carried out to assess the needs of the third sector by asking the questions on page 13 of the meeting papers in an online survey.

Patty invited comments.

Ilse thought survey answers may be very long and wondered if a focus group might be done instead.

Patty said that this wasn't planned at the moment but could be.

Carolyn asked if the SCVO Policy meeting could be used as a vehicle to get feedback. The questions could be asked at their next meeting.

Ilse agreed this would be a good idea.

Action: Patty to note idea and put in plan.

It was thought to be a good idea for all Forum members to ask appropriate people the survey questions.

Action: Patty to circulate questionnaire. **All** to ask survey questions (on page 13 of meeting papers) and send Patty any feedback received.

Action: Jacqueline to chase up her Graduate School and ESRC connections.

Ilse mentioned the Roger Halliday Scheme (TSOs can apply for a short placement of an SG analyst) as a model and suggested that beneficiaries of the award could be asked to complete the survey.

Action: Jacqueline to follow up.

Louise joined the meeting.

Jessica asked about the timing of the survey as at the moment ESCR were in some upheaval as there is a restructuring and merging of research councils' governance and priorities. There will be an overarching board to oversee individual research councils. Jessica suggested talking to the ESRC about what is going on as this may have impact with who people are working with in the future.

Patty said that part of the scoping exercise would be to talk to funders about when to action the plan.

Jane said the environment and current conversations in England are very different. There is a lack of opportunities to bring together practitioners, academics and policy makers.

Patty asked for permission to action the plan. There was agreement to action the plan.

Action: All to email patty if they would like to be part of a subgroup to action the roundtable for funders of academic research plan. (Ilse volunteered)

Steven welcomed Louise to the meeting.

Patty talked about the rest of the workplan (page 15 -16). The strands are the same as last year. Patty summarised the plan including what had been achieved last year such as producing an infographic about effectively communicating research. Patty suggested that under sharing research the learning from this year's subgroups could be shared.

Included in this year's plan:

- There will be a Collaborating with Academics event this year on 5 October. Due to previous high demand we are likely to use a bigger venue.
- The match-making service will happen informally and Patty reminded the Forum that we can all take on this role at an individual level.
- Subgroups this year are 'co-production', led by Patty and Rosalind, and 'inclusive growth' led by Duncan and Ilse. The 'co-production' subgroup will produce a paper.
- The subgroups could continue for another year. The co-production subgroup could produce a second paper.

Comments were invited.

Cassy asked if we were doubling up work involving light touch partnership – is this the same as Interface services?

Patty said that Interface mainly work around scientific/industrial research, although they do support some partnerships in social sciences.

Steven suggested that perhaps 'sign posting' would be more accurate wording than 'match-making'.

Action: Patty to change wording on the work plan to 'sign posting'.

There was a discussion about how useful it is for the Forum to produce written reports and whether having a conversation would be better. Is this effective and can we do this differently?

Patty said there will be an evaluation of the Forum so please comment on this issue during the evaluation.

Louise said that she thought it was helpful sometimes to have speakers at meetings e.g. when Josie spoke about her research. Can we invite others to share their research?

Patty said she is in conversations with Crisis to present at a future Forum meeting.

Action: Patty to organise external inputs.

Jane asked how well-known the Forum is and if there was a strategy to inform people. She suggested she could send anything out to her networks.

Action: Jane to send information about TSRF to her networks.

Jane M said that ESS are a frequent contributor to SCPHRP magazine and have done an article about the Forum. See Autumn/Winter 2016 edition [here](#) pages 18 – 21.

Action: All to send names and addresses of networks to Patty. **Patty** and **Jane** to share the newsletter with networks asking them to distribute.

Steven said that ESS's website will be revamped next financial year. This will help raise the profile of the Forum as the Forum pages will be revamped too.

Jacqueline suggested she could put a blog onto SG site to reach policy staff.

Action: Jacqueline to write a blog about TSRF with Patty.

Subgroup 'thematic' work

Steven introduced the two subgroups, 'co-production' and 'inclusive growth'.

The meeting divided into the groups for discussion and planning next steps.

Co-production subgroup (present: Lizzie, Mark, Gemma, Jane, Jane M and Patty):

Patty tabled a draft paper "Co-production". This will be designed later. Patty summarised a previous discussion about whether this should be an evidence paper or guide. It had been decided to keep short and useful with a checklist of criteria.

Issues discussed:

- Use of checklist
- Needs introduction and context
- Gaps in examples/evidence of co-production. A lot of co-production are packaged as partnership working. Add call for evidence/examples at end of paper.
- Need to raise awareness of approach to co-production
- Use of 'practice lessons' instead of checklist. Or learnings from the evidence or key learning.
- Should TS role be spelt out at beginning of the paper? Some are intermediary and service deliverers.

Patty concluded that the paper is not far from being finished.

Action: Patty to send paper to Jane and speak with Rosalind about changes.

There was a discussion about audiences and dissemination. [Scottish Co-Production Network](#) has events we could feed into and get some case study examples. The paper can be disseminated through networks and the Forum. It will need to reach a wider audience as it will be useful to all.

Jane talked about "Operation Modulus", a research project about gang violence in Gorbels, Glasgow. There are examples that will support this paper as co-production is a strong theme in Govern.

Action: Jane to send Patty the link to the research report once it is published.

Action: Jane M to put a link to Jane's research on TSRF webpage when published.

Inclusive growth subgroup (present: Ilse, Jacqueline, Louise, Darah, Cassy and Jessica):

Ilse led the discussion in Duncan's absence, summarised as follows:

- Inclusive growth: is this a buzz word, or does it underpin much of the sector's activities? Concluded it's both! It may seem buzzy just now but we all agree with the principles behind inclusive growth, even if in practice the two have struggled to become one.

- The sector to date has done very well on the 'inclusive' part but less well on the 'growth' part – need to look at what we do well and less well - what can business learn from sector, and what can sector learn from business.

Action: Shorten paper, focus on simply unpacking the term, sharing current papers, and give some examples.

Action: **Jacqueline** suggested that they [SG] could facilitate an Inclusive Growth workshop.

Sharing the learning (Members updates)

Emailed by Kiren Zubairi, Voluntary Health Scotland

Can you spare five minutes to tell [Voluntary Health Scotland](#) how you involve volunteers in NHS settings in Scotland? Help VHS to complete its data collection for the [Clear Pathway](#) project by doing this short [Survey Monkey](#).

Clear Pathway aims to support safe, effective and person centred volunteering in NHS settings, with the focus on volunteers recruited and managed by third sector organisations. The survey results will help inform a report and guidance for health boards and third sector organisations.

This invitation is to any charity, voluntary or community organisation, social enterprise or housing association that involves volunteers in hospitals and other NHS settings – or doesn't currently, but would be interested in doing so. Please **help promote** through your networks.

Community Link Worker Scoping Study – We were approached by Scottish Government to conduct a mapping exercise of community link type work that is currently being undertaken by third sector organisations across Scotland. We hired an independent researcher and developed a survey monkey and disseminated to Third Sector Interfaces and a range of third sector intermediaries, to further disseminate via Snow ball sampling technique. We are currently in the final stages of the project and the report will be available soon.

Consultation on engagement between Integration Authorities and the third sector, carers and patients. - The Health and Sport Committee are conducting a consultation looking at the level and quality of engagement between Integration Authorities and third sector, patients and carers. I am currently looking at secondary data and information we gathered through roundtable discussions with Audit Scotland and a range of third sector organisations, over the course of 2 years, to pull together a response.

Membership Survey – I am in the process of creating a range of questions for our annual membership survey. The aim of the survey is to gauge what member organisations think of our service and it contains both Qual. and Quant.

questions. I will also be conducting the analysis on this once it has been completed.

Health and Social Care Delivery Plan - I am currently doing desk based research into the impact of the health and social care delivery plan on the third sector and writing a (shortish) briefing.

Emailed by Fiona Malcolm, Scottish Government:

We are delighted at the level of interest in ESF Tackling Poverty programmes, particularly the Social Innovation Fund. We anticipated supporting a total of 30 projects across 3 stages over the life of the programme – to end Dec 2018. We've had over 70 applications during a very tight Funding Round – Jan to mid-February. The first panel will meet on 15 March to consider the applications, and make recommendations. There's clearly a huge demand for investment in Social Innovation and third sector/academic collaboration, research and development. We're really excited about this, and hope that the ESF Social Innovation Fund will help partners to take a fresh approach to addressing poverty and disadvantage, and ensure that end-users/beneficiaries/customers are fully engaged and involved at every stage. We will post regular news updates on SG website - <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/15300/ESFTPSI>

Ilse spoke about two SCVO papers that have been published about the State of the Third Sector:

1. State of the Sector - Key findings from SCVO Sector Forecast for 2017
2. Factsheet: Third Sector Statistics 2016

Sector Forecast report here <http://www.scvo.org.uk/long-form-posts/third-sector-forecast-for-2017/>

See blog about the research findings <http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/survival-mode-scotlands-third-sector-fails-to-grow>

Action: Jane to promote in the TSRF newsletter.

Action: All any comments to Ilse by 8 April.

Gemma: Young People volunteering in Scotland survey results have been published. Key message is the number of young people aged 11 – 18 volunteering in Scotland has increased from 42% (last year) to 54% this year. But young people from deprived areas are not volunteering as much.

Young People and Volunteering in Scotland, 2016: Volunteer Scotland published research on 6th February which reveals really striking findings on youth volunteering in Scotland:

- 52% of young people volunteered in the last year, compared to only 27% of adults
- For those not volunteering, a further 21% would like to in the future
- Youth volunteering is much more inclusive than we expected

- The proportion of young people who volunteer in school time in the most deprived areas is the same as the least deprived areas (both 33%)
- Volunteering participation by those young people with a physical or mental health condition is greater than young people generally (61%)

However, the research identified some significant challenges:

- Volunteering participation outside school declines dramatically in areas of deprivation
- Volunteering is highest in rural compared to urban areas (65% vs. 49%)
- Girls are significantly more engaged in volunteering than boys (58% vs. 46%)

The research was conducted for Volunteer Scotland by Ipsos-Mori and examined the nature and extent of volunteering participation and attitudes towards volunteering among 1,550 young people in the age range 11 -18 across 52 secondary state schools in Scotland. Link to the [research findings](#).

Action: Gemma to send link to results to Patty (done). **Jane** to promote in the TSRF newsletter.

Gemma said that VS has done an analysis behind the methodologies of data collection about volunteering in each of the UK four nations. All four nations have accepted the analysis and there will be a paper shortly.

Action: Gemma to bring to next meeting if ready.

Louise: Scottish Charity Regulator had an event at The Gathering 2017 about the Trustees' Annual Report (TAR). OSCR is considering what advice they might provide for TSOs about what should go in TAR and what should go on organisations' websites.

Louise also informed the meeting that OSCR is working on a new website - Charity Fact project helping charities to use OSCR data in a data visualisation. The website will be interactive, up to date, enabling comparisons to be made and data to be downloaded. There will be charts with filters. Public will be able to see what Scottish Charities Sector looks like. Not for newsletter.

Action: Patty to note 'data visualisation' for a future agenda item.

Think DATA project final advisory board meeting has taken place.

Think DATA Scotland have published two documents written by Dr Eleanor Burt:

- [Conversations about your Charity's Data Needs – an Introduction to the Evaluation Tools series](#)
- [Scottish charities: Engaging with DATA – An Introduction to the Organisational Case Studies series](#)

Action: Patty to note 'learning from the Think DATA project' for a future agenda item.

Jacqueline: Responses are being collated for the Scottish Housing Review.

Action: Jacqueline to keep the forum updated.

Other things happening: learning from the Public Social Partnerships model and action planning for Social Enterprises Strategy

Darah: Social Enterprise Census meeting is tomorrow (10 March).

Scotland is one of six partners in a European research project. This project will learn about knowledge exchange for Social Enterprise Policy and is in the early stages of a four year programme. The Austrian partner will compare data from all partner countries. This information is not for the newsletter.

Lizzie: "Co-production in the Gorbels" report is nearly ready for publication. Should be completed by the end of March before Lizzie starts her new job (at University of Glasgow – Knowledge Exchange post). Key message: Third sector are doing a better job of co-production probably because they are trusted in the community. The report will start the conversation around competition, capacity, making partnerships. There will be six recommendations.

This is **not** for the newsletter.

In the light of Lizzie's new job there will need to be another representative for the Forum from GCHP.

Action: Patty and Lizzie to discuss new Forum representative.

Jane said that she is working on What Works Scotland's "Operation Modulus" about public sector partnership approach to co-production with young people. Key messages are around co-production as a successful model. This work will be finished in a few months. This is **not** for newsletter.

Action: Jane to share when project completed.

Cassy: The Robertson Trust with Scottish Government, Sport Scotland and Sport for Change network commissioned [research](#) to find out how sport and physical activity are being used to benefit individuals and communities across Scotland. The final report will be ready in two weeks. There are lots of recommendations and there will be events held to discuss the recommendations and how to take them forward.

Action: Cassy to send link to Patty for newsletter (if not too late for newsletter).

Carolyn: BIG's research on community assets based on a survey will be coming soon. This will be in a slide presentation format.

BIG has started the commissioning of a research project to learn from past BIG projects. This signals a change for BIG in that this research is taking a storytelling and video journalistic approach. Carolyn asked the Forum for any tips.

Patty suggested to contact Iriss who have a few projects using story telling methodology.

Action: Patty to note for the event – looking at different research methodologies.

Jessica did not have research to disseminate. Jessica works in Knowledge Exchange and is not a researcher herself. She is working in College of Social Studies in a shared post between University of Glasgow and GCPH. She suggested that at this year's event the Forum may look at new and innovative ways Knowledge Exchange can be used.

Jane M: [Threading the Needle](#) - ESS's action research programme to use third sector evidence to commission outcomes for health and social care has ended with the publication of several resources including three learning points as follows:

- [We need to talk about data and evidence](#)
- [We need to build the focus on outcomes](#)
- [We need to understand where third sector evidence fits](#)

[How to explore decision making and the role of evidence](#)

[From the source to the sea](#) - Understanding how befriending can help Fife Health and Social Care Partnership address its priorities.

The Forum agreed that there was theme in several updates about using research from outside the UK. This could be a useful discussion for a future meeting.

Action: Patty to note 'using research from outside the UK' for a future agenda item.

Evaluating the Forum: what do we know about our impact?

Patty introduced the paper (page 20) – Evaluating the Forum: what do we know about our impact?

How do we know how well we are doing? The meeting divided into small groups to discuss the paper and complete the form asking for suggestions of indicators for each activity.

Action: Patty to e-mail the Forum asking for further comments. **All** to let Patty know any further thoughts or comments on evaluating the Forum in the next two weeks. **Patty** to collate answers and bring back to next meeting.

AOCB

Cassy: Anna Scott, Glasgow University is exploring the possibility of developing internship scheme for post graduate scheme or PhD students to work with TSOs. Cassy asked if anyone was interested in sharing ideas about hosting an internship scheme. The Robertson Trust will promote the scheme but not run it.

Action: Jessica to pursue this with her line manager and get back to Cassy.

Ilse said SCVO had an internship scheme and has learning from it to share with Cassy.

Action: Ilse to speak to Cassy out of the meeting.

Steven reminded members that the dates for future meetings have been sent in previous emails and called for members to consider hosting the meeting on 25 May.

Patty said that it would be helpful to find venues accessible from train stations.

Action: All to consider hosting meetings, particularly next meeting, and get in touch with Patty if they can host.

Steven closed the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance and invited all to take lunch. Steven thanked BIG for hosting and providing lunch.

Date of next meeting:

25 May 2017, 1pm TBC