Scottish Third Sector Research Forum meeting

Tuesday June 4th 2019: 1 – 3.30pm

Volunteer Scotland, Jubilee House, Forthside Way, Stirling FK8 1QZ

Minutes

In attendance:

Steven Marwick (ESS), Jane Marryat (ESS), Louise Bowen (ESS), Louise Meikleham (OSCR), Lucy Mulvagh, (ALLIANCE), Gemma Jackson (Volunteer Scotland), Alasdair Rutherford (University of Stirling), Amy Calder (YouthLink Scotland), Cathy Bulley (Queen Margaret University), Laura Robertson (Poverty Alliance), Andy Dey (ACOSVO), Gillian Daly (SGSAH), Rebecca McGregor (Inclusion Scotland)

Apologies:

Matthew Linning (Volunteer Scotland), Duncan Thorp (SES), Karen McArdle (University of Aberdeen), Cassy Rutherford (TRT), Darah Zahran (Scottish Enterprise), Allison Mathews (NLCF), Kiren Zubairi (VHS), Jane Cullingworth (VSSN), Dinah Aitken (SMC), Kerry Musselbrook (Iriss), Jacqueline Rae (SG) Mark Meiklejohn (SG)

Welcome and introductions

1. Steven welcomed everyone to the meeting

Minutes and matters arising

2. The Minute of the previous meeting (13 March 2019) was approved.

Action: Jane M to upload onto TSRF webpages

3. Actions were either completed or are being taken forward.

4. The National Performance Framework – 'what does it mean for the third sector' event is on June 19th in Edinburgh. [Booking through ESS website](). About 30 are booked to date. There will be an event report.

Conference planning

5. TSRF conference on 9th October is being planned. Louise B. gave thanks to the subgroup for all their help in developing the call for contributions. Conference booking is open on ESS website.

Action: All Forum members are required to sign up if they wish to attend.

6. Louise B. will be looking for volunteers on the day to help with tasks such as facilitating discussions.

7. 30 people have indicated an interest in attending. Louise will send these people booking information. Last conference was attended by 100 participants and we'll be aiming for same this year however we want more academics and research users at this event. We'll target Scottish Government officials.

8. The call for contributors has been extended until 10am July 1st. So far 4 organisations/people have applied – Karen McArdle, University of Aberdeen & Pam Simpson, Workers Education Association (Lived Stories); Carnegie UK (Kindness); Queen Margaret University and Cyrenians (nutrition/food insecurity); and Kirsty Strokosh, University of Edinburgh (Co-creation of public service design). In addition, DRILL and SUII are likely to do a slot.

Action: Louise will get in touch with SGSSS and LARIA.

9. We want to start the conference with a panel discussion about impact to frame the day.

10. Programme will be completed in mid-late July.

11. There'll be a TSRF/ KTN stand. We want to ensure that Forum members work is represented.

12. There will be a stand for NHS Knowledge Services- showing the information and research support they can offer to Third Sector

13. Gillian (SGSAH) volunteered to bring together some themed work to present and will promote conference.

Action: Gillian to organise presentations and contributors from SGSAH

14. YouthLink will submit a proposal and contact academics they work with.

Action: Amy to organise proposal submission

Action: All members please tell others about the conference and call for contributions. And get in touch with Louise with suggestions and thoughts about panel members, a chairperson, or if you want to be involved, and ideas for content of the stand.

Subgroups

Funding for research Jane M, Louise M., Gillian, Alastair, Cathy

15. Jane M. presented the draft guide and invited comments. In general, the guide was received well. There was agreement that the layout, format and tone were good.

16. There was discussion about some points where improvement could be made to make things clearer and suggestions for additional information.

Action: Jane M. to make revisions and send to wider audience for comments before final changes and publication at conference.

Participatory Research

Present: Amy, Gemma, Lucy, Rebecca, Andy Dey, Louise B.

17. The focus of the discussion was to move on with plans for an output from the TSRF on the topic of participatory research (PR). Louise recapped what we'd considered at previous meetings and where we were now. An earlier plan of running a PR learning/networking event couldn't go further due to resourcing limitations but we agreed that an infographic with messages about PR could be developed and tested out at the TSRF conference in October.

18. Discussion around 'what counts' as PR led us to identify a few options
    A. Developing an infographic with signposting to useful resources for follow up
    - We could test out content for the infographic by running an interactive session (possibly a lightning talk) using Mentimeter
    - We'd check out various statements / assumptions/ questions about participatory research that people vote on (True/False or Yes/No or scales of agreement) and then ask what aspects of PR they would find useful to have more information about/signposting.

Actions:
- Subgroup to come up with the questions/statements for people to vote on.
- Someone from subgroup facilitates the session
- We use these statements and feedback from people to develop the infographic.
- There could be a first draft infographic (perhaps using a visual of a chart with statements and tick/cross in boxes) to get some light feedback on.

    B. We run one or 2 workshops at the conference that are for a) PR curious and/or b) PR experienced. Amy mentioned YLS research partners - Ian Fyfe (U. of Edinburgh) and Dona Milne (Director of Public Health, Fife). Lucy flagged up ALLIANCE partner U. of Strathclyde – Neil Quinn. We could approach one of these partners to co-run a PR workshop. Perhaps for a more experienced audience this might focus on exploring provocative questions about PR. Learning from these could also form the basis of a small PR output from the TSRF.

Action: Who would develop/ co-facilitate this session(s)? Amy has offered to facilitate the session. Do we have capacity to develop this/ is there space in the conference programme for 2 sessions?

19. **Useful resources/ points of reference**
    Poverty Alliance: Participatory Research report Beyond Four Walls. Also a new PAR website and resources in development (in collaboration with SCDC) over summer 2019
    Volunteer Scotland: Youth VIP team and outputs about inclusive approaches for youth volunteering
    YouthLink Scotland: Youth-led approach to research
    https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/resources/engaging-young-people-in-heritage/
    How to involve young people in research (NCB/Wellcome Trust)

[McPin Foundation – peer research around mental health.](#)

Guest: Gillian Daly, Knowledge Exchange & Partnerships Manager, Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities

20. [The Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities](#) was founded 5 years ago. It is a network of 16 Higher Education Institutions (all universities in Scotland except Glasgow Caledonian) which distributes funding for 1750 arts-based PhDs. Main aim is to offer training and skills development for PhD students and promote knowledge exchange. About half PhD students stay in academia after whilst others take up public and third sector roles.

21. Gillian is responsible for Knowledge Exchange. There are three main programmes:
    - **Internship programme**
      Fully funded 3-month placements (incl. Stipend, accommodation and travel for student). There are no restrictions about who can apply. Examples are people wanting to develop connections in third sector, doing a distinct (more challenging) piece of research or artist residency. The next round of awards will be in May 2020.
      Third sector partner is not paid and can be expected to pay £500 contribution however this can be waived in some circumstances).
    - **Collaborative doctoral awards**
      Aims to align research more closely with practice and give opportunities for academia and third sector collaborations. The student spends 6 -18 months in TSO. This award was piloted this year and is being offered again. The call for partner proposals for next round (which starts in 2020) is open until August 2019. TSO need to pitch their research need in 500 words – what the issue is, and how it connects to TSOs strategic aims. More information https://www.sgsah.ac.uk/partners/cda/

    - **Three Knowledge Exchange Hubs**
      Networks of academics and third sector organisations 1. [Creative economies hub](#) 2. Heritage (partnership with V&A) 3. [The Citizenship, Culture and Ethics Hub](#) is led by academics and is looking for third sector colleagues to engage with – on the advisory boards. The hubs have 3 networking events per year.

      The next is a showcase of ongoing work on Thursday 20th June at Lighthouse, Glasgow.

    - [Scottish Graduate School for Social Sciences](#) also have a programme of post graduate support

Gillian answered the following questions from the forum:

22. About success rates for TSOs: Depends on
    - If proposal is appropriate for doctoral study i.e. challenging and with scope for person to develop
    - Students don't always want to move out of central belt
    - SGSAH look for sense of ownership and distinct output
    - Students can work internationally (not taken up as much).

23. Is there a role for TSRF to guide TSOs to make good applications?
   o SGSAH gives support during application stage. They are happy to see draft proposals and have conversations with TSOs.

24. Success rate for students
   o The schemes are oversubscribed.
   o It's a competitive process
   o Half the applications for collaborative doctorate are successful
   o PhD is 1:4

Action: Gillian to send further information (as below)

As discussed, our Collaborative Doctoral Awards programme has now launched. More information is available at https://www.sgsah.ac.uk/partners/cda/ and the partners section of the website covers all of the other programmes that may be of interest https://www.sgsah.ac.uk/partners/.

Details of past internships and artist residencies are available at https://www.sgsah.ac.uk/partners/i&ar/internships/ and residencies are at https://www.sgsah.ac.uk/partners/i&ar/artistresidencies/. As mentioned, we don't have a huge number of third sector examples just yet, though I'm pleased to report that we did some fund some others as part of the 2019/20 round (not yet publicly announced though!).

Some good examples of past projects are:

Poverty Truth Commission https://www.sgsah.ac.uk/partners/i&ar/internships/17-18/headline_571493_en.html;

Streetwise Opera https://www.sgsah.ac.uk/partners/i&ar/internships/16-17/headline_563441_en.html;

HIV Scotland https://www.sgsah.ac.uk/partners/i&ar/artistresidencies/17-18/headline_571504_en.html

25. **Open discussion – Ethics of research with/on/about vulnerable people group: Work planning for 2018/19**

1. This was a discussion item identified at a previous TSRF meeting. The following points were made in discussion.

2. Universities' approach to ethics (ethical approval guidelines and ethics committees) provides a framework for considering and managing ethical issues that is not routinely in place for research undertaken solely by the third sector. Third sector organisations need to put in processes in place to protect the research participant and researcher and there could be learning to share from universities about how to do so well.

3. On the other hand, universities' approach to ethical approval can be cumbersome, particularly with participatory action research where, by

definition, the researcher doesn't know in advance how the research will unfold.

4. DRILL has set up its own ethics committee for their research projects. This is more flexible than a university ethics committee. There is learning to share from their model and they could speak about this at TSRF conference.

5. Members discussed the ethics around providing training and support for researchers who may hear challenging testimony or may be asked for help by research participants.

6. For some there was an ethical issue about research participants not being paid for their time to take part in research. This can affect the power dynamic. However, there are issues paying people who are on benefits.

7. From members' experience some key tips included:
    *   Creating support resources to give to research participants so they know where to go for help or support.

    *   Being clear that researcher does not have all the answers and cannot provide support.

    *   Making it clear to participants – in writing and verbally before meetings – why the research is being done and what it is in it for participants. Also making clear that there are no guarantees research will make a difference to them individually.

    *   Keeping in touch with participants about the results of the research and saying what the research organisation has done with the research.

    *   Provide training for researchers about keeping themselves safe (drawing on lone working policies) and how to handle situations e.g. disclosure.

    *   Ethics does not mean infantilising research participants. They should be part of the solutions for how to manage ethical issues.

Action: Louise B. to consider this subject as a conference workshop or seminar, including showcasing the DRILL experience. After that the TSRF might produce a short resource for the sector.

Research updates

26. **Volunteer Scotland (Gemma)**
    o Having published volunteering trends in 2017 VS has decided to look at Household Survey more deeply to look at volunteering involving health & well-being, caring, outdoor, community engagement and neighbourhood. They will be pulling out key messages.
    o VS has been collecting volunteering data from local authority yearly for the last 4 years. They have expanded that to 6 LA. Working with TSIs to see what is useful to them. These are not published yet.
    o VS has been given access to NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde survey answered by 8000 people which has question about volunteering and health and wellbeing. VS will report on this in August.

- 'Understanding society' – Cardiff University research has data around voting behaviour and volunteering. Analysis of data is being done with extra analysis around social capital.
- [NCVO UK survey 'Time well spent'](#) – questions around why people do or don't volunteer. Report is published with one page on Scotland's results. VS has been given access to Scottish data to analyse further.
- Young people Scotland survey in 2016 (11 – 16 year olds) run by IPSOS is going ahead again this year and VS will be submitting a question.
- Gemma thanked Louise M. for [OCSR stakeholder survey](#) with regard to volunteering and trustee information.

27. **ESS (Louise B.)**

Louise met with Morag Campbell, Scottish Funding Council to ask about funding mechanisms and how TSOs can be involved. There is no TSO-specific process for accessing SFC funding but SFC are interested to understand how TSOs do get involved in accessing funding. Morag was told about the upcoming TSRF guide on Funding collaborative research and agreed to comment on it on the wider consultation in July.

28. **The ALLIANCE (Lucy)**

The SDS research project is ongoing – there is a national survey online that is being promoted (https://sdsscotland.formtitan.com/MSMC_survey?fld587=Alliance%20Website#/). Hard copies are available too. The aim is to complete up to 80 face-to-face interviews across eight local authority areas and up to 8 focus groups in wave 1. Lucy is happy to do a session at the TSRF conference

The ALLIANCE are looking for funding to do a partnership peer research project into what works to help mitigate and prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences, with NHS Health Scotland, NHS Tayside and the Centre for Health Policy at Strathclyde University.

28.

29. **Poverty Alliance (Laura)**
- Universal Credit research will be published in September 2019.
- Edinburgh Proverty Commission in Edinburgh are at initial stages of research experiences of poverty in Edinburgh.
- [Menu for change](#) research about food insecurity will be reporting at food insecurity conference in September.

Action: Laura to send conference details

30. **University of Stirling (Alastair)**
- Has 2 students presenting at conference in Birmingham in September about charity boards and aging life volunteering.
- [Scottish Government volunteer literature review,](#) written by Alasdair and colleagues, was published in April 2019
- Shared practice about data on sector at NCVO and Sheffield Hallam conference
- The virtual seminar series has ended for this session. They can be found on the [website](#) Alastair is looking for speakers for the next round of seminars.

Action: Jane M. to put volunteering literature review in newsletter

31. **Scottish Charity Regulator (Louise M.)**

- o In Spring we picked up on work to create visuals of the charity register data. These will be drawn from the live Scottish Charity Register and will help characterise the shape and size of the sector.
- o As mentioned before, we have been working with Diarmuid McDonnell and Alasdair Rutherford on a statistical analysis of the SCIO legal form. This is nearly complete and will tell us more about how SCIOs are shaping the charity sector and what that means for OSCR as the regulator.
- o We are also starting to work with the Scottish Government to improve the openness and accessibility of the Scottish Charity Register. This work will use open data standards to mark up the underlying register code with RDFa.

32. **YouthLink Scotland (Amy)**
- o They have a Masters Dissertation placement working in Youth Work and mental health field
- o Invest in Youth Work surveys https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/policy/invest-in-youth-work/ deadline 9th June
- o YS are doing more research in Dumfries and Galloway local authority using the same method from Universal Youth work research. This will report at end of the year.
- o Scottish Analytical Programme researcher is looking at NHS data
- o YLS have two upcoming seminars: The first is on the 28th August in Glasgow and will focus on UNCRC incorporation in Scots Law and Youth Work https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/events/august-2019/youthlink-scotland-policy-seminar-uncrc-incorporation-into-scots-law-and-youth-work/
- o The second seminar is taking place on the 18th September in Edinburgh and will focus on Youth Work's Role in the Youth Justice System https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/events/september-2019/youthlink-scotland-policy-seminar/

Action: Amy to send links to Jane M.

33. **Inclusion Scotland (Rebecca)**
- o IS are currently developing impact and legacy for the DRILL programme as it ends in September.

AOCB

No AOCB

Next meeting

Next meeting will be on **Tuesday 3rd September, 10.30- 1pm (1pm lunch), YouthLink Scotland,** Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5EZ