

Scottish Third Sector Research Forum meeting

5 October 2017, 10.30am

SCVO, Hayweight House, 23 Lauriston Street, Edinburgh

Minutes

In attendance:

Steven Marwick (ESS) (Chair), Jane Marryat (ESS) (Minutes), Gregor Berry (SG), Allison Matthews, (Big Lottery Fund), Ilse MacKinnon (SCVO), Gemma Jackson (VS), Alasdair Rutherford (University of Stirling), Kerry Musselbrook (Iriss), Mark Meiklejohn (SG), Louise Meikleham (OSCR), Ligia Teixeira (Crisis)

Guests: Emma Horrell and Sarah Munro (Equality and Human Rights Commission)

Apologies:

Louise Bowen (ESS), Stuart Cable (Dundee University), Stephen Osborne (University of Edinburgh), Linda MacDonald (The Robertson Trust), Duncan Thorp (SES), Rosalind Tyler-Greig (Inclusion Scotland), Jane Cullingworth (Voluntary Sector Studies Network, VSSN), Andy Dey (ACOSVO), Anne McDonald (Highland & Island Enterprise), Kiren Zubairi (Voluntary Health Scotland), Jacqueline Rae (SG), Sophie Flemig (University of Edinburgh), Gareth Allen (SG), Claire Stevens (Voluntary Health Scotland), Fiona Malcolm (SG), David Cruikshank (SG), Darah Zahran (Scottish Enterprise), Josie Isles (Inclusion Scotland), Brenden McCormick (Queen Margaret University), Chris Harkins (GCPH).

Welcome and introductions

1. Steven welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted as above.

Minutes and matters arising

2. The **minutes** of the previous meeting (25 May 2017) were approved with one correction: Louise Meikleham was not present at the last meeting.

Action: Jane to amend Minute and publish on ESS website.

3. All actions from the last meeting were achieved or will be covered in this meeting.
4. Cassy Rutherford has had a baby boy called Felix. All sent congratulations.
Action: Jane to send congratulations via Linda MacDonald

Introducing Louise Bowen: ESS Knowledge and Networks Officer

5. Steven said that Louise Bowen was ESS's new Knowledge and Networks Officer and will be the new secretariat for the Forum. Unfortunately she was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.
6. Louise will be in touch with Forum members and if there is anything you would like to change about the Forum tell her. This includes anything the Forum currently does or things you would like it to do in the future.

Research: who funds the third sector to collaborate in research?

7. Jane talked to the handout (Appendix 1) about her research for the Forum 'Who funds third sector to undertake collaborative research with academics?'
8. This work started in a subgroup and has morphed to a small research project. We are testing our hypothesis that funding for third sector / academic collaborative research could be better, but also hope to identify good practice.
9. To reach more social researchers we have set up contact with Angela Ellis Paine at VSSN (which is a UK wide network of researchers) and Jane Cullingworth (Scotland representative of VSSN) to act as critical friends.
10. The research may be suitable for a presentation at the conference and we may consult key funders before or after the event to get their input.
11. **Kerry** said she was happy to circulate the survey through the Iriss newsletter and to their network of social work researchers.
12. In discussion **Louise M** suggested we use the survey to gather information about how people heard about funding for collaborative research and did they know of people/funders to go to.
13. **Kerry** said Iriss had done some work mapping out funders.
14. **Mark** said Scottish Government doesn't tend to fund research but will speak to Jaqueline Rae for further information.
15. **Gregor** talked about support for applications for business. Perhaps these services are open to third sector. Interface is the organisation that helps business and social enterprises.

Action: Kerry to let Jane know any relevant information from Iriss mapping

Action: Mark to send information from Jacqueline to Jane

Action: Jane to revise the survey in response to testing and send to all members to promote

16. Steven thanked the testers of the survey and encouraged all members to promote the survey when available.

Planning the "Let's collaborate" event: 1 February 2018

17. Louise B will be organising the Let's Collaborate conference on 1 February 2018. Steven presented a note on the conference (Appendix 2). He said this will be our 4th conference. Previous events have been very successful and interest has grown. This year we have booked a larger venue with funding from Scottish Government. We aim to have 100 participants evenly split between third sector and academics. We are hoping to attract early career researchers and use networks such VSSN to promote the event.

18. The focus will be co-production and we will promote the Forum's publication "Evidencing genuine co-production in the third sector". We want speakers to talk about 'what does co-production research look like' such as Rosalind Tyler-Greig, Inclusion Scotland talking about DRILL, and other case study examples. There is potential for 5/6 breakout sessions.
19. The Forum agreed this plan made sense and was on the right lines. It built on previous events. They liked the suggested title **Researching Together** and said where possible we avoid "coproduction" and jargon generally.
20. Suggestions for content- all related to examples of collaboration in the research process:
 - **Louise M** – OSCR has done some research on the application process to register charities
 - **Kerry** – Iriss has an inter-universal carers and users group. Suggested the programme give opportunities to look at different aspects of research planning/ co-design and delivery
 - **Ilse** – Oxfam have done some research with University of the West of Scotland
 - **Ilse** – suggested grouping research in themes such as health and social care
21. **Alasdair** had attended the VSSN/NCVO conference in Nottingham. It is more academics than third sector and is more formal with abstracts for papers and posters. The Forum agreed that this was akin to past SCVO research conferences. The Forum agreed that since VSSN is a UK network it could be encouraged to run a future conference in Scotland with SCVO.
22. **Alasdair** also suggested [Scottish Graduate School for Social Sciences](#) (UK's largest facilitator of funding, training and support for doctoral students in social science) may be a good place to contact to attract participants but also to speak in a breakout session.

Action: **Louise B** to put the programme together.

Action: Louise B to consult the virtual subgroup - **Rosalind** and **Stephen Osborne**. **Ilse** and **Kerry** volunteered to be added to group.

Action: **Louise B** to contact Scottish Graduate School for Social Science to ask them to promote conference; and to invite VSSN members to the event.

Action: **Forum** to get a sense of interest in a research conference at Let's Collaborate

23. There will be discussion of the programme at the next meeting but by that time the conference will be open for bookings.

Ligia Teixeira joined the meeting.

Is Scotland Fairer? Sarah Munro and Emma Horrell from Equality and Human rights Commission

24. Sarah Munro talked about the [range of work of the Commission](#):
 - UK Regulatory body funded by Westminster

- Strategic legal case work
 - Research
 - Inquiries e.g. an inquiry into housing for disabled people
25. She then focused on the data-gathering work she and Emma are undertaking called "Is Scotland fairer?" This is a statutory review published every five years. Link: [Is Scotland Fairer? The state of equality and human rights 2015 Executive summary 2016](#)
 26. A new measurement framework will be launched in November following consultation events earlier this year. It is structured in layers with 5 domains – education, health, justice, personal safety and work. Each domain has indicators, key topics and statutory measures.
 27. The evidence gathered from across teams is both qualitative and quantitative- and has to meet with rigorous criteria. For example, evidence comes from outcomes data and legal cases. All data has to show change over time and is broken down by geographical area.
 28. The Forum was asked to share evidence with the Commission. In Spring 2018 there will be a stakeholder event to share findings and look at data gaps.
 29. Sarah asked the Forum how the Commission could better connect with research networks in Scotland. At present they put out research tenders through a portal but they want to increase awareness- including to the third sector. **Ilse** suggested using Third Force News and SCVO website. **Steven** suggested Scottish Evaluation Network
 30. There was a discussion about who uses the results. They are aimed at policymakers (such as local authorities) to develop outcomes. Edinburgh LA used their last report to do this. The report is a useful resource.

Action: Sarah to share measurement framework with **Louise B** who will circulate to the Forum

Action: All Forum members to share evidence with Sarah and Emma.

Action: Ligia to share homelessness evidence

Action: Forum to promote the Commission's event

Action: Forum members may want to [sign up for newsletter](#)

Action: Louise B. to send detail of Scottish Evaluation Network to Sarah

Longer term action: When published Forum should make third sector aware of this as a resource of secondary evidence. Steven suggested that in the future the Forum may look at how third sector use public sector data sets.

31. Steven thanked Sarah and Emma for their excellent presentation.

Subgroup updates

Co-production group

32. As the publication is finished the group spoke about how best this could be disseminated.
33. Suggestions:
- **Rosalind** speaking about the publication at our conference in February.
 - Engage with [Co-production network](#) (sometimes have events)
 - Engage with Scottish Government co-production team – Sarah Currie, (National Lead, Coproduction Policy and Practice) Sarah.currie@gov.scot and Nick Wilding (Lead, Transformation and Inquiry) Nick.wilding@gov.scot
 - Engage with Co-production week 27th November – 3rd December
 - Blogs:
 - i. Ask people to write a blog in response to publication
 - ii. Ligia offered to write a blog
 - Twitter - use Co-production hashtag
 - Link with Oliver Escobar, University of Edinburgh and What Works Scotland – ‘Enabling state’ – Liberty of democracy work
34. Suggestions for conference:
- Break out session on Gypsy Traveller work in Wales. This led to compulsory training being put into place.
 - People sharing lived experiences. Ligia had a local authority example and suggested Glasgow Homelessness Network (Claire Frew).

Inclusive Growth group

35. Duncan Thorp who co-leads the group was not at the meeting. Since group formed the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published report similar to the work we planned. The group discussed whether it should continue with this piece of work. There is a key question for Scottish Government around the meaning of Inclusive Growth. If the answer is clear then we should continue with a paper for third sector however if not, then the group should write a paper as Scottish Government as its audience.

Action: Louise M to talk to Jacqueline Rae

Action: Subgroup to draw on the results of the JRF report and the Social Enterprise Census

Updates from Forum members

36. **Gemma (VS)** Scottish Household Survey results have been published. Overall rate for volunteering has remained the same for 3 years. Gemma will be working with Louise M on paper interpreting OSCR survey results on what they mean for volunteering.

37. **Louise M (OSCR)** is creating a data visualisation on OSCR survey statistics. Still refining not ready for publication. OSCR is planning research into public perception of charities. This will survey 1000 charities and 1000 members of public. They plan to learn from Volunteer Scotland's work in aligning results on trust and confidence in charities with England and Wales to make data more useable. Neither item is for TSRF newsletter.
38. In a side discussion, Forum members agreed that several of them were interested in data visualisation:
- Ilse – SCVO may be doing a course in data visualisation with Sheena Fletcher, GCPH.
 - Ligia suggested Darlington Lab to speak about how to use data dashboards to link to service improvements. Ligia is organising a conference in service design on 17 November. There will be an item on how to use technology to improve service.
- Action: Ligia** to share details of conference.
- **Kerry** – Iriss has a strand of work Enabling technologies.
 - **Alasdair** has significant experience of data visualisation
39. It was agreed that Ilse would take ideas back to SCVO with a view to setting up a session to share tools and experiences.
- Action: Ilse** to take ideas back to SCVO.
Action: Other Forum members to let Ilse know of their interest and ideas for the session.
40. **Alasdair** - the collaborative studentship with OSCR has passed (and research summary is published and can be put in newsletter. A new student has started looking at regulatory company data and range of Trustees. Social Science, University of Stirling has a call for collaborative studentships. Alasdair is analysing fundraising regulation data. Louise M. mentioned Richard Hamer (consultant) who is working on the review of the Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel as a contact.
- Action: Alasdair** to send Jane details for newsletter.
Action: Louise M. to give details to Alasdair.
41. **Ligia** – Crisis is currently promoting the findings of their research about communicating about homelessness. These are important findings to be acted on. Crisis is developing tools to change the way homelessness is talked about. As a consequence to the research they are changing the images they use. Projections show estimated levels of homelessness in next 20 years will increase if policy (such as welfare reform) is not changed. Crisis is conducting national consultations due to be released by Easter 2018.
42. Funding has been secured for a What Works Homelessness Centre to be piloted in Glasgow. There will be an announcement in late October. What

Works Scotland is in the final phase and the new centre will take on board their learning.

43. **Gregor** said SG is interested in the impact of Brexit on the third sector and asked if anyone had data on TS workforce. Forum members agreed that this data was not currently available and made the following suggestions:
- Ilse – SCVO working on an employment survey, having a roundtable. Perhaps Brexit questions could be added.
 - Louise M. will propose a question for next OSCR survey.
 - SG could directly contact a number of the largest service delivery charities to get a snap shot.

Action: Gregor to liaise with Ilse and with Louise M

44. **Kerry** – IRISS has published:
- [Getting there: Maddiston and Rumford Activity Report 2016 - 17](#)
 - [Gypsy Traveller history in Scotland](#) – pictorial history showing importance of identity and representation
 - [Series of Insights](#) – research into social services on a variety of subjects latest are:
 - Good practice with fathers in children and family services
 - Child protection: listening to and learning from parents

Action: Jane to promote reports in TSRF newsletter.

Action: Forum members can join up to [IRISS newsletter](#)

45. **Ilse** –
- *About Giving* report will be launched this evening. People in Scotland donate more (slightly) than elsewhere in UK and also talk about donating.
 - Ilse is writing a blog about public trust.
 - Data partnership work with Stirling University has been completed.
 - The Evidence Hub has been reviewed and will be relaunched.

46. Ilse and Steven mentioned the ESRC call for evidence on where we need to build knowledge and skills to improve the UK's social science capability and capacity. See ESRC call for evidence about knowledge and skills needs [here](#) for more information. Deadline is end of October 2017.

47. The Forum agreed that Steven would write a short response. This does not prevent member organisations responding for themselves as well.

Action: Steven to write response to ESRC call for evidence

TSRF website development and communications

48. Jane said that in the last year we have spoken several times about improving TSRF communications. We now send a quarterly newsletter to a mailing list of 2,000 people. We promote the TSRF via EvalSupScot twitter account.

There are TSRF web pages on ESS's website. So far this has served our needs. While the pages require a few clicks to get to through ESS website a google search takes you straight to the pages. Nevertheless Jane has been looking into options to create a separate TSRF website or pages and presented different options, some of which had cost implications.

49. After discussion it was decided a new website was not needed but ESS could review and improve current webpages, prioritising promotion of TSRF publications.

Action: Louise B. to review and revise TSRF webpages.

Action: Members to send Louise ideas for improving TSRF webpages.

AOCB

50. The Forum agreed to invite Poverty Alliance to join. Louise B and Jane met Fiona McHardy. Poverty Alliance is an umbrella organisation with 200 members. The work of the Poverty Alliance includes producing research. They are particularly interested in co-production methods of research and have completed several pieces of action research.

Action: Louise B. to contact Fiona McHardy.

Action: Louise B. also to add Ligia to membership list.

Date of next meetings

FRIDAY 8 December 2017, 12.30-3.30pm, Volunteer Scotland, Stirling

Thursday 15 March 2018, 10.30 – 1pm, Scottish Government, Edinburgh

Action: Mark to book venue

Appendix 1: Who funds third sector to undertake collaborative research with academics (September – December 2017)

Aims of the Research

The research aims to identify the current practice in funding Scottish third sector organisations to take part in research. Specific research questions will include:

- What funding is available for Scottish third sector organisations to work collaboratively with academia to undertake research?
- What funding is available for Scottish third sector organisations to undertake research themselves?
- What type of funding is available for different types of collaborative research?
- What are the criteria for application by Scottish third sector for funding?
- What are the challenges and barriers to funding research engagement for Scottish third sector organisations?
- What good practice is available to draw on?

How we will undertake the research

1. Desk research to:
 - identify funders of third sector research i.e. funding councils and independent funders to include what types of collaboration funded and case studies
 - bring together learning from Let's evaluate events and Forum meetings
 - identify other people that can help.
2. Online survey of targeted questions for third sector organisations and researchers working in or for the third sector which will be distributed through the Forum and Volunteer Sector Studies Network, TSRF newsletter, ESS website, Scottish Evaluation Network.

The survey will ask for contact details but will be clearly stated that any answers will not be attributed to them. Anonymised quotes may be used in the report attributed only as academic or third sector.

Who will be involved?

The majority of the work will be done by Jane Marryat, ESS Research and Communications Officer with input from Steven Marwick, ESS Director and Louise Bowen, ESS Knowledge and Networks Officer.

Testers of survey - Jane Cullingworth, University of Glasgow, Gemma Jackson, Volunteer Scotland, Ilse MacKinnon, SCVO and Alasdair Rutherford, University of Stirling.

All members of Forum will be asked to complete the survey and send to other appropriate TSOs and researchers.

Critical friends group: We would like some volunteers from Forum to be part of a critical friends group to keep us right!

Appendix 2

Let's Collaborate Conference - *Researching Together*
1 February 2018, John McIntyre Centre, Edinburgh University



Who for:

People interested in third sector research especially people in the third sector and academics

We'll make a concerted effort to get researchers to attend including early career researchers

Aims:

Delegates will hear and share:

- What research tells us about coproduction generally
- What coproduced research looks like and the benefits
- How to support research collaboration and coproduction and do it well

Content:

- Promote Forum's paper
- Learning from Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning programme
- Learning from SG European Social Funding programme
- Fathers Network Scotland case study
- Poverty Alliance?
- Examples and good practice about coproduction and co-design at different points in the research cycle
- Findings about funding collaboration



**Evidencing genuine
co-production in the
third sector**

**A Scottish Third Sector Research Forum
evidence paper**
May 2017

Actions

1. Confirm overall aims
2. Agree subgroup to support (Rosalind and Stephen had volunteered already)
3. Suggest other ideas for content

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