

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

Is this email not displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser.](#)



A Stitch in Time Newsletter



Hi Steven

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

In this issue:

- [Stitch in Time Dissemination event](#)
- [Want to be involved?](#)
- [Chain stitch - sharing the learning](#)
- [Examples of key interventions](#)
- [What's next](#)

Patchwork Bits and Pieces

ESS support guides (free)

[How to use creative approaches to collect information for evaluation](#)

[How to use technology to evaluate your work](#)

[How to analyse the information you have gathered](#)

Tools

SIT dissemination event

Dissemination event report - How is it taking shape?

We have written a report about the dissemination event 'The story so far.....' to tell you what we heard you say. You can read the 'How is it taking shape?' report [here](#).



The story so far...

Sixty eight participants from a cross section of voluntary and public sector organisations, funders and commissioners came together for the dissemination event on 13 November when we told the story so far of 'A Stitch in Time'.

The purpose of the event was to provide an update on 'A Stitch in

(free)

[Evaluation Wheel](#)

To help you plot progress or achievement of indicators or outcomes. This tool is described in our "ESS Evaluation Support Guide 2.3: Visual Approaches"

[Wordle](#)

To help you create "word clouds" to show visually the important issues that come up in reports of your work

Time' and get feedback. We wanted third sector organisations and other partners working with older people to have their say, hear from funders about what they appreciate in reporting and lastly to try out an idea called 'story-telling'.

Participants discussed the [primary](#) and [secondary](#) logic models and reflected whether these accurately portrayed the experiences of older people and third sector organisations working with them. Overall there was a positive reaction to the logic models. Delegates told us what they thought worked well in the logic models, and what was missing and suggested ways to improve the layout of the models. These are reflected in the event's report.

Using the evidence

Two presentations were given by commissioners of services for older people – Morag Burrell, Planning Officer, Midlothian Council and Caroline Clark, Planning and Commissioning Officer, City of Edinburgh Council. They spoke about how they use voluntary sector reports and gave tips about what makes for a good report.



Read Morag's presentation 'Midlothian Change Fund' [here](#).

Read Caroline's 'Using the evidence – Edinburgh's Change Fund' [here](#).

What matters to older people?

In order to ensure that the older person's voice is heard and reflected in the logic models we want to use 'story telling' was a way of testing some of the assumptions and participants agreed.

Finally

Thank you to everyone who came to our event and helped Stitch in Time on the next stage of our journey.

Want to be involved?

At the dissemination event we asked delegates if they wanted to be involved in the work of Stitch in Time.

Involvement could be:

- * Attending a workshop in evaluating and reporting
- * Sharing your evidence to improve the logic models
- * Taking part in a project to evaluate befriending using the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Health and Well-being scale – a validated scale to measure mental health and well-being developed by Universities of Warwick and Edinburgh
- * Being part in the story telling project – older people's own evaluation

If you haven't let us know already and you want to be involved in any way please complete the short survey [here](#) by 19th December. Thank you.

Chain stitch - sharing the learning

At the recent meeting of the SIT advisory group which comprises voluntary sector, public sector organisations and Scottish government we heard that the learning from Stitch in Time will be included in the writing of the commissioning guidance for the proposed Health and Social Care Bill. This is a very exciting opportunity and will benefit older people and their families and carers as well as voluntary organisations that provide services for them. We will continue to inform you about this as it progresses.

Examples of key interventions

Exploring themes

At the dissemination event the working groups each hosted a table and shared their specific logic models. Themes explored were: social connectedness, day care, shopping, volunteering, carers, fuel poverty, mental well-being, community transport, community resilience, and exercise. Comments and suggestions from each group are being taken back to the learning sets. Specific logic models will then be refined and data collection methods decided.

As the SIT project progresses we want to share with you the learning from the working groups as examples of new things that are being tried and sharing common themes. This time Day Care and Community Transport are under the spotlight.

The Day Care Model

Optima brings together the five voluntary sector Day Care providers who deliver day care services for older people in West Lothian. With ESS's help Optima has developed a logic model to *explain* what they do and how they make a difference. They then used the model to develop indicators and methods to *measure* and *prove* their impact. The main focus has been on modifying their assessment and review forms to increase the collection of outcome data.

See Optima's logic model [here](#) and read Optima's indicators [here](#).

Community Transport

Edinburgh Community Transport Operators (ECTO) has learned that although community transport is vital to older people as a service it is not well recognised as such. This may be because the outcomes for the older person are one step removed and therefore creates a challenge when evaluating and showing the difference community transport makes in the lives of older people. The working group has developed a logic model, and a way of measuring short term outcomes and have looked at formal research to show longer term outcomes. They have produced a report on what is it possible to evidence through self-evaluation, their indicators and literature review.

Would the evidence convince you? We would like to know your thoughts on this example. Read the

Community Transport report [here](#).

What's next

We are planning a training day about making the most of lived experiences. This will focus on the stories that people hear and collect as part of their everyday conversations with older people and their carers. We will be holding two workshops around reporting - for funders to share and develop good practice around reporting and for third sector organisation to build their analysing and reporting skills.

If you have been forwarded this newsletter and want to receive it in future please [contact us](#) to be added to the SIT mailing list. To read previous newsletters click [here](#).

Get Involved

Is our sewing neat or are we dropping a stitch? We asked those attending the dissemination event to give us feedback on the [primary](#) and [secondary](#) prevention logic models. However if you couldn't be at the event and have something to say please get in [touch with us](#).

Lothian News

The working groups have been busy since starting work on local Change Fund evaluation issues. Individual organisations represented in the working groups presented their logic models and indicators at the dissemination event. [Read more about specific projects](#) happening in the 4 local authorities in Lothian!

SIT Evidence

As part of A Stitch in Time?, [Volunteer Development East Lothian](#) has done a mapping exercise in East Lothian. This exercise set out to establish how organisations, projects and groups involving and supporting older people across the Local Authority

- * evaluate service(s)
- * measure outcomes
- * engage with users
- * fund activities

You can read this and other similar reports

[here](#)

[Find us in LinkedIn](#) | [Forward to a friend](#)

Our mailing address is:

Evaluation Support Scotland
Thorn House
5 Rose Street
Edinburgh, Scotland, EH2 2PR
United Kingdom

Scottish Charity Number: SC036529
Scottish Company Number: SC284843
VAT Number: 923 2102 72

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

This email was sent to steven@evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Evaluation Support Scotland · Thorn House · 5 Rose Street · Edinburgh, Scotland EH2 2PR · United Kingdom

MailChimp