

Scotland's Third Sector

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Summer 2020 newsletter

Promoting and sharing good practice in
third sector research

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TSRF role in COVID-19 times

As Scotland's third sector continues to face the challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, the forum has a role in ensuring that **third sector research remains relevant, accessible, useful and discoverable**.

There has been a huge amount of third sector research at the start of lockdown in March 2020. TSRF now has a dedicated [Covid-19 page](#) with links to research that may be of use to third sector organisations and funders. We will regularly update this page with links to new research.



If you know of relevant third sector research that can be added to the TSRF Covid-19 page, please email [Jane Marryat](#).

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Policy Scotland-TSRF virtual seminar

[learned from Academic and Third Sector Lockdown Research](#). The seminar is on **12th August 2020 at 10am - 12pm on Zoom**.

The seminar aims to highlight the voices and experiences of people, communities and service providers in these challenging times. This two hour seminar will feature findings, reflections and recommendations from three academic research teams and three third sector organisations who have carried out research in the lockdown period. The aim of the seminar is to develop key recommendations for all levels of government in the next phase.

More information and booking details [here](#).

Any questions please contact [Jane Marryat](#) and [Sarah Weakley](#).

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Waverley Care and Scottish Trans Alliance research on access to sexual health services in Scotland

Waverley Care and **Scottish Trans Alliance** have produced a new report: '**Exploring trans and non-binary access to sexual health services.**' The research project looked at the experience of trans people accessing sexual health services in Scotland, and how these services can be improved to better meet their needs.



The peer-research project was designed by two trans peer engagement officers. The research methods used were a national survey with approximately 300 trans people (the largest in Scotland), focus groups and interviews with 30 trans people, and interviews with 8 NHS sexual health practitioners.

The survey findings showed insights on demographics and experience of sexual health services. The research also includes qualitative findings on the barriers and facilitators to accessing healthcare.

The report launch has been paused due to Covid-19, but a digital launch is planned for later this year.

For further information please [email Ruth McKenna](#).

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Coalition of Carers



We have been mainly focusing on supporting Carers Centres and carers with up to date briefings on what COVID19 and lockdown will mean for unpaid carers across Scotland.

However, in partnership with the other National Carer Organisations, we have put together a short paper on the key asks from unpaid carers as to what they would like to see happen (in terms of support) as we come out of lockdown. Here is a brief summary of it on our [twitter thread](#).

See also the [Life Leaving Lockdown Discussion Paper](#) we wrote with NCO.

Evaluation Support Scotland



ESS has created a [Covid-19](#) page on their website to support third sector organisations evaluate new or changed services. It has many new resources, key messages and learning gathered from recent webinars.

Inclusion Scotland



Two new publications from Inclusion Scotland:

- **'Services for who?'** - the experiences of disabled people with other characteristics when accessing services' - This report is the culmination of a 2-year DRILL funded research project which explored the experiences of disabled people with other characteristics when accessing services. (The DRILL parliamentary reception has been cancelled because of the pandemic). The report can be viewed [here](#).
- The initial **findings from a survey of over 800 disabled people and their carers/supporters**, about their experiences during the Covid-19 crisis has been published. The report can be viewed [here](#).

OSCR

Impact of COVID-10 on Scottish Charities – OSCR Survey



OSCR published the headline findings of its survey on the impact of COVID-19 on Scottish charities on 5 June. The research was carried out between 5 and 15 May with insights from 4,827 responses, representing a large cross section of registered Scottish charities.

The findings, [published on OSCR's website](#), show that charities are active in countering the impact of COVID-19. A large proportion have been affected by cancelling or postponing events (78%), while over half have lost income from fundraising (51%) or other sources such as trading (42%). Changing operations to deliver support over the phone or digitally was reported by 47%, while 19% had furloughed

were set up to do at some point in the next year.

Poverty Alliance

Poverty Alliance are running [a webinar series](#), 'Build Back Better' on the impact of Covid-19 on poverty and inequality as we look forward to moving out of lockdown. More information [here](#).



Salvesen Mindroom Centre (SMC)



- Salvesen Mindroom Centre (SMC) has consulted with parents, carers and professionals as well as working with researchers at Universities of Edinburgh and Reading to produce a [Back to School Toolkit](#) – with the aim of supporting children and young people with learning difficulties, and their families, to prepare for a return to school whatever that may look like. We plan to evaluate the use and application of the Toolkit after schools have started back up.
- SMC has joined with our partners in the Salvesen Mindroom Research Centre (SMRC) in a project called [Learning About Neurodiversity in Schools – the LEANS project](#). The aim is to support teachers to discuss with and teach primary school children on the topic of neurodiversity. **Please join the LEANS mailing list to find out more about this project at LEANS@ed.ac.uk**

SCVO

SCVO has been adding COVID-19 reports and resources to their [evidence library](#).



Volunteer Scotland

COVID-19: Our main focus is on collecting intelligence and research data to help understand the contribution of volunteering during the pandemic and how its impact can be optimised:



- **Media** - systematic collection of press and social media articles from mid-March to date relating to volunteering and Covid-19. Our Excel spreadsheet with full text is shared with Scottish Government on a weekly basis.
- **Surveys** - engaging with partner surveys on the impact of Covid-19: OSCR, Scottish Volunteering Forum, Third Sector Interface Network. Volunteer Scotland is also commissioning Ipsos-Mori to run a series of volunteering related questions in their 1,000 adult omnibus survey in Scotland in June.
- **Secondary data** - capturing relevant data from YouGov, Ipsos-Mori and ONS – which are issuing research bulletins on a weekly basis. We are also working with the Scottish Government on their portals to relevant secondary data.
- **Papers** -VS has produced working papers on:
 - o Scotland's volunteering response to Covid-19 (1 April)

- o Analysis of the volunteer sign-ups to Scotland Cares (5 May)
- **Research** – VS is part of a UK-wide research bid: “Mobilising Voluntary Action in the four UK jurisdictions: Learning from today, prepared for tomorrow”. We are also engaging with Glasgow Caledonian University, Policy Scotland and GCPH on ethnographic research on mutual aid in Scotland.

Voluntary Sector Studies Network (VSSN)



- **Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research e-Conference 2020 -**

VSSN and NCVO's annual Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research Conference 2020 will take place online this year - **September 7-8**.

Our theme is '**Times Like These: Researching civil society responses to and recovery from COVID-19.**' See more details [here](#). The two-day online conference will focus on discussing current research and big ideas on civil society responses to and implications of COVID-19. On each day there will be an opening plenary and two curated panels highlighting the impact of COVID-19 in four areas: Philanthropy, Mutual Aid, Volunteering, and Voluntary and Community Organisations

Registration is free - please click [here](#).

- **Repository of voluntary sector research and COVID-19** - VSSN is creating a repository to help maximise the visibility and impact of voluntary sector focussed research. Research which focuses on sector and volunteering responses to, recovery from and implications of the COVID-19 pandemic are welcome. If you would like your project to be visible on the VSSN website, please fill in the form below. It would be great to hear about projects in development as well as those in progress, as this should help to reduce any risk of duplication and open up possibilities of collaboration. More information can be viewed [here](#).

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Keep up with the forum

The Scotland's Third Sector Research Forum meets quarterly. You can read the minutes from the meeting which took place on **11 March 2020** [here](#) and **previous meetings** [here](#). And for more news from Scotland's Third Sector Research Forum please read the **TSRF newsletters** [here](#).

You can also read more about the Forum's work [here](#) and see [previous evidence papers](#).

Get in touch!

We are always keen to hear what you think about the Forum or suggestions about what the Forum should be doing. Please email [Jane Marryat](mailto:jane.marryat@tsrf.scot.nhs.uk)

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