

Scottish Third Sector Research Forum meeting

30 November 2016, 10.30am

Scottish Government, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh
EH11 3XG

Minutes

In attendance:

Steven Marwick (ESS) (Chair), Patty Lozano-Casal (ESS), Jane Marryat (ESS) (Minutes), Lizzie Leman (GCPH), Duncan Thorp (SES), Louise Meikleham (OSCR), Ilse MacKinnon (SCVO), Gemma Jackson (VS), Rosalind Tyler-Grieg (IS), Darah Zahran (SE), Cassy Rutherford (TRT), Carolyn Sawyers (BIG), Jaqueline Rae (SG), Mark Meiklejohn (SG), Kerry Musselbrook (Iriss), Stephen Osborne (UoE).

Apologies:

Andy Dey (ACOSVO), Bob Parry (Iriss), Stuart Cable (Dundee University), Fiona Malcolm (SG), Alasdair Rutherford (University of Stirling), David Cruikshank (SG), Josie Isles (IS), Sophie Flemig (UoE), Anne McDonald (HIENT), Rob Coward (NES), Rushir Shah (SCVO), Gareth Allen (SG).

Welcome and introductions

Steven welcomed everyone to the meeting, noted apologies and thanked Mark for organising the room and lunch.

Steven welcomed Kerry Musselbrook (Iriss) to her first meeting of the Forum.

Minutes and matters arising

The **minutes** of the previous meeting (31 August 2016) were approved with the following correction from Louise – page 6 OSCR should read Scottish Charities Regulator. (Bob had already given corrections which Patty had amended).

Action: Patty to amend minute before publishing on ESS website

All actions were completed except for:

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

Action: All members whose organisations send a newsletter to link to our newsletter and to let Jane know.

Action: Members to consider writing a blog (300 words) once a year and to communicate with Jane about subject and timing of blog.

Matters arising:

- Jacqueline said that Scottish government will be publishing the review of Third Sector Interfaces before Christmas.
- Patty explained that ESS will be looking at evaluating the Forum next year as part of the work and within that she will ask about better channels for communication as the TSRF Facebook group does not seem to be working for all Forum members.

Action: ESS to add an agenda item at next TSRF meeting on evaluating TSRF.

- Patty will send out Doodle poll for next year's meeting dates again tomorrow as they were only 4 replies to the recently sent poll.
- The March meeting will be at BIG offices in Glasgow.
- Patty asked if anyone would like to write a blog.
- Patty will talk about key messages for the Scottish Funding Council later.

Action: Patty to send Doodle poll again and **ALL** to respond.

Ilse and Duncan joined the meeting. Steven welcomed them.

Update on Forum's work plan 2016/17:

"Let's collaborate for impact" event

Patty tabled the event report from the Let's collaborate for impact event which took place on 13 September 2016 at Victoria Quay, Scottish Government (Edinburgh). This will be published on ESS website with the quotes unacknowledged as permission has not been sought to use names. Patty asked for views about the event and for members to feedback any points from the discussions they heard at the event which were not included in the report.

Patty informed the meeting that although the Scottish Funding Council were invited and were unable to send a representative to the event they were happy to receive key messages. Patty put forward two messages:

1. Information about where to get funding for collaboration for third sector research should be more readily available to the sector
2. Not enough information about who is funding collaboration for third sector research.

Steven asked for feedback:

Carolyn: Funders of academic research, such as, funding councils should shift their understanding of impact of research as hierarchical, from ranking higher research that is presented in journals and conference papers. Third sector research and dissemination should be higher in their considerations. Carolyn quoted Hayley Bennett, WWS, who presented at the second Let's collaborate

event and who said "I don't get rated for this bit I'll do it in my own time because its important". There is such an emphasis on work towards publishing papers.

Cassy: sits on a panel for the [Impact Acceleration Account](#) which funds impact work (not research) in a variety of fields such as schools, health and social care, and industry. Cassy made the point that this work would be good if it was part of ERSC funded research rather than done afterwards. The message was to bring engagement earlier into the process.

Ilse: attended an event in Birmingham for ESRC funded projects including [ESRC Civil Society Data Partnership Projects](#) on 29 Nov to report back on projects; share learning with one another and the ESRC, and discuss learning/ best practice for future ESRC funding, particularly in terms of what works in supporting cross-sector collaboration. (<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/research/our-research/civil-society-data-partnership-projects/>)
"Civil Society Data Partnership Projects establish and build upon relationships between academic researchers and civil society organisations to develop data infrastructures, enabling the partner organisations to more effectively collect and analyse their data, and enabling the sector as a whole to better utilise its data")

Ilse said that this event was all about collaboration, the impact of collaboration and how best to measure it but it was very hypothetical from the attending academics' perspectives.

Patty: mentioned Scottish Universities Insight Institute, who supports Knowledge Transfer within universities, they say that demonstrating impact through the REF system is about getting international recognition for universities which is very important.

Stephen: commented that the vast majority of UK based universities have indicators of impact that are mechanistic e.g. where research is cited, which SG official read the research and used it to influence the minister.

Steven: said that the message we want to disseminate is 'If you want to make your research have impact then the best way to do this is through more collaboration with the third sector'. But how do we get these messages to funders?

Jaqueline: said that she could follow up links with funding councils but doesn't actually have direct access/contact herself.

Patty: suggested that the forum could co-host a roundtable of funders of research to understand what we all mean by 'impact' and explore what the problems are?

Kerry: Asked how is it aligned to different frameworks e.g. Scottish Government?

Stephen: We need to push practice impact more than policy impact so perhaps it may be more successful to involve Foundation Scotland who are less wedded to a simplistic model of how to make impact.

Rosalind: said that it would be good to have a discussion about what impact is. What does it mean? How accessible is research? i.e. often research journals are not easily accessible for third sector practitioners.

Carolyn: made the point that third sector should be paid for their contributions not just researchers. This should be recognised by academics and there should be an expectation for TSOs.

Cassy: said that for the roundtable we could bring in other academic departments that distribute money from the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (as they are likely to have regular discussions about research impact with academics across different departments).

Action: Patty and Jacqueline to pull some key messages together for statutory and non-statutory research funders.

Action: Patty to set up a planning meeting for a roundtable to:

1. Explore the meaning of 'impact' in the different sectors and identify common areas of interest
2. Explore what 'good research' and 'impact of research' look like (academic research funders don't seem to rank high enough research that engages practitioners)
3. Convey the message that third sector organisations' involvement in collaborations with academics does not come for free – it takes resources like time and capacity away
4. Explore how we can encourage research to be accessible to its beneficiaries.

Jacqueline, Carolyn, Stephen, and Cassy volunteered to be on the working group.

Feedback on event report

Louise: reflected that she was reminded that Third sector didn't have time to collaborate so need some support to engage TSOs in collaboration.

Ilse: said she thought it was a good event and would be interested to know what academics would say if asked why they were there? Funding seemed an important issue. "The event is good because it gives academics and TS the space and opportunity to meet up".

Steven: said that ESS will come back to the event in the future as there was a high demand for this we will be looking what to do in the future.

Patty: said that if we have the roundtable before March, we could have a plan to take to the next event to further the discussion on funding as this seems to be the prevalent issue.

Steven: suggested linking to academics via the [Voluntary Sector Studies Network](#) as a potential way to broaden the net.

Action: Steven to contact VSSN

Subgroup 'thematic' work

Steven introduced the two subgroups: Co-production and Inclusive Growth. Both groups tabled papers with progress so far.

The Co-production group have made a call for evidence and received 6 responses. They plan to complete some desk research and write an evidence paper.

Inclusive growth – Ilse, Duncan and Jenny Bloomfield, SCVO met in October to plan group's work. It should answer 'what does the term mean?' (It's a SG buzz word, does it have meaning beyond this). Thought they should look where the term has come from. It's been discussed at SCVO Intermediaries' Network.

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

Co-production subgroup (present: Rosalind, Stuart, Bob, Lizzie, Andy, Mark, Gemma, Stephen, Kerry and Patty): Patty provided an update on her meeting with Rosalind to plan the actual research project taking into account consultation with the wider subgroup and Forum's stakeholders at the Let's Collaborate event. The subgroup focused the discussion that followed around sources of evidence to add to those received through the evidence call. The subgroup reminded Patty and Rosalind that the output should highlight:

- The need to balance the need for organisations to consciously co-produce with the co-production that is organically taking place (due to the interaction in people's lives)
- What co-production is and what isn't
- The breadth of co-production – stop focusing on definitions
- Real examples – including what doesn't work
- How do we avoid drawbacks in co-production.

Actions: **Subgroup members** to e-mail Patty relevant evidence. **Patty and Rosalind** to meet in January. **Patty** to send a Doodle Poll for a subgroup meeting at the end of January or beginning of February.

Inclusive growth subgroup (present: Ilse, Duncan, Carolyn, Louise, Jacqueline, Darah, Cassy and Jane): The following note of the discussion was taken by Cassy incl. contributions from Ilse:

- Methods for getting evidence

- Desk-based research – what does research tells us about the term ‘inclusive growth’? Can we identify a plain English definition for the term?
- Small mapping exercise – look at some examples of what third sector organisations do that contributes to this agenda.
- Purpose of the paper:
 - To demystify the term ‘inclusive growth’ for the third sector – provide some definitions.
 - To bridge the gap between policy and practice (a lot of organisations will be contributing to this agenda but might not think about their work in those terms).
- Things to consider:
 - We don’t want to alienate people but so the paper should be framed in a positive way– it’s about learning a new term for something you might do already, not about changing your practice.
 - Not all third sector organisations are going to be contributing to this agenda and that’s ok. The point of the paper is to clarify what inclusive growth means and to help organisations see if they fit into that, not forcing them to fit into that.
 - The third sector is broad as is the term ‘inclusive growth.’ As a result we need to make sure we don’t take on too much with this piece of work. We should think of this as the first step and we can then produce other outputs at a later date if that would be useful.
 - If we ask people how they drive the social economy rather than whether they contribute to inclusive growth, we might get better responses.
 - Alasdair Rutherford and David Cruickshank have both done a lot of work in this area and might be useful people to speak to.

Actions:

- Stage 1 - Focus on desk-based research:
 - **Duncan** – do some desk-based research to look at different definitions of ‘inclusive growth.’
 - **Ilse** - Explore/map one strand as an example (Ilse to look into – work, or equalities)
 - **Louise and Ilse** – Identify existing research such as Alasdair Rutherford’s paper on social economy to see what we can pull out.
 - **Jacqueline** – is meeting with the *Scottish Government Office of Policy* next week and will find out what they think about inclusive growth and whether there is anything useful the TSRF could produce. She will feedback to the group.
- Stage 2: Scope possibility of carrying out further work depending on stage 1 outcomes – e.g.is there a need to carry out focus groups/surveys with sector to identify how aware TSOs are of the economic strategy/ inclusive growth terminology, whether they see it relating to their work, what they think it should include.

Sharing the learning (Members updates)

Steven invited members to give updates on their research.

Ilse: [SCVO](#) Sector Forecast for 2017 – [survey](#) open now!

Action: All please respond and also pass on to your networks.

Cassy: The Robertson Trust with Scottish Government, Sport Scotland and Sport for Change network have commissioned Research Scotland to do [research](#) to find out how sport and physical activity are being used to benefit individuals and communities across Scotland. Results will be published before Christmas. Initial findings are written. This is a good example of funding impactful research.

Action: Cassy will send link to this research when it is published.

Rosalind: DRILL sent a [press release](#). £80,000 has been awarded to 2 Scottish projects: Voices of experience – for 1 year and People First Scotland for nine months. Both projects will start in January 2017. These projects will bring lived experience of disabled people into research by disabled people.

Lizzie: GCPH is working on specific located research in The Gorbels, Glasgow. It's a follow up to 'Thriving places' about co-production looking at what the barriers and successes. It will be finished in early 2017 and will have examples to share. Presently the research is showing co-production benefits the community and partnership working well.

Carolyn: BIG have commissioned 2 pieces of research recently. 1. Community owned assets being carried out by SCDC and Enterprise. 2. There is a tender out research into BIG's funded community work over the last 4 years to draw out stories and statistics about what works and what can be learned. Sample of projects will be taken from Life Transitions and Work with families strands of BIG work.

Action: All - Carolyn asked the Forum to contact her with ideas of how to sample passed lottery grants for inclusion in this research.

Stephen: Working on a European bid involving 15 researchers over Europe researching coproduction. In Scotland he is looking for TSOs who undertake research to be involved in this project. (Decided this item will not be in the newsletter).

Action: All to email Stephen to ask questions if interested.

Duncan: Social Enterprise Census – there will be a follow up meeting in December to talk about whether/when to repeat the census.

The Social Enterprise strategy will be released on 14 December 2016.

Jacqueline: There will be a research project that comes from the Social Enterprise Strategy. She will keep the Forum updated.

Action: All - If you want to be involved in the development please get in touch with Jacqueline before Christmas.

The evaluation of Third Sector Interfaces will be published before Christmas.

Jacqueline asked who should be involved in an external group to look at National Performance Framework re:relationships advice.

Steven said he would be interested and thought other members of the Forum would be too.

Kerry: Stuart Muirhead had a call for evidence about translating evidence onto practice - deadline passed but if you have any examples please send them to Stuart.

The exhibition created from 'View from here' project about social care workforce including TSOs, and creative workshops is now touring Scotland.

Ilse: [UK Business Digital Index 2016](#) produced by Lloyds is available. This is for small businesses including SE/TSOs. No action until SCVO acts.

Gemma: The Young People and volunteering IPSOS Mori survey shows that there is an increase in volunteering by 18 – 24 year olds. The report is written but not yet ready for public view.

Action: ESS to note for a future TSRF discussion topic – How to line up research coming from different parts of the UK (how to compare research that asks same questions in different ways).

Louise (OSCR): The Joint-SORP making body has published an [invitation to comment](#) on how Charities SORP can be improved. Consultation closes 11 December 2016

Patty: Knowledge Translation Network (sister to TSRF) will be publishing soon the Evidence from Elsewhere guide led by Cassy (TRT) and Cathy (BIG) both members of KTN, in collaboration with other members. This will be launched on **22 March 2017** at BIG offices in Glasgow.

Action: All to save the date - **22 March 2017**

Jane: [ESS stakeholder survey](#) is out now. Jane encouraged ALL to complete it.

Ilse: [Scottish CSDP update](#) <http://www.thinkdata.org.uk/>

Milo database work is now being shared with SCVO and the Third Sector interfaces. Webinars complete and all available via YouTube see <http://www.thinkdata.org.uk/events/CSDPWebinars/>

Data Roadshows: 4 completed and 2 local roadshows to take place in Jan (Aberdeen, D&G (tbc)).

Event at Gathering in pipeline, plus another possibly looking at building cross-sector consortia for future project funding applications.

Patty for Fiona: SG are running [2 events in December](#) to raise awareness about the Social Innovation fund (14 December, Inverness; 15 December in VQ, Edinburgh) – more to follow if there's demand. Fiona wondered if anyone from TSRF might consider contributing about the role of researchers in helping to develop and test social innovation/new ideas. If interested, please e-mail Fiona directly: Fiona.Malcolm@gov.scot

Action: All Please send items for TSRF Winter newsletter in the next week.

Stephen and Lizzie left the meeting.

What are we learning about communicating research effectively?

Patty introduced this agenda item to gather some tips about communicating research effectively. Patty gave a pack of examples for discussion. The Forum broke into 3 discussion groups. Please see 'Top tips to communicate research effectively' [here](#).

AOB

Patty told the Forum that Stuart Cable is now lecturer at Dundee University and although has teaching commitments will still attend the Forum meetings when he is available.

Duncan handed out fliers for the Social Enterprise Exchange Marketplace 2017 on 21 March 2017 in Edinburgh.

Date of next meeting:

9 March 2017 - 10.30am -1pm (plus networking lunch) at **BIG Lottery Scotland, Glasgow** (Please note this will be in BIG's new offices).

Steven closed the meeting at 3.30pm wishing everyone a Happy Christmas.

(Note from **Ilse** (received post meeting) - Ilse volunteers to feed into the [Funders Roundtable](#) draw on the academic contacts we have via the CSDP (Scottish Civil Society Data Partnership)
E.g. possible invitees: [Scottish Funders Forum](#) , [360 Giving](#), [ESRC](#), [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)).