Scottish Third Sector Research Forum meeting

31 May 2016, 1 pm

OSCR, Quadrant House, 9 Riverside Drive, Dundee, DD1 4NY

Minutes

In attendance:

Steven Marwick (ESS) (Chair), Patty Lozano-Casal (ESS) (Minutes), Louise Meikleham (OSCR), Andrew Kendrick (Strathclyde University), Gregor Berry (SG) Ilse MacKinnon (SCVO), Gemma Jackson (VS), Josie Isles (IS), Catherine Ronald (VHS), Darah Zahran (SE), Sophie Flemig (UoE), Fiona Malcolm (SG), Mark Meiklejohn (SG), Alasdair Rutherford (University of Stirling).

Apologies:

Jane Marryat (ESS), Stephen Osborne (UoE), Anne MacDonald (HIENT), Duncan Thorp (SES), Jacqueline Rae (SG), David Cruikshank (SG), Carolyn Sawers (BIG), Andy Dey (ACOSVO), Cassy Rutherford (TRT), Bob Parry (Iriss), Stuart Cable (QMU), Lizzie Leman (GCPH) and Stephen Plunkett (The ALLIANCE).

Welcome and introductions

Steven welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly those attending for first time – Andrew and Gregor - and noted apologies.

Minutes and matters arising

The **minutes** of the previous meeting (9 March 2016) were approved without corrections. Steven drew attending to the 'evaluation information' in the Annex and invited members to provide further feedback on how they feel the Forum is doing.

There were no matters arising.

Action: Patty to upload the minutes onto the website.

Planning Forum's work:

Workplan 2016/17

Steven spoke to the redrafted "TSRF work plan 2016–17" paper, which was circulated to members in advance, and drew members' attention to edits made.

Steven invited broad views from members. Key points raised are:

- Louise, who couldn't attend the previous meeting, was curious to know where the idea of having a Facebook page for the Forum came from. She said that OSCR had played with the idea before but decided not to have one on the basis that it would take quite a bit of time to manage; however, she said that this wouldn't be the case for the Forum as it'd be for Forum members to keep it going.
- Health of the third sector will be a standing item in the agenda.
- Sophie said that Edinburgh University Business School are piloting a light-touch match-making service for academics and third sector. Ilse said that SCVO was getting quite a few queries about this and that this is a big issue, although she wasn't sure it's for the Forum to tackle. Andy advised to reflect on the breadth of the third sector and use the Forum membership to make specific links.
- Alasdair suggested the Forum could direct people to existing groups and networks where they could find their third sector / academic match.

Action: ESS to create a Facebook page for the TSRF and invite members to join.

Action: ESS to find opportunities to explore match-making activities further at the event in September and future meetings.

Action: ESS to advertise third sector / academia networking opportunities whenever possible through website links, newsletters and case studies.

[Gemma joined the meeting]

Subgroup 'thematic' work

Steven spoke to 'Section 1' of the *Work plan 2016/17* paper, which had been circulated to members in advance. Members split into two smaller groups to discuss and sign off subgroup themes and sketch the remit for each piece of work.

The following points summarise what was discussed and agreed by the Forum:

- 'Co-production' and 'inclusive growth' topics were signed off, as these are central to Scottish Government's Programme. However, the Forum decided to postpone work on 'barriers to volunteering' until members gather more intelligence about what value the Forum could add to what others are already doing. Sophie suggested adding 'drivers' to the volunteering theme.

- *Co-production* subgroup:
  - ➢ Make sense of the meaning of 'co-production' in practice
  - ➢ Explore its meaning in <u>different policies</u> (e.g. health and social care integration – budgets, reducing re-offending) and in the <u>context of research</u>
  - ➢ Draw principles from what the research tells us good co-production looks like – use case studies and examples to illustrate principles
  - ➢ Draw on work from Carnegie UK Trust's <u>"The Enabling State"</u>, Audit Scotland's <u>Self-Directed Support</u> research, Scottish Co-production Network and "participation ladder" (ESS's <u>"Why bother involving people in evaluation? – Beyond feedback"</u>).
- *Inclusive growth* subgroup:
  - ➢ Drawing from third sector research to:
    - – Explain practically what 'inclusive growth' means (including case studies)
    - – Provide evidence of what the third sector does to create/contribute to inclusive growth
    - – Identify or suggest appropriate measures of success for inclusive growth activities in third sector
  - ➢ Draw from others' work, including:
    - – <u>NESTA</u>
    - – <u>Directory of Social Change</u>

Action: ESS to draft an 'options paper with background information' for each of the subgroups for Forum members to comment on, particularly around 'what Forum members need to be involved' and 'who else might be interested'.

Research stock-take of members' research and research by other researchers

Steven introduced this item and explained that it also links to the Work plan 2016/17 paper, particularly strands 1 and 2: sharing research from/about the third sector amongst members and externally.

Forum members took turns to share research projects they're currently undertaking. See **Annex** for details.

Action: ESS to make this item as a standing item on future meeting agendas. **ESS** to circulate an Excel spreadsheet in advance of the meetings to take stock of Forum's research activities.

Action: IIse to circulate learning from her focus groups.

"Let's collaborate" event

Steven provided background information and thanked those members who formed the subgroup that supported the programme development for their help. Subgroup was formed of Ilse (SCVO), Catherine (VHS), Jacqueline (SG), Orian Brook (University of Stirling), Cath Logan (BIG), Patty, Jane and Lydia (ESS).

Patty spoke to the *programme* for the "Let's Collaborate for Impact" event on 13 September 2016, which had been circulated to the Forum in advance.

The Forum discussed the proposed programme and, after sharing ideas, members agreed the following:

- The 'impact' theme should be clear and run throughout the programme

- The event programme should be relevant to academics and third sector organisations

- There should only be three short case study presentations:

  – [Drink Wise Age Well](#) (Julie Breslin – Addaction)

  – [Doing and evaluating community research](#) (Peter Matthews – Stirling University and Connected Communities)

  – [Asset-based approaches action research](#) (GCPH and SCDC) OR [InterAction research](#) (Mark Shucksmith, University of Newcastle and Carnegie UK Trust)

- Breakout sessions will only run once and will entail:

  – European Social Fund (Fiona Malcolm and Anne MacDonald)

  – Research for Excellence Framework and impact (Nicola Allan, SUII – and funders of research, e.g. ESRC?)

  – Consultation on TSRF plans on 'co-production' and 'inclusive growth' subgroups (Patty Lozano-Casal with others members involved)

- The Forum signed off the idea of the 'your definition of impact' ice-breaker

- There was an idea of asking participants to submit a poster about their collaboration; however, this might not be practical at the venue, Victoria Quay.

The Forum delegated final sign off to the 'planning' subgroup.

Action: All to send Patty final ideas on the event **by 17 June**. **ESS** to finalise programme.

4

Action: 'Planning event' subgroup to sign the programme off <u>by e-mail</u>.

Action: ESS to invite potential presenters to the event

<u>Member's updates</u>

<u>"Public confidence in the third sector": what do we know?</u>

Louise provided the Forum with an update on her research, following from Ilse's input at the March meeting. The research involved running a survey and some focus groups. The data analysis was carried out by market researcher [Progressive Partnership](.) The research took into account SCVO's Ipsos MORI's work and OSCR found that results are broadly comparable to SCVO's and The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's results (results from 2014 survey were not directly comparable).

Louise said that although they're still waiting on some qualitative information and demographic splits she could share some of their findings with the Forum. Some key highlights are:

- Interest in charities and levels of involvement with charities has been maintained. Younger people have had more contact than in in the past.
- 91% of respondents donated to charity in the last year:
  - o 70% donated money (54% through lottery tickets / online giving)
  - o 64% donated goods (increased from 44%).
- Personal connection is the most important thing to respondents, when it comes to trusting charities (e.g. relative, friend, neighbour, local charity).
- 81% say trust is important when it comes to donations (there's a slight drop of about 4%; however, the drop is only significant on top score trust levels (8-10).
- Trust is higher for those who are aware of OSCR (i.e. regulation) and/or know their charity.
- When asked 'what would increase your trust in charities?' seeing evidence of what has been achieved placed 2nd, after 'knowing how much went to the cause'.
- 75% of organisations said public trust in charities had no effect on them in the last year.

Action: Louise to share the findings report when it's published at the end of June/ beginning of July 2016.

Action: All to consider what questions they might want to ask in the future, as OSCR will definitely run the survey again. **ESS** to add this item to the agenda for the next meeting in August.

Action: All to use the findings however useful.

Sharing learning externally

The Forum signed off the idea of a Facebook closed group for the Forum and a newsletter.

Due to limited time available Steven suggested that Patty invites Forum members to send other comments on the "Sharing learning externally" paper, also circulated in advance.

Action: ESS to invite for comments on plans to share learning externally.

Action: ESS to create a Facebook closed group for the Forum to share learning internally.

Action: ESS to create an external TSRF newsletter.

AOB

Nothing was raised under this item.

Date of next meeting:

31 August 2016 | 10:30am–1pm (plus networking lunch)| University of Stirling.

Action: Alasdair to host next meeting.

Action: All to consider hosting on 9 March 2017.

Annex

TSRF research stock-take (May 2016)

About the research	Who is involved	Learning for the Forum	Key actions
University of Edinburgh Business School *(Stephen and Sophie)*			
Co-production across different countries: meaning, how to get started – what you need to know, drivers and challenges	Stephen Osborne Sophie Flemig PhD students	Learning about: – Ideas formulation – Process (e.g. skills set being developed)	Sophie and Stephen to share outputs with the Forum
Service development / consultancy projects (Edinburgh only just now)	Stephen Osborne Sophie Flemig	There might be learning to share after the programme runs between Feb-May 2017	Sophie and Stephen to keep the Forum updated
DRILL Programme *– Inclusion Scotland (Josie Isles)*			
DRILL is a Four Nation Research Project which delivers the world's first major research programme led by disabled people. Open for funding applications at three levels of funding. They're exploring rural issues and match-making activities are already happening.	Josie Isles Rosalind Tyler-Greig	Learning about partnership building process: – Guidance – Language Fiona Malcolm (SG) is interested in support demands for DRILL funded organisations	Josie to keep the Forum updated

		ESRC could be interested in the learning too	

Think Data by Scottish Network for Third Sector Data - _University of Stirling_ (Alasdair and Orian) and _SCVO_ (Ilse)

It exists to link third sector organisations and researchers interested in the collection, analysis and use of data on the third sector in Scotland. Current developments: – Preparing MILO data – Capacity/skills building on data use (e.g. webinars) – 3 Master funded places working with data – Measuring growth of the third sector – Relationship between employer/employee – Trust in government data (PhD project)	Alasdair Rutherford Orian Brook Ilse MacKinnon Eleanor Burt (University of St Andrews)	Learning about: – collaborative projects (formal and informal) – third sector's role in helping public sector make sense of their data (links to ESS's _Threading the Needle_ programme)	Ilse and Alasdair to keep the Forum updated Use Facebook to share ideas

SCVO (Ilse and Ruchir)

Running roadshows with	Ilse MacKinnon	Audit Scotland's	Keep the Forum updated

Scotland Funders' Forum and grant-makers (e.g. housing)	Alasdair Rutherford Funders/grant-makers	benchmarking analysis reports might have intel for this project	Keep the Forum updated
Fundraising review (focus groups with members of the public to explore trust in charities)	Ilse MacKinnon		Keep the Forum updated
Third sector's capacity data – Social care	Ilse MacKinnon		Keep the Forum updated
***Strathclyde University** (Andrew)*			
Scottish Social Work Services Strategic Forum 'Improving the Use of Research and Evidence' work stream'	Andrew Kendrick Iriss?	Learning about: – Improve public understanding – Improve the use of research/evidence – How do we plan research in organisations? – Best practice in embedding research Also, opportunities/ collaborative projects SCDC'S "Reimagined project" around community-led	The Forum to raise awareness of this work and share learning

		research might be of interest	
		Josie noted that SCDC would like to pick up the Scottish Community Action Research Fund (SCARF)	
***Voluntary Health Scotland** (Catherine)*			
"Understanding the Gap" event (1 June)	Catherine Ronald Claire Stevens Lauren Blair	Learning from research in health inequalities: A full key messages report will be available shortly. See event Twitter Storify	Promote learning about health inequalities research through TSRF newsletter
***Volunteer Scotland** (Gemma)*			
Hosting an event	Gemma Jackson	Research questions might arise	
***The Robertson Trust** (Cassy)*			
Sport for Change in Scotland: how Sport for Change as an approach to deliver social impact for individuals and communities can be developed and supported within Scotland.	Cassy Rutherford	Learning about capacity building and wider sectoral sustainability for Sport for Change organisations.	Keep the forum updated