

Scottish Third Sector Research Forum meeting

Wednesday 11th March 2020: 10.30am-1pm

SCVO, Raeburn Room, Mansfield Traquair Centre, 15 Mansfield Place, Edinburgh
EH3 6BB

Minutes

In attendance:

Steven Marwick (ESS), Jane Marryat (ESS), Kat Macapagal (ESS), Liz Ravalde (SG), Dinah Aitken (SMC), Rebecca McGregor (Inclusion Scotland), Ilse McKinnon (SCVO), Lucy Mulvagh (ALLIANCE), Louise Meikleham (OSCR), Amy Calder (Youthlink Scotland), Shubhanna Hussain-Ahmed (Coalition of Carers), Matthew Linning (Volunteer Scotland), Mark Meiklejohn (SG), Allison Mathews (NLCF)

Apologies:

Jane Cullingworth (VSSN), Ruth McKenna (Waverley Care), Andy Dey (ACOSVO), Sarah Weakley (Policy Scotland), Cathy Bulley (Queen Margaret University), Kerry Musselbrook (Iriss), Chris Harkins (GCPH), Karen McArdle (University of Aberdeen) Alasdair Rutherford (University of Stirling), Fiona McHardy (Poverty Alliance), Kiren Zubairi (VHS), Kyle Taggart (University of Glasgow)

Welcome and introductions

1. Steven welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes and matters arising

2. The minutes of the previous meeting (Tuesday 11th December 2019) were approved. Actions were completed or on the agenda for this meeting.
3. *Please note that there is a correction to item 23. – the TSRF June meeting will take place in Stirling on 10th (not 9th)*
4. Kat presented new TSRF logo options and asked everyone to vote for their preferred logo by the end of the meeting.
5. **Action: Kat** to update members on the new logo
Action: Kat to upload December meeting minute to website

Feedback from TSRF survey and workplan

6. Jane thanked everyone who responded to the TSRF survey.
7. Jane talked through the members survey findings distributed before the meeting. Most feedback was positive – forum members generally thought the forum meetings provided opportunities to share learning and for networking. Some feedback also noted the meetings and conferences have led to collaborative research. Forum members generally liked the schedule of meetings and that they were held in different venues.
8. Jane talked about the current workplan also circulated and how it links with the TSRF survey feedback.
9. Jane raised a potential date for the next TSRF conference – 17th February 2021 – to be discussed in the next meeting. The topic of ethics could be considered in the conference and the subgroups.

10. Jane said there are currently 338 people on TSRF mailing list. Based on email addresses that is about 100 academics and 200 third sector members.
11. The forum split into two groups to discuss: 1) what motivates them to come to meetings which are different from those identified in the survey, and 2) any other points to consider for future meetings
12. In summary the groups fed back the following points:
 - Members agreed it was everyone’s responsibility to be more proactive in raising awareness about TSRF through talking about it with contacts, forwarding the newsletter and encouraging sign up to the newsletter.
 - Members discussed the perception of the forum in the wider sector. There is some anxiety about the group being perceived as elitist. But the conference feedback suggests that the TSRF is open and accessible.
 - There were some comments about the subgroups lacking focus. Jane had circulated the subgroup “rules” drawn up a few years ago and confirmed ESS would make sure we followed these in future.
 - Members discussed focusing more on research happening in the third sector instead of academic research, ethics around research, and generally providing more support to third sector researchers, partnering with other researchers in government – ideas that can be considered for the next TSRF conference
 - Members raised the idea of providing skills training, for example data visualisation, to third sector researchers as a medium-term aim as part of TSRF profile-raising. This may be done in partnership with SCVO.
 - Members flagged risk-assessment for the upcoming conference around issues like accessibility, equality and diversity, and potential sensitive topics in conferences.
13. **Action: Forum members** to be proactive in raising awareness of forum and the newsletter
Action: Jane to create a risk assessment for TSRF conference
Action ESS to build in the other helpful suggestions to the work plan and future meetings.

Joint Policy Scotland/TSRF events

14. Jane talked about the upcoming Policy Scotland/TSRF events.
15. The first introductory event on 6th April [note: after the meeting this was postponed to September] is now fully-booked with 45 spaces, many from academia. Jane will speak to Sarah about prioritising third sector organisations who are on the waiting list.
16. The first event gives early career researchers collaborating with TSOs an opportunity to showcase their research and highlight the challenges experienced in the collaboration. It will feature three speakers: Dr Sam Quinn, West of Scotland University and the ALLIANCE – The Partnership towards TS improvement, Marianne McCallum with several Glasgow TSOs – How and why people choose to self-manage, and Mehwish Sultan and

CareInHealth (Pakistan NGO) Mental health innovation as impact enhancer to MH wellbeing.

17. The succeeding events will be on methodologies and on research and ethics [dates were going to be June and October but those dates will change].
18. Jane asked Coalition of Carers, DRILL, and Volunteer Scotland whether they would like to present their research at the methods event to talk about use of different methods.
19. Jane also asked if other members would let her know if they wanted to be involved in future events.
20. **Action: Members** to let Jane know if they are interested in participating in the events.

Liz Ravalde, Scottish Government – what support would you expect from Scottish Government regarding third sector research?

21. Liz briefly talked about her role as researcher in the Local Governance analytical team in the Scottish Government. She focuses on supporting third sector research. Her statistician colleagues are Gregor Berry and Matt Cook.
22. Following on from discussions in the previous meeting, Liz wanted to know more about non-financial support the Scottish Government can provide to third sector.
23. The members split into two groups to discuss Liz's question.
24. In summary the groups fed back the following suggestions:
 - Providing information about what Scottish Government data exists and how to access it.
 - Signposting to existing Scottish Government research (outside of Liz's team) that may be of interest to third sector organisations
 - Telling the TSRF and others know what the Scottish Government would like to know that can be provided or addressed by third sector research
 - Telling the TSRF and others if there's specific research done by Liz's area in Scottish Government that the third sector can use or help disseminate
 - Providing intelligence about how Scottish Government uses research (its own and other people's)
 - Signposting to sources of data and help such as Census
 - Auditing the quality of third sector data analysis (have done this for Volunteer Scotland's analysis of the Scottish Household Survey data)
 - Provide a summary about what the Scottish Government's Analytical Support Programme (where SG analysts are matched with third sector orgs) has been used for, how successful it's been and how to get the best from it.
25. **Action: Amy** to write case study on Youth Scotland's experience of support from SG's Analytical Support Programme

26. **Action: Liz** will take the comments on board and have a think about what to do in the future. Liz will report back to us at a future TSRF meeting

Subgroups

27. Members split into two subgroups 1) How to use learning from participatory action research and 2) New subgroup on ethics – initial discussion on the purpose of the subgroup
28. The subgroup on ethics discussed:
- Qualitative research and the ethics around two issues: 1) ethical approval, and 2) data sharing
 - From this discussion the group noted three areas that the group can start thinking about:
 - a) The need for a 'good-practice' guide that could signpost researchers to ethical issues on qualitative research and data-sharing.
 - b) The issue of 'paternalism versus protection' – or the debate between looking after the subjects of research and being too overprotective that we undermine their voices or sense of agency
 - c) Support for people who do research, such as those who are listening to traumatic stories – perhaps looking into what kind of support we can develop such as peer-to-peer research
 - **Action:** The group will look for existing models from different organisations and start from there

Mark Meiklejohn left the meeting.

29. The subgroup on participatory action research discussed:
- The key messages that came out from the lightning talk on participatory research was not linear – some messages referred to processes while some were stages. The group thought these messages can be presented through either an infographic or image that depicts the 'journey' of participatory research (e.g. path, star)
 - The output will be about 'things to consider' before going on a participatory journey, which will include background information on the lightning talk and signpost to existing guides
 - **Action: Lucy** to create initial design which the group will feedback to
 - **Action: Jane/Kat** will put the final document up on the TSRF webpage

NHS Knowledge Services offer of training

30. NHS Health Scotland is offering summarisation training to interested members of the forum. Details of the training were distributed to members before the meeting.

31. **Action:** Members to inform Jane if they are interested, Jane to get in touch with Grant Donaghy from NHS Health Scotland for next steps.

Research updates

32. **Alison (TNLF)**

- Doing internal research on impact of their business support offer which can feed into their programmes in the future
- TNLF-UK is developing an evidence and insights fund, which organisations can use to access and use data that can help improve their understanding of their own communities – this will probably be rolled out in the summer. The UK team commissioned research behind this project that might be interesting to the third sector.

Action: Allison to let Kat/Jane know if this research is available publicly and should be promoted in the newsletter

33. **Rebecca (Inclusion Scotland)**

- Three Scottish research projects for DRILL (Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning) are due to finish this March 2020. Reports will be published soon after. There will be a parliamentary reception in June 2020 to bring the DRILL project to a close.

34. **Liz (Scottish Government)**

- A PhD student is currently doing research on barriers to social entrepreneurship for the Social Enterprise Action Strategy.
- They will be commissioning a project on consumer attitudes towards social entrepreneurship and social enterprise finance needs.

35. **Matthew Linning (Volunteer Scotland)**

- Research paper on community building and volunteering in Greater Glasgow and Clyde - Volunteer Scotland will be undertaking a research project in 2020 based on its analysis of the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health and Wellbeing Survey 2017/18. Partners in this work are NHSGGC, Glasgow Centre for Population Health and Volunteer Glasgow. If you have specialist knowledge of the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area and an interest in community building and volunteering then please contact Matthew Linning: matthew.linning@volunteerscotland.org.uk

Action: Jane to promote above in newsletter.

36. **Amy (Youth Link)**

- Just published research on 'The impact of community based universal youth work in Dumfries and Galloway' – includes significant change stories from young people
- Ongoing research on supporting young people to look at environmental impact in coastal communities – storytelling event on 23rd June at Storytelling Centre which will also be livestreamed

Action: Jane to promote above in newsletter

37. **Lucy (the ALLIANCE)**

- In process of writing report on research about self-directed support for social care, done in partnership with SDSS. They used a variety of methods (online, one to one interviews, focus groups) to gather data and are pleased with the large number of feedback they received. They will be writing 9 local area reports and will be arranging feedback sessions in all those areas to discuss the findings. In process of doing a big national report on the same topic in June.
- Received funding from NHS Health Scotland to do initial research on their ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) peer-research project. They will be consulting people about what kind of questions they should be asking and what methods they can use in the peer-research project. The research will focus on what helps mitigate or prevent ACEs.

38. **Ilse (SCVO)**

- Report on third sector statistics has been published. Ilse would like to get some more feedback on the report to make it more accessible.
- They will be looking for cover when Ilse goes on maternity leave in June.
Action: Members asked to comment on report, and **Jane** to post upcoming vacancy in newsletter once Ilse has sent details.

39. **Shubanna (Coalition of Carers)**

- On 25th March – findings of survey about whether carers are aware of their rights will be published on their website. The main finding is that there is increased awareness among carers about their rights, however these rights are not being realised in practice.
- Ongoing survey of carer centres in Scotland to find out more about implementing carer support.
- Ongoing information gathering from local authorities on how they have used funding specifically provided to implement the Carers Act

40. **Louise (OSCR)**

- OSCR – Scottish Charity and Public Surveys 2020: Two large-scale surveys are being carried out during February and March, one with Scottish charities and another with members of the public, as well as public focus groups and a small number of in-depth telephone interviews with charities. The public survey will measure trust in charities, explore the factors that influence trust and what the public think of OSCR and charity regulation. The charity survey will explore some of the issues facing Scottish charities and gather feedback on OSCR.

41. **Dinah (SMC)**

- Published 'Communication Matters': Three scoping studies about the experience of children with learning difficulties, and their families, in Scotland. Study 1 is about how professionals manage parental requests for particular therapies for children with learning difficulties. Study 2 considers the information needs of parents and carers of children with learning difficulties. Study 3 looks at positive experiences of mainstream schooling.

- Salvesen Mindroom Research Centre (SMRC), launched an app on 24th February. The Helping Hand app is designed to help reduce the stress for parents with a child undergoing an autism diagnosis.
- Will host a Q-step student in the summer to work on college and university data in order to chart the paths of students with disabilities into and out of further and higher education. SMC has entered into a data-sharing agreement with the Scottish Funding Council to enable this project to go ahead, and they aim to produce a report in September 2020.

42. **Jane (ESS)**

Promoted the following:

- Shared 'Engaging with Evidence: How communities can get and use evidence' 2019 report developed by the Knowledge Translation Network
- Shared new Children and Young People's Evidence bank which is on the organisation's website
- Promoted upcoming Corra Foundation event on 25th March in Glasgow: 'Connections are Key: unlocking the heart of relationship-based practice'

43. **VSSN (shared via email)**

- One day seminar 19 May – 'Volunteering in Health and Social Care: making a difference in a complex landscape of rising demand'. Call for papers is out now, deadline for submissions is March 13.
- VSVR conference in September – 'Leading and changing in critical times: civil society responses to external and internal challenges.' Deadline for the call for abstracts is 11 May.

AOCB

44. **AOCB:** Dinah flagged that the State of Children's Rights in Scotland 2020 report has been launched and she will share the electronic copy of the report to the group.
45. **Next meeting:** 10 June 2020. Please remember to **bring your lunch.**