



# Scottish Third Sector Research Forum meeting

Thursday 6th December 2018: 1.30pm – 4pm

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

## Minutes

### In attendance:

Steven Marwick (ESS) (Chair), Louise Bowen (ESS), Jane Marryat (ESS) (Minutes), Fiona McHardy (Poverty Alliance), Lucy Mulvagh (The ALLIANCE), Ilse MacKinnon (SCVO), Mathew Linning (VS), Alasdair Rutherford (University of Stirling), Mark Meiklejohn (SG), Robert Mitchell (SG), Susan Hunter (YouthLink Scotland), Jacqueline Rae (SG), Louise Meikleham (OSCR), Kirsty Strokosch (University of Edinburgh), Dinah Aitken (Salvesen Mindroom).

### Apologies:

Andy Dey, (ACOSVO), Claire Stevens (VHS), Kiren Zubairi (VHS), Stephen Osborne (University of Edinburgh), Jane Cullingworth (Voluntary Sector Studies Network), Brendan McCormack and Jan Dewing (Queen Margaret University), Darah Zahran (Scottish Enterprise), Stuart Cable (University of Dundee), Gemma Jackson (VS), Rosalind Tyler Greig (Inclusion Scotland), Gregor Berry (SG), Cassy Rutherford (TRT), Allison Matthews (Big Lottery Fund), Jessica Watson (University of Glasgow), Kerry Musselbrook (Iriss)

### No response

Ligia Teixeira (Crisis), Josie Isles (IS), Duncan Thorp (SES).

### Welcome and introductions

1. Steven welcomed all to the meeting.

### 2. Minutes and matters arising

No changes required to minute of previous meeting (2nd October 2018). The Minute was approved.

**Action: Jane M** to upload onto TSRF webpages

3. Update on actions – Steven M.(para.3) Steven met Scottish Government National Performance Framework team. They are rightly focusing on disseminating and implementation within Scottish Government. There should be more to say about third sector implications in the new year.

**Action: Steven** will keep the Forum updated

4. There were no other matters arising.

### 5. TSRF conference and events scoping

Louise B. introduced TSRF 2019 event scoping paper with information to inform Forum discussions regarding planning next year's Forum conference and the possibility of an event on participatory research.

6. It was suggested that the Forum could make use of other people's events if appropriate. This would engage others with the Forum's work and has the potential to reach wider and further than previously.

7. The meeting broke into three groups for discussion which was then feedback into the whole group.

### **Group 1**

#### **Content:**

a. Brokerage

b. Identifying research needs and questions – "Where does research come from?" How to influence the research agenda?"

c. Understanding more about what TSOs have to do to get academics working with them & vice versa.

d. International horizon scanning – who's out there? And what are they doing?

e. Networking – what are the opportunities to network on a subject-specific basis e.g. sport?

f. Different ways of doing research: researching in ways (and with the right researcher) that will support/ fit well with the ethos of the TSO?

#### **Format:**

- Right mix of funders, academics, research users
- Co-presenting
- Not scrutiny of research but a celebration of what works and what doesn't
- Venue could be outside of Edinburgh - ?Glasgow

### **8. Group 2**

#### **Content:**

Thought that participatory research may not be a suitable subject for the conference but thought the subgroup working on this topic could create key messages and share them.

Focus for conference could be research for impact to attract a wide audience of research users, policy makers, academics and TSOs.

Topics to include: What is research impact? How do you make research impactful? And a call to action – what are the barriers to research impact?

A strand of the conference could be participatory research – How does real research have an impact on real people?

Knowledge exchange strand: dissemination; media- getting your research findings/ recommendations out to the wider world.

**Format:** Key speaker and group discussions plus showcase examples. Could involve: a 'knowledge café' strand- various tables discussing different aspects of impact.

**Audience:**

Research-active TSOs;

Policy makers (how to use TS research, identify what they want);

Local authorities -COSLA, LARIA- (support them to find and use TS research);

SPICe/MSP researchers

Academics- with interest in impact/REF public engagement

Knowledge Exchange practitioners in universities

Social Research Association (SRA) and UK Evaluation Society?

**9. Group 3****Suggested topics:**

Participatory research – what's the impact for the individuals involved in participatory research- e.g. for non-academic community member researchers and/or the communities they live in?

Open data – more analysis and linkage – connecting to implications from GDPR – what data can be shared – barriers and opportunities for collaboration.

Call backs for previous research collaborators who presented at last year's conference or attendees of last conference who have done collaborative research since.

**Format:**

**Conference** – key note speaker and breakout sessions

**Webinars** – for smaller subjects – to reach a larger audience (could be in run up to conference).

10. It was noted that the ALLIANCE conference is in May 2019 and the theme is collaboration. There is scope for TSRF presence/input there around academic/third sector collaboration.

11. There was support for Group 2's conference plan and for having key messages about participatory research and disseminating these at other people's conferences. Webinars and posters were thought to be a good idea.

12. There is no third sector participatory research network to tap into however we should ensure that we invite key people. Matthew could send conference information to VS networks involved in research/work around lived experience.

**Actions:**

**Louise B.** to write up a conference outline plan and a paper on light touch ways of reaching other people.

**Forum members** could get back to Louise with more ideas

**Jane M.** to put item in newsletter actively asking people to tell others about the forthcoming TSRF conference and have a standing item asking people for their feedback. Find out who is on the mailing list i.e. how many TSOs and academics.

### 13. Sharing knowledge

The Calman Trust in Inverness contacted the Forum asking for support in finding an academic to partner with them for a Social Innovation funding bid.

**Action: Ilse** to get in touch with Calman Trust

**Louise B.** to send details to Matthew

14. The meeting brainstormed their informal and formal knowledge about brokerage schemes and other initiatives that support academic/third sector research collaboration. This information will be put on TSRF webpages.

15. The following information was gathered:

Q step internship – Glasgow University and Edinburgh University	4 <sup>th</sup> year research students with a quantitative focus. TSO proposes project & interviews students. Various lengths of time: 8 weeks summer placement – 26 weeks	<b>Action: Lucy</b> to email details to Louise  Ilse & Louise M. have had Q step students from Edinburgh University
Edinburgh University Social Policy	TSOs have to put in a bid and university will match student to bid	<b>Action: Susan H.</b> to supply more info to Louise B.
Social Innovation Fund	Internships	
Scottish Government	Roger Halliday Scheme	TSO can apply for SG data analysis support of few days
Scottish Government		TSO can pitch for use of students hosted by SG
Graduate school, Glasgow University	Studentships Doctoral students	
Collaboration between GCU, Strathclyde, Stirling and Glasgow Universities	Co- sponsored PhD students	The ALLIANCE was approached by collaboration to co fund a PhD student
Strathclyde SG Business	??	Very competitive. Driven by practitioner (Matthew)
UKRI	Future leaders Fellowship	Mainly from private sector

Interface	Matchmaking TSO	Has some small grants
Scottish Enterprise	Innovation grant scheme	Match making
SUII programme	Knowledge exchange	
Dundee Community Development students	Must do a workplace dissertation	
Santander	Intern scheme	
University of Stirling	?	3 month Collaborative research, team base project, quantitative skills (Matthew)

16. Things to consider are level of student expected, whether the bidding is competitive for TSOs, funding/costs involved, who/how research determined, scale, who leads, timing, quality, expectations.

17. Importantly first port of call is university research officers as they will refer or highlight the best person to be contacted.

**Action: Louise B.** to do some light touch work on this list for the TSRF website

18. Robert Mitchell joined the meeting.

19. **Dinah Aitken, Deputy Head of Direct Support, Salvesen Mindroom Centre**

Steven welcomed new member Dinah to speak to the meeting.

Mindroom began in 2000 by Sophie and Robin Dow who had lived experience of caring of their daughter with learning difficulties. With a donation from Alastair and Elizabeth Salvesen The Salvesen Mindroom Centre, and the SMC Centre for Research into Learning difficulties, based at Edinburgh University were set up.

The Salvesen Mindroom Centre has 13 staff. They offer information, advice and support to families with a child with learning difficulties, and children and young people. Currently they have a project to offer supported work placements.

### **Focus on research**

a. The SMC Centre for Research into Learning Difficulties at Edinburgh University undertake research into autism, ADHD etc. focuses on assessment, diagnosis and educational interventions.

As a TSO there has been challenges working with a scientific academic research body and trying to link in with NHS.

The Centres have worked together with James Lind Alliance (JLA) to find the top ten research questions for learning difficulties. See report [here](#). The questions hopefully will help researchers secure the funding for research to provide answers.

b. The Salvesen Mindroom Centre:

- has commissioned scoping studies with School of Education at University of Edinburgh to tackle three questions that had been filtered out of the top ten. This work will be done in 2019 and look at attitudes to ABA (an autism-specific intervention), provision of information, and a good mainstream experience.
  - is hosting a Q step student
  - will create case studies to show the learning from the supported work placement project.
- c. In the future The Salvesen Mindroom Centre hope:
- to develop larger scale research projects from the scoping studies
  - to use evidence from work placement project
  - use their own client base of qualitative research into lived experience of aspects of learning difficulties such as experience of home education, placing request processes, children out of school and stigma.

## **20. Research updates**

**Susan (YouthLink Scotland)** published [‘The impact of community-based universal youth work in Scotland’](#) on 20 November. YouthLink Scotland are holding a research seminar on 18<sup>th</sup> December to an invited audience as part of their 6 month dissemination programme.

They have some questions in the Growing Up in Scotland study 2019.

**Action: Jane** to include in newsletter

## **21. Matthew (Volunteer Scotland)**

- Yesterday was International Day of Volunteering. Volunteer Scotland has published.
- **Volunteering, Health and Wellbeing** – a literature review exploring the contribution of volunteering to mental and physical health, social isolation and loneliness and community wellbeing - see [Summary and Full Reports](#)
- **Longitudinal Analysis of Volunteering 2007 – 2017**: based on the Scottish Household Survey, this research examines longer term trends in volunteering participation and engagement across Scotland with a specific focus on demographic and deprivation variables - see [Volunteering Trends in Scotland - a changing landscape](#)
- **Youth volunteering and inclusion** – the outputs from Volunteer Scotland’s conference “Creating a more inclusive future for youth volunteering” are now available via this link [Outputs from Youth Volunteering Conference](#).

## **22. Jacqueline (SG)**

SG is developing a volunteering outcomes framework which will be published at end of March. Alasdair Rutherford is doing a literature review for it. Nothing for newsletter.

## **23. Fiona (Poverty Alliance)**

- In January PA will launch its European Horizons 2020 research into social investment. There will be a seminar in Scotland to disseminate European and Scottish findings and another seminar where community presenters will present the research.

**Action: Fiona** to circulate the seminar programme

- PA are undertaking research into universal credit in Glasgow. In January and February there will be a seminar into work poverty about paid workers in multiple jobs are in poverty.
- PA have had events in Edinburgh and Glasgow about food security which included a play that was written from research transcripts.

**Action: Louise B.** to plan for a future TSRF meeting to talk about ethics of research about vulnerable people.

**24. Louise M (OSCR)**

- Will be collaborating with the University of Stirling on a PhD studentship using linked regulator data to explore trustee dynamics in relation to governance and accountability in Scottish charities.
- Has commissioned a short study on Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIO). It is seven years since SCIOs were introduced and the analysis aims to provide insight on the way SCIOs are shaping the sector and in turn, how this is influencing the demands placed on OSCR as a regulator.
- Both of these pieces of work are supporting us in efforts to be a more targeted and risk-led regulator by making better use of the information available to us.
- The findings will also contribute to knowledge in these areas at a time when the Scottish Government has committed to consult on updating charity legislation to promote transparency and accountability and ensure public confidence in charities and in the Scottish Charity Regulator.

**25. Alasdair (University of Stirling)**

- Published report of joint work with Stirling University and SUII – [‘Housing and aging: Linking strategy to future delivery for Scotland, Wales and England 2030’](#)
- There will be 3 seminars to disseminate the findings.
- The virtual webinar series (see October minute) are going well.

**26. Kirsty Strokosch (University of Edinburgh)**

- Is working on Horizon 20/20 research about how value is created.
- Is disseminating findings from research on social security agency in a series of workshops. Will be looking at service design next. Anyone interested in being subject of a case study please get in touch with Kirsty.
- Nothing for newsletter.

**28. Ilse (SCVO)**

- SCVO are working with 8 TSOs in the Highlands & Islands for a piece of research around poverty and food in rural areas.
- Funding models – how to classify the sector

- SCVO will be undertaking their Third Sector forecast next year – asking about challenges, financial accounts analysis

#### 29. **Steven (ESS)**

Steven is on a Public Health Reform working group shaping the future research and evidence functions of the new Public Health Scotland. A stakeholder event - Public Health Reform - LPHRIAE Commission – Stakeholder Engagement Event will take place on 30 January 2019 in Edinburgh.

#### 49. **AOCB**

Louise B. asked for offers of hosts for future meetings – June, October and December 2019 and March 2020. Dates have not been set yet. Louise will confirm dates soon.

**Action: Members** who are willing to host one of next year's meetings please contact Louise B.

Steven wished everyone a happy Christmas.

#### **Next meeting**

Next meeting will be on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at The ALLIANCE, Glasgow 10.30 - 1pm with networking lunch following the meeting.