



Scottish Third Sector Research Forum meeting

Tuesday 2nd October 2018: 10.30am – 1pm

Big Lottery Fund Scotland, Pacific House, 70 Wellington Street,
Glasgow G2 6UA

Minutes

In attendance:

Steven Marwick (ESS) (Chair), Louise Bowen (ESS), Jane Marryat (ESS) (Minutes), Lucy Mulvagh (The ALLIANCE), Ilse MacKinnon (SCVO), Karen McArdle (University of Aberdeen), Mathew Linning (VS), Alasdair Rutherford (University of Stirling), Cassy Rutherford (TRT), Michael Roy (GCU).

Apologies:

Jane Cullingworth, (Voluntary Sector Studies Network), Allison Matthews (Big Lottery Fund), Susan Hunter (YouthLink Scotland), Stuart Cable (University of Dundee), Mark Meiklejohn (SG), Jessica Watson (University of Glasgow), Gemma Jackson (VS), Andy Dey (ACOSVO), Josie Isles (IS), Brendan McCormack (Queen Margaret University), Kerry Musselbrook (Iriss), Jacqueline Rae (SG), Duncan Thorp (SES), Sophie Flemig (University of Edinburgh), Fiona McHardy (Poverty Alliance), Louise Meikleham (OSCR).

Welcome and introductions

1. Steven welcomed all to the meeting and congratulated Alasdair on his professorship.

Minutes and matters arising

2. The Minute of the previous meeting (20th June 2018) was approved.

Action: Jane M to upload onto TSRF webpages

3. There were no matters arising with exception Steven's action re: the National Performance Framework. Steven has sent emails but there is nothing to report. He will keep pursuing this.

Action: Steven to keep in touch with steering group

Subgroups updates

4. **Inclusive growth** work stream has been completed with the production of circulated paper. Thanks to Ilse for completing this. The audience for this paper is TSOs to explain the terminology of inclusive growth. Key message: TSOs are usually incorporating inclusive growth in their activities but perhaps do not realise they are due to the terminology.

Actions: Duncan to circulate paper to Social Enterprise Scotland members

Jane to put in TSRF Autumn newsletter AND liaise with Ilse to update paper with TSRF web address and Charity No. and upload to upload to TSRF webpage

Louise to circulate it to KTN and ask members to circulate through their networks especially SCDC AND send to Darah.

5. Research conference with University of Edinburgh booked for 8 March. Ilse was the only member of this subgroup in attendance. Sophie Flemig is leaving University of Edinburgh at the end of the year and so will not be involved in organising this event. Jane Cullingworth is currently on secondment at Scottish Government. The subgroup has not met since the last TSRF meeting as meetings had been cancelled. Stephen and Ilse are suggesting that SCVO and University of Edinburgh work together to deliver a research conference (as in previous years). Ilse needs to talk to SCVO about this. As it stands there is a room booking at the University for 8 March and that is all that is organised to date.

6. Ilse reported that the NCVO conference's theme was 'Governance and Transparency and how to talk about impact'. There were a lot of Scots presenting at the conference and so Ilse thought there would be demand for a research conference in Scotland.

7. Steven noted that we had intended to advertise the event through the next TSRF newsletter at the end of October but that now did not look possible. He said that Ilse should not feel obliged to take on the work to deliver the event if SCVO doesn't have the capacity to do so. Ilse had the Forum's support to postpone the event if it didn't look likely that it could be planned and delivered in the timescale.

Actions: Ilse to talk to colleagues and decide whether SCVO will take this forward. Postpone the date if necessary.

8. Guest speaker: Dr Michael Roy, Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health, Glasgow Caledonian University

Dr Michael Roy gave some background to the setting up of the [Yunus Centre](#) for Social Business and Health, named after Noble prize winner Professor Muhammad Yunus who pursued a financial inclusion agenda for social business in health in Bangladesh which includes a nursing college.

9. The Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health at Glasgow Caledonian University was set up in 2010 by Professor Cam Donaldson and includes health economists and social enterprise academics. The Centre has 40 people: academics, PhD and Masters students. They work closely with third sector organisations (social partnership review) and social enterprise (SE) sector, SE networks, and Social Enterprise Scotland. The work of the Centre cuts across the three main societal challenges listed in Glasgow Caledonian University's Research Strategy: inclusive societies, healthy lives and sustainable environments. Focusing on health and wellbeing, we aim to transform the lives of vulnerable communities through pioneering research in the following areas: Microfinance, Social Business and Health Economics. The Centre is involved in projects with British Council in Hong Kong and Thailand, on projects about Syrian refugees, largest Asian and Latin American social enterprise project

in social innovation. Click link for [Social Business projects](#) , click link for [Health Economics projects](#). The Centre hosts conferences and educational events for academics from across the world, edits the National social Enterprise journal and organises the International Third Sector Research conference. Next year they will be working on projects in Ethiopia.

10. Questions were asked about collaborating with academics. Michael talked about 'one size not fitting all', testing ground with Masters students, serendipity and needing to be 'incredibly well connected with third sector'.

11. Discussion about 'What's in it for third sector?' In Michael's experience TSOs wanted validation which academics could not always give and the tension this created; the need to balance scientific integrity and demands from TSO. Impact of their work is very important for REF.

12. Discussion about whether TS has skills to engage with academics. This was varied. The Yunus Centre does not train TS staff in participatory research but there was a Canadian project with had trained TS researchers successfully.

13. TSRF members were asked to raise awareness and signpost to materials, and reports that are on the Centre's webpages (on GCU website).

Actions: Jane put links to Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health on TSRF webpages.

All Forum members to raise awareness and disseminate willingness to collaborate with TSOs

14. **Subgroups: ongoing work**

The meeting split into the two subgroups to continue work started last meeting.

15. **Funding for Research**

Members of subgroup: Steven, Jane M, Alasdair, Cassy, Ilse, Michael Roy.

16. Jane M. talked to a paper outlining the content of a potential guide to obtaining funding for collaborative research. This work is based on the research completed last year by TSRF and the breakout group at Researching Together. The group then discussed the paper.

17. Suggestions:

- Michael commented that in his experience TSOs want to research collaboratively because they want to use the results to lever funding for their services. These expectations might be difficult to manage and may affect the relationship between collaborators. After introduction the first section should be about 'Why TS want to do research?', 'Why are you doing collaborative research?' covering 'What is the purpose for your organisation?' and 'What's your expectation?' Different drivers may affect where you might access funding. Include:
 - Legitimacy to access funding
 - Individually led
 - Exploring new problems
 - New projects
 - Policy changing
- Include tips:
 - Could be a stepping stone to a bigger project

- Think about being part of a consortium of TSOs
- Present things as 'Impact' – more likely to attract funding
- Draw on evidence from elsewhere and use other people's research instead of doing primary research i.e. is primary research really what you need? Can you meet your needs in other ways?
- Perhaps the guide should be marketed as a supplement to Collaborating with Academics (to prevent repetition – so just signpost to pages in C with A).
- Knowledge translation partnerships are important – invest to speculate. Funding scheme with ERSC
- In-kind – type of funding – include Q step 'Esteem'
- Include SG European Social Fund
- Include pros and cons of in-kind funding – refer to C with A.
- Mention barriers for universities –
 - i.e. full academic costing. Academics have to add on 40% to cover costs £1000/day
 - some universities stipulate that academics can't work on projects less than £50,000 and have to make a special case for 'less funded' work with smaller TSOs for example. The case they can make involves: can lead to bigger grant, lead to impact and without working with smaller TSOs can't prove their impact.
- Barriers to independent funding
- Add Alasdair and Michael Roy to list of readers/commenters

Action: Jane to take on board feedback and continue to work on the guide.

Action: Cassy to follow up university scheme that pairs TS with an academic and send information to Jane.

18. Participatory/lived experience research

Participants: Karen McArdle; Matthew Linning, Lucy Mulvagh, Louise Bowen

Lucy gave an overview of the peer research conference that the ALLIANCE co-hosted at the University of Strathclyde on August 30th. She highlighted that the peer research projects that took part in the conference had all been set up with the intention to research and then make change for either the researchers themselves or for people who might access the same services or have similar life experiences. The impact of the Fife Employability Service peer research was that Fife Council reviewed its Employability support in light of the research recommendations. One of the actions from the conference was that opportunities for establishing a peer research network in Scotland were explored.

19. We discussed and agreed that the purpose of the subgroup's work should be to:

- Champion participatory research in its various forms (e.g. Participatory Action Research, peer research, other methodologies)
- Show how impactful participatory research can be
- Raise the profile of participatory research to funders and policy makers.

20. Our work here might also intersect with the funding for research subgroup.

We thought this could effectively be done by

- running an event on participatory research that could act as a showcase for current or recent P.R as well as an opportunity to network and make links with others involved in this work (e.g. peer researchers)
- the event could help us to identify and signpost to current/recent participatory research from across the third sector. Karen knows a filmmaker who potentially could work with us pro bono to do this signposting in the format of film – great for distribution and access.

21. Karen spoke about the international collaborative research conference that she's involved in running: Dundee in 2020 where she's keen to have strong input from community-based practitioners. (See more in the updates from members).

22. Karen also flagged up that there's a funding pot for Study Days through the Collaborative Research network that can be applied to in order to run learning events on this topic. **Update from Karen:** the historic grant of £2000 that we discussed in the meeting has now been reduced to £500. However Karen will continue as planned to submit an application for this funding.

Actions:

Karen to apply for funding.

Louise B. to circulate update to other members of TSRF who were involved in this subgroup at June meeting.

All: Are subgroup members able to identify any other potential sources of funding for running this type of learning event? If so, please contact Louise B. with details in advance of the December meeting

Louise B. Participatory research (and discussion of the potential event) to be added to December meeting agenda as a topic for wider discussion

23. Research updates

24. Cassy (The Robertson Trust)

The Trust produces a range of research briefings throughout the year so that we can better understand the context that we and the wider third sector are operating in. We then use this to make informed decisions about how we work and what we fund. For example, we're currently scoping out what the needs are for individuals and organisations around dementia care and whether there are any gaps in terms of service delivery and/or funding. One project we're about to begin is looking at what work is being done to predict how Scotland might look in 2030 including economically, demographically and socially. We plan to use any relevant thinking to inform our next strategy review. If any of the Forum members are working in this area or have suggestions about potential sources of evidence I would really appreciate them getting in touch.

Action: Jane include in newsletter

25. Matthew (Volunteer Scotland)

Volunteer Scotland has worked closely with Dr James Davies and his supervisors at the University of Strathclyde for the last four years on youth volunteering in

areas of multiple deprivation. James was awarded his doctorate in June 2018. This is the link to his full thesis - ["Young people and volunteering: Attitudes and experiences in areas of multiple deprivation"](#). There is also a link to his comprehensive [Thesis Summary](#).

James was also the keynote speaker at Volunteer Scotland's conference ["Creating a more inclusive future for youth volunteering"](#). Full conference papers will be posted shortly.

26. Louise (ESS)

Louise attended a consultation event for REF 2021 aimed at non-academic users of research. There is a consultation for TSOs open until 15 October for TSO to comment on how impact can be assessed e.g. it was suggested that they might write guidelines for TSOs about assessment process.

27. Lucy (The Alliance)

The ALLIANCE has had a peer research event. It was decided that The Alliance policy group will continue to meet to progress peer lived experiences research based on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) projects. There will be a question based on ACEs in the next Scottish Household Survey.

28. The ALLIANCE is setting up an internal research collective for commissioning and use of research to keep each other informed. This is meeting in November and Lucy will feedback from this group at next TSRF meeting.

29. The ALLIANCE are collaborating with SDS to research self-directed support. The research will use mixed method: a national survey will be sent to local authorities; health care partnerships and peer led interviews will be undertaken with beneficiaries, and targeted focus groups for inequalities groups i.e. children, older people in care homes, BME and women.

30. The ALLIANCE will have a Q step intern – graduate student 14-16 hours for 6 months to support research, mainly quantitative research.

Action: Lucy

- to circulate an update on actions from the peer research event to Forum members
- will update on SDS research

31. Ilse (SCVO)

SCVO is hosting a parliamentary reception this week focusing on good governance, demonstrating impact and strengthening trust.

32. SCVO storytelling conference on 22 November 2018 at [John McIntyre Conference Centre](#), Pollock Halls, 18 Holyrood Park Rd, Edinburgh EH16 5AY. SCVO is hosting the conference as part of our [I Love Charity Campaign](#) which aims to inspire public trust in charities. The conference is part of a strand of work to encourage charities to work harder at promoting the positive impact of their work, and to support them to do so.

33. Ilse and SCVO's Q Step intern have been working on the State of the Sector work and will be publishing the results next week.

34. Ilse informed the meeting that What Works Scotland is winding up.

35. SCVO has created a number of new resources under the 'I love Charity' banner, a campaign to inspire trust through 1. Promoting the positive impact of charities and their work, and 2. Supporting good governance to ensure charities are well run, open and transparent.

Resources

- A new interactive data resource, the State of the Sector data hub has just been published, available [here](#). Ilse hopes TSRF members will have a play around with the data - and please send any feedback to research@scvo.org.uk.
- About the I love Charity campaign - [link](#)
- What is a modern charity? animation - [link](#)
- Public trust in charities - [link](#)
- Young People's Guide to sector - [link](#)
- Storytelling Conference, 22nd November - [link](#)

Action: Ilse to send information for publication in TSRF newsletter

35. Alasdair (University of Stirling)

PhD student Tom Wallace has submitted his thesis, a viva will take place at a later date. His work was on Trust in government data and third sector involvement.

36. Two new PhD students have started. They will be researching 'volunteering in retirement' and 'governance and trustees'.

37. Outcomes framework work is in progress.

38. Completed work: Research into fundraising regulator in England and Wales.

39. For the newsletter – they are piloting a series of monthly virtual seminars on non-profit data to see if there is an audience for this. These will be on You Tube between October 2018 and January 2019 and will last about 30 minutes for everyone.

Nonprofit Data Virtual Seminar Series

Other seminars in the series include:

Thurs 18th Oct 2018

"The Gender Pay Gap for Nonprofit Executives: Identification and Potential Remediation."

Dr Jesse Lecy & Dr Nathan Grasse

<https://youtu.be/atgC8sEEulQ>

Thurs 22nd Nov 2018

"Collecting quantitative data among CEOs and directors: A series of (un)fortunate events"

Dr Jurgen Willems

<https://youtu.be/9WYx-QQCsxY>

Thurs 13th Dec 2018

"Identifying fields and service areas using UK charity data"

Dr Chris Damm & Dr Chris Dayson

<https://youtu.be/Cw-Qm3Ar-68>

Thurs 24th Jan 2019

"Understanding change in the charitable sector using administrative data"

Professor John Mohan

<https://youtu.be/vkMzPowcg5c>

The virtual seminars can be viewed live through YouTube. Questions for the presenters can be submitted as YouTube comments. No log-in is required to view the seminar but you will need a Google Account to leave comments. A recording of the seminar will be available on YouTube after the event.

The Nonprofit Data Virtual Seminar Series is coordinated by Professor Alasdair Rutherford at the University of Stirling. For more information, email

alasdair.rutherford@stir.ac.uk

Action: Jane to put in newsletter.

40. **Karen (University of Aberdeen)**

Has completed a participatory research about rural poverty and is now researching rural poverty and young people in North East Fife using qualitative interviews.

42. In collaboration with Dundee University and City of Dundee Council Karen is involved in organising the IACD conference to be held in Dundee in June 2019. This will aim to involve community development academics and practitioners, with a practice learning strand in the conference programme. There is a call for abstracts.

https://www.conventiondundeeandangus.co.uk/conference/161_WCDC2019.htm

Action: Jane to put in newsletter and share with SCDC.

44. **Steven (ESS)**

The public health reform is underway and Steven sits on the research, innovation and applied evidence group. The group has been discussing what the function of this new body would be. It is unlikely to be a research funder but could support other research funding to be more effective. Third sector is a key supplier of evidence and user of evidence. Steven will share your views with the group.

Action: Forum members please let Steven know any feedback to be passed on to the group.

45. What Works Scotland will have a series of events in the wind up period and the website will stay live afterwards.

46. ESS Activities and impact report 2017/2018 is on ESS website.

47. **Louise B.** will send an email to members with the following information from other organisations:

ISTR Conference Working Papers Series/Voluntas

Following the excellent contributions at the ISTR Amsterdam conference, we are very pleased to provide opportunities for publication through ISTR:

- Submit your papers to ISTR Conference Working Papers Series. Papers are due by October 31, 2018. Please submit to Secretariat@istr.org. All papers will be reviewed by a small committee (this is not a blind review) and posted on the ISTR website by December 15, 2018. The ISTR Working Papers Series can be found at [http:// www.istr.org/WPSeries](http://www.istr.org/WPSeries).

- Submit your work for publication in *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, ISTR's official academic and scholarly journal. *Voluntas* is a high quality journal with dynamic leadership interested in publishing work that spans the globe on the third sector, civil society, nonprofits, philanthropy, social economy, the voluntary sector and other topics in our field.

Details on submitting your manuscripts are available at:

http://www.istr.org/?Voluntas_Notes (Voluntas of course also welcomes contributions from authors around the world who did not present at the ISTR conference.)

- Please note that papers can be submitted to BOTH the Working Papers Series as well as to *Voluntas*. Guidelines on paper formatting can be found here.

48. Westminster Insight is delighted to announce the launch of a new conference:

Research Data Management Conference: GDPR, Brexit and Beyond, Tuesday 4th December 2018, London (08:30 - 13:25)

Handling and managing research data has never been easy, but in the wake of GDPR and Brexit the process has become even more complex.

With keynote addresses from the ICO and leading University Researchers, you will explore the importance of legal compliance to recent policy changes, as well as hearing from experts and sharing best practice in the field of RDM. We will unpack the ambiguities around GDPR compliance, review the importance of Open Data, and shine a spotlight on health data, the UK Data Protection Act, the Jisc RDM toolkit, and a look ahead to the data requirements for REF submissions.

49. AOCB

We will be looking at forum membership. There are some members who have not come to meetings for a long time. If members know of any TSOs who are active in research please let us know.

Action: All to let **Louise B.** know of any research active TSOs who may like to join the TSRF.

50. We will be planning our next TSRF conference at the next meeting.

Next meeting Next meeting will be on 6th December 2018 at Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh. 1pm lunch for a 1.30-4pm meeting.