



Scottish Third Sector Research Forum meeting

Tuesday 3rd September 2019: 10.30am-1pm

YouthLink Scotland, Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace,
Edinburgh EH12 5EZ

Minutes

In attendance:

Steven Marwick (ESS), Jane Marryat (ESS), Matthew Linning (Volunteer Scotland), Amy Calder (YouthLink Scotland), Cassy Rutherford (TRT), Andy Dey (ACOSVO), Jacqueline Rae (SG), Mark Meiklejohn (SG), Josie Isles (Inclusion Scotland), Kyle Taggart (University of Glasgow), Dinah Aitken (SMC), Lucy Mulvagh, (ALLIANCE), Allison Mathews (NLCF), Ilse McKinnon (SCVO).
Speakers: Julia Green and Grant Donaghy, NHS Health Scotland

Apologies:

Cathy Bulley (Queen Margaret University), Alasdair Rutherford (University of Stirling), Karen McArdle (University of Aberdeen), Gemma Jackson (Volunteer Scotland), Laura Robertson (Poverty Alliance), Jane Cullingworth (VSSN), Kerry Musselbrook (Iriss), Rebecca McGregor, Claire Stevens (VHS), Stephen Osbourne (University of Edinburgh), Shubhanna Hussain-Ahmed (Coalition of Carers), Louise Meikleham (OSCR),

Welcome and introductions

1. Steven welcomed everyone to the meeting. Steven thanked Louise Bowen for her hard work organising the TSRF for last 2 years and wished her well in her new post at Iriss. Jane Marryat will now be the contact for the Forum. ESS is recruiting a communications assistant who will also do TSRF administration.

Minutes and matters arising

2. The Minute of the previous meeting (Tuesday June 4th, 2019) was approved once Lucy's changes are put into place.

Action: Lucy to send changes required to **Jane M.** who will then upload onto TSRF webpages [done]

3. Actions were either completed or are being taken forward. There were no matters arising.

Speakers: Julia Green and Grant Donaghy, NHS Health Scotland

Julia and Grant introduced their work at [NHS Health Scotland Knowledge Services](https://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx) and <http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx>

Next year NHS Health Scotland will become Public Health Scotland. The knowledge service will have a clear remit to being outward facing, co-productive

and collaborative, to support knowledge translation about public health issues. There will be an increase in capacity for knowledge use.

The Knowledge Service supports practitioners to be informed by best evidence from different types of knowledge – academic, experiential, contextual etc and in different formats from academic journals to local intranets - white and grey literature. They will engage with third sector both to provide information to and seek information.

Julia distributed briefings to the meeting as examples of work they can do. She is currently working on a summary about 65+ non dementia psychosis.

Grant talked about the services the librarians offer such as database searches, awareness bulletins, literatures searches and summaries. Third sector working with health and social care issues can access these services as a partner. Sign up is through an open Athens account.

The service has a lending service for books that can be shared with partners.

IN response to questions they assumed they are interested in enabling access to 'grey' literature (material that is not academic papers), they will avoid clinically focused questions which they would refer onto Healthcare Improvement Scotland. Ilse mentioned the SCVO evidence library which is searchable online. Worth putting a link to NHS HS guide on TSRF webpages.

From the start of next year there will be free training from the Knowledge Service. Just email to request. Steven suggested that some intermediaries do the training and then cascade to their members. Josie said she will be summarising research from projects that are ending now and she would be keen to access the training. Perhaps this would be a good case study.

Steven suggested that Julia and Grant return to speak more about progress in about 6 months.

Any questions see Julia and Grant who will have a stand at TSRF conference in October.

Action: Julia will send Jane information about how access an Athens account and information to go into the newsletter. Julia will circulate her summary on psychosis to the Forum when it's ready.

Action: Jane M. put on June agenda

Action: Jane M. to send information about the service and Athens account procedure to Forum members with Minutes.

Conference planning

Jane updated the forum about conference planning which is all under control. 111 participants are booked – a mix of academics, third sector organisations, small number of funders, public sector and Scottish government. We have taken all academics from waiting list which is now only TSOs (40+ on waiting list).

Jane distributed the programme times and session titles and talked through the programme. TSRF folders have been ordered without logo which, it was agreed, needed updating.

Jane asked for volunteers to be room chaperons and helpers. The following volunteered: Ilse in Burns 1, Dinah in Scott 1, Allison – 'floater'

Lucy asked if panel could be put in touch with each other so that they can co-ordinate the content of their talks.

TSRF "Be brave, ask and keep trying – collaborative funding publication": Lucy suggested page numbers and links should be inserted on contents page. Forum was happy to sign off to be published at conference.

Action: Jane to add volunteers names to conference notes. They will get instructions in joining email which will be sent 3 weeks before conference.

Action: Jane to put panel members in touch with each by email

Action: Jane to amend funding publication and make ready for launch at conference.

Action: Ilse to speak to graphic designer to scope potential new TSRF logo (not for conference)

Jacqueline Rae joined the meeting 10.50

This is Jacqueline's last meeting as she is moving to work in the Scottish Government Homelessness Policy Team. Recruitment is underway for her replacement who will attend the TSRF.

Subgroups

Participatory research (PR) led by Amy Calder

The PR subgroup (Amy, Dinah, Mark, Kyle, Jane, Josie, Allison, Lucy) discussed the content and format of the lightening talk. Mentimeter was dismissed as an idea as not enough time to make sure all participants were acquainted with it and questions were too broad for this format. Ping pong voting was discussed but dismissed. Decided to use flipcharts and sticky dots to capture ideas from participants about what PR was. Questions would be simplified. Steven's ladder of participation and SCDC 'Knowledge is power' work maybe useful to look at to nail down what questions should be. Allison Mathews will support Amy in delivery of lightening talk.

Group requested a smaller conference room and that the session be renamed to The principles of participatory research.

Action: Amy to send amended session descriptor for conference programme.

Action: Jane to move PR lightening talk to smaller room with capacity of 16 and to add new descriptor and name in conference programme.

Discussion of Charity Futures and Giving Evidence research papers led by Steven Marwick

A subgroup (Jacqueline, Cassy, Ilse, Andy, Matthew and Steven) discussed the summary paper circulated. Andy had been at the original focus group in

Edinburgh and had told the consultants about the TSRF. Ilse had completed the survey. However, the subgroup felt the consultants had missed an opportunity to engage with TSRF members and the third sector in Scotland and it was misleading of them to assume charity "disengagement" with research. Cassy had read the reports and agreed with Steven's reflections – particularly about third sector confusion about research = evaluation. The subgroup had some concerns about the methodology. They felt it might be unwise to take action based on the conclusions alone. The key question was what was going to happen next.

The group agreed that

- **Andy** and **Ilse** to double check their engagement with this work (to get our facts right) and **Andy** to confirm the key contacts
- **Steven** to draft a short response welcoming the reports but expressing polite concern that more use had not been made of TSRF contacts and pointing out our contrasting experience of Scotland third sector interest in research. We would ask about next steps and offer to be involved as appropriate. Steven will circulate to the subgroup before he sends it.
- **Steven** to action Jane C's good idea of a blog after our conference on the theme of charity engagement with research, the need for impactful research and the need to help the sector see research as different from evaluation.

The Gaitherin – Kyle Taggart

The Social Sciences School, University of Glasgow has 402 research staff. Kyle's remit as Research Impact Officer is to ensure there is a culture of impact in everything they do, such as funding proposals have clarity in impact sections, offers training in planning and monitoring and he oversees the Impact Acceleration Account for Knowledge Exchange activities.

The school organises networking events called 'Gaitherin' to create opportunities for collaboration. So far these have been themed: Brexit, small business. The next Gaitherin on 7th November 6-8pm is a special event on collaboration with third sector. Venue – central Glasgow hotel. Kyle wants to showcase existing collaborations – explore barriers/challenges, share learning.

Action: Forum members If you wish to be involved in a lightning talk – presenting your ideas please let Kyle know.

Impact Acceleration Account – first round has just finished after 4 years. Second round has been confirmed. £1.13m to use for exchange activity from now – 2023. University of Glasgow want to expand IAA network and are looking for third sector to be involved in deciding the direction IAA should take.

Kyle is running workshops on how to pitch for IAA funding.

Action: Forum members If you are interested in being an external reviewer like Cassy let Kyle know and if you can suggestion ways that Glasgow Uni. can be more collaborative with TS.

Comments from Forum:

Ilse is in touch with Edinburgh University about their IAA.

Josie is supporting completed DRILL projects in Scotland to have impact by actions including a parliamentary reception, members motion put forward, linking messages to Scottish agenda. Kyle said that they fund this sort of work.

Cassy suggested themed events would be good for Gaitherin and TS and academics meeting together to discuss applications. Sometimes timing isn't in line with TS needs.

Action: Kyle to send information about events for promotion

Action: Jane to promote events in TSRF newsletters

Research updates

SCVO - Ilse

Guide to working and volunteering in the voluntary sector *new edition*****

<https://scvo.org.uk/projects-campaigns/i-love-charity/guide-to-working-in-the-sector>

This 2nd edition of our guide includes a couple of new sections and more links, shaped by feedback from young people and young people's organisations: the number of paid jobs by sub-sector, values of the sector and SDGs; and more on how to find volunteering opportunities, including volunteering awards, student placements and trusteeships.

20:20 Charities, Scotland & Holyrood: 20 Years Delivering Change

<https://scvo.org.uk/projects-campaigns/20-years-delivering-change>

20:20 podcasts <https://scvo.org/projects-campaigns/20-years-delivering-change/podcast-20-years-delivering-change/>

To celebrate the Scottish Parliament marking its 20th anniversary, SCVO worked with representatives from across the voluntary sector to produce a limited-edition book celebrating 20 key voluntary sector campaigns which resulted in legislation being created for the benefit of people in Scotland, and celebrates the various and often hard-won successes of the voluntary sector in Scotland over the past two decades.

A series of pod casts is now available, where we catch up with some of the organisations who featured in the book, and find out what made their campaign so successful, from having a firm evidence base to building strong partnerships.

SCVO Evidence Library: submit your own research

The evidence library continues to grow and now links to over 1,500 reports on or by the sector, but we're always looking for more! To add a report or briefing just fill in the simple new online form: <https://scvo.org.uk/policy-research/evidence-library>

SCVO Goodmoves Salary Report *coming soon*****

Analysis of over 3,500 Goodmoves jobs advertised between April 2018 and March 2019.

SCVO Sector Stats: Income *coming soon*****

Analysis of voluntary sector income sources and types, and key financial trends, based on analysis of charity accounts for 2018/19.

Action: Ilse will let Jane know if the two reports are published before the newsletter sent out (after conference)

And not SCVO research, but a number of TSRF members were involved:

Working with Scotland's Communities 2018 – community learning and development workforce report <http://cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/about-cld/working-with-scotlands-communities-2018/>

YouthLink Scotland - Amy

On Our Wave Length – YouthLink Scotland in partnership with Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and SCAPE have been awarded funding by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This project will support 5 youth groups across Scotland from coastal communities to examine environmental impacts on their coastal communities through storytelling. More information can be found here <https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/news/blogs/august-2019/making-waves-with-young-climate-researchers/>

A masters student completed their placement-based dissertation at YouthLink Scotland, examining the role of youth work in positive mental health. A blog written by the student about their findings can be found here <https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/news/blogs/august-2019/breaking-the-stigma-mental-health-and-the-role-of-the-youth-work-sector/>

We are holding a policy seminar on Youth Work's Role in the Youth Justice System in Edinburgh on the 18th September, for more details and to register follow this link <https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/events/september-2019/youth-works-role-in-the-youth-justice-system-youthlink-scotland-policy-seminar/>

VSSN- Jane – sent to meeting by email

The *Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research Conference* takes place September 10 and 11, 2019, at Aston University, Birmingham. The conference is organised by the [Voluntary Sector Studies Network](#) (VSSN) and NCVO. The theme is *A civil society for the future: setting the agenda for voluntary sector and volunteering research in the 2020s*. Information is available at <https://www.vssn.org.uk/2019-research-conference/>

The next VSSN seminar is taking place at Cardiff University on November 28, 2019, and is being held in partnership with WISERD, the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods. The theme is *Civil society in the four UK nations: past, present and future challenges*. The call for abstracts is open until September 30; information is available at <https://www.vssn.org.uk/events/civil-society-in-four-uk-nations/>

Volunteer Scotland – Matthew

has recently published the following:

- **SHS Cross-sectional analysis** – a detailed quantitative study of the 2016 Scottish Household Survey (SHS) volunteering participation rates, cross-tabulated against eight fields including community engagement, health and wellbeing, caring responsibilities, sport, culture, etc. All fields are analysed by SIMD quintiles.
- **The contribution of volunteering to Scotland’s health and wellbeing** – this study examines the evidence on the health and wellbeing of Scotland’s population and considers the challenges, opportunities and priorities for volunteering over the period 2020-2040, links to two Guidance Documents for ‘Influencers’ and ‘Practitioners’.

Research in the ‘pipeline’ includes:

- [NCVO 'Time Well Spent' Survey](#) – analysis of the Scottish dataset (only GB level results have been published by NCVO)
- **NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde** – analysis of their triennial Health and Wellbeing Survey for 2017/18, cross-tabulating volunteering against key H&W fields

Evidence ‘Expos’ – Volunteer Scotland will be hosting three evidence sessions during the next 12 months focused on the relationship between community engagement and volunteering. This work will start to build on the work of David Bomark who commences his PhD research at the University of Strathclyde in October 2019: “*What we do together: associational life, volunteering and the benefits for health and wellbeing*”. This PhD research is part-funded by Volunteer Scotland under the Scottish Graduate School of Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership.

Salvesen Mindroom Centre – Dinah

- We hosted our first University of Edinburgh Q-step student this summer. We expect to publish a report on our findings about the risk factors for pupils with additional support needs in relation to exclusion from school. Our colleagues in SMRC have offered support to develop the report into a publishable academic article.
- Our 3 scoping studies with the University of Edinburgh are nearing completion and we will publish a report in the autumn exploring our findings.
- We have completed 6 case studies from our pilot project on supported work placements for pupils with learning difficulties. Again, we expect to publish a report before the year-end. Queen Margaret University has offered to provide us with a post-graduate occupational therapy student who will develop a bespoke tool to support independent travel, which we have identified as a barrier to pupils with ASN being able to take up work placement opportunities.

The Robertson Trust – Cassy

- The Robertson Trust is in the process of a strategy review.
- Has commissioned some research into maternal mental health and what research tells us works around peer support, parenting support, and

psychological/counselling services that are delivered by third sector organisations. This has been shared with Scottish Government who have found it useful. The report will be launched soon and there will be a sense checking event for third sector organisations.

- They have part funded the Hard Edges Scotland Report which they are hoping will lead to action. (link - <https://lankellychase.org.uk/resources/publications/hard-edges-scotland/>)
- Cassy is on the Social Research Association Scotland Branch Committee, leading on careers events for university students to promote social research as a career. If you have any information to go to the committee or any questions, please send to Cassy.

The National Lottery Community Fund – Allison

- Has recently completed a review of 'Our Place' – which is a place-based programme across 7 neighbourhoods over 10 years. Has just completed a learning report covering the first five years.
- TNCLF is undertaking a review of Community Assets programme which will be completed later this year.

Scottish Government – Jacqueline Rae

- Scottish Household Survey is out next week (10th September). There was a new question about wider participation in volunteering
- Jaqueline is moving on roles within the Scottish Government and the new post holder will be involved in the improved volunteering framework and looking at evidence gaps. They will also be involved in the Social Enterprise Strategy Action particularly social finance, attitudes and awareness.

Inclusion Scotland – DRILL -Josie

- The research projects will be completing soon. Two are presenting at TSRF conference in October. The focus will turn to dissemination and impact work.
- There will be a new report for the 'Match me' project.
- Chronic illness project (UK wide) research into living with impairments caused by MS, ME, Crohn's disease etc. has produced good qualitative research looking at barriers and how to overcome them, and 5 case studies 'Stories of our lives'
- From the research a new term is being used - energy impairment. Research shows ways of involving people with energy impairment in research i.e. remote presence via technology.

Queen Margaret University – Cathy

Sent a paper 'Understanding how Scottish Community Nurses enable people with long term conditions to self-manage and/or anxiety to self-manage their health' and poster for circulation to Forum. Please see separate attachment.

AOCB

Next meeting: Wednesday 11th December 1pm – 3.30pm (12.30pm lunch) at Atlantic Quay, Glasgow

Paper from Julia

A high-quality, high-functioning, collaborative Knowledge Service for Public Health Scotland

Vision

Public Health Scotland will be evidence and intelligence-led in order to ensure that public health advice and guidance for the population of Scotland is based on the best available evidence. A well-organised, well-resourced and innovative knowledge service will play a critical role in contributing to evidence reviews, public health intelligence, evaluation and research commissioning through the identification, retrieval, organisation, curation, governance, translation and mobilisation of knowledge in Public Health Scotland and collaboratively across the public health network in Scotland.

What will the new agency do?

It is proposed that the core functions of an effective knowledge service will include:

- Evidence search and summary, combining formal research with contextual and experiential knowledge
- Horizon scanning and current awareness
- Provision of Public Health-focussed knowledge tools and resources to ensure access to an appropriate evidence base
- Provision of information management tools and resources to ensure high quality and transparent governance and management of the research and publishing process
- Development and delivery of information literacy skills training to facilitate and ensure effective and appropriate use of knowledge resources
- Provision and management of a knowledge and research repository in order to manage, promote and ensure future accessibility of the knowledge and research output of the new public health body and its legacy organisations, as well as to measure and demonstrate the impact of Public Health's Scotland's knowledge and research
- Provision of tools, resources and advice to facilitate and guide improved organisational knowledge management
- Provision of tools, resources and advice to facilitate and support organisational and workforce development
- Knowledge governance to ensure transparent, legal and ethical management and use of knowledge
- Creating connections and supporting person to person knowledge exchange
- Dissemination of knowledge through a range of communication channels.

How will it collaborate with and support others in their work?

The knowledge function has a key role to play in promoting and facilitating knowledge mobilisation, working collaboratively with colleagues across the new public health body, with the wider public health workforce, and through working in partnership with Knowledge Services across Scotland to mobilise knowledge

effectively and efficiently to enable its uptake and use. Key contributions of the function in relation to knowledge mobilisation will include:

Knowledge Generation

The knowledge function has a clear role to play in contributing to evidence collaboratives around key priority areas. Public Health Librarians will search the evidence base in order to identify relevant formal and grey literature, as well as highlighting gaps in the literature and providing easily applicable evidence summaries.

Targeted horizon scanning and current awareness services will identify new and emerging evidence and topics of interest and relevance to the Public Health community across Scotland.

Knowledge Management

The knowledge function will work in close partnership with internal and external colleagues to identify, gather, organise, summarise and present knowledge and information in order to facilitate its synthesis, interpretation and commentary by evidence and intelligence specialists.

Provision and management of digital and print tools, resources and collections, including, but not limited to, databases, journals, books and reference management software to Public Health Scotland and the wider workforce.

Strategic knowledge management is essential for an evidence-based organisation. The knowledge function will facilitate and promote use of tools and resources which encourage knowledge management, sharing and use.

A knowledge service will provide information management tools, resources, training and advice in order to manage the research process professionally and transparently, ensuring adherence to governance standards.

The knowledge and research output of the new body and its legacy organisations (i.e. its organisational memory) will be managed, curated, preserved, promoted and made accessible to the Public Health workforce through development of an open access repository in order to derive maximum value from the work of these organisations and to measure and demonstrate the impact of this work

Knowledge Application

Knowledge Services will work with knowledge services colleagues in special and territorial Boards to promote a co-ordinated, collaborative approach to delivery of evidence searches and summaries for the public health workforce, highlighting key evidence sources and content to support action by the Public Health community.

Provision of information literacy skills training will enable colleagues to make best use of the knowledge resources available to inform and evidence their work. The service will provide knowledge in actionable formats, such as evidence summaries, checklists, decision support and decision aids in order to facilitate the application of knowledge.

Who will it collaborate with?

The function will work in close collaboration with evidence, intelligence and research colleagues, searching, identifying, gathering and managing relevant evidence to contribute to prioritised work areas. The service will also contribute in this way to the Public Health Evidence Network Scotland (PHENS), providing a specialist knowledge contribution to the work of this network.

It will also work in close partnership with organisational and workforce development colleagues to ensure that the workforce has the knowledge and resources required for personal and professional development.

The service is well placed to provide a range of knowledge advice, guidance and support to projects, services and developments across the new public health agency, as well as through provision of a search and summary service.

Through collaboration and partnership working with Knowledge Services colleagues across NHS Scotland, the knowledge function will deliver co-ordinated knowledge support to the Public Health workforce in Scotland by acting as knowledge brokers across local, regional and national levels. This will be facilitated by development and support of a Community of Practice for knowledge specialists with a particular remit for public health, offering opportunities for enhancement of core skills, as well as capacity building and increased influence and advocacy across the system.

The service will also seek to increase and improve cross-sectoral collaboration with colleagues to ensure a joined-up approach to knowledge support for the public health workforce in its widest sense, including working with public libraries to support self-management of health and well-being.

The service will work with a range of networks and systems to promote the range of specialist public health resources available to the workforce and to facilitate understanding and use of these resources to ensure an evidence-informed approach to public health work. The service will advocate for and influence the procurement of a broad range of public health-relevant electronic information resources to ensure that the needs of the workforce are met.

The service will collaborate with its counterpart knowledge services in Public Health England and Public Health Wales to develop best practice across the UK.