



Gathering the Threads

This summary paper gives practical advice for Integrated Joint Boards about using third sector evidence to commission outcomes.

This comes from *Threading the Needle*, a programme that produced learning about:

- ✓ Using evidence in decision making
- ✓ Blending big data with qualitative evidence
- ✓ 'what works' to achieve positive outcomes
- ✓ Positive partnership across sectors in a complex environment



How can evidence be used when making commissioning decisions?

We have produced a guide to help you review your [decision-making](#)¹ and help you incorporate evidence into decisions.



What types of data and evidence are needed for different elements of the commissioning process?

We have a guide with tips and examples about what [data](#) you need for what purpose and how to combine qualitative and quantitative data.



What third sector data and evidence are relevant for health and social care commissioning?

We have a guide that sets out the [specific data and evidence](#) the third sector can provide at difference points in the commissioning cycle.

We also have information from work in Perth and Kinross exploring how third sector evidence can be used in [locality planning](#).



How can third sector intelligence assist in health and social care planning, not just delivery?

We have a publication showing how third sector data improved understanding of [mental health provision](#) in Perth and Kinross.

TIP from commissioners: The third sector's contribution doesn't come for free. So think about the resources and time needed to gather and provide data and evidence.

¹ Click on the blue words to access the free resources or go to <http://www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk/how-can-we-help/shared-learning-programmes/threading-needle/>



How do I get useful evidence from funded third sector projects?

Here's North Ayrshire's significantly improved [reporting template](#).

Here is the [evidence framework for befriending](#) produced by Fife.



How can we improve the focus on outcomes and away from counting resources and activities?

We have a guide with tips on how to build the [focus on outcomes](#).

You can also see how the anticipatory care pathway in Glasgow was redrawn to be more [person-centred](#).

TIP from commissioners: Performance data don't always help us improve outcomes for people, so don't be too driven by them.

TIP from commissioners: When writing strategic outcomes, think about how you will measure impact. Too often strategic outcomes are written without evaluation or evidence in mind.



How can different sectors work together to improve outcomes?

This resource tells how [all sectors collaborated](#) to improve decision-making around the Integrated Care Fund in North Ayrshire.

This resource shows how [different sectors worked together](#) to build an evidence framework for befriending in Fife.

"Bringing people from different cultures and sectors together to deal with an issue - in one room - for a series of conversations - works. It builds trust and relationships and confidence." feedback from participant at our final event

Background

Threading the Needle was a Scottish Government funded programme to support health and social care commissioners in Glasgow, Fife, North Ayrshire and Perth and Kinross use third sector evidence for better commissioning and improved outcomes. It was delivered by Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS) between September 2015 and November 2016. At the final event on 31 January 2017, 50 people from the areas, other partnerships, Scottish Government and national agencies helped identify the key messages that appear in this summary.

Threading the Needle **materials** are:

- A 'story board' and posters of what was achieved in each of the 4 areas
- Three '*Learning Points*' about data, evidence and outcomes
- Other specific resources for IJBs and others to use
- [Blogs](#) with personal reflections and learning from programme participants