

Messages about evaluation

**From grantholders
For other grantholders**



Where these messages came from

- **The National Lottery Community Fund, The Robertson Trust and Corra Foundation are working with Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS) to provide learning and self evaluation support for grantholders in Scotland.**
- **We brought grantholders together in February 2019, October 2019 and July 2020 to share their evaluation successes and learning.**
- **The messages in these slides are their top tips for other grantholders**



EMBEDDING

Don't stress! You are probably doing it anyway- just never thought of it as evaluation.

Keep it simple.

Don't panic!

Embed evaluation from before a project starts right through the running of it.

EMBEDDING

See it as something that takes place all year round. Little and often.

Evaluation is for everyone, not just the person writing the funding application.

Embed evaluation as a core part of staff roles.

Involve everyone in evaluation, it's not just your problem!

EMBEDDING

Bring staff on the journey, they need to understand why they are doing evaluations.

Share the purpose of evaluation with everyone in your team and with clients.

*Talk about evaluation at team meetings
- celebrate and learn together.*

OUTCOMES

Having clear outcomes- enabled easier and clearer evaluation. It also made reporting easier and more effective.

Success is realising through evaluation that you are meeting your outcomes.

EVALUATION METHODS

Flexibility is fab!

Be flexible in how you gather information, stories are just as important as statistics.

Everyone's views are valuable (participants and referrers/family) when gathering info for evaluation.

Using new technology gives people more confidence to give their feedback.

EVALUATION METHODS

You don't just need statistics to highlight your work - you can tell your story too.

You aren't a social scientist. It doesn't need to be perfect. Learn to live with complexity and imperfection.

Be inclusive of everyone.

Make evaluation your own.

Make it visual.

IMPROVEMENT

Don't be afraid to share the humdinger experience that had the steep learning curve—and show how you've learned from it.

Evaluation not only lets our funders know how well we're doing but also ensures we are heading in the right direction.

Realise when your evaluation aim has gone slightly off track and bring it back.

IMPROVEMENT

Evaluation is more important to your organisation than your funder so do it for you

There's no one way to do it.

It's very helpful to hear your experiences—please keep sharing your learning.

Don't lose sight of why you're doing what you're doing. Identify the need and refer back to it often.

Be honest about why you are asking for feedback. Ask which areas you can improve.

MESSAGES FROM FUNDERS



*Do what's best for your organisation
- it's for you NOT the funder!*

*The reason we
ask you to evaluate
is because it's
useful for you.*

*If something isn't
working, please get
in touch and talk it
through. We want to
help you succeed.*

With thanks to

- **Action for Children**
- **Art in Healthcare**
- **Bridging the Gap**
- **Cue & Review**
- **Community Infosource**
- **Cyrenians**
- **Edinburgh Garden Partners**
- **Forth Valley Welcome**
- **Instant Neighbour**
- **LEAP**
- **South Glasgow Childcare Partnership Forum**
- **The Bridge**
- **The Ecology Centre**
- **Vintage Vibes**
- **Family Advice and Information Resource (FAIR)**
- **Health and Wellness Hub**
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- **Home-Start West Lothian**
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- **Larkhall and District Volunteer Group**
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- **Networks of Wellbeing**
- **Ponies Help Children**
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- **Tap into IT**
- **Unity Enterprise**

Free support

For more information about free evaluation and learning support please see ESS's website or contact your Funding Officer.

- **www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk**
- **www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk**
- **www.therobertsontrust.org.uk**
- **www.corra.scot**

