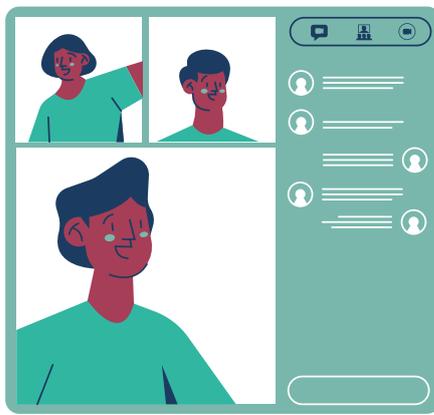# TSRF conference Researching Well 17th February 2021 Report

144 participants came together to talk about ethical considerations for research in the third sector.

Programme

2 plenary sessions	6 workshops	4 speakers	3 Pilates videos

For more information about workshops and speakers see programme on conference webpage

Highlights for individuals

"Having time and space to think more deeply about research practice"

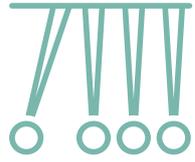"The overview of the Ethical Principles Guide and discussions about compassion in research"

"Networking and learning about the work of other organisations and how they have overcome ethical research challenges"

"The learning - it has helped reinforce and expand my knowledge around research ethics in third sector research"

"The diverse and insightful presentations, the range of workshops and the knowledge and expertise of the presenters/workshop leads".

Impact of the conference

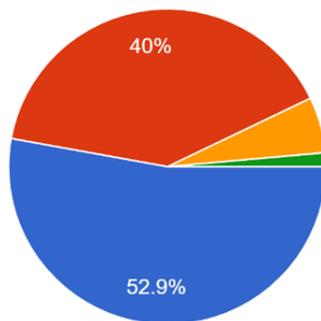The outcomes of the conference were that by the end of the conference participants would:
· know more about good practice in ethical third sector research
· better understand how to overcome ethical issues in third sector research
· make connections and gain ideas.

46% participants strongly agreed and 51% agreed that they had increased or reinforced their knowledge of good practice in ethical third sector research.

27% strongly agreed and 64% agreed that they had gained ideas to help them overcome ethical issues.

1. Please rate your experience of the morning plenary (speakers).
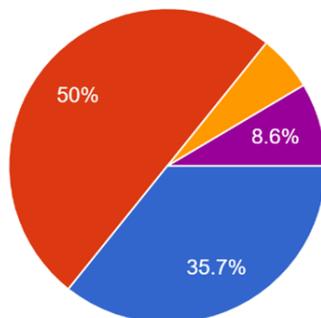70 responses

- Very informative
- Informative
- Slightly informative
- Not informative
- Didn't attend

40%
52.9%

93% n=65 (70 responses) said they found the morning plenary very informative or informative.

3. Please rate your experience of the afternoon session on the TSRF Ethical Principles guide
70 responses

- Very informative
- Informative
- Slightly informative
- Not informative
- Didn't attend

50%
8.6%
35.7%

85% n=60 (70 responses) rated the session very informative or informative, 6 delegates didn't attend & 4 slightly informative.

When asked what was the best thing about the conference almost every aspect of the conference was rated highest by some delegates. The most common answer was **sharing ideas and connecting with others**.

"The whole experience was fabulous. Being a whole day, with speakers, contributors and presentations flew in. Was all well thought out with breaks and lunch. Had an amazing day sharing experiences with all."

"Workshops were excellent - really wonderful presentations from a range of experts."

"It was a good opportunity to learn from the experiences of individuals and organisations I wouldn't normally speak to."

"The morning plenary session was great - well chaired, interesting speakers and filming some sessions in advance helped with timing and made the event feel slick.

"Quality of presentations and the pace was right."

It's challenging online, but perhaps a more informal drop in session where people can come and ask questions in a less formal way.

Delegates commented that being face to face would have made the conference even better as they missed the networking aspect of conferences

Consultation on TSRF guide to applying ethical research principals

Steven Marwick introduced the draft TSRF Guide to applying ethical research principles and the conference discussed the guide in breakout rooms. They considered which principles resonated with their experience of managing ethical issues in the third sector, future use of the guide and what else may help navigate ethical issues in the third sector.

Overall groups thought that all five principles (Need, Integrity, Accountability, confidentiality and Safety) resonated however accountability and integrity were the principles most discussed followed by confidentiality and need.

Themes discussed were:
- Informed consent
- Using research findings
- Importance of undertaking research with respect
- Ensuring there is a real need for the research
- Safeguarding

Groups overwhelmingly agreed that the guide would be useful for researchers, communications roles, commissioners of third sector research and those that don't do research thought they could see the value of the guide and would refer others to it.

Would you use the guide?

81% n=57 said yes
11% n=8 said maybe
4% n=3 said they were not sure

Some suggested uses of the guide

- Putting together a research proposal
- Dip in and out
- Built into project evaluation plans
- Organisations setting up a new research and evaluation team might use this as part of the induction for the team
- Organisations who work with partners, such as, NHS or higher education institutions and uses their ethics committees/advisory group but would find it useful to have a guide rooted in the third sector.

Suggestions for continuing this work

1. Set up a community of interest/forum/network – informal to formal

2. Organise a showcasing event

3. Develop case studies and examples of where things go 'rights' and 'wrong'

4. More exploration of tricky issues e.g. ethics of data sharing, how to strengthen safeguarding in the time of COVID, inclusion of diversity, ethics around communicating research results

Third Sector Research Forum @TSRFScot Funded by Scottish Government
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