

Getting better at using evidence: consultation event

21 April 2021
9:30 - 12:30



es Evaluation
Support
Scotland

Getting better at using evidence: Knowledge translation network consultation event

On 21st April, 31 people attended this event. We wanted to check what further support the third sector in Scotland would find useful around using evidence and the best format for providing that support. This is an event report summary.

Our conclusions

It would be helpful to keep the network but change the focus away from a small group of people developing resources to a larger and more open group based on peer learning. ESS could run two or three events each year. These could be open to anyone in the third sector interested in 'using evidence'.

Other work would be subject to funding.

We probably need to segment the market:

- **Larger or more experienced organisations** – focus on making better use of evidence for planning, improving and identifying what works. A skills focus on using experiential evidence and translating evidence for different audiences.

For the next couple of years, this could be the main focus of development for KTN, using the network to share/ shape resources through peer learning.

This would be the key focus of KTN.

Other areas might not be the main focus of KTN, but we might want to keep a watching brief and agree if there is something to take to the looser peer learning network.

- **Smaller organisations** – focus on engaging with evidence, knowing why it's important, knowing what it looks like (it isn't necessarily scary data), how to use it to report simply, reflect, plan and learn for themselves. We should assume that for most small organisations, using evidence to influence policy and practice is unrealistic.

This work falls largely within Evaluation Support Scotland's remit around using evidence in evaluation. So, we will be doing this anyway.

- **Networks and intermediaries** - focus on collating and sharing evidence from different sources in order to share good practice and influence policy.

ESS would be interested in seeking funding/ opportunities to work with local and national intermediaries/ funders around sharing and making sense of different types of evidence (including, member, secondary data and research evidence). We could explore appropriate partnerships for developing this work.

We would want to draw lessons that we could share with other intermediary/ network bodies.

- **Funders** - focus on drawing out themes from reports and sharing with others to influence policy/ practice.

This is important work but may not be the key focus of KTN.

- **For funders and networks** - how to support others in using evidence for improving services.

ESS and others could seek funding to explore how we support the supporters in promoting better use of a range of evidence.