**Scotland's Third Sector Research Forum meeting**
Wednesday 8th December 2021: 10:30 – 12.30 pm on Zoom
**Minutes**

## In attendance:

Steven Marwick (ESS), Jane Marryat (ESS), Amy Calder (YouthLink Scotland), Jane Cullingworth (VSSN), Ilse Mackinnon (SCVO), Steve Grozier (SCVO) Wendy Marsden (OSCR), Debbie Maltman (Volunteer Scotland), Hannah Tweed (The ALLIANCE), Amy Woodhouse (Children in Scotland), Alasdair Rutherford (University of Stirling), Pat Armstrong (ACOSVO), Dinah Aitken (SMC), Amy Baker (Cattanach Trust), Elaine Wilson (Corra Foundation), Rebecca McGregor (Inclusion Scotland), Gabija Povilaityte (SG), Jennifer Goff (Waverley Care), Cathy Bulley (Queen Margaret University), Shubhanna Hussain-Ahmed (Coalition of Carers), Jennifer Challinor (Crichton Trust), Kimberley Summerside (VHS), Speakers: Susan Murray and Elmar Rollings (The David Hume Institute)

## Apologies:

Dharmveer Singh (SG), Kate Robinson (NLCF), Matthew Linning (Volunteer Scotland), Hazel Robertson (The Robertson Trust), Laura Robertson (Poverty Alliance), Fiona McHardy (Poverty Alliance), Cassy Rutherford (The Robertson Trust) Karen McArdle (University of Aberdeen), Kerry Musselbrook (Iriss).

## Welcome and introductions

1. Steven welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting.

## Minutes and matters arising

2. The minutes of the previous meeting on 14th September 2021 were approved.
   **Action**: **Jane** to upload minutes on website.

3. Matters arising.
   Item 6. Jane presented the TSRF guide to applying ethical research principles at CARNival conference organised by Karen McArdle on 8th October 2021 to a small but interested audience. Through the presentation TSRF has made contact with local authorities in Dundee and this will hopefully lead to more dissemination of the guide in L.A.s. A colleague of Karen's from University of Dundee said "the ethics guidance would be better for University of Dundee students than the University guidance". Jane M. has been asked to write/record a blog for the conference follow up. The whole session was recorded and can be viewed at https://youtu.be/FnJMabEFHL4

4. Item 5. Amy Calder and Neil Davidson wrote a blog about their experience of developing a research ethics policy with Scottish Government support from the Analytical Exchange Programme. YouthLink's ethics policy was uploaded on their site and a link was upload on TSRF webpages.

5. Item 35. Jane M hasn't written up the discussion about working with students but will do.

## Update on TSRF online conference Talking ethics on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022

6.  Jane M. presented the conference programme which comprises two plenary sessions and three parallel sessions. Participants will attend one parallel session which gives people the opportunity to look more in depth at the ethics of hearing participants voices or data sharing, or how to develop an ethics research policy.  Jane M. talked through [the programme](#) in detail including who is speaking and chairing the sessions.  We have worked with designers to design a conference logo and twitter card.

7.  We are finalising the booking process. This will be uploaded onto the conference webpage.  Booking will be open and included in the TSRF newsletter which will be sent to our mailing list of over 500 people next week. We will also tweet when booking is open. The conference will be advertised in the ESS newsletter (mailing list 2500+) which is sent out at the beginning of January 2022.

    **Action: All Forum members TO sign up to attend the conference**

8.  Some titles of sessions may change when I receive more details from the speakers. Jane C. asked for the opening session to be entitled 'Ethical dilemmas in practice'.

    **Action: Jane M.** to change session title.

## Ethics support – what do we want from this conference session?

9.  Steven M. said that the final session of the conference will explore interest in forming a network to support researchers working in the third sector with ethics. There will be a session in the conference which Fiona McHardy will talk about the supportive ethics network that she belongs to. The meeting was asked to comment on what they would like to see come out of the conference session or advice about how to make the session go well.

10. Amy Calder said that she thinks there is a need for an informal support network and would like to see support in place for third sector researchers. Her vision would be a group that came together 3/4 times a year to create a safe space and sounding board where like-minded people can talk about ethical issues that they are experiencing and to share ideas and advice, not necessarily an ethics committee.

11. Hannah Tweed agreed. She suggested that network members could share resources and comment on research proposals, workloads permitting.

12. Steven M. said these were v useful ideas that ESS would use to create questions for the conference participants to consider.

13. Jane M. said that the Social Research Association wrote in their Autumn magazine *Research Matters* about an ethics appraisal service they are setting up.  This service will comment and appraise research proposals but will not give approval. This is a paid for service. Jane M. has asked SRA to speak at the conference but to date has not had a response.

**Action: All members** – if you have additional comments on the conference programme please email Jane M or Steven M.

## Review of the Forum

14. Steven M. said that the TSRF has existed since 2008 and ESS has facilitated it since 2013. We've evaluated along the way but he felt it was time for a more substantial review because:

    - Jane M. is retiring at end of March 2022 and ESS has to make decisions about what happens from April 2022

    - There is a growing need to support researchers in the third sector. There are more people working in the third sector with 'research' in their job title than 10 years ago. We need to respond to the needs expressed by Amy, Hannah and others and to what conference participants tell us.

15. We need to decide if the current TSRF format is the best way to meet members' needs. For example should more informal networking and sharing of resources replace the formal meeting format? We have some budget so we could ask someone to do the review to include interviews with members giving you an opportunity to talk to someone independent of the TSRF and ESS. Steven M. asked for comments on the proposed review.

16. Ilse agreed a review would be a good idea and said it would be helpful to be explicit about about what resources are allocated to the Forum.

    **Action Steven**. She suggested there may be more scope to have more break out groups away from meetings.

17. Jane C. said the review should reach beyond TSRF members to others with research roles in Scotland, and raise awareness of the TSRF. We could use the newsletter to consult others.

    **Action: All members** please email any further thoughts to Steven M.

    **Action: Steven M.** will work up a remit for a TSRF review and bring to the next meeting in March 2022 by which time we will have feedback from the conference.

## Ethics of sharing research data

18. Steven introduced the circulated paper that summarised where we have reached in previous discussions and Jane's desk top research.

19. Jane said that she was particularly keen to know whether the third sector more likely to share their data with others or to use data shared by others or both (equally or unequally)? The answer to this will inform the content and tone of the TSRF resource on ethical data sharing.

20. In the paper Jane M. suggested content and layout for the TSRF resource and asked the Forum to comment on this.

21. The meeting broke into four break out groups.

22. Feedback from breakout groups:

    a. Generally third sector organisations may be the owners of the data **and** also use other's data so both were important needs for third sector.

    b. Avoid reinventing GDPR but there is a need for people to be clear that when data is collected for one purpose they may to be careful how to share the data if the purpose is different to what has been consented for.

    c. Selling the benefits for sharing data. University of Glasgow is working on this and written a blog about benefits and barriers of sharing data.

    d. Issues of difference between quantitative and qualitative data would be interesting to explore.

    e. What happens to data once it is shared? Few examples of working in partnership with academics when academics have wanted to open up the data for use by others. Academics are responsible for data shared in partnership with them. TSOs should be aware of what might happen to their data.

    f. Do data sharing agreements have legal standing or not?  What happens if someone does use your data in a way you haven't agreed to in a data sharing agreement? What come back do you have?

    g. What happens to quotes? How should they be shared/used?

    h. What are the views of participants to their data being shared? During research we should be consulting research participants on their views.

    i. Spectrum of how much data you have to share and of the complexities around sharing data.

    j. Fear of data sharing and the uncertainty about doing the right thing. Important to resource is reassuring.  Keeping it positive and simple.

    k. Talking about sharing personal data between two parties. But there are also other data e.g. about grants and other ways to share e.g. open data or a data use licence.  Should this be in the guide or do we say we are talking about data shared about people and shared between 2 people / organisations.

    l. Resource should have practical advice and procedures including secure platforms.

    m. The clearer you can be when gaining consent (including that anonymous data may be shared) it will be to know if data can be shared and how.

**Action: Jane M. and Steven M.** to work paper up a bit more including the points made today to create a consultation paper for the conference.

**Susan Murray and Elmar Rollings from David Hume Institute talk about their data analysis project**, Granite

23. David Hume Institute is an Edinburgh charity, and think tank established in 1985. They have done research related to the economy, and public policy in Scotland.

24. They are currently working on a project called Granite which has evolved from previous work by DHI, The William Grant Foundation and Corra Foundation.  The project looks at place data. Last year The David Hume Institute produced a report by Professor Duncan McLennon on 'Scotland and better places' which looked at what matters, why do some things change and others don't. From this work they are now looking at mapping and correlating data that hadn't been looked at before, to get insights into Scotland's places. They are interested in tracking trends from tracking findings from short term projects but which are not usually followed through and looking at place rather than organisations. For further information please read Elmar's blog 1 and blog 2 and sign up to mailing list https://davidhumeinstitute.org/contact

**Action:**  Any comments or questions please email Susan Murray director@davidhumeinstitute.org

*Amy Calder, Pat Armstrong, Elaine Wilson, Dinah Aitken and Jen Goff left the meeting.*

## Research updates from members

25. Debbie – Volunteer Scotland
VS will be publishing a report in mid-January 2022 about the impact on voluntary action during Covid-19.

26. Wendy – OSCR
**(a) Scottish Charities 2021: an overview of the Scottish Charity Sector**
The Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) has published new research on the scope and scale of the charity sector in Scotland.

Key findings from the Scottish Charities 2021 sector overview report show that:
- Two thirds of Scotland's twenty-five thousand registered charities are run entirely by volunteers
- Charities in Scotland also employ over two hundred thousand staff
- The majority of charities in Scotland have an income of less than £25,000 per year, with over a third reporting an income of less than £10,000

The analysis, which is based on a snapshot of the Scottish Charity Register, also reveals that the key aims of Scottish charities are to advance education (51%) promote community development (36%) and give relief to those in need (25%). The most popular beneficiaries of the work of Scottish charities are children or young people (47%), people with disabilities (23%) and older people (22%).

**Read Scottish Charities 2021: An overview of the Scottish Charity Sector here**.

**(b) OSCR Charity Data: Sector Overview Charity chart tool (Beta)**
OSCR has released a beta version of a new **Sector Overview - Charity chart tool** to help charity data users explore the live register data in different ways. Further improvements are planned in response to feedback received so far. The

tool can be used to create tailored visuals using a number of filters, with the ability to export the chart images and summary data.
Find out more about the background to our Sector Overview research and the beta charts tool in our blog: Charity Data: all things tangible.

Coming soon: Scottish Charity and Public Surveys 2022
Every two years OSCR works with an independent market research organisation to carry out research with a sample of charities and the Scottish public. The research aims to:

- measure public trust in charities
- explore the factors that influence trustworthiness
- measure awareness of and attitudes towards charity regulation (including OSCR)
- help us understand topical issues facing charities (including the recovery from the pandemic)
- explore the perception of OSCR and charity regulation amongst charities

As in previous waves we expect the research will include both qualitative and quantitative aspects.  The fieldwork will take place in between February and March 2022, with the findings published around June 2022.

30. Alasdair – University of Stirling
- Is Working on Voluntary Action project with Volunteer Scotland looking at volunteering during Covid-19 which ends in the New Year. They have written several briefing papers.

- Alasdair delivered a seminar on his research into charities' financial vulnerabilities during Covd-19. There will be a paper and link to recording out soon.

31. Hannah Tweed – The ALLIANCE
- A Local Information System for Scotland (ALISS) are currently conducting user research which aims to evaluate the accessibility of the ALISS system for people living with sensory loss. The research includes a scope of current accessibility guidelines provided by WCAG and other available accessibility literature, and holding focus groups with lived experience groups. If you have any questions or want to get involved, please contact Katherine Long at katherine.long@alliance-scotland.org.uk.

- We're currently analysing the responses to the ALLIANCE GP Access survey, with early results available now and follow-on research planned for 2022 into people's experiences accessing primary care. We're also starting work on research into people with Long Covid's experiences accessing State entitlements, and into the impact of human rights on health inequalities. We're currently in the final stages of wrapping up the *My Support My Choice: People's Experiences of Self-directed Support* project. If you've any questions on the above work, contact Hannah at hannah.tweed@alliance-scotland.org.uk.

- Has published a briefing paper on The use of the emergency legislation guidance within social care in Scotland during Covid-19.

32. Steve – SCVO

SCVO has been working on the [Third Sector Tracker](#) – the longitudinal study. The initial headline findings are available on [SCVO website](#).  The fieldwork for the second wave are just starting.  They are working with Scottish Government to analyse the open questions from first wave of answers, findings will be ready in the New Year.

Ilse is working with SCVO grants team to analyse qualitative data from the Adapt and Thrive grant and will be working on the sector statistics looking at community groups and charities, particularly the financial trends.

### 34. Amy W. – Children in Scotland

Children in Scotland has a [new project](#) just starting, working with Scottish Centre for Administrative Data Research on engaging children and young people with data. The project will explore how we can make data and research about children's lives more relevant and engaging for them, viewing them as audiences for research as well as participants. We'll start recruiting children for an advisory group in the new year - it might be a project we want to bring to the forum once we're a bit further into it.

### 35. Amy B. – Cattanach

- Cattanach has commissioned [Starcatchers](#), an arts and Early Years organisation, to produce a methodology on participatory engagement with pre-verbal and non-verbal children. This is still in its earliest stages, but we will keep organisations updated on how this is progressing.

- Evaluations are currently being carried out by the [Parent-Infant Foundation](#) in partnership with independent organisation, [RocketScience](#), on the impact of their trailblazing project improving perinatal and infant mental health services in Scotland. Not for newsletter.

### 36. Jane C. – VSSN

VSSN are planning next year's VSSN seminars.

- Publication (open access) in the Journal of University Teaching & Learning Practice, describes experience of The Collaborative – a University of Glasgow initiative to build the relationship between the university and the local third sector - [https://ro.uow.edu.au/jutlp/vol18/iss7/06/](https://ro.uow.edu.au/jutlp/vol18/iss7/06/)

- Claire Bynner, University of Glasgow Children's Neighbourhoods Scotland blog about role of third sector during height of COVID19 pandemic [The third sector as key workers and strategic collaborators - CNS (childrensneighbourhoods.scot)](#)

### 37. Cathy – Queen Margaret University

Work collaborating with Long Covid Scotland has led to the following [article about person centred services](#)

Dr Marietta van der Linden and team just received a Catalyst award Grant from MS Society to look at: the feasibility of Frame Running as an exercise option for people with MS with impaired balance and mobility. This is in collaboration with the MS Therapy Centre in Edinburgh. Frame running is brilliant for people who can't necessarily walk but who can propel themselves when supported with a running frame (see: [https://cpsport.org/frame-running/](https://cpsport.org/frame-running/)). Marietta's research has

been influential supporting this sport becoming recognised in the Paralympic games.

Also, we are developing work with Capability Scotland evaluating their current residential provision in Perth for people with learning and/or physical disabilities. They are using this in developing their new site and we are hoping to continue the research - will update the TSRF with relevant publications when they are out.

38. <u>Jennifer Challinor – Crichton Trust</u>
Jennifer said the Crichton Trust is a heritage charity looking after the Crichton Estate on the outskirts of Dumfries. On the estate are businesses, universities and parkland.  Over the last three years they have researched some of the challenges of aging in a rural community and how the region responds. Currently looking at what makes for a smart home in a rural region. Also involved in place making for enterprises for aging population with some people having to work longer.  The Crichton Trust is also a tech hub with 5G.  Jennifer offered to tell the Forum more about other research undertaken by the Trust in a further meeting.

**Updates by email:**
39. <u>Laura - Poverty Alliance</u>
Poverty Alliance published our <u>Get Heard Scotland research</u> on 30th November on low-income families' experiences of the pandemic in  Renfrewshire and Inverclyde.

40. <u>Dinah - Salvesen Mindroom Centre</u>
Salvesen Mindroom Centre (SMC) presented data on the impact of Covid-19, lockdown and home schooling to the BERA conference in September 2021. In December, we published a series of research briefings on autism, ADHD, Tourette syndrome, dyslexia, DCD(dyspraxia) and Developmental Language delay on our website – available <u>here.</u>

SMC has carried out research into Scottish college and University data on neurodiversity and disability and will publish a report on our findings shortly.

The Salvesen Lecture on 6th December was on similarities in neurodiversity, and is available to <u>view online</u>

Salvesen Mindroom Research Centre is continuing to evaluate the Learning About Neurodiversity in School (LEANS) project, with a view to rolling out the curriculum materials in early 2022.

41. <u>Amy C. – YouthLink Scotland</u>
Amy is currently writing the report for the Boys and Young Men research which will be available in March 2022.

**Action:** **Jane M.** to put research updates suitable for public in TSRF newsletter

**Next meeting:** Please note the next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 8th March 2022**, via Zoom, **10.30 to 12.30pm**