

## Evaluation Leaders' Network session 16 January 2024

Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS) convenes the Evaluation Leaders' network for people with responsibility for making evaluation happen in their third sector organisation.

The second evaluation leaders' network meeting on **16 January 2024** was attended by 26 members.



We started by sharing our **evaluation new year's resolutions!** Here are a few:

*"To get my team to understand the importance of evaluation in all that we do."*

*"to streamline evaluations so we only gather the information we really need and use"*

*"to provide evaluation findings in formats that colleagues will read and engage with."*

*"Put in place regular reflection sessions to encourage learning from evaluation"*

**Sheila Maxwell**, Social Value Coordinator at Link Housing talked us through her organisation's evaluation journey. This included creating an outcome-focus, normalising impact measurement as part of strategy and delivery and making use of the HACT (now called) [social value map](#). Her ambitions are to further improve data quality and the use of evaluation for insight and improvement.

*"Really liked the way Sheila showed the integral place that evaluation can/should have in strategy work and in daily practice. This is a crucial part of the 'embedding' challenge..."*  
feedback from another network member

The rest of the session involved small group discussions using a "solution sounding board" (action learning) approach so members could **support each other with challenges** around embedding evaluation internally, methodological issues around meaningful evaluation and sharing and using evaluation results.

### Links to resources mentioned in the session

[ESS interactive logic model](#)

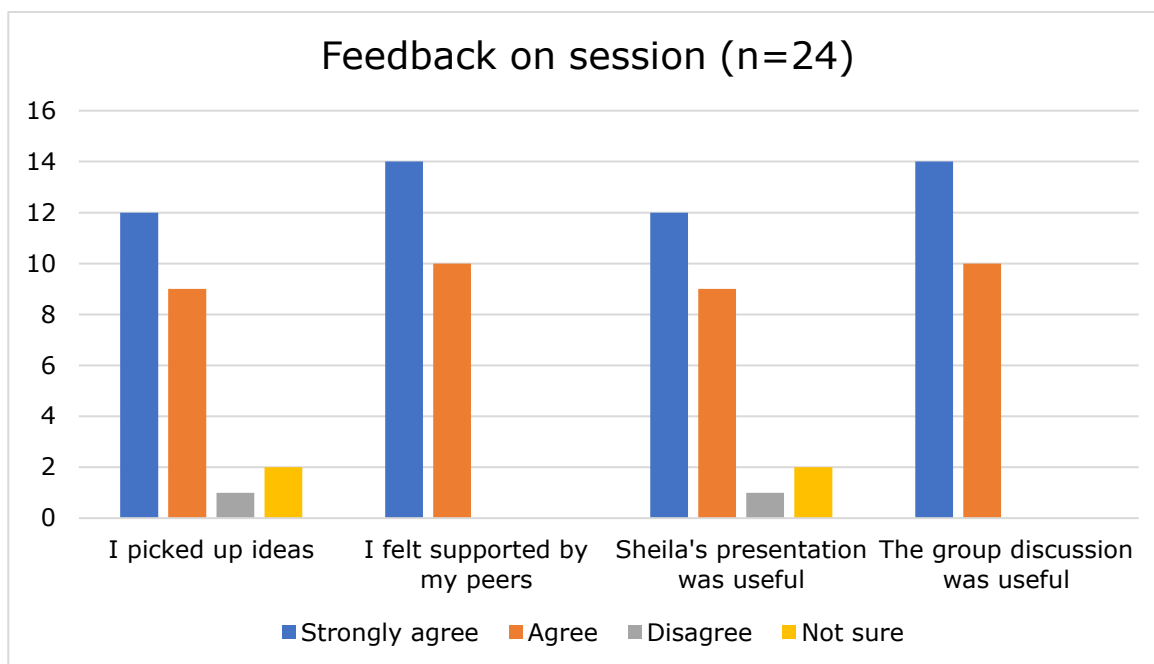
[ESS Sharing Learning workbook](#)

[Oldie but goodie simple explanation of outcomes as cake-making](#)

[Resource with ideas about running sessions that could be used for focus groups](#)

**Our next session is Tuesday 28 May 2024 10am-11.30 on Zoom**

## Session review



### Nearly everyone

- Valued the format and structure of the session
- Benefitted from sharing with supportive peers
- Took away something useful

### Illustrative quotes:

*"great to come together and keep the momentum on my thinking about evaluation"*

*"Really enjoyed the two-part format of the session. Guidelines for the breakouts were helpful, and found it really useful to have the options of topic to focus on, along with the starter questions."*

*"This group makes me feel very welcome to contribute and I feel my suggestions have been valued, and my problems considered equally weighted with those who may be in much more experienced positions."*

*"The network does already feel like a supportive environment to check in or reassure what I/my organisation are doing in terms of evaluation ... It's so refreshing to be in an environment of people working in similar roles."*

*"I found the group discussion helpful, I picked up a few ideas"*

*"I did not necessarily learn anything new, but I enjoy being able to hear from and speak with evaluators across a variety of organisations."*

Most participants want more of the same in future and suggested challenges to discuss. We will reflect on how we might facilitate other ways for participants to connect between sessions. A few volunteered to share their evaluation journey at future sessions and we'll be in touch!