



The Impact of Community Work: How to gather evidence

Karen McArdle, Sue Briggs, Kirsty Forrester,
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The Impact of Community Work: How to Gather Evidence

by Karen McArdle, Sue Briggs, Kirsty Forrester, Ed Garrett and Catherine McKay is a new book from Policy Press, providing essential guidance for professionals, activists and pre-qualifying students on how to gather and generate evidence of the impact of projects in the community.

Training resource 2: Planning and Evaluating

This set of challenge questions are posed in the above publication and support the i-develop training video “Planning and Evaluating”. You may wish to use them in training sessions, with teams or for your own reflection having watched the training video.

In the video we referenced the LEAP model. LEAP (Learning and Evaluation Planning) was created by the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) and first published in 1999. It is now available in revised editions, including an [online model](#).

We also included a helpful graphic about outcomes and outputs from the National Lottery Community Fund Scotland, you can view this and explore more of their resources [online](#).

Challenge Questions

1. Think about a project you were involved in, how did you plan it? Was evaluation built in or left to the end?
2. What do you think are the main strengths and limitations of your project?
3. Who are your key stakeholders? How do you involve them in your project improvement?
4. Have you ever been involved in a peer review process? Moving forward, do you have a colleague or critical friend with whom you could collaborate to better evaluate your projects?
5. Thinking about the different types of triangulation described in the video – which do you use at the moment? Which would you like to try moving forward?

Further learning linked to this publication

We would encourage you to watch all the films in this series. They are:

1. The Impact of Community Work
2. Planning and Evaluation
3. Anecdote and Observation

You can watch a recording of the launch of this book, with presentations about impact and the value of community work from the authors, Sheila Brown, Lead Inspector for CLD – Education Scotland, and Laurence Findlay, Director of Education and Children’s Services – Aberdeenshire Council:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Qm0MZtUq0w>

If you enjoyed the films in this series, you may be interested in [statistics and stories](#), a training resource previously developed for Education Scotland by Sue Briggs and Karen McArdle.