



## The Impact of Community Work: How to gather evidence

Karen McArdle, Sue Briggs, Kirsty Forrester,  
Ed Garrett and Catherine McKay

*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 3: Anecdote and Observation

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

### Challenge Questions

1. Think about the most significant encounter you had with a participant or group recently – what happened and what does that mean?
2. How reliable are your observations? How can you manage this?
3. What assumptions do you make when you reflect on and write up observations?
4. What tools might you use to make anecdote and observation stronger as data?

### 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. Observation and Anecdote

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.