

Community evidence

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What do we mean by community evidence?

Communities can have a role in, and even take a lead in:

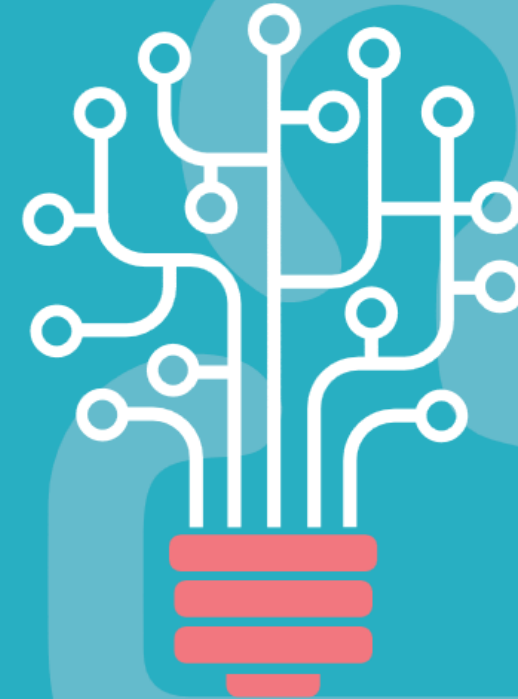
- deciding what evidence is needed and how it will be found
- gathering the evidence
- analysing and interpreting what is found
- using evidence
- shaping what is considered as evidence.

https://evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/engaging_with_evidencefinal.pdf

Engaging with evidence:

How communities can get and use evidence

October 2019



Examples of community evidence

- Community and voluntary organisations producing their own evidence (e.g. feedback forms from people taking part in activities)
- Evidence from co-produced research (e.g. academics working with community and voluntary organisations)
- Community-led action research (where community groups are supported to carry out and use their own research)

The value of community evidence

- It's what we have – showing the impact of voluntary and community organisations, community-led approaches etc.
- It offers unique insights, tapping into lived experience and 'practical wisdom', and benefiting from trust, reach and shared understanding.
- Benefits to those who take part – e.g. research skills, learning, 'knowledge is power'.

Knowledge
is Power

Challenges of community evidence

- Having time, resources and capacity to make use of it ourselves
- Evidence hierarchies – is it seen as less ‘robust’ or ‘authoritative’?
- Ethics can be a challenge in a range of ways
 - As with all research, ethical considerations are really important
 - Trust, power, anonymity and confidentiality
 - Needs to be proportionate
 - Complicated and top-down ethics approval can be unethical

Community-led action research

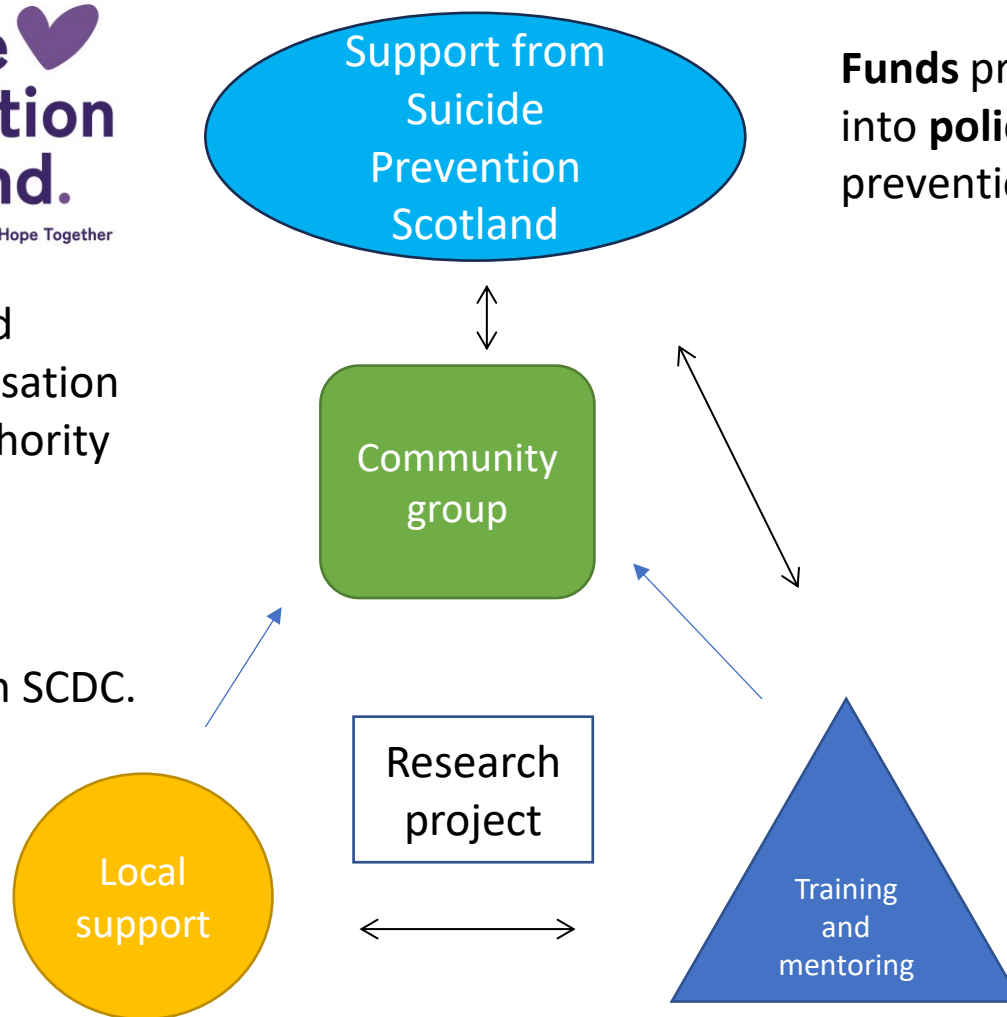
- Led by communities, who decide the topic, methods and what action they will take as a result – it's their research
- Other people and organisations help, encourage and support.

Supporting community-led action research



Local support could be dedicated worker within community organisation or from elsewhere, e.g. local authority CLD.

Provides day to day support and encouragement. Also plays an important role linking group with SCDC.



Funds programme and provides connections into **policy and strategy** around suicide prevention

SCDC provides **training**, and ongoing **mentoring support** to do research.

Includes support for planning, methods, analysis, writing up and making use of research. Also support around ethics and welfare of researcher and research participants.



Support costs (also provided by SPS)

For supporting research, such as **running costs** (e.g. equipment and venues) or **accessibility** (e.g. childcare and translation)

Dunterlie Foodshare



Community survey

Q3 What do you think of the provision of free food without any referrals?

A	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Other
	9	6	23	2
Other comments				
I wouldn't use it if I needed a referral				

Q4 Our aim is to provide at least 3 meals within the bag on a weekly basis. Do you think we achieved this?

A	Yes	No	Mostly
	30	1	3

Q5 We have also provided toiletries on/off. Do you find this useful?

A	Yes	No	Haven't Had Any
	26	2	6

YOUR EXPERIENCES BEING A PART of the FOODSHARE

OUR AREA has a LOT of GOOD PEOPLE that have *Community Spirit*

OUR LOCAL AREA has a SPIRIT of FAMILY that OTHER AREAS DON'T

PEOPLE DON'T TEND to LEAVE DUNTERLIE... it's a *Welcoming* PLACE...

IT CAN be TRICKY to CONNECT with TENANTS (if they DON'T WANT to be CONTACTED...)

"I DIDN'T FEEL CONNECTED to the LOCAL COMMUNITY... UNTIL I JOINED FOODSHARE!"

"I HAD a BAD PERCEPTION of DUNTERLIE, UNTIL I JOINED FOODSHARE..."

PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHAT we HAVE to OFFER...

IF YOU TALK to EACH OTHER, YOU CAN LEARN from EACH OTHER.



Photographs...

OSCAR the CAT - BRINGS *Happiness* to ALL that SEE HIM

the POWER of *SOCIAL Inclusion*

COLLECTION of 300 BAGS for an AREA we DON'T USUALLY SERVICE (OCTOBER)

the FOODSHARE has BROUGHT PEOPLE OUT of THEIR SHELL

RENA as a HUGE PART of BRINGING EVERYONE TOGETHER & SUPPORT EVERYONE

LOTS of LEARNING & COMING TOGETHER

OSCAR the CAT HELPS to ATTRACT PEOPLE into the CENTRE & BRINGS EVERYONE *Together*

THINKING FORWARD...

WE'RE SEEING MEMBERS of the COMMUNITY E. WE HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE

LOCKDOWN has HELPED US GET to KNOW EVERYONE BETTER...

WE ARE WELCOMING & INCLUSIVE for ALL

LOOKING at HOW MENTAL HEALTH has AFFECTED PEOPLE OVER LOCKDOWN

the Magic of DUNTERLIE...

LEGACY of FOODSHARE - HOPEING OUR CHILDREN WILL CONTINUE the MAGIC & CARE that we HAVE

TRYING to SHARE the MAGIC GOING on INSIDE the CENTRE (eg. to PROGRESS BY)

The Magic of Dunterlie Foodshare

(2018-2021)

Written by Lynn Norris



Knowledge is Power

Rena

Two years into this project and some elements of every week puzzle me in terms of our numbers and why people come every week and some have stopped altogether.

As for the magic, I think as volunteers we feel comfortable with each other. Consistency in our routine has given us all a purposeful role.

Regardless of the motivation to participate in volunteering we at the Foodshare have formed a bond together. The volunteers for the time in the centre can be themselves. Not wives, mothers, carers or caretakers, workers, they are there because they want to be there as individuals.



Mary

I love the element of surprise each week with my Foodshare bag, my brain goes into overdrive as to how I can cook the contents and my family are never disappointed. Not only that but I am so very grateful to Dunterlie Foodshare. It has been lifesaving with a welcoming, friendly and helpful group at a time when I needed the contact from others. A simple gesture from a smile can give you so much on that day. To feel valued.

As the community chef I get an opportunity to show what can be prepared from the bags of food. This happens once a month and it has been very positive. Everyone gets to try what I have made and ask me any questions. If they wish they can take the recipe home to try.



Gina

As a volunteer I feel appreciated because I get to meet people, it takes me out the house every week and our residents get to come in and have a cuppa, a chance to chat to others, and they leave with a bag of food for free.



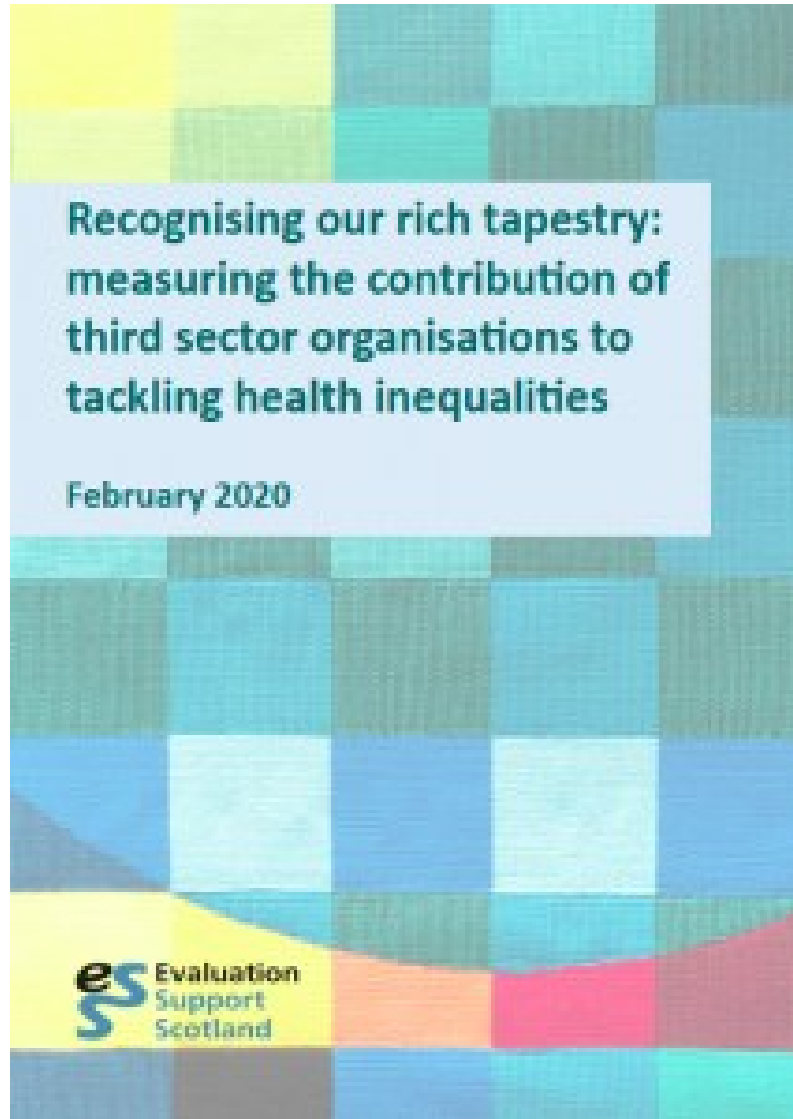
Other SCDC/CHEX work

Peer research – not community-led but high levels of participation – benefits of having academic status, and also a good way for some community members to be involved due to greater level of support and guidance.

Collaboration/co-production in research, e.g. we were one of a few organisations from the community and voluntary sector who were partners in Common Health Assets.

Resources and guides for evidence and evaluation

Making the case, e.g. CHEX briefings and consultation responses. See <https://www.chex.org.uk/publications>



Recognising Our Rich Tapestry

- Starts from the position that third sector organisations often find it difficult to explain how they help to address health inequalities.
- Aims to support commissioners, funders and planners to better understand the third sector's contribution to tackling these inequalities.
- Provides a 'theory of change' illustrating the links between inputs and outputs at different levels
- Encourages commissioners to use it to help understand how the third sector organisations contribute to tackling health inequalities...
- ...and to use it as a guide to the kind of evidence they ask from the third sector

Where are you on the planscape?

At SCDC we have developed guidance for communities on how to input into local planning, including:

- plans for place (e.g. local development plans)
- community planning partnerships
- Locality plans (health and social care)
- Childrens services plans
- Community justice plans



<https://www.scdc.org.uk/local-place-plans/lpp-cap-compared/where-are-you-on-the-planscape>

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Local Governance Review

Community governance structures “should be supported to have a community led plan for place, setting out what communities want to see achieved in their local area; what they want and need from public services and what they want to deliver and achieve for themselves. These plans should build on work already carried out by communities and the public sector such as Locality Plans, Local Place Plans and Community Action Plans”

From the LGR routemap

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Thank you!

- Will share slides
- Please feel free to get in touch
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- Join CHEX - <https://www.chex.org.uk/join-the-chex-network>