

WHAT WORKS SCOTLAND HIGHLIGHTS - JANUARY TO MAY 2015

This report presents some of the key achievements and activities of What Works Scotland since January 2015. Over this period the programme team have further developed their relationships with the Case Study partners and have also led a number of events and initiatives bringing partners together from across Scotland.

WORKSTREAM ACTIVITY

Evidence into Action

- Half day seminar – [Using Evidence to Develop Public Services](#), 22/04/15
- Paper on [Evidence to Action](#), April 2015
- Paper on Evidence to Action in Education, May 2015
- Established Evidence to Action Group and 2 meetings have taken place
- Undertaken mapping of *Knowledge Resources for Public Services Reform*

Capabilities and Outcomes

- [Paper](#) and [blog](#) on Capabilities and the Scottish Approach to Public Service reform, February 2015

Community Engagement and Capacity Building

- [Community Partnership Planning Re-union](#), 24/03/15
- [Democratic Sector Day](#), 05/03/15
- Input into Scottish Government Working Group on Participatory Budgeting
- Input into Scottish Government Community Empowerment Unit on re-launch of National Standards for Community Engagement.
- Evidence review on partnership, prepared for publication in June 2015
- Evidence Review Place Based Approaches, prepared for publication in June 2015
- Report [Involving Communities in Public Deliberation: a study of 3 citizens juries on windfarm development in Scotland](#), May 2015

Evaluation Approaches

- Paper [Synthetic controls: a new approach to evaluating interventions](#), February 2015
- Paper *Evaluability Assessment: a systematic approach to deciding whether and how to evaluate programmes and policies*, May 2015
- Blog [The Value of Evaluation from an Academic Perspective](#) published on Evaluation Support Scotland website, April 2015

Governance

- Work with Scottish Institute for Policing research and Scotcen on the evaluation of Police and Fire reform

Improvement and Effectiveness

- Paper on Improvement and Effectiveness, May 2015
- Think Piece [What Works and Learning From Failure](#), March 2015

Leadership

- Involvement with development of Enabling Collaborative Leadership Pioneer Programme
- Discussions with Scottish Government on establishing a Pan-University Institute for Public Sector Leadership

Prevention

- Paper on [Prevention Evidence](#), presented to Scottish Parliament, Finance Committee, 4th March 2015
- [Economics of Prevention Seminars](#) co-hosted with NHS Health Scotland. One event in March 25th and second follow up seminar is planned for May 28th 2015

Spread and Sustainability

- [Evidence review Scaling Up Spread and Sustainability](#), for publication June 2015

Collaborative Action Research

- Development of CAR methodology and preparation of contextual report
- Paper prepared *CAR, How To*, April 2015
- Design and development of first CAR Retreat, 4th - 5th June

The CAR methodology development is a fundamental tool for the development of projects with our Case Study partners and a summary of progress within each area follows.

CASE STUDY WORK

Much of our early effort has gone into establishing and developing our work with our core partners in our CPP case studies. The work in each CPP is detailed below:

Aberdeenshire

Early development work with the CCP is focused mainly on issues associated with rurality and together we have identified the following key programmes:

- Improvement of communication, partnership and shared working across a dispersed rural community.
- Developing integration of health and social care services within localities– examining the learning from within one particular community of the experiences of: integrating health services and social care services; the broader integration of wider public services and the third sector; and co-production with communities, families, carers and service-users.
- Improving Community Safety Partnership within a network of local community safety groups.

Fife

The Fife Case Study exclusively focuses on targeting areas of deprivation, seeking to tackle issues of poverty and inequality through joint-working and the development of new, local initiatives between public and non-public actors. Developing projects are:

- The 'Family hub' project, covering two Neighbourhood Development Plans in Kirkcaldy bringing together early years workers. This project offers an opportunity to explore how such initiatives can be scaled up or transferred to other areas.
- The 'Welfare/Community hub' aims to respond to the DWP's welfare reform agenda. This project provided a physical place where Kirkcaldy residents can access a range of support organisations (such as benefits and money management advice, basic IT training, job clubs, etc.) if they are in danger of receiving a sanction.
- School's intervention initiative an early intervention approach to address issues of low educational attainment, poverty, and deprivation.

Glasgow

Glasgow CPP has identified In-work Poverty and local area based initiatives, called Thriving Places as those which they would like WWS support.

- Thriving Places is an area-based approach to improving social justice outcomes in Glasgow. Three local areas with amongst the lowest SIMD outcomes in the City have been identified as 'proof of concept' areas for devolved partnership working, aiming to improve community engagement, make better use of assets and so improve social justice outcomes in:
 - Parkhead and Dalmarnock
 - Ruchill and Possilpark
 - GorbalsEach Thriving Place has identified a number of projects for further development. Included here are work on participatory budgeting, sanctions, breakfast clubs, the cost of school holidays for low income families and co-production.
- Through the In-work poverty project, the CPP are interested in working with WWS on how to identify those 'churning' in and out of work, with the aim of working to co-produce and develop support services that are better targeted and are able to meet the needs of those 'just coping'.

West Dunbartonshire

Community Planning West Dunbartonshire have identified Neighbourhood Management, Children's Inequalities and In Work Poverty as the three topics they would like to address with support from What Works Scotland.

- Neighbourhood Management is Community Planning West Dunbartonshire's response to national policy drivers and local desire for more responsive and asset-based services and approaches.
- The Neighbourhood Profiling project aims to work with communities and public services at a local level to co-produce neighbourhood profiles that can be used to inform community led action planning, promote community engagement and increase levels of local knowledge on the needs and assets of neighbourhoods.

BLOGS

The WWS website is regularly publishing blogs on a wide range of relevant topics and including input from 'guest bloggers'. To date we have published over 25 blog posts and have over 360 subscribers. Subjects debated and discussions developing on-line include Participatory Budgeting; Asset Based Community Development; Democratic Evaluation; Economics of Prevention; and Raising Educational Standards

EVIDENCE BANK

If What Works Scotland is to achieve its aims it has to be supported by a robust Evidence Bank and the protocols and systems for establishing a bespoke system are now in place, with the first of a series of evidence reviews now being produced.