

# Proving Value and Measuring Impact

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Forum



*the economic impact of social action*



# Proving Our Value

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- Proving Our value: Demonstrating the economic impact of social actions undertaken by social purpose organisations in the region.
- South West Forum working in partnership with the University of Bristol Capacity Building Cluster:
  - Research Project Manager: Charlotte Hanson (South West Forum).
  - PhD Research Student: Matthew Hill (University of Bristol).



# The Political Context

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- The importance of evidencing impact to public service providers remains crucial.
- The rise of Localism and Personalisation agendas has led to Local Authorities as service providers becoming more accountable to communities rather than Central Government.
- The importance of social purpose organisations to communicate to funders and commissioners the impact of their interventions.



# Proving Our Value – Core Outcomes

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1. Provide a set of economic indicators to develop approaches and measures to collate data and evidence.
2. Develop effective partnerships between Higher Education Institutions and social purpose organisations.
3. Provide robust evidence to influence policy and practice.

# The research process

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- Year 1: Establishing the Research Framework:

- Impact Indicators .
- Priority Sub-sectors:

*Health and Wellbeing Services, Employment and skills development, The role of infrastructure organisations, Financial advice and benefits support, additional category of further importance.*

- Impact methodologies.

- Years 2-3: Delivery Research Projects.
  - Year 4: Dissemination & Influence.
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# Academic context

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- A number of methodologies have been reviewed to date through the research.
- Methodologies and toolkits to evidence impact in a social purpose context have arisen from the research of the New Economics Foundation (NEF) and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO).
- The relevance of a Blended Value Approach.
- Refining research methodologies will continue to be an iterative and on going process.



# Proving Our Value moving forward...

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- ...assisting South West Forum in building expertise and supporting social purpose organisations to more clearly communicate their impact.
- ...the potential for Proving Our Value to promote partnership approaches between voluntary sector service providers and public sector commissioners.
- More information will be available from Autumn 2011 on the Proving Our Value web link: [www.southwestforum.org.uk/provingourvalue](http://www.southwestforum.org.uk/provingourvalue)

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