

Proving Our Value Workshop

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Forum



the economic impact of social action



Areas of focus

- The challenges of Third Sector Organisations and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) working in partnership - how may effective partnerships be developed (drawn from the stakeholder interview process and workshop session).
- ...discussion around the development of impact indicators in a third sector context.

Partnership working between HEI and Third Sector Organisations: The Challenges

- Potentially working to different objectives.
- Different levels of responsiveness due to specific internal and external pressures and expectations.
- Traditionally working to differing time scales.

Solutions to the challenges

- Expectations in terms of what can be delivered in terms of capacity, resources and timescales must remain realistic.
- Clear objectives, timescales and milestones need to be established.
- A shared vision, understanding and language between the organisations is essential.
- All information must be shared and remain transparent throughout the research.
- The crucial importance of organisations buying into the concept of the research - to ensure that all staff members from the third sector organisations and HEI remain as motivated as possible in carrying out this research process.



Partnership working between HEI and Third Sector Organisations: The advantages

- Stakeholder perspective: *‘Partnership between social purpose organisations and Higher Education Institutions will work to bring further credibility and kudos to the research, with the social purpose organisations providing on the ground experience and direct access to the information that is required.’*
- Further opportunities for collaborative work in the future:
 - Input from social purpose organisations onto university modules, courses and programmes.
 - Student Internships.
 - Student volunteering.
 - Knowledge Transfer Partnerships.



Developing an indicator framework – the early stages of progression

- The University of Bristol are in the early stages of working on the design of a potential indicator framework in a third sector context.
- Each research partnership will be required to work jointly with the research team at the University of Bristol and members of South West Forum to develop this indicator framework.
- This will remain an iterative and on going process throughout the research project.



Points for Discussion

- What do we mean by the term indicator ...?
- What do you think could be considered as example indicators...?
- What do you think are important indicators to consider in the current political climate...?