CommonHealth: developing methods for evidencing social enterprise as a public health initiative

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Programme update

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Programme objectives

The main objectives of the research proposed in this application are to:

- develop and test the **first comprehensive framework of outcomes and instruments** for evaluating social-enterprise-based innovation from a health and well-being perspective; and
- in doing this, create a **new scientific interface** characterising 'social enterprise as a health and well-being intervention', including the **world's first centre of excellence** in the field, fostering multi-disciplinary collaborative research with the social enterprise sector.

Although not primary objectives, the work will also lead to:

- a substantial contribution to (even the beginning of) an **evidence base** for social enterprise as a health and well-being intervention, through initial applications of the framework in qualitative studies and subsequent applications in comparative controlled evaluations;
- development of **multi-disciplinary social science research capacity in an important area of health creation**, created through research opportunities on conceptual projects, case-studies and initial evaluations; and
- the first **Knowledge Exchange Forum,** supporting development of the health and social enterprise interface, through dissemination and fostering of new research opportunities.

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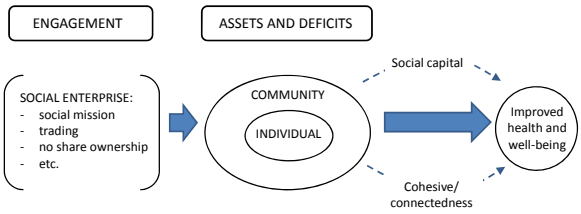
A WORKING HYPOTHESIS



The Collaboration

What does the programme look like?

- 5 years
- Projects 1 and 2 – more conceptual
- Projects 3-5 – empirical and qualitative
- Projects 6 and 7 – comparative
- Project 8 – drawing lessons together
- Governance:
  - Knowledge Exchange Forum

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Forum 'rules'

- It is primarily about research
- But it is a collaboration between that research, policy and practice
- Constructive criticism, ideas generation, creative space
- We will try various formats to encourage interaction, participation and open dialogue

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Other events

1. Knowledge Exchange Forum in Inverness (October)
2. Dundee launch of WEvolution (October)
3. Polanyi Conference in Canada (November)
4. Global Social Business Summit in Mexico
   - 2nd GSBS Research Conference (Nov)

Report on Project 1

An historical perspective on social enterprise as a public health intervention:

- 45% of catalogued material in the SEC(S) collection audited and coded in Nvivo
- 2 Oral History interviews recorded and 2 more scheduled for January 2015
- Working paper in progress: 'Success and social enterprise in Scotland, 1980-2010'
- Sorting of John Pearce papers scheduled to begin January 2015

Report on Project 2

Contemporary analysis of social enterprise as a public health intervention:

- Progress:
  - Conducted 75% of interviews with industry experts
  - Identified and in process of analysing impact evaluation reports of social enterprises in Scotland
  - Conducted and coded 75% of interviews for first case study
- Next steps:
  - Complete the above (February 2015)
  - Conduct two further case studies (June 2015)
  - Produce outputs for ongoing projects

Report on Project 4

'Passage from India'

- New appointment:
  - Clementine Hill O'Connor
- Worked in Yunus Centre since January 2011
- Will hear from Clemmie later

Projects 3 and 5

- Glasgow School of Art
- Commence March/April 2015
- 'Growth at the edge'
- 'Age unlimited'

Our first journal publication!

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Social Science & Medicine

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/socscimed

The potential of social enterprise to enhance health and well-being:
A model and systematic review

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ABSTRACT

In recent years civil society organisations, associations, institutions and groups have become increasingly involved at various levels in the governance of healthcare systems around the world. In the UK, particularly in the context of recent reform of the National Health Service in England, social enterprise – that part of the third sector engaged in trading – has come to the fore as a potential model of state-sponsored healthcare delivery. However, to date, there has been no review of evidence on the outcomes of social enterprise involvement in healthcare, nor in the ability of social enterprise to address health inequalities more widely through action on the social determinants of health. Following the development of an initial conceptual model, this systematic review identifies and synthesises evidence from published empirical research on the impact of social enterprise activity on health outcomes and their social determinants. Ten health and social science databases were searched with no date delimiters set. Inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied prior to data extraction and quality appraisal. Heterogeneity in the outcomes assessed precluded meta-analysis/meta-synthesis and so the results are therefore presented in narrative form. Five studies met the inclusion criteria. The included studies provide limited evidence that social enterprise activity can impact positively on mental health, self-reliance/esteem and health behaviours, reduce stigmatisation and build social capital, all of which can contribute to overall health and well-being. No empirical research was identified that examined social enterprise as an alternative mode of healthcare delivery. Due to the limited evidence available, we discuss the relationship between the evidence found and other literature not included in the review. There is a clear need for research to better understand and evidence causal mechanisms and to explore the impact of social enterprise activity, and wider civil society actors, upon a range of intermediate and long-term public health outcomes.

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Today and future Forums

- Alternate meetings to be about:
  - The research
  - Issues related to the research
- Want to get your views on format of future Forums

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Website and logo

- Website:
  - Live in January 2015
- Logo:

commonhealth

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