



MRC/ESRC Research Programme on

Developing methods for evidencing social enterprise as a community health initiative

Knowledge Exchange Forum

Friday 12th December 2014, Friends Meeting House, Edinburgh

Programme

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 9:00-9:30 | Registration and tea/coffee |
| 9:30-9:35 | Welcome and introduction - Alan Kay |
| 9:35-10:00 | Programme update - Cam Donaldson |
| 10:00-11:00 | Assets, deficits and health: the place of social enterprise
Setting the scene: research on assets-based at Glasgow Centre
for Population Health - Carol Tannahill, Director of GCPH
Responses from Aidan Pia (Executive Director, Senscot), Neil McLean (CEO,
Social Enterprise Academy) and Clementine Hill O'Connor (Research Fellow
on MRC Programme) |
| 11:00-11:15 | Break to re-charge coffee/tea and network |
| 11:15-12:15 | Group work with one 'open' question and 2 other questions (45 minutes)
Feedback - 2 points from each group (15 minutes) |
| 12:15-12:30 | Action plan and future Forums |
| 12:30-13:30 | Lunch |

Research Outline

The Knowledge Exchange Forum is part of a 5-year programme, co-funded by the Medical Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council. This programme aims to develop methods to evaluate new pathways to health creation and health inequalities reduction arising from social enterprise.

This programme will be delivered in a series of 8 projects. Projects 1 and 2 will focus on conceptual work, exploring the literature and evidence base for social enterprise as a public health intervention.

Beginning in year 3, projects 3-5 will work alongside social enterprises to draw together a set of case studies to explore the concepts from projects 1 and 2.

Projects 6 and 7 will conduct evaluations with two well-established Scottish social enterprises. Project 8 will draw together the work from Projects 1-7 to explore broader issues, and how these might relate to the rest of the UK.

Guiding principles

- Collaborate between academic research, policy making and social enterprise practice.
- Adopt an open and transparent approach to research and dissemination.
- Encourage active dialogue between researchers and sector partners.
- Build an atmosphere of trust among researchers, participants and partners for future developments.

Outcomes

- Building capacity in all sectors.
- Developing knowledge and understanding of social enterprise between sectors.
- Shaping a new way of looking at social enterprise and the contribution it can make to health and wellbeing.
- Contributing to cohesive academic - practitioner discourse to help influence policy.

Live Projects

Project 1 (2014-16): An historical perspective on social enterprise as a public health intervention

Using the Social Enterprise Collection (Scotland), a unique body of archival material held by GCU, this project will open up a dialogue between the past and the present by revealing the distinctive history of social enterprise in Scotland since the 1970s.

This research will contribute to the MRC programme evidence base and, importantly, it will evaluate in what circumstances social enterprise has successfully and sustainably benefitted the health and well-being of communities.

As well as archival research, a series of oral history interviews will also be recorded, enhancing understanding of social enterprise within the MRC programme and contributing to the building of valuable resources for future research.

Project 2 (2014-16): A contemporary analysis of social enterprise as a public health intervention

This project will build upon the conceptual model of the ways in which social enterprises can potentially impact upon public health.

Existing conceptualisations of how social value is framed and measured within social enterprise literature will be synthesised. This will then be compared and contrasted with existing public health literature focusing on community led interventions. The project will consist of a scoping review of relevant literature followed by qualitative interviews with social enterprise leaders and recipients.

Project 3 (2014-16): Passage from India

This project involves anthropological research following the development of WEvolution, an initiative built on the idea of Women's Self-Help Groups in India.

The work will track the development of WEvolution's Self-Reliant Groups (as they have become known in Scotland), documenting successes and challenges, and exploring impacts on well-being of SRG participants and their communities. Building on earlier internship and PhD, five years of SRG experiences will be traced from a well-being perspective.

Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health

Glasgow Caledonian University,
Cowcaddens Road, Glasgow G4 0BA

www.gcu.ac.uk/yunuscentre