Demystifying research ethics for third sector organisations

Tuesday 31 August 2021

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

A Policy Scotland/ Third Sector Research Forum Event

Agenda

13:00 – 13:05   Introduction (Sarah Weakley)

13:05 – 13:15   Overview of TSRF's Ethics Guide and suggested uses (TSRF)

13:15 – 13:30   Third Sector Research Principles: Learning from the Pandemic (Poverty Alliance)

13:30 – 13:45   Developing a research ethics policy (YouthLink Scotland and Scottish Government)

13.45 – 13.55   Panel with all speakers, Q + A

13:55 – 14:20   Breakout Discussion

14:20 – 14:30   Bringing back and wrap up (Sarah Weakley)

Ethical research principles

What do we mean?

What does that mean in practice?

Overview of TSRF guide to applying ethical research principles

Jane Marryat, Research Manager, Evaluation Support Scotland

Definition of ethics

- Research ethics **involves the application of fundamental ethical principles to research activities which** include the design and implementation of research, respect towards society and others, the use of resources and research outputs, scientific misconduct and the regulation of research.

- Ethics, also called moral philosophy, **the discipline concerned with what is morally good and bad and morally right and wrong**. The term is also applied to any system or theory of moral values or principles.

Scotland's **Third Sector**

TS
RF

Research Forum

GUIDE TO APPLYING ETHICAL RESEARCH PRINCIPLES

- NEED
- INTEGRITY
- ACCOUNTABILITY
- CONFIDENTIALITY
- SAFETY

Our five core principles are:

Need

Integrity

Accountability

Confidentiality

Safety

Uses of the guide

✓ At the beginning of a research project or evaluation process to help you plan

✓ During your project to ensure that you always consider ethics, such as, when choosing methods, setting up systems to collect and store data, report writing and disseminating the results

✓ To develop a research ethics policy for your organisation

✓ When commissioning research or evaluation

✓ When working in partnership with academics

✓ Signpost others to i.e. if you provide training or are a funder or commissioner

✓ Academics can use the guide when working in partnership with third sector organisations to start ethical conversations and ensure joint understanding of 'ethical' terms/language

An introduction to TSRF
from Evaluation Support Scotland

What does Scotland's Third Sector Research Forum do?

Scotland's Third Sector

TS RF

06:26

vimeo

Scotland's Third Sector Research Forum brings together third sector, academic and public sector partners to

- promote and share research about and from the third sector

- encourage the use of third sector research to improve policy and practice

- produce resources and deliver events to support third sector researchers and encourage collaboration with academic partners.

TSRF
Planning and meeting

The Third Sector Research Forum meets regularly and produce annual work plans.

TSRF
Evidence papers and resources

Evidence papers and other resources that the Scotland's Third Sector Research Forum produces.

TSRF
Events and conferences

Events and conferences that bring together third sector practitioners and academic researchers to share knowledge and collaborate.

TSRF
For academics: why collaborate with third sector?

Collaborating with third sector partners may be significant to evidencing your impact for the Research Excellence Framework (REF)

Jane Marryat - jane@evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk

Third Sector Research Principles Learning from the Pandemic
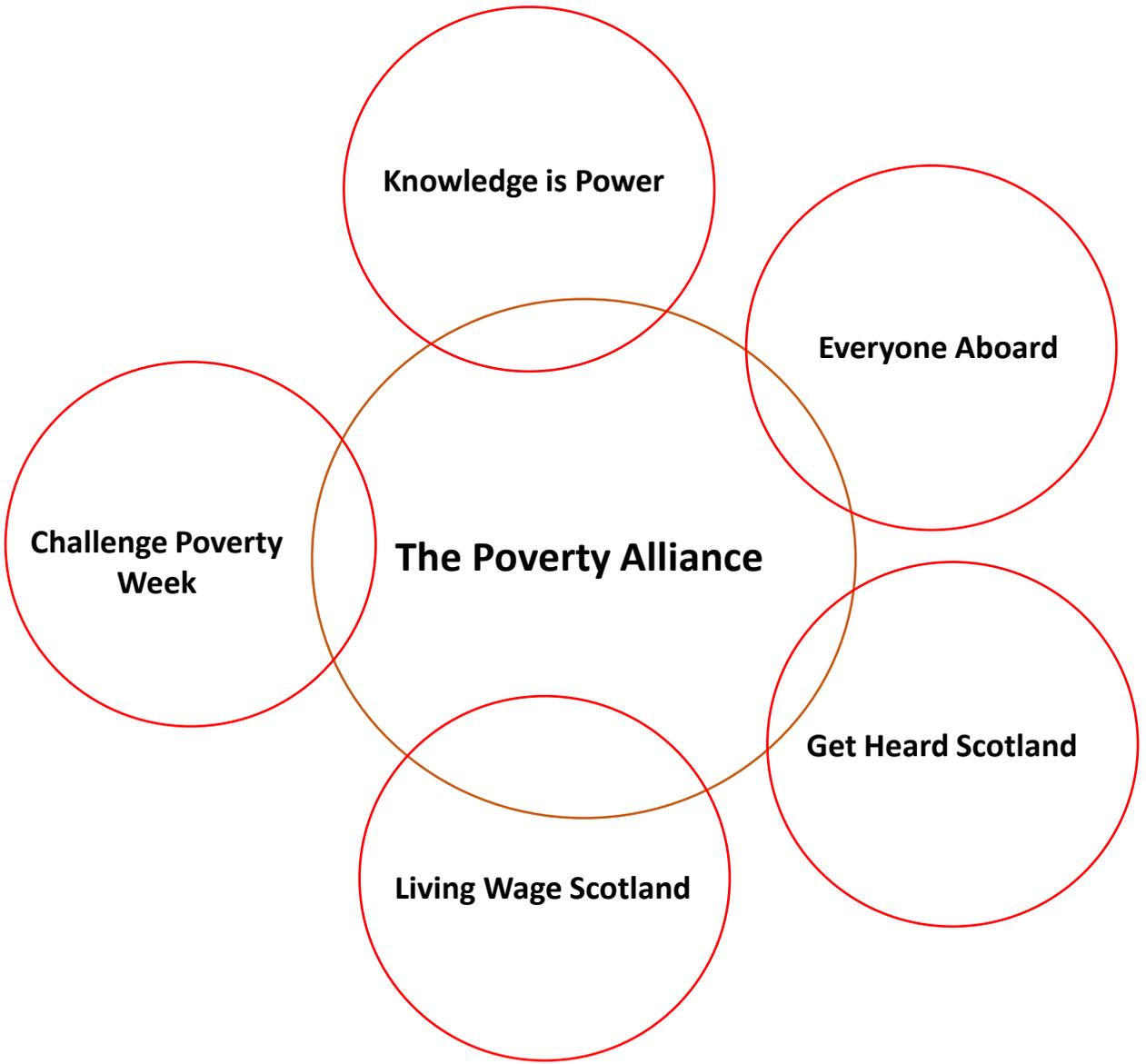
Fiona McHardy Dr Laura Robertson Beth Cloughton

The Poverty Alliance

www.povertyalliance.org

Twitter : @povertyalliance @fionamchardy @lrobertson31

About The Poverty Alliance

Knowledge is Power

Everyone Aboard

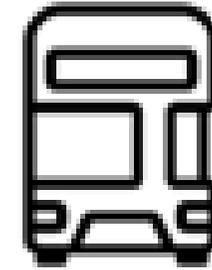Challenge Poverty Week

The Poverty Alliance

Get Heard Scotland

Living Wage Scotland

Adequate incomes

Access to high quality services

The changes we want to see

Increased public support

Opportunities to participate

GET HEARD SCOTLAND

Researching during a pandemic

Accessibility

Renumeration

Methods of participation

Who is excluded?

'redesign'

Balance

Impact
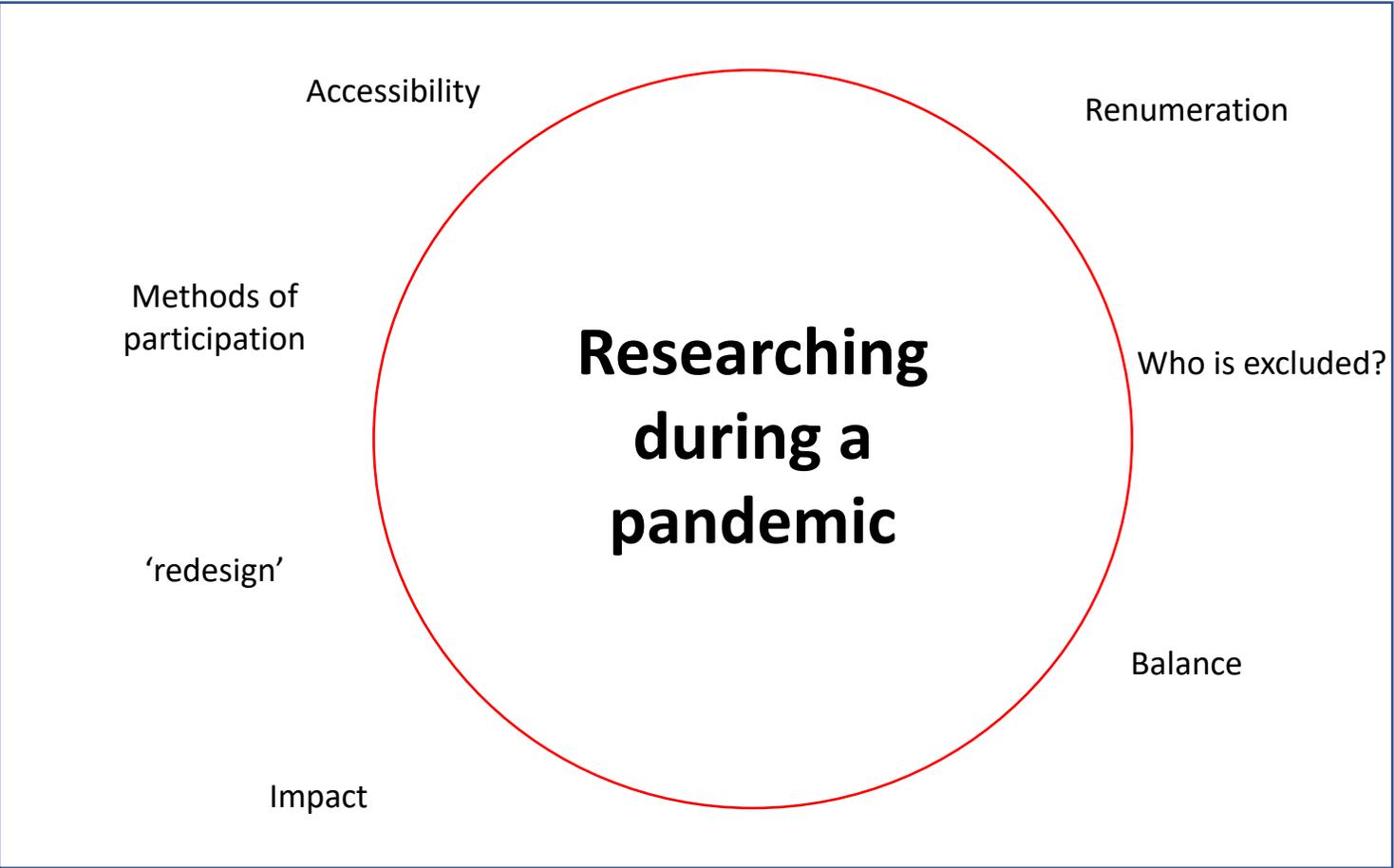
Principles in Practice: Need ?

Research should only be carried out where there is a clear
evidence of need for the research.

- Evidence from JRF before the pandemic, around a million people in Scotland were in poverty, living precarious and insecure lives (McCormack and Hay 2020) .

- Dynamics of poverty inequalities – clear need to understand the experiences of all to mitigate impact.

- EHRC (2021) How coronavirus has affected equality and human rights

    "The economic impact of the pandemic has been unequal, entrenching existing inequalities and widening others".

Principles in Practice: Integrity

- Research should have integrity and be undertaken in an honest, open, and respectful way.

- Recognition of the unknown.
- Flexibility of approach – offer a choice of methods not just digital .
- Extending time of engagement – updating and tailoring support.
- Valuing time
- Participation – co analysis session

Principles in Practice: Safety?

- The researcher and the organisation should ensure the safety and wellbeing of both participants and researcher.

- Training of staff – suicide awareness , safeguarding . Regular debriefing. Promoting reflexivity.

- Sharing of self

- New areas and challenges and boundaries to navigate as a researchers: Who is in the space , how do we promote an exit from the space, what additional pressures and impacts are people facing, sensitive questioning , unexpected traumas .

Useful numbers for Support Organisations and Contact Details

General Health

NHS Inform (question about health or NHS service)

0800 22 44 88

Homelessness

0141 420 1929

Benefit and Financial Support

Disability Living Allowance for Children in Scotland

Telephone: 0800 121 4600
Textphone: 0800 121 4523

Job Start Payment

0800 182 2222

Carers Allowance Supplement

0800 182 2222

Discretionary Housing Payment

0800 013 1375

Warmer Homes Scotland

0808 808 2282 or text WARM to 81025 for a call back.

Access to work

Telephone: 0800 121 7479
Textphone: 0800 121 7579

Young Carer Grant

0800 182 2222

Citizens Advice Bureau

0800 085 7145

Money Talk

0800 085 7145

Scottish Welfare Fund (Crisis Grant/ Self-Isolation Support Grant/ Community Care Grant)

Apply by contacting your local council

Social Security Scotland

0800 182 2222

Care Information Scotland

0800 011 3200

Social Care Support

0141 287 0555

0300 343 1505 (out of hours)

Adults Team

socialcaredirect@glasgow.gov.uk

Children and Families Team

scdchildrenandfamilies@glasgow.gov.uk

If in an emergency and you need a service outwith office hours, then you can contact **Glasgow and Partners Emergency Social Work Services**

0300 343 1505

Social Care Direct

0141 287 0555

Textphone

18001 0141 287 0555

Out of hours

0300 343 1505

Mental Health Support

Community Mental Health support

0141 211 8450

If you haven't got hope, you've got nothing'

Thanks for listening

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Website: povertyalliance.org

BACKGROUND

- Helped develop the TSRF Research Ethics Guide

- Lack of a research ethics policy

- Need for clear guidance which sets out the expectations of our organisation

- Make clear this is for all staff

- Research AND evaluation

- Applied to Scottish Government Analytical Exchange Programme

ANALYTICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

- The Analytical Exchange programme aims to provide development opportunities for Scottish based analysts, as well as providing valuable to third sector organisations. support

- It offers free support to third sector organisations in Scotland around data, analysis, statistics and research.

- Matches analytical skills to the various tasks and organisations with various types of support available

ETHICS IN SCOT GOV RESEARCH

- Anyone conducting or commissioning social research has the responsibility to consider ethical issues, principles and potential risks arising throughout, including for any secondary data analysis.

- We must put in place suitable systems and processes to ensure appropriate ethical standards are met

- All social research projects must be subject to an ethical risk assessment at the earliest possible stage of project development.

COLLABORATION PROCESS

- 5 days in total time was allocated for the work

- Reviewed existing works and guidance - SG, 3rd sector, academic – and sought a 'hybrid' output

- Worked collaboratively on the drafting stage, with background work completed by me and tone / narrative more constructed by Amy.

- Sought to gain impact through various outputs and contribute to embedding ethics approach in the 3rd sector

RESEARCH ETHICS PRINCIPLES

Need

- We recognise the value of new knowledge and carry out research where there is a clear evidence of need for the research

Integrity & accountability

- We ensure that the research we conduct and commission is undertaken in an honest, open, and respectful way, and that our research is accountable to participants and stakeholders

Consent & confidentiality

- We ensure all participants fully understand and consent to the research, and any research we conduct or commission ensures the confidentiality and anonymity of participants

Safety

- We ensure the safety and wellbeing of both participants and researchers, and we understand that research should aim to maximise benefit and minimise harm

WHAT NEXT?

- Feedback from colleagues
- Colleagues seeing applicability in their work
- Seeking approval from YLS Board
- Sharing on our website
- Sharing with the wider youth work sector

CONTACT DETAILS

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acalder@youthlinkscotland.org

Dr Neil Davidson

Neil.Davidson@gov.scot

Panel Discussion (13:45 – 13:55)

*Please put some of your questions for any of the speakers into the chat box, or use the 'raise hand' function in Zoom to ask a question yourself!

Feedback:

For our blog write up, we'd like to hear from you using the chat function!

Please (if possible):

Enter one key learning point you are taking away from the presentations or break out discussions

Feel free to also comment on:

What your next action might be, what support you may need and where from

Keep in Touch & Resources

Access the TSRF Guide to Applying Ethical Research Principles from the TSRF/ESS Website:

https://evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk/resources/tsrf-guide-to-applying-ethical-principles/

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