RESEARCH AND EVALUATION NETWORK
4.06.15 at London Funders

Participants

Nicole	**Schmiedefeld**	BBC Children in Need
Craig	**Tomlinson**	BBC Children in Need **(Chair)**
Samantha	**Howe**	Big Lottery Fund
Nissa	**Ramsay**	Comic Relief
Rebekah	**Ryder**	Community Development Foundation
Alice	**Dabrowska**	The Cranfield Trust
Ellie	**Francis-Brophy**	London Borough of Hounslow
Bryony	**Livesey**	London Marathon Charitable Trust
Alice	**Casey**	NESTA **(Presenter)**
Peter	**Harrison-Evans**	New Philanthropy Capital
Nicola	**Bristow**	Oak Philanthropy (UK) Limited
Kirsty	**Gillan-Thomas**	Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Premila	**Gilligan**	Peabody
Georgie	**Parry-Crooke**	Project Oracle
Chris	**Wignall**	Sported
Sioned	**Churchill**	Trust for London
Katharine	**Robinson**	Youth Music

In attendance

Becky	**Green**	London Funders
David	**Warner**	London Funders

Notes of the previous meeting on 10 February 2015 were accepted as an accurate record.

Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting, reflected on the previous meeting and introduced this session as a good opportunity for reflection and forward thinking. The focus isn't just about getting data, but also what you can do with it.

360 Giving and Open Data
Alice Casey, Senior Development Manager, Nesta

Alice Casey is a Senior Manager at Nesta. She leads a range of projects that explore how digital technology can be used for social impact, including leading Nesta's practical work on Crowdfunding and co-developing the 360Giving open funding data movement.

This presentation looked at the ways that funding bodies are exploring the potential of open data for analysis and impact measurement; including what is happening now in the UK and internationally; and what developments we can expect to see in the future.

Participants brought some of their own experiences of using data to inform their work - and the group discussed collective challenges and aspirations for the future.

360 Giving

[360Giving](#) is an initiative by a consortium of grant makers to help other UK domestic grant makers to publish their data.

Alice noted that there have been a number of organisations who have been involved through the early stages of 360 Giving and that the project will become increasingly collaborative as more become involved. The more grantmakers who do this the more momentum we can build and the more data will be available for the people who really need it - both grant makers and those looking for grants can spend a lot of time trying to find out what other funders are doing.

There are many different types of data and there needs to be a focus in the long term on usability and commonality of data – the quality of the data, the quantity which is published and the way that it is shared will all affect how useful that data is. However, a starting point is to recognise that it doesn't have to be too technical and that even the basic level of data within annual reports and accounts can be helpful. Alice outlined the process involved in opening up your data to 360 Giving and the trends – both geographical and thematic – which can then be seen.

360 Giving would be interested in hearing from anyone who would like to take a role or getting more involved.

360Giving is a platform and learning resource. They want:

- UK charities, foundations & other grant makers report spend as open data to agreed standards.
- Create a clear information landscape for grant-makers in the UK showing who has funded what, with how much and for what
- Building transparency for the public, taxpayers and authorities
- Increased effectiveness in grant making and greater scope for informed strategic philanthropy

Alice gave some examples of promising work on funding and impact data around the world:

[WASH](#), powered by Foundation Center. This is a collaboration of funders who also share data. This is a paid for service which will eventually begin to look at impact data

AKIVI – An aid programme based in Amsterdam. This is another paid for service

[Beehive](#) – This is both about helping grant seekers find out more about funders, and also has a dashboard for funders. It is currently piloting and are welcoming expressions of interest.

Questions and discussion

- Discussion on whether local authorities could embrace the same standard which could lead to a map of what's happening in particular boroughs. London Funders to have a follow up conversation with Nesta to explore this topic.

- If there is a common theme shared by funders then this can create a focus for learning. Also geographical can be important e.g. to explore the funding in each borough
- The potential usage of data is very positive. There is a commitment to being open and transparent and this is one way to demonstrate this.
- For some organisation, this may have to be combined with a change in grantmaking 'thinking' in order to make use of the data which comes out. It would influence planning.

Open discussion

- Consideration of how to categorise beneficiary groups and suggestions of effective coding. Attendees shared information on to what detail they went to with categories and sub-categories. It can be hard to have categories which are too specific as there is room for different interpretations from staff – there needs to be a consistency of understanding internally. Getting the right balance of details was recognised as a common challenge.
- Where open ended questions are asked, the group discussed the benefits of using questions based on quite high level outcomes, as this received better responses with a richness of quantitative data.
- Where a grant has finished and outcomes are continuing, how can you keep that organisation interested in feeding back information? Would need to maintain continuity etc. Some suggestions included having the organisation involved in a network where organisations learn from each other, therefore you are maintaining the relationship even if not financially supporting them. Others discussed learning from the homelessness sector who use CHAIN database to track people through different interventions. Also relevant, LankellyChase Foundation have done some work on mapping multiple needs.
- Comic Relief noted some work they were involved in
  - Looking at how to use rapidminer for automated content analysis (a free and open source, but quite technical)
  - Looking to fund more tech charities. Paul Hamlyn

Craig thanked the group for their open and frank discussions, and reflected that time for discussion on current challenges and open questions to the group may form a regular part of the agenda.