

Locality



Background information

Locality is a national organisation committed to a local approach. We support community organisations to be strong and successful, to meet local needs and to give people a purpose, good places to live and good health.

Building resilience in community organisations and creating lasting change is at the heart of what we do, fundamental to this is to support organisations to be sustainable, robust and able to meet the demands for their services.

We know from our day to day work that there are amazing ideas, skills, innovation, passion, local knowledge and long-term commitment within our neighbourhoods. By creating strong and successful community organisations, we can help to unlock this power and provide solutions to the big economic, social and environmental challenges community organisations face.

At Locality we have staff in every region of England enabling us to work in the heart of communities to help community organisations to be stronger and more robust. Effectively we represent the best of both worlds: having the influence and knowledge base which comes with being a national organisation, whilst prioritising the building of local relationships with community organisations. We have developed knowledge and experience of how to build resilience in a way that is practical and effective, addressing specific issues, and overcoming complex and technical problems. Our experienced staff will work alongside you, fulfilling the role of advisor, mentor, critical friend, and honest broker.

Above all we are friendly, approachable, and committed to strengthening the community sector.

Find out more at: www.locality.org.uk

Offer Under Enhance

Impact Measurement and Theory of Change

Understanding your impact will help you to:

- plan and evaluate your work,
- learn as an organisation
- help you to promote your organisation –to talk confidently about the difference you make.

Local people, partners, funders and commissioners are all really keen for you to demonstrate your impact and Locality can support you to work through your own impact journey.

A Theory of Change is a way of explaining how your organisation or project works and the impact it has. It is often the starting point for any organisation wanting to develop a coherent and organised approach to social impact measurement.

Your Theory of Change demonstrates how your activities result in levels of output, outcome and impact, which then connects back to the community needs you are seeking to address. It helps you to identify and understand your unique approach to the work you are doing and to demonstrate your impact to your stakeholders, including funders and commissioners.

We can develop bespoke solutions for organisations to improve their approach to measuring social impact, including comprehensive impact measurement systems.

Our approach involves:

- Developing a comprehensive Theory of Change (as above)
- Identifying existing organisational approaches to social impact measurement (what data is currently collected and how)
- Rationalising, fine tuning and introducing new data collection methods
- Support systems development including data collection, analysis and reporting
- Support the use of use cost benefit analysis and LM3
- Embedding the use of social impact data in support of a process of continuous organisational improvement

To complement our support we have developed Lighthouse a diagnostic and resilience checker to help groups identify their strengths and weaknesses, and find strategies to help them address their most immediate needs.

In addition to the above we can offer support with the following:

Our support package (will start at 6 days) will support you to develop an impact and learning framework, which will allow you to:

- understand the impact you want to achieve
- provide strong evidence to demonstrate your impact
- provide a systematic approach to learning (responding quickly to what does and does not work)
- help to provide clear messages to the community and partners about the value of its work.

The work will include:

- A workshop with staff, trustees and volunteers to develop or review Theory of Change/Logic Frames as overarching frameworks for understanding your work.
- Undertake a combination of group training and practical one to one support work your relevant staff to examine data requirements for monitoring –

identifying what is important, how it is managed and interrogated to help produce impact evidence and organisational learning.

- Develop or review your overall data/monitoring systems to help streamline the practicalities of collecting data against its relevance and importance. In particular, to look beyond just impact reporting to examine how data helps to iterate project learning and design as well as informing for the need for new activities/projects.
- Also review how you communicate your impact with the wider community and other key stakeholders (including funders) – whether this is understandable and clear.

When might the Partner be the most appropriate solution for the charity?

We work closely with charities to give you the support that is right for you. Our national team will help you to define your goals and aims and agree timelines with you. Our staff are based in every English region, so we are embedded in local communities but at the same time bring with us a wealth of experience gathered from supporting hundreds of community organisations across the country.

Our support will be right for you if you:

- Want to understand and communicate your impact

Need specific support with collecting and managing impact data

Input Needed from the charity

Any charity wanting support with Impact would need to commit time to workshops, planning meetings, staff training (approx. 1 person day from the charity for each Locality day)