

Evaluating the impact of community empowerment work on NI4 scores

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Doing impact evaluation

- Lots of different approaches – e.g. SROI, LEAP
- All about taking the credit (blame)
- Hierarchy of evaluation methodologies from basic to gold standard:
 - After the event: one-off assessment of what happened as result of intervention
 - Before and after: situation before intervention measured, then measured again after intervention, and the results compared to assess the impacts

Doing impact evaluation II

- Comparison: areas or groups who had intervention compared against those who did not, either from same group, or similar group. Aka quasi-experimental
- Experimental: areas or groups randomly selected for intervention, and results compared against areas or groups randomly selected not to get intervention
- RCTs and causality (taking the credit)

Other interesting approaches

- Time series data – combines before and after + comparison (using observable or quantitative measures). NDC evaluation
- But sensitivity?

Health warnings!

- Enough already?
- How credible is self-commissioned research?
- Single programme evaluation – at the bottom of the pile?
- Has research ever changed policy (yes and no)

Give up and go home?

- Can't do nothing
- Design experiments – 6 local authorities starting or finished so far
- NWTWC Community Empowerment and Social Cohesion Award Scheme
- Talk to Eve Davidson – based with Neighbourhoods North West

Getting our story straight

- Research is not lobbying
- Are you proving (summative evaluation) and/or improving (developmental evaluation) OR persuading
- Is evaluation the best/only/most effective lobbying tool?
- Drew Westen – the Political Brain
- Seeing is Believing – BiTC and Common Purpose and many other charities
- Liz's experiment