

Beyond the GLV Toolkit: Volunteering Impact Evaluation Tools

As well as tools organisations use day-to-day to gather and analyse data, there are tools available to perform more one-off evaluations of your volunteering programme.

Specific Volunteer Tools

The **Volunteering Impact Assessment Toolkit** from Volunteering England is now in its second edition and is an easy-to-follow guide with downloadable resources. It has been used by both experienced researchers, and by volunteer managers with very little evaluation experience. It enables organisation to get lots of information in a well ordered way, but it is geared towards a well-staffed organisation with time set aside for an evaluation project. While it's possible to adapt and edit questionnaires, it's less easy to evaluate small parts of a volunteering programme. The questionnaires measure impact in terms of five different types of capital, also used within this toolkit.

Included in the Volunteering Impact Assessment toolkit is a **Volunteer Investment and Value Audit (VIVA)**. This also stands alone as a measure of the outputs of volunteering and their economic impacts. Both can be found at www.volunteering.org.uk/shop/viat

Volunteer 2 have produced an online calculator for measuring economic value of volunteers. It allows you to compare a volunteer-involving picture from quarter to quarter, or compare how financially beneficial each of your roles are, for example. <http://www.volunteer2.com/ROI>

Related Tools

The **Mentoring and Befriending Foundation** have produced a toolkit for evaluating a mentoring programme, many of which involve volunteers. Cost is £60.

<http://www.mandbf.org/guidance-and-support/resources>

'How To' Guides, including **How to Involve Children and Young People in Research**, available from the Participation Works Consortium.

<http://www.participationworks.org.uk/>

New Philanthropy Capital have produced a Well-Being Measurement Tool for use with young people. There is a charge attached. www.well-beingmeasure.com

Indicators from quality standards such as **Investing in Volunteers** can be used, and evidence collected towards these standards, to create tools or present evidence to a third party.

<http://iiv.investinginvolunteers.org.uk/about/the-nine-indicators>

Equalities Guide: National Equality Partnership, 2010, *Equality Action*: an equality audit and equality impact assessment guide for the voluntary and community sector, London.

The Ultimate Impact Measurement Tool: Richard Piper on our abilities to evaluate: “Yes, the ultimate impact evaluation tool is the human brain, and our associated abilities to perceive, to discuss, to reason, to feel and to learn.”

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/networking-discussions/blogs/14292/12/01/03/heres-ultimate-impact-measurement-tool>

Books

Accessible, short and well recommended books on the subject of evaluation and research:

Monitoring Ourselves by Anne Connor, Charities Evaluation Services, Second edition 1999.

Small-Scale Evaluation by Colin Robinson, Sage Publications, 2004.

Research and Evaluation for Busy Practitioners: a time saving guide by Helen Kara, Policy Press, 2012.

Networks and Other Organisations

The Charities Evaluation Service work with organisations to help them demonstrate the difference they make, learn how to be even more effective and share learning. They do this by providing resources, training, support, advice, independent evaluations and tailored services to meet diverse needs.

<http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/>

NCVO/Volunteering England membership will help you to connect share and learn. Membership is free for groups with a turnover of less than £30,000 and you can access advice, support and information.

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk>

Thoughtful Thursdays for Volunteer Managers is an online weekly discussion and on twitter, focusing specifically on the Volunteer Management issues of the day including evaluation and learning. Follow <http://twitter.com/vmmovement> on twitter and search for the hash tag #ttvolmgrs, or visit the volunteering blog site ivo.org.

References

Institute for Volunteering Research (2009). *Volunteering in Small Groups: What's the difference?* London: Cripplegate Foundation.

Institute for Volunteering Research (2010). *Volunteering Impact Assessment Toolkit: a Practical Guide for Assessing the Difference that Volunteering Makes.* London: Volunteering England.

Putnam, R. (2000). *Bowling Alone: the Collapse and revival of American community.* New York: Simon and Schuster.

Wilkinson, R. (1996). *Unhealthy Societies: The Afflictions of Inequality.* London: Routledge.