



Supporting the voluntary and
community sector to measure
change and deliver value

CENI Board of Directors

Kieran Harding (Chairperson)	Business in the Community
Maggie Andrews	East Belfast Partnership
Caroline Bloomfield	Public Health Agency
Mary Field	Youthnet
Jonathan McAlpin	East Belfast Enterprise
Ross McCrea	Family Fund
Damien McNally	Community Relations Council
Nick Mack	Associate Consultant (Observer Status), Resigned May 2013
Joanne Morgan	Community Development and Health Network

CENI Staff

Brendan McDonnell	Director
Nicola McIlDoon	Deputy Director
Gladys Swanton	Learning and Development Manager
Kerry McCarroll	Communications Officer
Pamela Walker	Finance and Administration Officer
Aongus O'Keeffe	Programme Leader, Inspiring Impact NI

Welcome

2013-2014 has been a period of consolidation for CENI as the lobbying and development work of previous years has begun to bear fruit. This culminated with us being appointed as the Building Change Trust's strategic partner to develop and deliver an Inspiring Impact programme for Northern Ireland. The programme was launched in March this year and, with major investment from the Building Change Trust and the Department for Social Development, Inspiring Impact NI is now set to play a key role in driving forward this important UK initiative over the coming two years.

We believe that Inspiring Impact NI's three-stranded strategy of supporting the sector, working with funders and facilitating an Impact Exchange will provide the right mix to harness the political will and technical capacity that undoubtedly exists and help influence the changes in policy and practice required to support good impact practice in the future.

We also continued to promote and embed our 'Measuring Change' approach to capturing the hard to measure outcomes of development activity. The final report of our four-year support programme to the Big Lottery Fund's 'Live and Learn' and 'Safe and Well' funded projects provides a useful illustration of how Measuring Change facilitates a shared measurement approach - supporting projects to capture outcomes whilst providing the funder with an indication of overall programme impact.

The learning from these strategic programmes continues to inform and shape our ongoing generic support for the sector on impact practice delivered through the Regional Infrastructure Support Programme (RISP) consortium.

With public finances coming under even more pressure, the demands to evidence the difference that investing in the community and voluntary sector makes will only increase. The message that CENI will be promoting repeatedly is that funders and funded organisations need to focus on impact and to be equipped with the means to implement impact practice. This theme will continue to be a key driver for our activities going into 2014-2015 and beyond.



Brendan McDonnell
CENI Director



Kieran Harding
CENI Chairperson

Building Capacity

Training and Support

Under the Regional Infrastructure Support Programme (RISP) CENI delivered a range of training and support to develop good evaluation practice. We focussed on outcomes and impact measurement and improving quality using the PQASSO quality system.

- 4 courses were delivered on Outcomes Planning through open and tailored training sessions and workshops for a range of organisations in Belfast, Banbridge and Fermanagh.
- 2 courses were delivered on Methods and Tools for Evidencing Outcomes, including a practical session with a women's group conducting their own research exercise to baseline needs within the community.
- 2 courses were delivered on Analysis and Reporting on Outcomes, supporting organisations to improve the use of data to report to funders and others on achievements and learning.
- 2 courses were delivered on PQASSO, as well as on-site mentoring support for staff from one community network going for the PQASSO quality mark.
- One-to-one support was provided to 24 organisations on topics such as outcomes and funding applications; collecting outcomes information; and improving analysis and reporting. Resources and materials including sample surveys, tools and templates were also circulated to a number of organisations. This included delivery of support with using CENI's Measuring Change technique with community based organisations.
- 3 workshops were designed and delivered on outcomes and impact practice. One workshop focussed on capturing evidence of outcomes within the field of drugs and alcohol. Two workshops involved initial piloting and roll out of the Code of Good Impact Practice to inform the further development of support under the Inspiring Impact Northern Ireland programme.

“Reinforces the importance of reflective practice and ensuring the participation of staff in the plan, do, review cycle.”

'Outcomes Planning' Training Participant

“Good to apply different evaluation methods in a practical way to your own work, as well as looking at new tools like the Outcomes Star and creative approaches.”

'Outcomes Methods and Tools' Training Participant

“Overview of the Code of Good Impact Practice and how impact applies within our own operations was useful. Also good to hear how others are developing impact practice in their organisations.”

Impact Workshops Participant

Information and Advice

Under RISP we provided information and advice through our website and social media; distribution of CENI E-News to a mailing list of over 600; hosting events and ongoing responses to telephone and email enquiries/ requests for information.

Facilitating Impact Practice

Measuring Change

In May 2013 we launched our publication, 'Measuring Change - An Approach to Outcomes for the Voluntary and Community Sector'. This documented the development and evolution of Measuring Change and, through a series of case studies, showed how it has been successfully applied to capture the 'hard to measure' qualitative difference made to people, organisations and communities by a range of voluntary and community sector programmes.

Throughout the year, CENI has continued to work with a number of key investors in the sector to promote and embed Measuring Change.

- Big Lottery Fund 'Live and Learn' and 'Safe and Well' programmes: supporting funded projects to baseline and measure change.** 2013-2014 saw the conclusion of CENI's four-year programme of work to support more than 20 funded projects to track their progress and evidence the difference made against a set of common outcomes. The final report on the exercise demonstrated the value of Measuring Change, both in supporting individual projects to capture outcomes and providing the funder with a methodology which can be used to assess overall programme impact.
- Public Health Agency / Belfast Health Development Unit: capturing health and wellbeing outcomes.** This exploratory exercise focused on developing an approach to capture and quantify social and economic outcomes for health and wellbeing programmes in the Belfast locality. It was undertaken jointly with Gauge NI, drawing on elements of both the Measuring Change and Social Return on Investment approaches, and focused on two test programmes - Active

Belfast and Drugs and Alcohol. The work has taken programme managers and staff on an impact practice journey, from designing a structured outcomes framework, to identifying the evidence they need to gather against this framework and finally, to exploring some of the different approaches which can be used to capture data required.



Pictured at the launch of the 'Measuring Change' publication are (from L-R): Brendan McDonnell, CENI; Tracy Teague, DSD, Maurice Meehan, Building Change Trust board and Joanne McDowell, the Big Lottery Fund.

- DSD Modernisation Fund Capital Programme: using Measuring Change to support external evaluation.** Since 2007, CENI has been a partner on the Intermediary Body consortium managing this programme; our particular responsibility has been for monitoring and evaluation. This year, we conducted a pilot Measuring Change exercise with a sample of projects to provide supplementary data for the final evaluation and help inform the development of an outcomes framework for a possible future programme.

Developing Impact Practice

Inspiring Impact NI Programme

In December 2013 CENI was appointed as the strategic partner of the Building Change Trust to support the development and delivery of the Inspiring Impact NI Programme. Inspiring Impact NI is part of a UK wide programme that supports voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations (VCSEs) and their funders to better demonstrate the difference they are making to the lives of people in communities they support. This follows on from our work in 2012-13 to produce a development plan for the initiative at local level.

The Building Change Trust has committed £500,000 matched by a further £188,000 from the Department for Social Development, to an initial two year programme of work which will support VCSE organisations and their funders to better understand and embrace impact practice.

In February 2014, Aongus O’Keeffe was appointed as the Programme Leader to act as the face of Inspiring Impact NI and to drive, manage and co-ordinate its activities. The Inspiring Impact NI Programme was officially launched on 19 March 2014 at an event attended by over 60 delegates from the VCSE sectors, government, independent funders, academics and impact practitioners.

Over the coming 12 months we will focus on progressing the three main delivery pillars of the Programme:

- Support to VCSE organisations to apply and embed strategic resources developed by Inspiring Impact UK to address the sector’s impact needs
- Engagement with funders to support them to have



Pictured at the launch of Inspiring Impact NI are (from L-R): Roy McGivern, DSD; Tim Crabbe, Substance; Sam Matthews, CES UK; Julie Harrison, Building Change Trust; Gladys Swanton, CENI, Aongus O’Keeffe, Inspiring Impact NI and James Magowan, Association of Charitable Foundations.

a clearer understanding of what impact practice is, how it can improve how they work and how they can support their funded projects to embed an impact practice approach

- Establishing an Inspiring Impact Exchange to ensure that the implementation of the programme will be understood and supported by key stakeholders across the sector

Informing Policy on Impact Practice

We continued to engage with a range of funders and statutory organisations, as well as VCSE organisations in our aim to embed an impact focussed approach within the sector.

Over the year we:

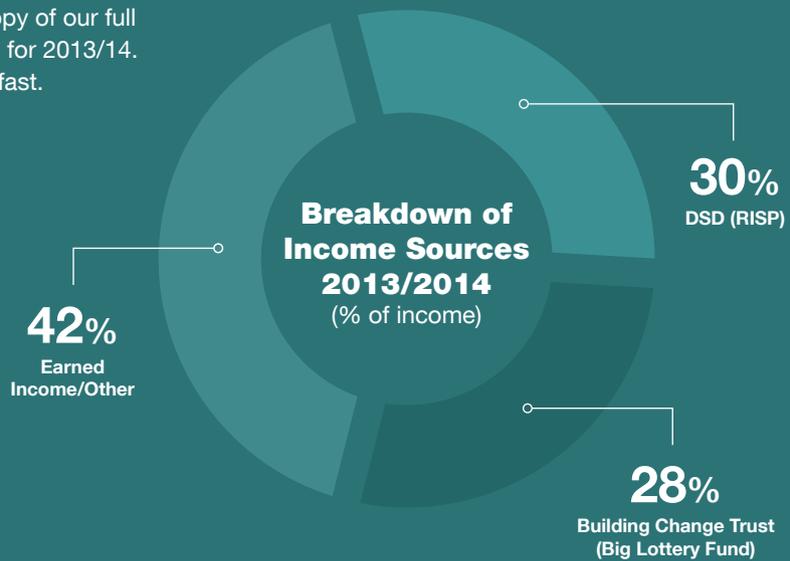
- Co-hosted an event with the Institute for Public Health and Community Development and Health Network on ‘Supporting Research and Evaluation’
- Planned and hosted an event with Vanguard consultants, ‘Kittens are Evil: Heresies in Social Policy and Outcomes-based Performance Management’ which attracted over 60 attendees
- Provided input to an Alliance of Effective Evidence event, ‘Evidence: What Works in Northern Ireland’
- Consulted and met with representatives from a broad range of funders including OFMDFM, DSD, DHSSP and PHA

Financial Activity

We received £203,895 and we spent £228,685.

We received core grant funding under the Regional Infrastructure Support programme (RISP) from the Department for Social Development's Voluntary and Community Unit (DSD VCU) and funding from the Big Lottery Fund through the Building Change Trust.

Please contact us if you would like a copy of our full Annual Report and financial statements for 2013/14. Our auditors are Jackson Andrews, Belfast.





Community Evaluation Northern Ireland

129 Ormeau Road
Belfast
BT7 1SH

T: 028 9024 8005
E: info@ceni.org
www.ceni.org

Charity No. X02077/95

Follow us on:



[@communityevalni](https://twitter.com/communityevalni)



facebook.com/communityevaluationni

