



NEON Establishing Evidence and Measuring Impact Working Group Meeting

Thursday 21st March 2019 – 12.30pm – 16.00pm

Notes

Go Higher West Yorkshire NCOP: Anna Woodhouse and Jemma Basham- Realist methodology and The Young Researchers project

- New policy context
 - APP guidance
 - EIX
 - New elf assessment tool
- How to address the issues?
 - Move from input to outcome focus
 - Establish logic model and theoretical framework
 - Review process- understanding dynamics of partnerships you are working in/with
 - Build vision and learn from the past
 - Listen!!!
- Participatory Approach- there is a missing connection between the people we are trying to reach and the structures we are working within- hence the use of PAR
- Gold Standard
 - New methods
 - Collaborative vision
 - Innovation
 - Ethics and data protection
 - Work within a flexible framework
- Learner voice live
 - Combined delivery and evaluation
 - Culmination of several events in the form of a conference
 - Rationale
 - Families and participants should have choice over engagement and what this looks like
 - Should be involved in decision making in relation to the project
 - Practice
 - PAR- trained young people to interview their own parents and families about their thoughts and experiences of HE
 - Carried out across different area of west Yorkshire
 - Lessons learned
 - Support and direction from leadership
 - Build learner voice into the design, delivery and evaluation of the activity
 - Use sustained interventions that build upon on another
 - Including ongoing support to develop confidence and encourage expression

- Peer-to-peer interviews

Working Group Discussion: Discussion around monitoring and evaluation of the NCOP programme in Phase 2

Whilst OfS were unable to attend the meeting they did send through the below update for the group to aid our discussion:

On NCOP:

- We're in the process of reviewing the evaluation arrangements for phase 1 and planning the approach for phase 2. We hope to confirm our approach in early April with consortia which will help inform everyone's phase 2 evaluation planning.
- We can confirm that the core elements of the impact evaluation are very likely to continue, primarily data collected through tracking activity and participant surveys.
- We will be asking consortia to submit local evaluation plans and will be issuing guidance in April – we expect these will be aligned with the consortia's progression frameworks.
- CFE will be delivering their next evaluation report to the OfS in late May. They are in the process of analysis with the participant survey and tracking data for the impact evaluation. An evidence call is open for consortia to submit local evaluation and research evidence with the deadline for submissions on 5th April.
- We want to align our approaches to evaluation across NCOP and A&P more generally so the tools and guidance for A&P may be of interest to evaluation specialists.

On A&P generally:

- Our regulatory guidance for access and participation has now been published on our website. For particular interest to evaluation specialists will be:
- The evaluation related content in the document "Regulatory advice 6: How to prepare your access and participation plan" (pages 33-38)
- The evaluation content related in the document "Regulatory notice 1 Access and participation plan guidance" (pages 33-35)
- The evaluation self-assessment tool (with associated guidance on evaluation practice and standards of evidence)
- A&P briefing events are happening this week and further support is also on the way (e.g. online video's, Q&A sessions, etc)

In other evidence related news:

- We've recently announced the Evidence and Impact Exchange has been awarded to a consortium from King's College London, Nottingham Trent University and the Behavioural Insights Team - and designated an official government 'What Works Centre'. There is a blog on our website with more information (under 'News, blog and events').
- We've published our 'Strategy for evidence and evaluation in access and participation' on our website. This covers how we want evidence and evaluation to be used effectively by the Office for Students and higher education providers to drive improvements in access and participation.

Comments from discussion:

NCOP

- Outreach hubs- What do the HUBS look like? How does their work need to be recorded and tracked?
- New ops plan- evaluation with other NCOPs? If you say Yes what are we going to be accountable for?
- Do we need to collaborate with other NCOPs and HEIs as well?

A&P

- The self-assessment tool- feels like a reporting document- does it need to be submitted?
 - o The group felt it was useful to inform practice but might not be used in that way if people felt their submissions were to be assessed.

Following on from the meeting they would also be grateful if anyone would like to feedback any additional comments around:

- What have the challenges been at the consortia evaluation level during Phase 1?
- What has worked and what would people like to do differently in future? This might be learning about how activities are working and the impact they're having or learning around the complexities of evaluation in this area.
- Can people see any benefit or opportunities in looking cross the consortia's progression frameworks – for example could we find the most common outcomes and do some focused work on agreeing shared measurement tools for these?

Open Discussion & Topics for future meetings

- The group would like to see members bring more case study examples of evaluation practice to help share good practice as well as highlighting pitfalls of research
- The group would welcome attendance from representatives of the EIX to help us understand their remit and how we can play a role in supporting their work moving forward.