

Measuring the difference you make

Charities Evaluation Services
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NAVCA: Every Child Matters Conference



Monitoring & Evaluation Workshop, © Charities Evaluation Services

About CES

CES is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, established in 1990

Our mission is to increase the effectiveness of the third sector by developing its use of evaluation and quality systems and by using our influence to bring about positive change

Our services include training, publications, support/consultancy, research and events



Monitoring & Evaluation Workshop, © Charities Evaluation Services

M&E: Current trends

According to an extensive research study undertaken last year by CES:

- 67% of voluntary organisations said that funders' requirements on monitoring and evaluation had become more demanding over the last five years
- 30% of voluntary organisations received no funding for Monitoring & Evaluation
- Both funders and voluntary organisations reported that there is often no real distinction between Monitoring and Evaluation

M&E: Why is it important?

Learning and development



fresh thinking,
improve performance,
show effectiveness

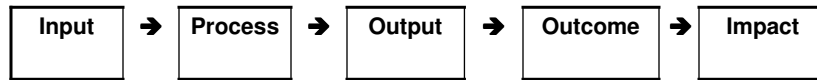
Accountability



users, staff, trustees,
volunteers, community,
funders, charity
commission, etc

What can be evaluated?

The programme logic model



CES Planning Triangle[©]



Exercise

The Homelessness Prevention Project works with young people at risk of homelessness. It covers two adjoining estates in an area of Manchester.

Conflict at home and school truancy/exclusion are key risk factors associated with young people leaving home. The homelessness Prevention Project therefore hopes to tackle these two risk factors.

The project also works with newly homeless young people. The hope here is to prevent more entrenched or serious problems from developing.

In your groups you will be given a set of terms/phrases, which are all one of the following:

Aims

Outcomes

Objectives

Outputs

Your task is to decide which terms/phrases come under which heading.

M&E: Things to consider

- User involvement
- Preparation / Planning
- Purpose / Relevance
- Resources
- Communicating results

M&E: Resources

Free publications

- *First Steps in Monitoring and Evaluation*
CES, free at www.ces-vol.org.uk/publications
- *Explaining the difference your project makes*
Big Lottery Fund, free from website
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/er_eval_explaining_the_difference.pdf
- Guidance papers on external evaluation
CES, free at www.ces-vol.org.uk
- MandE NEWS www.mande.co.uk

A final thought

‘Political choices will be key. A third of the charity sector’s income comes from government and local government contracts and grants. Once the general election is safely out of the way the smart money is on a swift and blood curdling Government spending review by whoever wins with a dramatic scaling back of public expenditure from 2011 onwards.’

Colin Nee, CES’s CEO on ACEVO’s recession website

<http://www.recessionsupport.org.uk/main/index.php>



National Performance Programme

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