



QUARTERLY EVENT

What is stopping a focus on outcomes?

Is it all just rhetoric? Is the language unhelpful?

5pm – 6.30pm, Tuesday 28th April, 2020

Central Edinburgh (venue tbc)

Steven Marwick – Evaluation Support Scotland

We can't 'deliver' outcomes, rather we can 'achieve' them or 'contribute' to their achievement. Outcomes are not targets and the focus of our public services on performance and accountability trumps learning most of the time. My proposition is that we could do more to explore what is so seductive about the current system that lures us away from a focus on outcomes i.e. **competing narratives**. These might include the performance management narrative, the need for statistics narrative, the need to please the public and the fear of getting it wrong. What is so compelling about these? And can we reframe our outcomes narratives in ways that really land?

Rowan Boase, Evaluation Team - The National Lottery Community Fund

In recent years, TNLCF has thought a lot about 'outcomes'. We're still interested in the difference that the groups we fund are helping to make, but we have modified some of our language and practices. This is to try to enable grant reporting and evaluation to be more honest and flexible – and ultimately more useful for groups. These considerations relate to questions about complexity, power, and how we can best support organisations to learn and develop. We're keen to hear from others, and share our learning so far - it's definitely still a journey we're on.

All are welcome to join this discussion, UKES member or not. You are welcome to invite a colleague who is not an evaluation specialist along too. We will start with an opportunity to network and discuss your current evaluation work and/or challenges amongst peers

The event is free, but if you plan to attend, please let Helen know by Thursday 23rd April

Helen.Alexander@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

You can link in virtually, if you wish - joining details will be sent on request

Join the Evaluation Network Scotland group on [LinkedIn](#) or visit the [UKES website](#)

Evaluation Network Scotland is a regional network of UK Evaluation Society (UKES) co-ordinated by a small group of volunteers. We aim to provide opportunities for discussion, learning and networking with colleagues working in evaluation across Scotland.

To join or leave the mailing list, contact Helen Helen.Alexander@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk. The mailing list is used to share events and other evaluation information, including tenders or training opportunities.