Overview of the Evaluation Capability Building Project

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What is the evaluation capability building project?

- Office for Students commissioned project to:
  - Assess individual NCOP Evaluation Strategies for Phase 2
  - To determine where there are gaps in capability to deliver robust and effective local impact and process evaluation
  - To work with NCOP partnerships to build a community of practice
  - To develop training and support to close capability gaps
  - To support partnerships with producing and sharing robust evaluation evidence.

- Who are the project team?
How does the evaluation capability building project relate to / differ from the CFE evaluation?

- CFE – responsible for overall NCOP programme impact evaluation

- This project:
  - Initial stage – assessment of evaluation strategies
  - Ongoing project to support the development of evaluation capability based on gaps identified in this initial assessment
  - Working closely with individual partnerships to help them implement their strategy and develop and share effective evaluation practice
  - Capability building project to support partnerships with producing their own robust evidence to contribute to sector-wide evidence.
  - Develop shared resources / measures
What was the outcome of the assessment of evaluation strategies

• Most partnerships met the OfS brief in the design of the strategies
• There is much variation in the size and structure of partnerships and strategies were generally proportionate
• There is a lot of great practice and some well designed evaluation activity taking place across the sector
• There are plenty of opportunities for partnerships to learn from and support each other
• Many partnerships do have at least some areas for ‘further development’
• Collectively NCOP partnerships cover a range of approaches and methodologies
What will be the key areas of focus for building capability?

Developing thinking about the needs of different stakeholders

(Aimhigher Westmidlands)
What will be the key areas of focus for building capability?

Improving the articulation between programme design, and the indicators used to measure progress.

(Kent and Medway Progression Federation)
What will be the key areas of focus for building capability?

Developing effective feedback mechanisms within the consortium – in particular between practitioners and evaluators

(HEPP SY)
Many more examples of good practice available
Other areas of focus for further development #1

• Responding to the limitations of self report data
• Developing thinking about the needs of different stakeholders
• Improving the articulation between programme design, and the indicators used to measure progress
• Developing effective feedback mechanisms within the consortium – in particular between practitioners and evaluators
Other areas of focus for further development #2

- Designing effective qualitative tools and analysing qualitative data
- Developing type 3 evaluation design
- Developing effective analytical approaches to evaluation data
- Incorporating ‘learner voice’ in the evaluation process
- Developing effective reports for key audiences
So what happens next?

• We’ve divided NCOP partnerships into regions – each with a named contact from the project team

• Evaluation capability building through face to face meetings, online resources, webinars

• Developing an online community of practice
  ◦ To share good practice / solutions
  ◦ Offer support
  ◦ Support collaborations
  ◦ Build a sustainable evaluation resource
## Proposed time line (in 4 month chunks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ongoing Support</th>
<th>Community of Practice</th>
<th>Developing Practical Evaluation Resources</th>
<th>Developing Shared Measurement Tools</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Ad hoc support as required</td>
<td>Manage message board</td>
<td></td>
<td>Develop psychological construct tool</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Introduction to project team</td>
<td>This webinar</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td></td>
<td>Theory of change workshop</td>
<td>Launch website, blogs and messaging facility</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<td>Webinar - Framing the evaluation process.</td>
<td>Webinar - statistical analysis</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Regional networking meeting (online or face to face)</td>
<td>Blog post - Sample NCOP of feedback process</td>
<td>Launch practical resources: Framing evaluation, logic models, theories of change, evaluation techniques and their uses, qualitative research process, trial-based designs, project management training</td>
<td>Resource: how to cognitively test questionnaires and surveys with learners</td>
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