

Scotland's Community of Access and Participation Practitioners

WP Evaluation Matters:
Building a Community of Practice
to support Practitioners

Tuesday 16th May 2023



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoinachaidh na h-Alba

SCAPP WP Evaluation Matters Community of Practice



Facilitators:

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Outline of the Session



Time	Activity
13:50-14:10	Presentation About the Community of Practice
14:10-14:35	Group Discussions Priorities for WP evaluation moving forward

SCAPP Evaluation & Research Working Group



To **develop the capacity of practitioners** working in the field of widening access and participation **to utilise evaluation and research** to help establish **what works** to support **better outcomes for students**.

Activities/Outputs:

1. Consultation Event
2. SCAPP Widening Participation Evaluation Guide bit.ly/WPEvaluationGuide
3. SCAPP Directory of Practice & Expertise to build links between researchers and practitioners www.fairaccess.scot/practice-expertise/
4. WP Evaluation Matters Community of Practice

Community of Practice



The SCAPP WP Evaluation Matters Community of Practice (CoP) is a group of people who **share an interest in WP evaluation.**

We will, **together, learn how to do evaluation better** through sharing experience and supporting each other.

We will produce our own evaluations and develop an **output for the Scottish WP sector.**

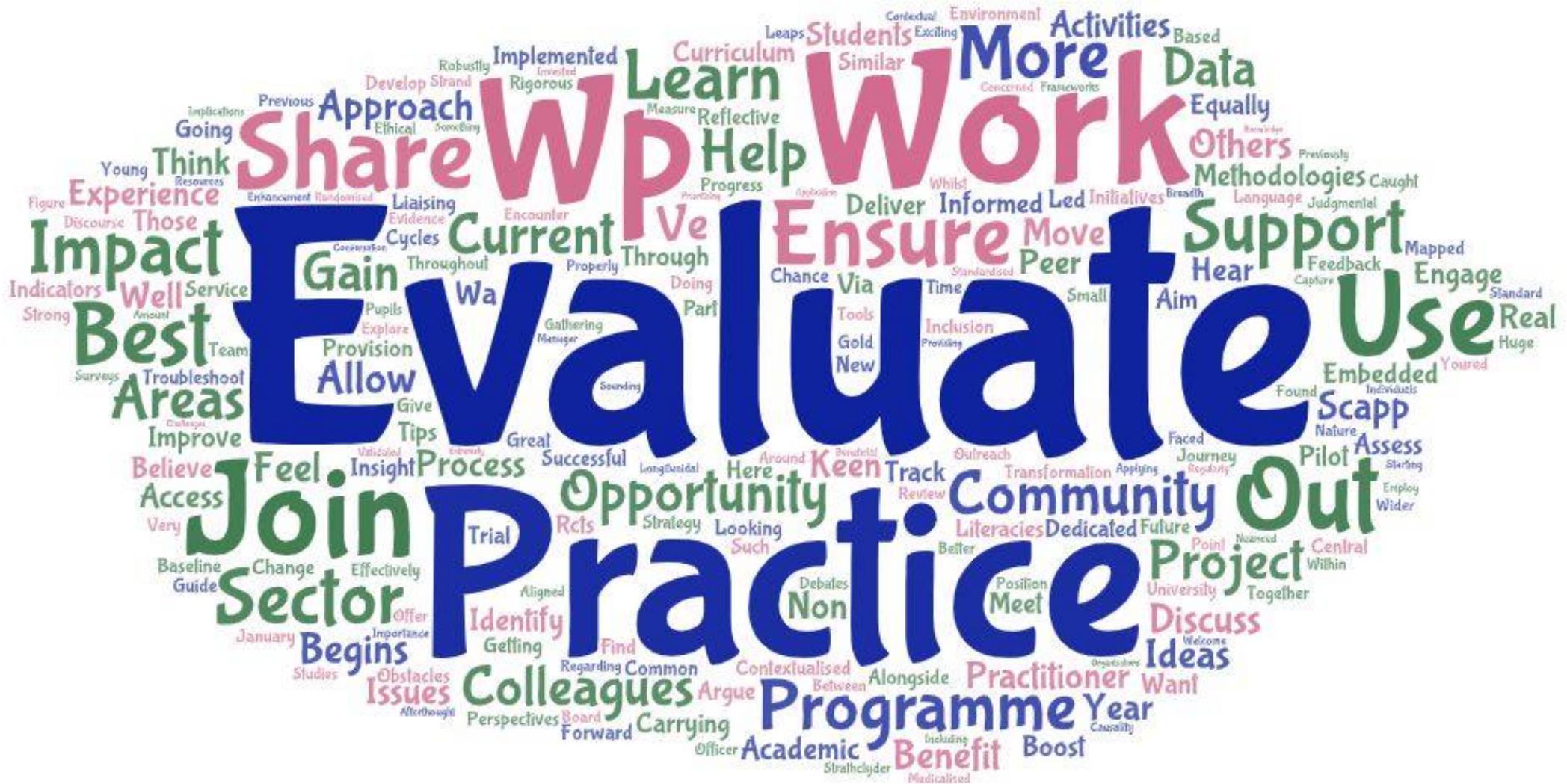
WP Evaluation Matters CoP



23 Participants across **11** Institutions/Organisations

1. **FOCUS West**
2. **Glasgow Caledonian University**
3. **Heriot-Watt University**
4. **LEAPS** (*two projects*)
5. **LIFT OFF**
6. **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland**
7. **University of Aberdeen**
8. **University of Edinburgh** (*two projects*)
9. **University of Glasgow**
10. **University of St Andrews**
11. **University of Strathclyde**

Why did you want to join the CoP?



WP Evaluation Matters Community of Practice



- Carrying out a **WP evaluation project during 2023**
- Commit to CoP for 12 months, **January – December 2023**
- **Meet regularly** to share experiences and support peers
- **Keep in touch** via a dedicated Team for the CoP
- Develop an **output for the Scottish WP sector**
- That includes **identifying training and development needs** for the CoP and to inform SCAPP offerings around WP evaluation

The Evaluation Cycle



Widening Participation Evaluation Guide

0% COMPLETE

- Introducing the Guide
- Introducing Evaluation
- The Evaluation Cycle



CoP Activity so far...



Date	Activity	Location
December 2022	CoP Launch Event	In Person, Stirling
January 2023	CoP Meeting (Re-introductions)	Online
March 2023	CoP Meeting (Focus / Design / Gather)	Online
March 2023	Theory of Change Workshop	Online
March 2023	Data Analysis in Excel	In Person, Strathclyde
April 2023	NERUPI Framework & CoP Meeting	Online
June 2023	CoP Meeting (Gather/ Analyse)	Online
June 2023	Descriptive & Inferential Statistics	Online
September 2023	Presenting Data to Different Audiences	In Person, St Andrews
Rest of 2023	More sessions to come...	In Person & Online

Evaluation of the CoP



Monitoring data –

- High interest in participating in the CoP:
23 participants from **11** organisations higher than expected
- Continued participation at CoP meetings is good to date:
average = 17 CoP participants
- Good attendance at optional training sessions to date:
average = 14 CoP participants

Evaluation of the CoP



Primary Evaluation Question –

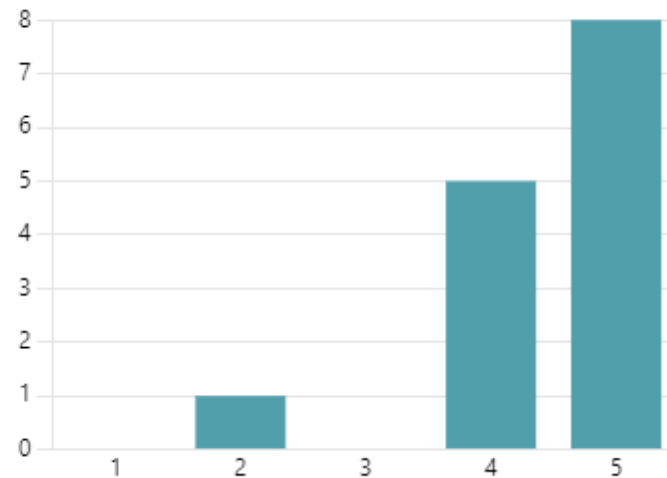
Has the SCAPP WP Evaluation Matters Community of Practice been successful in the aims of building evaluation knowledge and capacity in participants and the sector?

- Ethical approval from the University of Glasgow College of Social Sciences Ethics Committee
- Interim online survey circulated to CoP participants at the end of April and received 14 responses (61% response rate)
- Further surveys and interviews planned for later in the year

Online survey results, May 2023

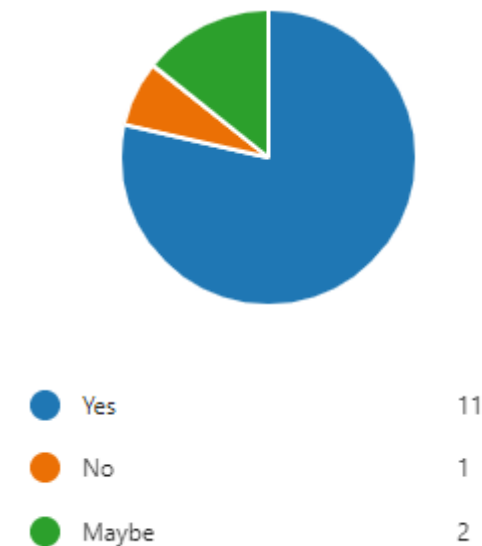


Please rate your experience in the Community of Practice so far (1 to 5 stars):



4.43
Average Rating

Has the Community of Practice met your expectations so far?

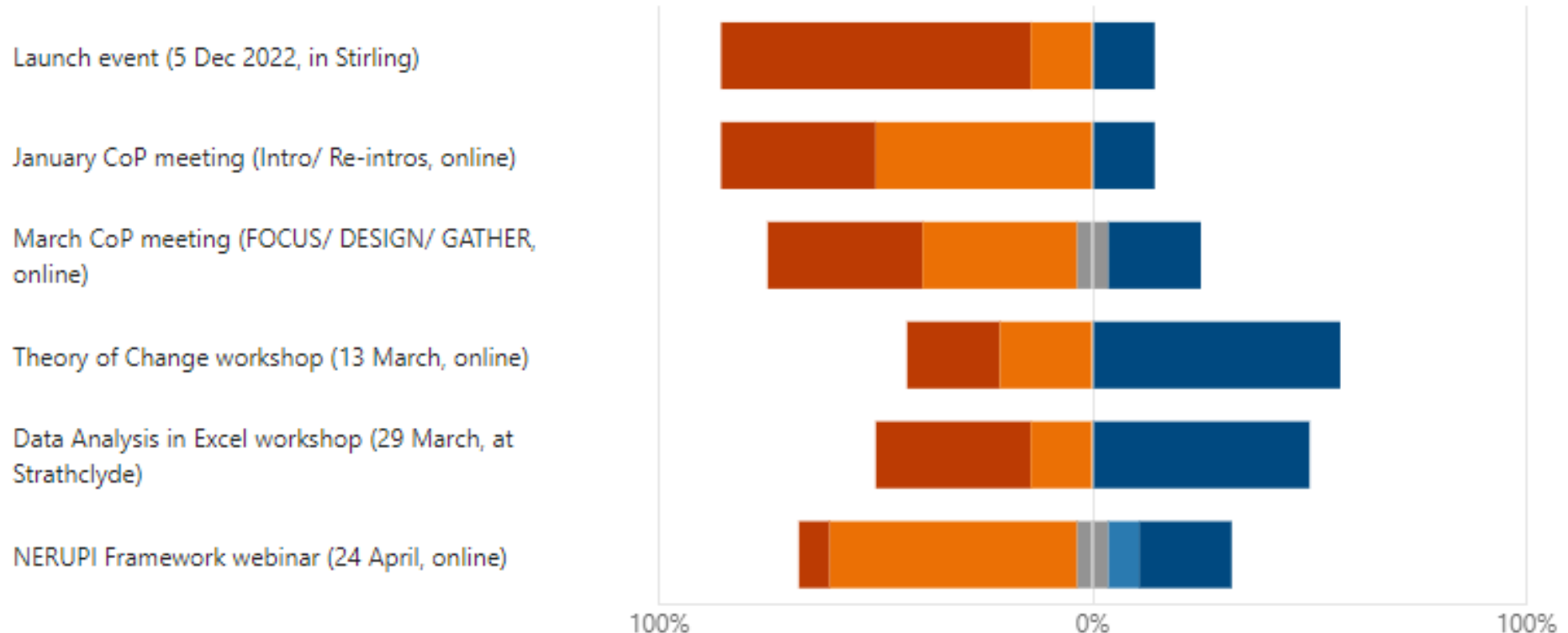


Feedback so far...



Please rate the sessions you have taken part in (or choose n/a):

Very good Good Poor Very poor Not applicable



Feedback so far...



- Best things about the CoP are **meeting peers and sharing practice**, followed by the **training and skills** development opportunities
- Main gains so far are **knowledge and skills**
- Key insights are the **importance of planning your evaluation**
- 9/14 (64%) say **time is a challenge** - to attend meetings or training and time to spend on evaluation

The CoP Practitioner Perspective



Mel Rookes

Depute Manager – LIFT OFF

Fi Das

Development Officer – LEAPS

Al Blackshaw

**Widening Access Manager (Outreach & Partnerships) –
University of Strathclyde/FOCUS West**



Any questions?

Group Discussion



- Make your **introductions** amongst your group
- Appoint a **scribe to take notes** of discussion points
- 3 questions to discuss

Questions



1. How can learning and capacity building in WP evaluation be **maintained** beyond the life of the short term (one year) Community of Practice?
2. What further **support or resource** is required to achieve high quality and consistency in WP evaluation across the sector?
3. What should be the **priorities** going forward for WP evaluation?

Please discuss as a group and each person write their top priorities on Post-it notes which we will collect in. Thanks!

Thank you!



Please leave your **notes** and **Post-it notes** on your tables, and we'll collect them in.