



**Feedback from the 2011 Well-being Conference for grant holders, March 2011.**

**There were many helpful comments from you about the highlights of the event, what you learned and found most valuable. We've compiled the most common comments first. The table below lists your helpful feedback about how we can improve – we've also listed what we're doing about it at BIG, in conjunction with CLES.**

**What have you experienced or learned about during the conference?**

- Issues around sustainability and sustainable social enterprise (Phil Conway)
- Reflecting on the opportunities posed by the 'Big Society' with Julian Dobson was thought provoking and offered a refreshing change to the usual doom and gloom
- the importance of gathering data to capture the impact of social and health interventions
- The importance of starting evaluation early
- Learning from colleagues from other portfolios
- National well-being measures
- I've enjoyed learning about some of the activities that projects run and how they are evaluated. It is very nice to see people enthusiastic about evaluation with the recognition of how useful it can be in terms of project development and sustainability.

**What will you do differently?**

- Plan better how to capture information from beneficiaries and continually reflect on responses in order to track changes and improve services as well as collate clear evidence base for future funders.
- Spending more time and focus on communicating messages
- Engage more with other wellbeing groups for ideas
- Move the submission of the evaluation report forward (6 months prior to BIG report end)
- Less is more when completing reports and communications; clear, concise, focussed and linked to priorities for audience

**What has been the highlight of the event?**

- Speakers – especially Phil Conway, Julian Dobson, Rev Dr Alan Billings
- The Ramblers walk at lunchtime
- Hearing about other programmes
- Making potential new partnerships/connections

| Room for improvement   | Our current plans  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space to step back, think, discuss and plan ahead</li> <li>• Less group work and more expert time in communicating research findings session</li> <li>• More interactive workshops and Q&amp;A sessions with more examples from projects and their experiences</li> <li>• More discussion time</li> <li>• More time on communicating research findings</li> <li>• Less statistics at presentations</li> <li>• Presentations on paper; examples to take away (e.g. good communications or final reports)</li> <li>• More networking time and discussion rather than lots of presentations</li> <li>• More ‘workshop’ type workshops, i.e. less presentations, more whole group discussion</li> <li>• More generic sessions that can be used to develop/improve practice. Not great to just listen to ‘what we do and what the outcomes have been’ (i.e. demo impact session). Need to generalise more key learning points.</li> <li>• More discussion time</li> <li>• More networking time (always!)</li> <li>• Knowing who was delivering what – and a list of attendees ahead of time</li> <li>• A summary of who is currently doing what</li> <li>• More specific workshops on the first day to help</li> </ul> | <p>We have noted these and will consider them seriously for any future event planning.</p> <p>It’s also useful to have comments on presentation and workshops styles – useful for all of us planning events, whatever the topic.</p> |

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| networking and sharing  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More information on future events and training on evaluation</li> </ul>  | <p>We will try to <b>highlight training opportunities</b> through the newsletter and we will <b>publish a list of training providers</b> on the CLES Well-being website (this will be an unvetted list, not recommendations).</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More discussion on what portfolios want from national evaluation</li> </ul>  | <p>Our communication channel is always open on this and we would <b>encourage you to get in touch</b> with your grants officer or <a href="mailto:sally.taylor@biglotteryfund.org.uk">sally.taylor@biglotteryfund.org.uk</a> whenever you want to know about how the National Evaluation can assist your evaluation communications.</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More focus on sustainability rather than starting up/scaling up</li> <li>• A bit more discussion about possible scaling down and moving forward post BIG funding</li> <li>• Perhaps more on sustainability – should projects have part of their budgets ringfenced for such activity</li> </ul>  | <p>Information and learning on <b>sustainability</b>, taken from BIG’s collected evidence, can be found <b>here</b>. If anyone would like to write a piece for the CLES website about their successes or challenges with sustainability issues, please let us know and we will assist you.</p>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More people, more discussion in ‘similar project type’ groups</li> <li>• Maybe structured conversations in like intervention portfolios</li> <li>• Latest update on portfolios, i.e. programme timescale, where projects are at, which ones are closed, closing, when final evaluation reports will be available (spreadsheet style document with contact details). So grant holders can see in a snapshot what ‘state of nation’ is.</li> </ul> | <p>We have posted <b>information on the latest portfolio updates</b> with contact details on the CLES well-being evaluation website.</p> <p><b>It is up to you to help us keep this up-to-date</b> – please contact CLES at <a href="mailto:VictoriaBradford@cles.org.uk">VictoriaBradford@cles.org.uk</a> to post links to your evaluation reports, project information and learning. The evaluation website is there for a reason – to help with this kind of information sharing!</p> |