The Evaluation Team

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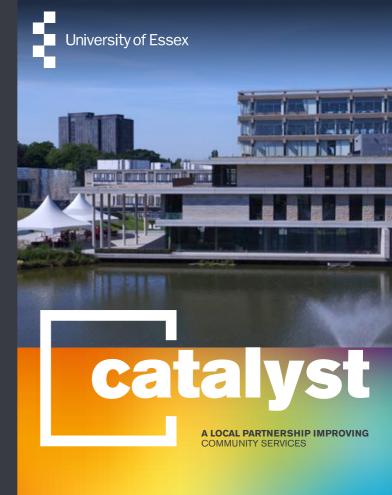Research Assistant

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University of Essex

catalyst

A LOCAL PARTNERSHIP IMPROVING
COMMUNITY SERVICES

CATALYST PROJECT EVALUATION TEAM

Experts in evaluating programme outcomes and impact

University of Essex working in partnership with:

Essex County Council

ESSEX PARTNERS

Suffolk County Council

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

About us

Led by the University of Essex, the Catalyst Project received £2.2 million funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and is now monitored by the Office for Students (OfS).

The Project is a local partnership between the University of Essex, Suffolk County Council and Essex County Council working to improve community services for vulnerable people.

Public service provision is changing and with that change comes a demand for rigorous, evidence–based evaluation of programme impact.

The Catalyst Evaluation Team research specialists develop bespoke robust, credible evaluation metrics and tools tailored to public service providers to evaluate programme outcomes and impact.

These evidence-based tools help public service providers to allocate scarce resources through informed decision making.

Benefits of the services we offer

Evaluation design

We assist you in refining your programme's objectives to make them measurable. We offer a bespoke service that helps you find the most appropriate evaluation strategies and develop a solution system for tracking and optimising programme performance. We design your information collection mechanism with robust logical and scientific methods.

Data analysis and evaluation reports

We analyse your data and compile evidence that helps you make decisions, improve performance and predict future outcomes. We also prepare evaluation reports, including annual reports, in-progress reports and end-of-project reports. We help you present clear, reliable and compelling evidence to your clients and stakeholders.

Consulting and capacity building

We design and conduct impact evaluations for you. We can also work alongside you, building your capacity for designing and conducting impact evaluations in the future.

Project examples

Impact and evaluation

The Toolkit, an interactive decision making platform, is being designed to enable public service providers to carry out impact evaluations and better understand the broader impact of their initiatives. The toolkit will produce bespoke outputs to include an evaluation plan; information sharing agreements and protocols; data collection tools and research ethics protocols.

Evaluation: 'Essex Data' (ED) Programme

The team supported the Essex Data programme, an initiative led by Essex Partners that brought together partners from across the public sector in Essex. The ED programme are sharing and using pseudonmyised data to apply predictive analysis for preventative interventions that target those most at risk and help to transform the way public services work. The Team worked with Essex Partners to identify key aims for the programme and carried out different forms of stakeholder analysis. They subsequently applied evidence-based evaluation methods in order to understand whether programme aims had been achieved.

Evaluation: Suffolk County Council Local Area Coordinator (LAC) pilot Programme

The LAC Programme is an integrated evidence-based approach to helping vulnerable people. The evaluation employed mixed methods including the design of a data collection guide prior to intervention delivery, analysis of the completed data collection alongside LAC Programme data, testimonials and a survey distributed to a range of stakeholders involved in the programme (GP practitioners, social workers, police staff). Following the evaluation the Team provided a series of recommendations for any proposed continuation of the LAC scheme.