



*Evaluation Report
2011-2013*

Summary

Introduction

A series of Scottish Universities Insight Institute (SUII) funded knowledge exchange programmes running from 2011 to 2013 were evaluated using information collated from programme reports and a series of interviews with programme leaders.

Since 2011 there have been 21 SUII programmes led by academics from disciplines including criminal justice, law, forensics, education, social work, business and politics amongst others, in combination with policy makers, practitioners and service users from across government, the third sector, and private industry. The aim of these programmes has been to facilitate a rare opportunity to increase cross-sectorial communication by enabling participants to share time together to formally and informally engage in discussion around the most prominent issues to be addressed in their common fields.

The evaluation focused on the impact programmes have had on policy, practice and wider society. Results indicated that a number of programmes generated direct impact in terms of policy change while others have done so indirectly or will ultimately influence policy in the longer term. Many programmes also achieved tangible impacts for user groups or practitioners including recommendations and identification of best practice. Academic outputs centered around knowledge exchange including cross sectorial communication, debate, new knowledge, sustained networks and new collaborations, as well as publications, funding for further research and dissemination activities.

Outcomes and impact

Each of the programme leaders interviewed reported that lessons had been learned from the process either in terms of planned objectives or unanticipated outcomes. Key recommendations made have been included in project reports and a number have been followed up by changes in policy or practice or are expected to shape thinking and contribute to development of new solutions in the future.

While a number of immediate outcomes can be evidenced from programme activities (see Annex 1), it is clear that the nature of policy and practice change represents a complex process which may take a number of months or years in some cases to come to fruition.

The impact of the programmes can be considered across four key areas: knowledge exchange, academic outputs and influence on policy and practice:

Knowledge Exchange

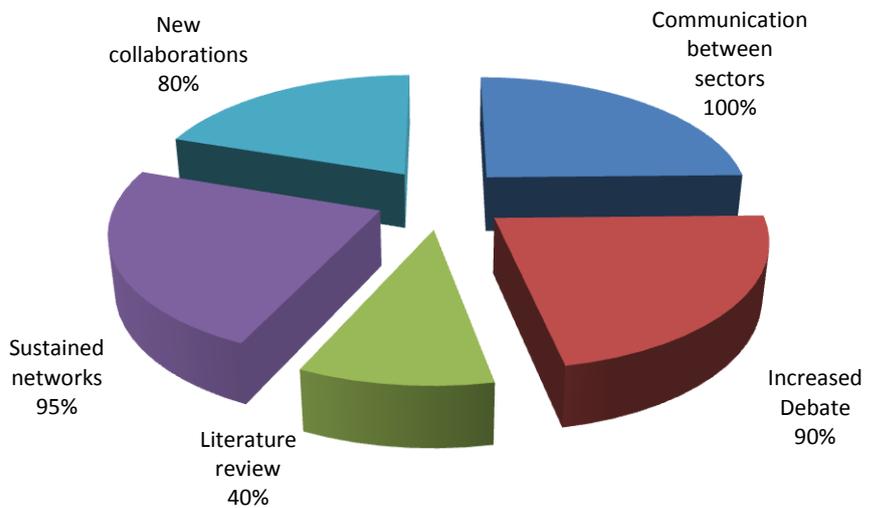
Knowledge exchange between sectors and disciplines was a key outcome with increased communication, sustained networks and enhanced debates being achieved across the majority of programmes.

All of the programmes considered that communication between sectors had been increased and that the programmes were effective in achieving the goal of exchanging important and

mutually beneficial knowledge between academics, policy makers and practitioners. It was also acknowledged that this was something relatively unusual and allowing space for debate was valuable in enabling participants to be more open to approaching issues in different ways.

A number of the programmes prepared literature reviews as part of the programme work but many focussed on bringing together existing knowledge from different sectors. Whilst for some programmes the key figures were already known to the team leaders, for others, extensive literature research and discussions with other researchers was key to establishing connections and identifying international participants for the programme.

All of the programmes were successful in maintaining the networks that they were working with during the programme delivery. In some cases these networks are very proactive in pursuing further activities relating to the programme.

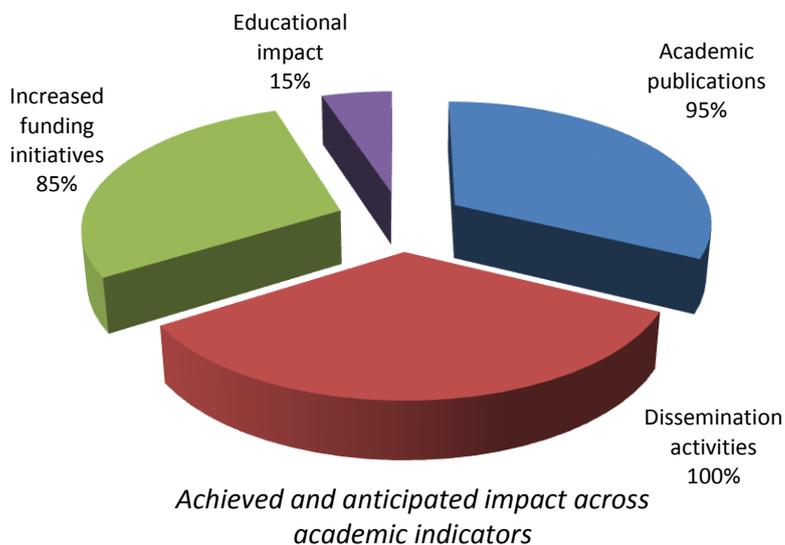


Academic impact

Publications and dissemination activities among peers were the most common academic impact indicators, followed closely by increased funding initiatives with a small proportion of programmes achieving impact through the enhancement of educational activities. All of the programmes achieved or are expected to achieve academic impact either through publications, presentations or increased funding initiatives.

In addition, there have been a number of other academic benefits, including development of training, a series of online blogs and additional dissemination activities.

The majority of programmes had either secured additional funding leading on from their activities, were in the submission process, or anticipated that future funding applications would be made. Other programmes appear to take longer to secure funding and this may be a combination of unsuccessful applications and the rate at which development occurs as a result of communications following the programme.

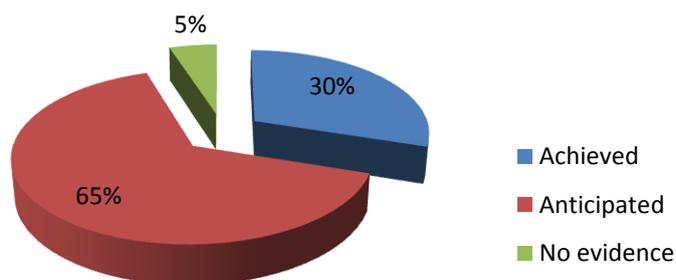


On the whole, programmes disseminated their proceedings either through presentations at conferences, or through media coverage. Other dissemination activities including briefing papers presented to committees, blogs and distribution of programme outputs.

Policy Impact

Several programmes succeeded in directly influencing policy with the majority anticipating a level of policy impact over time. There were tangible policy changes as a result of a number of recent programmes including:

- *Child Death Reviews:* development of a national Child Death Review system in Scotland by the Scottish Government announced by Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Alex Neil in May 2014.



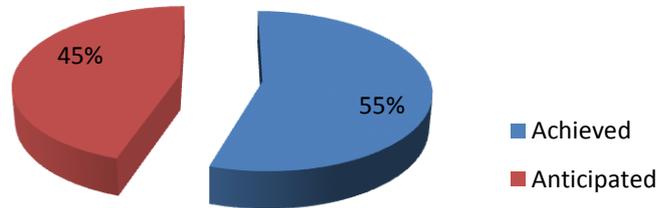
- *Human Trafficking:* contribution to a new Human Trafficking Bill introduced by MSP Jenny Marra in March 2014 through participation in cross-party working group.

- *Strengthening Democracy:* evidence submitted on employee right to buy for the consultation on the Community Empowerment Bill and to the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee, Inquiry into Scotland’s Economic Future Post-2014

Practitioner impact

Practitioner impact was achieved in various different ways including recommendations, training, publications and identification of best practice.

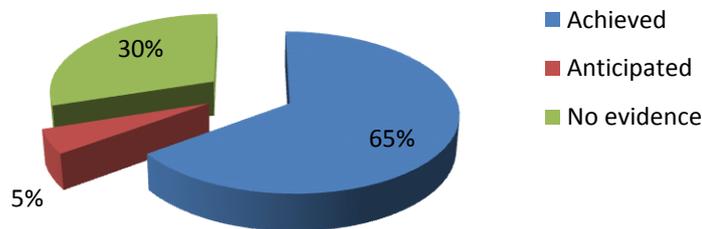
Recent examples can be taken from the following programmes:



Practitioner impact

- *Reclaiming Lost Childhoods*: funding received from Scottish Government to explore the development of an online care database for Scotland.
- *Active Healthy Kids*: state of the nation report which provides stakeholders with a critical, up to date, and evidence-based summary of the problems of physical activity and health of Scottish Children and adolescents.
- *Looked After Disabled Children*: The programme created a meaningful way for children and young people to participate through forum theatre and received an award for innovative practice by the Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care.

For some programmes the identification or promotion of good practice was something that was integral to the programme objectives whilst in other cases it emerged as unanticipated benefit of the discussions.



Identification of best practice

Key Benefits of Programme

The majority of the programme teams indicated that the knowledge and outcomes that emerged from programmes would not have been achieved without the opportunities offered through the Scottish Universities Insight Institute as few other funding mechanisms offered this type of support. One of the key benefits of participating in SUII programmes was the ability to bring together disparate groups to find a common language, gain valuable insights into issues and develop potential solutions to problems directly relevant to them. SUII programmes enabled the bringing together of key voices from practice, policy and research to share good practice, engage in debate and reach a greater understanding of fundamental issues across a number of diverse contexts.

Programmes which were able to facilitate opportunities for trust to grow and debate to flourish, with a good mix of participants across sectors, appeared to be particularly effective in stimulating constructive dialogue. The most common outcomes were around increased communication between groups and new collaborations as well as sustained networks. Academic benefits were widely achieved through publications, dissemination activities and successful funding initiatives. Although some programmes may have had more of a tangible and immediate effect on policy or practice, it is important to appreciate that evidence of impact is likely to be associated with the majority of programmes over a longer time period depending on political agendas, funding resources and practitioner constraints.

Annex 1: Programme Outcomes & Outputs

	Programme	Key outcomes / outputs
2013	Active Healthy Kids Report Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Healthy Kids Scotland Report Card 2013 www.activehealthykidsscotland.co.uk aimed at policy makers and practitioners launched in October 2013. Four hundred hard copies posted to relevant stakeholders in Scotland and overseas. Press release leading to extensive media coverage of Report Card findings including articles in the Herald, Scotsman, Metro, Sun, Daily Express, Daily Telegraph, the Times and BBC website. Inclusion in Active Healthy Kids Report Cards global matrix of report cards from 15 nations launched at the Global Summit on the Physical Activity of Children in Toronto in May 2014 and formation of a new 'Global Alliance of Active Healthy Kids Report Cards'.
	Assistive Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network of academic and local government representatives has been maintained and a joint application to the European Commission's Horizon 2020 fund is planned. Textbook proposal aimed at front line practitioners developed. Approach from the editorial board of the journal Ethics & Social Welfare to Andrew Eccles to edit a special edition of the journal in relation to care technologies.
	Reclaiming Lost Childhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-on project to develop database for care leavers in Scotland supported by Scottish Government. Additional £20,000 funding awarded by Scottish Government to pilot Scottish database. Five working groups set up to look at future opportunities for research funding and publications.
	Strengthening Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme team invited to submit evidence on the employee right to buy to the consultation on the Community Empowerment Bill. Planned ESRC application on survey of employee ownership across Scotland. The Electoral Reform society has expanded their view of democracy to include economic democracy.
	The Well Connected Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased dialogue between policy makers, practitioners, Children's Commissioner and academics around a manifesto for legislation change. CRFR briefing paper distributed across Scotland to research centres and schools and other institutions. University of Notre Dame bid on enabling international networking in early years research.
2012/13	Child Death Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme team participated in Scottish Government's Child Death Review Working Group leading to development of Child Death Review system for Scotland. Additional funding for follow up work received from Scottish Government, Scottish Funding Council and University of Dundee. ESRC and European funding grant applications planned.
	Constitutional Futures and Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Mainstreaming' of gender issues in academic, public and policy dialogue through an ESRC-funded 'Future of Scotland and the UK' Project and Fellowship. Contribution to higher profile in policy debates of unpaid work, the care economy, and inequalities (e.g. central focus on childcare in White Paper on independence). Raised awareness and importance of political inclusion of women in constitutional debates by: extensive media coverage; speaking with non-academic audiences; and input into initiatives, such as the STUC Women's Votes, Women's Voices campaign.

2011/12	Looked After Disabled Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New interdisciplinary group formed to progress data collection for looked after disabled children and young people. • Additional project <i>Tackling barriers and identifying solutions for disabled children and young people in foster care</i> (with The Fostering Network and Quarriers) funded by the University of Strathclyde. • Articles published in Children in Scotland magazine (Jan 2013) and 'Speak Out!' magazine Who Cares? Scotland (Feb 2013).
	Human Trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation to Scottish Parliament's cross-party working group on Human Trafficking prior to introduction of Human Trafficking Bill Scotland. • Four briefing papers developed and made available on participant websites. • Edited book proposal submitted to Edinburgh University Press.
	Cultural Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A focus report on leadership-related programme findings produced to inform the development of leadership training programmes. • Papers submitted to Journal of Cultural Policy and the Creative Industries Journal, Creativity and Innovation Management. • Further funding applications to AHRC, ESRC Collaborative PhD Studentship and Stirling University Collaborative Research Scholarship planned.
	Building Safer Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Practice and Standard published for practitioners which outlines the standard required to carry out fire investigation in the UK. • Working group established to develop a series of investigative route maps to facilitate information sharing across relevant agencies. • EU funding to develop guidance documents for the European fire Investigation Community on fire scene investigation.
	Technology Roadmapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New collaboration developed with Scottish Water and links created with government and policy makers. • Paper submitted to the International Journal of Management Reviews. • Additional funding through the ESRC to deliver TRM workshop to SMEs.
	Rethinking Responses to Rape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New working relationships established between academic researchers, legal practitioners and Rape Crisis Scotland with a new working group on independent legal representation. • Invitation to participate in briefing with the Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee. • Number of peer reviewed publications including an edited book aimed at practitioners and volume of comparative essays.
	Fingerprints: A roadmap for Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaire developed during the programme formally tabled at the Forensic Science Regulator's Fingerprints Standards Group and is now being used by the Metropolitan Police. • Two articles published in the journal 'Fingerprint World'. • Presentation at Forensic Science Regulators Annual Stakeholder Conference, 2013.

2011	Meeting Children's Needs for Care and Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertook a small pathfinder project on record linkage in relation to child maltreatment. This reflects continuing engagement with the Scottish Government as part of the Data Sharing and Linkage Service programme. • Peer-reviewed academic paper published in Child Abuse Review. • Leading the social work strand of the Scottish Administrative Data Research Centre, part of the ESRC-funded Administrative Data Research Network.
	Transition to sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toolkit review carried out to highlight existing support for community resourcing. • Policy brief developed as a summary for national and local government, organisations and communities to access. • Carnegie funding for ongoing research obtained.
	Digital Childhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three briefing papers summarising research on digital childhoods and parenting; playing and learning with digital technologies; and creating and communicating with digital technologies, available on Digital Childhoods website • A report in conjunction with the ESRC Technology Enhanced Learning programme focusing on early years issues (Press for Play, published 2012) • Two presentations summarising outcomes of the programme at the Children's Media Conference to industry professionals leading to an ESRC Festival of Science event at the London Knowledge Lab in November 2012, and publication of key learning points from these presentations as Seven Myths about Young Children and Technology in Childhood Education 90 (4) in 2013.
	Gatekeepers of Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results have been used widely in terms of presentations to practitioner groups and Government groups. • Two peer reviewed papers published. • Successful bid on catchment Management from the Centre of Expertise for Water (CREW).
	Independent Publishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New publishing studies module has been developed. • Knowledge transfer partnership between Stirling University and publishers. • Further grant applications submitted to Leverhulme, HRC and NESTA.
	Scots Law of Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up programme funded by The Royal Society. • New training implemented in the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice at Scottish law schools. • Papers published in the Scots Law Times, Law Society of Scotland Journal Online, SCOLAG and series reports of developed for the Scottish Government.