

## Tools for success: impact assessment

### Telling your impact story: Gathering the data

This table outlines some of the different types of data from which your impact stories could be built, and ways in which you might gather that data.

Type of data:	Which you can gather by:
Written plans and research, which may relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The general needs and situations of those who will benefit from your work</li> <li>• The success of this and other similar programmes or the effectiveness of alternatives</li> <li>• Ideas and plans for delivery which have already been formed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requesting information, or undertaking desk-top research</li> <li>• Reading, analysing and digesting it.</li> </ul>
Evidence of previous similar programmes, and of the life stories of those involved in them (and potentially in the current or planned programmes).	Review of published evidence from previous programmes, and/or interviewing those involved.
The experiences of staff and volunteers involved in delivering the programme.	Workshop(s) with staff and volunteers involved in the programme – some ideas for which are discussed further below.
The experience of those participating in the programme.	This may be workshopped, or gathered by interview, or from questionnaires. A questionnaire may be too blunt an instrument to elicit sufficient nuance and detail, but opting for workshops and interviews to get the detail, and then underpinning key elements of that with a questionnaire can be useful.
The experience of a wider group of stakeholders who are involved in, or indirectly affected by, the results of this and similar programmes <sup>1</sup> .	Interviews, discussing the stakeholders' experience, but generally after the core understanding has been built with the staff team.

<sup>1</sup> These may include, for example, service commissioners, police, or health services (these may not be able to discuss individual cases, but will be able to talk in general terms). It could also include delivery partners (organisations who are involved in activities working with the same people as you).