

FORECASTS & FRAMEWORKS FOR VALUE IN A VCSE



OVERVIEW

As an employability charity, Routes To Work (RTW) helps individuals who face multiple barriers enter employment, education or training. Since opening in 2002, we have progressed in excess of 20,000 people into employment. But what is the impact of this achievement? What changes do individuals experience beyond getting a job? Our Social Value Evaluation Framework aims to better understand and optimise our social value, guided by the SVI principles.

THE CASE STUDY

In 2021, RTW commenced its Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) project with the University of the West of Scotland. As a research project funded by the U.K. Government's UKRI and Innovate UK, this KTP links a sector-leading organisation with a knowledge base to deliver an innovative project led by a recent graduate.

The heart of this 30-month project is the creation and embedding of a Social Value Evaluation Framework that can better understand the impact of employability and skills interventions provided by RTW. With the support of a multidisciplinary team of Academics from the Schools of Health & Life Sciences and Business & Creative Industries, the KTP team have worked with RTW to identify and engage with stakeholders; determine intended and unintended outcomes; test materiality of outcomes through content and face validity tests; pilot a longitudinal outcome measurement tool with primary beneficiaries to better track what changes; calculate impact variables based on qualitative and quantitative data; and generate a forecast SROI report based on our initial findings.

In addition to demonstrating areas of need amongst our primary beneficiaries, the process of creating a framework for measuring social value has enabled RTW to identify considerations for future service delivery and impact management, such as the importance of supporting mental health and wellbeing throughout individuals' journeys into employment.

WHAT NEXT?

In the upcoming months, the forecast evaluation will be submitted for assurance from SVI. RTW also intends to join SVI as an organisational member, enabling the embedding of social value practice at all levels of the organisation. With the framework of data collection and stakeholder engagement created as part of our initial social value analysis, RTW will conduct evaluative analyses of its SROI on an annual basis, with a view to consultancy and/or creation of a digital product.

"Before, I was feeling quite down, you know every day was the same thing. But now that I have these skills and knowing I could do these different things, it's literally just lifted a big cloud."

RTW Service User

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